

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027



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NOTE:	This Student/Parent Handbook is based in significant part on policies adopted by the Board of Education and Administrative Guidelines developed by the Superintendent. Those Board Policies and Administrative Guidelines are incorporated by reference into the provisions of this Handbook. The Policies and Administrative Guidelines are periodically updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to the documents reviewed in this Handbook since it was printed. If you have questions or would like more information about a specific issue or document, contact your school principal or access the document on the District's website: www.swanton.k12.oh.us and finding the specific policy or administrative guideline in the Table of Contents for that section.
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Student/Parent Handbook For Swanton Elementary Schools

Welcome to the Swanton Local School District. We are pleased to welcome your student and will do our best to help make their experience here enjoyable and successful. To help provide a safe and productive learning environment for students, staff, parents and visitors, the Board of Education publishes this updated Student/Parent Handbook annually to explain student's rights, responsibilities and consequences for misbehavior.

Parents are encouraged to take a few minutes to review and discuss the information in this handbook with their school-age children. Teachers will also review this Handbook with students at the beginning of the school year.

Thank you for taking the time to become familiar with the important information in this Handbook. If you have any questions, please contact me at either the phone number or email below.

Sincerely,

Kristi Molter

Kristi Molter
Swanton Elementary Principal
419 826-8991
kristi.molter@swantonschools.org

Adopted by the Board of Education on June 10, 2026
Student Code of Conduct (including Student Discipline Code) adopted by the Board of Education on June 10, 2026.

PHILOSOPHY OF SWANTON LOCAL SCHOOLS

OVERVIEW

We believe schools must prepare each student to become a mature, responsible, productive member of society. Therefore, the school must provide the opportunity for each student to develop mentally and physically to their full potential. Each student, regardless of abilities, race, color, sex, national origin, or creed should have the same individual rights and worth.

School systems must provide a program of academic excellence for each student according to the individuality and dignity of each student and the premise that all students can learn.

Swanton Local Schools also realize that the constantly changing job market requires a student skilled not only in the standard core area, but also in the technology of the future. With this in mind, the curriculum is designed to prepare students, not only for the job of today, but also for those jobs not yet created.

Students should learn self-motivation, and at the same time be motivated and stimulated by personnel of the school to achieve a well-balanced education, while also receiving direction in understanding the principles and values of a successful democratic society. We also recognize that family and community contribute to the attitudes and values developed by our youth. It is, therefore, essential that family, school and community maintain high values and positive attitudes while joining together to provide our students the opportunity for developing to their maximum potential. This shall include that Swanton Local Schools will promote the philosophy that the use, distribution or sale of any tobacco, drug or alcohol substance is illegal, harmful, and will not be allowed in our environment.

Lines of communication between the school and the community must be open at all times. The school system should remain responsive to the needs of the student, parent, and the citizen. This relationship is essential to the moral and financial support of schools by the community.

As the modern world so readily changes, the school must be adaptable to these changes. Realizing the shift of our society towards service oriented occupations, and acknowledging that our current knowledge explosion makes most knowledge obsolete within a five year period, Swanton Local Schools are committed to continuously upgrading the curriculum. This curriculum is the greatest gift we can give to our children and in turn they will be rewarding us by being the community leaders of tomorrow.

GOALS

1. To provide a curriculum that is diversified and flexible so that all students can develop to their full potential.
2. To strive to create an atmosphere where the students can learn to respect the viewpoint of others and at the same time develop a constructive personal code of ethics, with the ability to understand and accept himself/herself.
3. To develop the capacity to reason and solve problems with the ability to understand the consequences of alternative courses of action.
4. To provide the students with the latest in technological advances in regard to the computer and telecommunication fields.
5. To help the student develop an appreciation of the fine arts, humanities, and social graces.
6. To facilitate open communication among parents, teachers, students, administration, and the board of education.
7. To encourage students to take an active interest in global, as well as local affairs. To make students aware and appreciate our political, social, and economic heritage.
8. To provide for the physical and mental development of the student by offering a wide variety of curricular and co-curricular activities.
9. To set a level of achievement that is challenging to every student in accord with the varying abilities.
10. To strengthen the morals of our society by teaching responsibilities, the rights of the individual, and the laws which govern our democratic society.
11. To provide students with vocational guidance and career education, which will enable them to develop saleable skills and keep them informed of the various fields of employment.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please reference the Swanton District Website for the current school calendar.

www.swantonschools.org

FOREWORD

This Student Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. Please take time to become familiar with the important information contained in this Handbook and keep the Handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this Handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your child's teacher or the building principal. This Handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects. This Handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the school's rules as of June 10, 2026. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after June 10, 2026 the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. Copies of current Board policies and administrative guidelines are available from the building principal and on the District's web site.

MISSION

To provide a superior educational experience by working together with students, families and community.

VISION

The Swanton Local School District is THE district of choice with an academic environment where student achievement is top priority, community involvement is vital, all individuals are valued, and the school is a point of pride.

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

This District provides an equal educational opportunity for all students.

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively "Protected Classes") age, (except as authorized by law) while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the School District's Compliance Officer(s):

Chris Lake
Superintendent,
419.826.7085

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures described in this Handbook. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. The Compliance Officer(s) can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

SCHOOL DAY

BEFORE SCHOOL

1. Doors will open at 8:45 a.m. for all students.
2. From 8:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
 - a. Once students arrive at school they must remain on school grounds unless given office permission to go elsewhere.
 - b. Students are to be in their homerooms, unless they are getting breakfast.
 - c. Breakfast is served in the elementary building from 8:45 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. Students desiring breakfast should obtain breakfast at their designated area BEFORE going to their classroom and take their breakfast to their classroom.

BELLS

1. 8:55 a.m. – Warning Bell
2. 9:00 a.m. - Tardy Bell
3. Any student not in their homeroom will be marked tardy.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

1. Students will be dismissed according to bus departure time. In order to dismiss students in a safe and orderly fashion, individual students will not be called down to the office until walkers are dismissed.
2. Walkers are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. and are to go directly home using sidewalks and proper crossings or enter their vehicle, once prompted by a staff member. Students are not permitted to walk to destinations that involve crossing the railroad tracks. If there is no sidewalk, walk left of road, toward traffic. Use safety rules at all times walking to or from school. For the student's safety, walkers are not permitted to walk home if that trip involves crossing railroad tracks or Airport Highway.
3. No changes in student dismissal routine will be accepted after 11:00 a.m.

PARENTS/GUARDIAN PICKING UP STUDENTS BEFORE DISMISSAL

1. Dismissal time is 3:30 p.m. Students who normally ride a bus and are being picked up for medical appointments or emergency reasons must be signed out through communication with the office by 3:15 pm.
2. Parking must be other than the bus lanes. Traffic is restricted in bus lanes during loading and unloading of buses. **No cars are to drive through the bus lane while buses are present and during posted hours.**

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The School's rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow staff member's directions and to obey all school rules.

Students must arrive at school on time, prepared to learn and participate. If for some reason this is not possible, the student should seek help from the School Counselor.

Adult students (age 18 or older) must follow all school rules.

If residing at home, adult students are encouraged to include their parents in their educational program.

In order to keep parents informed of their child's progress in school, parents will be provided information on a regular basis and whenever concerns arise. Many times it will be the responsibility of the student to deliver the information. The school, however, may use the mail or hand delivery when appropriate. Parents have the option of receiving communication from the school via e-mail and/or facsimile by filling out the appropriate form available in the school's administrative office. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

STUDENT WELL BEING

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as evacuation procedures, fire and tornado drills, safety drills in the event of a terrorist or other violent attack, and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify a staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file in the school office.

Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with physician documentation, to the school office.

INJURY AND ILLNESS

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the office. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the school's emergency procedures and attempt to make contact with the student's parents.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

STUDENT ACCIDENTS

Physical Education teachers and coaches of intramural athletics shall remove from P.E. class participation or the intramural athletic activity any student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury. The Principal shall notify parents or guardians about the possible concussion or head injury.

Any student who has been removed from a P.E. class, or intramural athletic practice or competition, by a teacher, coach, or referee because he/she has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not be permitted to return to any P.E. class or intramural athletic practice or competition, for which the teacher, coach, or referee is responsible on the same day as the removal and not until both of the following occur:

- A. The student's condition is assessed by a physician or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to assess such a student.
- B. The student receives written clearance that it is safe to return to the P.E. class, or intramural athletic practice or competition, from a physician or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to grant a such a clearance.

SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION

ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides, unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy, or enrolling and paying tuition.

New students under the age of 18 must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A. a birth certificate or similar document
- B. court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate)
- C. proof of residency
- D. proof of immunizations

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. The office will assist in obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

New students 18 years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling. When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.

In addition, if a new student resides in the District with a grandparent and is the subject of a: (1) power of attorney designating the grandparent as the

attorney-of-fact; or (2) a caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the District the child's educational progress, the student's grandparent may enroll the child in school on a tuition-free basis. However, in addition to the above-referenced documents that are typically required for enrollment, the grandparent must provide the District with a duly executed and notarized copy of a power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit.

A student suspended or expelled by another public school in Ohio may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

If a student has been recently discharged or released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the District, the student will not be admitted until the following records, which are required to be released by DHS to the Superintendent, have been received:

- A. an updated copy of the student's transcript;
- B. a report of the student's behavior while in DHS custody;
- C. the student's current IEP, if one has been developed for the child;
and
- D. a summary of the instructional record of the child's behavior

EARLY DISMISSAL

No student may leave school prior to dismissal time without a parent or guardian either submitting a signed written request or coming to the School Office personally to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) or guardian without a written permission note signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM SCHOOL

No student under the age of 18 is allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents and in compliance with State law. A student who otherwise withdraws from school shall be reported to the juvenile judge of the county and to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for suspension of their driver's license, if s/he is under the age of 18.

Parents must notify the Principal about plans to transfer their child to another school. School records, including disciplinary records of suspension and expulsion, will be transferred to the new school within 14 days of the parents notice or request.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. Students who start kindergarten must be immunized against Hepatitis B and chickenpox. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic, the Superintendent may temporarily deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to the School Nurse.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the School in order for a student to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities, and co-curricular activities. The Emergency Medical Authorization form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each school year.

USE OF MEDICATIONS

Students who must take prescribed medication during the school day, must comply with the following guidelines:

- A. Parents should determine with the counsel of their child's prescriber whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.

- B. The appropriate form must be filed with the respective building principal before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours or to use an inhaler to self-administer asthma medication. Such forms must be filed annually and as necessary for any change in the medication.
- C. All medications must be registered with the Principal's Office and must be delivered to school in the original containers in which they were dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist, labeled with the date, the student's name, and the exact dosage to be administered.
- D. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured. Except as noted below, medication must be delivered to the Principal's Office by the student's parent, guardian or by another responsible adult at the parent or guardian's request. Except as noted below, students may not bring medication to school. Students may carry emergency medications for allergies and/or reactions, or asthma inhalers during school hours provided the student has written permission from a parent or physician and has submitted the proper forms. In the case of epinephrine autoinjectors ("epi pens"), in addition to written permission and submission of proper forms, the parent or student must provide a back up dose to the school nurse. Students are strictly prohibited from transferring emergency medication, epi pens, or inhalers to any other student for their use or possession.

Medication may be conveyed to school directly by the parent or transported by transportation personnel (bus driver and/or bus aide) at parental request. This should be arranged in advance.

If, for supportable reasons, the Principal wishes to discontinue the privilege of a student self-administering a medication, except for the possession and use of asthma inhalers, the parent(s) shall be notified of the decision in sufficient time for an alternative means of administration to be established.

- E. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.
- F. The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time.
- G. The principal/or designee will maintain a log noting the personnel designated to administer medication, as well as the date and the

time of day that administration is required. This log will be maintained along with the prescriber's written request and the parent's written release.

NON-PRESCRIBED (OVER-THE-COUNTER) MEDICATIONS

No staff member will dispense non-prescribed, over-the-counter (OTC) medication to any student without prior parent authorization. Parents may authorize administration of a non-prescribed medication on forms that are available from the Principal's Office.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication without parent authorization, the student will be brought to the school office while the student's parents are contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.

Any student who distributes medication of any kind or who is found in possession of unauthorized medication is in violation of the School's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

A student may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms, at school or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant if the appropriate form is completed and on file in the Principal's Office.

A student who is authorized to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder inhaler may not transfer possession of any inhaler or other medication to any other student.

CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff may remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice.

Specific communicable diseases include diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will be limited to the contagious period as specified in the School's administrative guidelines.

CONTROL OF NONCASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The School District has an obligation to protect staff and students from non-casual contact communicable diseases. When a non-casual contact communicable disease is suspected, the student's health will be reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department. The School will protect the privacy of the person affected and those in contact with the affected person. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non-casual contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV, Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV and HBV when the child bleeds at school and students or staff members are exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

The School District seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and takes appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities. While the risks of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens may be low, students must assume that all body fluids are potentially infectious and must take precaution to follow universal procedures in order to reduce such risks and minimize and/or prevent the potential for accidental infection.

Students may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in situations, including, but not limited to the following:

Engaging in activities with other students in the school environment (e.g., physical education class) where physical injuries or other actions that can cause bleeding or exposure to saliva and other body fluids may occur.

Working with equipment in the school environment that can cause cuts or similar injuries that produce bleeding.

Participating in extracurricular activities (i.e., athletic activities) where physical injuries or other actions that can cause bleeding may occur.

Whenever a student has contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, s/he must immediately notify his/her teacher, who will contact the school nurse and assist the student in completing the requisite documents.

The parents of a student who is exposed will be contacted immediately regarding the exposure and encouraged to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV either by his/her physician or a licensed healthcare provider. The student's parents are encouraged to consult with the student's physician concerning any necessary post-exposure treatment. The student's parent will also be asked to provide a copy of the test results and any post-exposure treatment for maintenance in the student's educational record in accordance with the Federal and State laws concerning confidentiality.

The parents of the student who caused the exposure will also be contacted immediately and advised to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV virus either in cooperation with his/her physician or licensed healthcare provider. The student's parents will be asked to provide a copy of the test results for maintenance in the student's educational record in accordance with Federal and State laws concerning confidentiality.

The student's parents will be encouraged to allow the District to release their child's name to the exposed student's parents, in the event serious health issues are presented as a result of the exposure.

CARE OF STUDENTS WITH DIABETES

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that each student enrolled in the District who has diabetes receives appropriate and needed diabetes care in accordance with an order signed by the student's treating physician.

The diabetes care to be provided includes any of the following:

- A. checking and recording blood glucose levels and ketone levels or assisting the student with checking and recording these levels;
- B. responding to blood glucose levels that are outside of the student's target range;
- C. in the case of severe hypoglycemia, administering glucagon and other emergency treatments as prescribed;
- D. administering insulin or assisting the student in self-administering insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses;
- E. providing oral diabetes medications;
- F. understanding recommended schedules and food intake for meals and snacks in order to calculate medication dosages pursuant to the student's physician's order;
- G. following the physician's instructions regarding meals, snacks, and physical activity; and
- H. administering diabetes medication, as long as the conditions described below are satisfied.

Within fourteen (14) days after the District receives an order signed by the student's treating physician, the Board will inform the student's parent or guardian that the student may be entitled to a Section 504 Plan regarding the student's diabetes.

A student's diabetes medication will be kept in an easily accessible location.

A student with diabetes will be permitted to attend his or her diabetes care and management, in accordance with the student's physician's order, during regular school hours and school sponsored activities only if:

- A. the student's parent or guardian provides a written request that the student may be permitted to attend to his or her diabetes care and management while at school; and
- B. the student's physician has authorized such self-care and determined that the student is capable of performing diabetes care tasks.

A student with diabetes is permitted to perform diabetes care tasks in a classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school-related activity. The student must have access to a private area for performing diabetes care tasks if the student or the student's parent or guardian makes such a request.

A student with diabetes is permitted to possess on the student's self at all times all necessary supplies and equipment to perform diabetes care tasks. If the student performs any diabetes care tasks or uses medical equipment for purposes other than the student's own care, the Board will revoke the student's permission to attend to the care and management of the student's diabetes.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Students are screened periodically for vision, hearing, height and weight, dental health, and scoliosis. Screenings are done according to the following schedule:

K (or Pre Kindergarten screening): vision, hearing, dental

First Grade: vision and hearing

Third Grade: vision and hearing

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The American's with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) (as amended) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) (as amended) prohibit discrimination

against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. This protection applies not just to students, but to all individuals who have access to the district's programs and facilities. The laws define a person with a disability as anyone who:

- A. Has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- B. Has a record of such an impairment; or
- C. Is regarded as having such an impairment

The District has specific responsibilities under these two laws, which include identifying, reviewing and, if the child is determined to be eligible, affording access to appropriate educational accommodations.

Additionally, in accordance with State and Federal mandates, the District seeks out, assesses and appropriately services students with disabilities. Staff members use a comprehensive child study process to systematically screen, assess and, if appropriate, place students in special education and related services. Students are entitled to a free appropriate public education in the "least restrictive environment."

A student can access special education and related services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEIA), A.D.A. (Section 504) and State law.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the District. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. Pursuant to Board Policy 5111.01.

PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS

The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Directory information includes: a student's name; address; telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; or awards received; honor rolls; or scholarships.

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all “directory information” upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may consult the Board’s annual Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) notice which can be found on the district web site.

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by FERPA and Ohio law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age. The Board will provide access or release directory information to armed forces recruiters unless the parent or student request that prior written consent be obtained.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to the School Office. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the student’s privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of his/her right to a hearing on the matter.

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District’s curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parents;

- B. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- C. sex behavior or attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- G. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- H. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program)

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation. Please contact the School Office to inspect such materials.

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the principal.

The Superintendent will notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- A. activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and
- B. the administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 20202-4605
Washington, D.C.
www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses: FERPA@ED.Gov and PPRA@ED.Gov

STUDENT FEES AND FINES

Students will be provided necessary textbooks for courses of instruction without cost. In accordance with State law, Swanton Local Schools charge specific fees for activities and materials used in the course of instruction.

Charges may also be imposed for loss, damage or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks and for damage to school buildings or property. Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment.

Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship.

Students can avoid late fines by promptly returning borrowed materials.

Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in withholding of grades.

A lunch may be charged if a student forgets or loses lunch money. This charge is to be paid as soon as possible and should not accumulate. Charging may be denied the last two weeks of school.

Students may not accumulate more than ten days of charges. On the eleventh day, an emergency meal will be given.

Swanton Local School District is always looking for ways to be more efficient and effective in our fiscal policies. While it may seem like a minor issue to some, the collection of non-sufficient fund (NSF) checks is a time consuming and costly issue. As with any business, Swanton Local School District has an obligation to our clients and the community's taxpayers, to be fiscally accountable. Collecting returned checks can take valuable time from the school district personnel. To manage this process, our District will be using **checXchange™**.

checXchange™ utilizes the federal and state laws allowing the electronic recovery of NSF checks which results in a high rate of recovery at no cost to the school district. The cost becomes the responsibility of those who wrote the non-sufficient fund checks with the electronic recovery of the face amount of the check and the electronic recovery of the state fee from the bad check writer's bank account. Utilizing **checXchange™** is an effort by the school District to be fiscally accountable in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

Swanton Local School District will gladly accept checks. No longer will the district or school staff arrange for the repayment of returned checks. Should your check be returned for insufficient funds, you expressly authorize your account to be electronically debited or bank drafted for the amount of the check plus any applicable fees. The use of a check is your acknowledgement and acceptance of this policy and its terms and conditions.

Please include the following information on your check: Full name, Street address, Home phone number & Cell phone number.

STUDENT FUND-RAISING

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules apply to all fund-raisers:

- A. Students involved in the fund-raiser must not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.
- B. Students may not participate in a fund-raising activity for a group in which they are not members without the approval of the students' counselor.
- C. Students may not participate in fund-raising activities off school property without proper supervision by approved staff or other adults.
- D. Students may not engage in house-to-house canvassing for any fund-raising activity.
- E. Students may not participate in a fund-raising activity conducted by a parent group, booster club, or community organization on school property without the approval of the Principal.

Students may not sell any item or service in school without the prior approval of the Principal. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

STUDENT VALUABLES

Students should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School is not liable for any loss or damage to personal valuables.

MEAL SERVICE

The School participates in the National School Lunch Program and makes lunches available to students for a fee. Students may also bring their own lunch to school to be eaten in the School's cafeteria. No fast food lunches may be brought to school. No student may leave school premises during the lunch period without specific written permission from the Principal.

Applications for the School's Free and Reduced-Priced Meal program are distributed to all students. If a student does not receive an application form and believes s/he is eligible, contact the Director of Food Services.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- A. All visitors must report to the office when they arrive at school.
- B. All visitors are given and required to wear a building pass while they are in the building.
- C. Staff is expected to question people in the building whom they do not recognize and who are not wearing a building pass, and to question people who are "hanging around" the building after hours.
- D. Students and staff are expected to immediately report to a teacher or administrator any suspicious behavior or situation that makes them uncomfortable.
- E. All outside doors are locked during the school day.
- F. Portions of the building not needed after the regular school days are closed off.

FIRE, TORNADO, AND SAFETY DRILLS

The School complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. The School conducts tornado drills during the tornado season following procedures prescribed by the State. Teachers will provide specific instructions on how to proceed in the case of fire or tornado and will oversee the safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building in such cases.

Safety drills will be conducted at least three times per school year. Teachers will provide specific instruction on the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building rather than evacuated. These situations can include a terrorist threat, a person in possession of a deadly weapon on school property, or other acts of violence.

EMERGENCY CLOSING AND DELAYS

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify radio and television stations.

Parents will be notified of school closings or delays via a pre-recorded telephone message delivered to the phone number on file.

Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS

The school is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the School District's Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy and asbestos management plan is available for inspection at the Board offices upon request.

VISITORS

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the school. Visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to sign in and obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without a pass shall be reported to the Principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, s/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the school in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time.

Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal. Pets or animals of any kind are not permitted on school property without prior consent of the building administrator.

ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

The Board of Education recognizes that there are many occasions when animals are present on District property and many reasons for those animals' presence. Animals are commonly utilized by teachers during classroom presentations and often housed in classrooms and other locations on campus. Additionally, employees, students, parents, vendors, and other members of the public may be accompanied at school by a service animal in accordance with Federal and State law and this policy.

This policy applies to all animals on District property, including service animals.

Definitions

- A. **“Animal”**: includes any living creature that is not a human being.
- B. **“Service animal”**: pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Section 35.104, means the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Non-Service Animals in Schools and Elsewhere on District Property

Animals permitted in schools and elsewhere on District property shall be limited to those necessary to support specific curriculum-related projects and activities, those that provide assistance to a student or staff member **due to a disability** (e.g., seizure disorder), or those that serve as service animals as required by Federal and State law.

USE OF THE LIBRARY

The elementary school has a library. Policies and procedures are explained to the children each year. Kindergartners are allowed to check out one book at a time. Students in grades first through fourth may take out up to three books at one time. Students may renew one book per library visit.

In order to avoid a late fee, all materials checked out of the library must be returned.

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Students must receive teacher permission before using any equipment or materials in the classroom. Students must seek permission from the Principal prior to using any other school equipment or facility. Students are responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found area is located near the main office. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the end of each trimester of the school year.

USE OF OFFICE TELEPHONES

Office telephones may not be used for personal calls. Except in an emergency, students will not be called to the office to receive a telephone call.

Telephones are available in the school for students to use when they are not in class. Students are not to use telephones to call parents to receive permission to leave school. Office personnel will initiate all calls on behalf of a student seeking permission to leave school.

USE OF CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

See Item 27 under Student Discipline Code. (page 57)

ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the Principal. The Principal will attempt to respond to a request for approval within 1 school day of its receipt.

PARTIES

There are three school-wide parties per year. The date and time will be established by the Principal and teachers for Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day parties. All volunteers at parties are subject to a criminal record check (BCI/FBI). Any and all information obtained by the Board or persons under this policy are confidential and shall not be released or disseminated.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- A. When students remain after school for an organized activity (scouting, athletic, etc.) Students must take books and coats to that activity so they do not have to return to their lockers or room. Unless the activity begins at dismissal, students will not be permitted to remain at school.
- B. Transportation arrangements home are to be made in advance. Students are not to use the school phone during or after school for this purpose.
- C. If the activity is in another elementary building, transportation arrangements are to be made by the parents. Bus transfers are to be arranged through The Director of Transportation.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Swanton Local Schools offer a comprehensive program in all grades. Services include individual and group counseling, testing, career, and more. Please contact the school for help in this area.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Swanton Local Schools has available the services of a school psychologist for help with testing and program placement. The psychologist conducts evaluations of students that are recommended by the teacher and Principal.

GIFTED

There is a continuum of gifted services provided to qualifying students.

ACCELERATION

Four types of acceleration are available to qualified student:

1. Early entrance to kindergarten
2. Subject acceleration
3. Whole-grade acceleration
4. Early graduation from high school

Parents and teachers who wish to make a referral should contact the student's building principal. Referral forms may be found in each school building office and the district website.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent volunteers play an important role at school. No other children may accompany a volunteer to school. Please contact the school for more information. Current and prospective volunteers who have or will have unsupervised access to the children on a regular basis are subject to a criminal record check (BCI/FBI). Any and all information obtained by the Board or persons under this policy are confidential and shall not be released or disseminated.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum of Swanton Local Schools is adopted in accordance with the state issued Academic Content Standards for the State of Ohio. Courses of study for subjects without State Academic Content Standards are developed through the NWOESC in compliance with state mandates.

PERSONAL INJURY

The Swanton Local Schools will do everything to maintain a safe environment in our buildings. If a child is injured as the result of an action of another child on school property, the school will handle the follow-up and subsequent disciplinary action. Any subsequent action for recovery of payment for bills will need to be handled between the involved parties.

PERSONAL ARTICLES

Articles such as toys, iPods, radios, cassette players, personal CD players, video games, pagers, cellular phones, laser pointers, scooters, skateboards, heeled shoes are to be left at home. The school will not be held accountable for loss or damage.

PARTY INVITATIONS

Students are **NOT PERMITTED** to bring party invitations to school for distribution. Due to food allergies, students should not bring snacks to share with the class unless specified by the teacher. Please do not send balloons, flowers, and gifts to school, as they will not be delivered to the student. Each teacher will determine their process for celebrations.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Each year the Superintendent shall provide public notice to students and their parents of the District's intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information." The Board designates as student "directory information": a student's name; address; telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; or awards received.

The Board designates school-assigned e-mail accounts as "directory information" for the limited purpose of facilitating students' registration for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes and for the inclusion in internal e-mail address books.

School-assigned e-mail accounts shall not be released as directory information beyond this/these limited purpose(s) and to any person or entity but the specific online educational service provider and internal users of the District's Education Technology.

SECTION II - ACADEMICS

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's extra-curricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent and a current emergency medical form on file in the office. Medications normally administered at school will be administered while on field trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all field trips. Attendance rules apply to all field trips.

While the District encourages students to participate in field trips, alternative assignments will be provided for any student whose parent does not give permission for the student to attend. Students who violate school rules may lose the privilege to go on field trips. Each classroom is allowed one field trip per year. The field trip is intended to provide an educational experience related to academic standards. Transportation is provided by the Swanton Local Schools. There is sometimes a small admission charge for these trips. This is the only cost charged to students. All field trips are subject to approval by the building Principal. Parents are sometimes asked to chaperone field trips.

Siblings are not allowed to accompany parents on field trips. All field trip volunteers are subject to a criminal record check (BCI/FBI). Any and all information obtained by the Board or persons under this policy are confidential and shall not be released or disseminated.

STUDENT EVALUATIONS GRADING PERIODS

The school year is divided into three trimesters. At the end of each trimester, a progress report will be issued. The child will carry the progress report home. The third trimester progress report may be mailed.

PROGRESS REPORT (GRADE CARD) GUIDELINES

Philosophy- Swanton Local Schools feel that each child should be appraised in terms of his/her own achievement in relation to his/her ability. The Progress Report represents to parents, students, and teachers an evaluation of how well the child is meeting the academic content standards. Mid-Term reports may be sent to parent(s) midway through each trimester.

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

1. Whenever a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to obtain and complete missed assignments in a timely manner by communicating with the teacher in regards to what was missed and when it is due.
2. Parents requesting assignments when their child is absent should call the school office by 9:00am. Assignments then may be picked up in the school office from 2:45-3:15 p.m.

PROMOTION

All promotions will be noted on the final report card for the year.

RETENTION

A student that has not successfully completed the academic content standards for the present grade level may be retained. The student would be retained in the same level for the following year. In addition to the criteria listed below, the following factors would be considered: mental ability; age; physical maturity; emotional and social development. Criteria for:

- a. Kindergarten: retention based on below grade level performance in Language Arts and Mathematics and by teacher recommendation.
- b. First Grade: retention based on below grade level performance in Language Arts and Mathematics, and by teacher recommendation
- c. Second Grade: retention based on below grade level performance in Language Arts and Mathematics, and by teacher recommendation

- d. Third Grade: retention based on provisions in Third Grade Reading Guarantee or in accordance with state law (see board policy 2623.02) and/or failure in another major subject (Math, Language Arts)
- e. Fourth Grade: retention based on failure in two major subjects (Reading, Math, Language)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. A conference will be held with parents/guardian, teacher and principal before any retention can be facilitated.
2. If total absence from school equals a quarter of attendance (40 – 45 days) retention will be considered.
3. No student will be retained more than two times in the elementary grades except as directed by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.
4. Retention is not taken lightly and the reasons for it will be provided to the parent/guardian.

PLACEMENT

A student who has not successfully completed the academic content standards at his/her present grade level could be placed in the next grade level based on the recommendation of the building Principal and the classroom teacher.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

In the fall, a parent teacher conference will be scheduled. Parents will receive an appointment time for the conference to talk with the teacher regarding their child's progress. If the appointed time is inconvenient, please contact the teacher and he/she will try to schedule an appointment convenient for both. A second parent teacher conference will be held in February but are generally reserved for at-risk students. Parents/guardians who desire a conference during the school year may call the teacher for an appointment.

TEXTBOOKS

Each student is given the appropriate textbooks at the beginning of the school year. The student is expected to maintain these books throughout the school year. Should a student lose or damage a book, the parent/guardian will pay for the replacement or the damages. One way to help protect books is to cover them.

TESTING

Throughout the year various standardized diagnostic and achievement tests are given across the grade levels. Results of these tests are communicated to parents.

HOMEWORK

Regular homework is important as it gives students the opportunity to practice skills taught in class. Homework will never be assigned or designed as a punitive measure. Homework assignments will look different at each grade level based on the developmental needs of the students. In the primary grades, homework may be given to practice basic skills in reading and math. In addition, at the upper elementary level, homework may be an extension of assignments started in class or each grade level. At every grade level, special projects may be assigned. General guidelines in terms of the amount of time are listed for each grade level.

- Grades K-2 may have up to 20 minutes per night/100 minutes per week.
- Grades 3-4 may have up to 40 minutes per night/200 minutes per week.

COMPUTER NETWORK/INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The district policy for computer network and internet acceptable use can be found at <http://www.swantonschools.org/AUP>. To request a printed copy please contact your child's elementary school. Each year your student is required to have a current signed form on file acknowledging that said policy has been reviewed and the student will abide by the rules and guidelines expressed in the policy.

TITLE I

At the beginning of the year, the district notifies all parents in all Title I buildings that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including the following:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which State qualifications or licensing criteria are waived;
- The teacher's baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification, and field of discipline; and
- Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

District provides the following notifications to parents of students in Title I schools:

- timely notice that the child has been assigned to be taught, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who is not highly qualified;
- information on the level of achievement of the student in each of the

state's academic assessments.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

While the School District does schedule make-up dates for testing, students should avoid unnecessary absences. Additional group tests are given to students to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests help the staff determine instructional needs. Classroom tests are given to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess student achievement on specific objectives.

SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SPORTS

Our elementary school does not offer sports programming. However, football, basketball, soccer, cheerleading, baseball and softball programs are offered in conjunction with the Swanton Recreation Program.

SERVICE

Scouting, and other community activities, is available for elementary students. Although not sponsored by the school, these groups may use the elementary buildings for their meeting place.

ASSEMBLIES

Each year several assemblies are held to bring educationally related topics to students. Each student is required to maintain appropriate behavior at all assemblies. Clapping of hands is the best way to show appreciation for the performance.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

Students are encouraged to attend as many after school events as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students participating in the event.

It is strongly advised that students attending evening events as nonparticipants be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone. The Board is not responsible for supervising unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone. Pursuant to Board Policy 9160.

HOME FOOTBALL GAME POLICY FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Elementary students are encouraged to attend Friday night football games WITH AN ADULT to cheer for the Bulldogs. However, this is a school function and there are some rules to keep in mind.

1. Students must be sitting either with an adult or in the student section.
2. Students may not run behind or underneath the stands. Students may not climb on poles etc. under the stands.
3. Students may not stand in front of the seats on the bleachers. This blocks the view of other spectators.
4. Students may not run across the front of the bleachers.

Failure to abide by these rules may result in being asked to leave the game, and/or punishment at school on Monday.

SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance is a significant student responsibility at all grade levels. Many studies correlate regular attendance with success in school. Regular attendance means that the academic learning process is not interrupted, less time is spent on make-up assignments, and students benefit from participation and interaction with others in class. Many important lessons are learned through active participation in classroom and other school activities that cannot be replaced by individual study.

Establishing a pattern of good attendance will benefit the student in school and in the workplace. Attendance is important in the development of a high quality work ethic, which will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting a person is his/her dependability in coming to work every day on time. This is a habit Swanton Elementary wants to help students develop as early as possible.

In order to earn credit for any course, there shall be no more than 50 hours unexcused absences per semester. For each hour beyond the allocated 50

hours of unexcused absence per semester, the student may be required to make up time outside of the regular school day.

More than 76 hours of unexcused absence may result in no credit being issued to the student except for students with a verified medical excuse

FULTON COUNTY UNIFORM TRUANCY PROCEDURES

Serving Fulton County Schools and Wauseon Exempted Village Schools

The Statutes governing School Attendance are very specific and leave little option for School Authorities to Excuse children from school. Parental notes/phone calls will be accepted to excuse up to 30 hours of absence per semester. A medical statement from a doctor will be required by the Attendance Officer for absences totaling more than 30 hours during any one semester (60 hours during the school year). Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case by case basis for exceptions to this rule. Appeals should be made to the student's school principal.

A. DEFINITIONS

1. EXCUSED ABSENCES

- a. Medical excuse written by a doctor or school nurse; All doctor's notes must be turned into the attendance office within 48 hours of the visit.
- b. Legal Excuse by a court;
- c. Limited absence by parental note, accepted by the school in accordance with local board policy. (County policy: 30 hours in a semester/60 hours in a year).

The Ohio Revised Code identifies the following conditions as constituting reasons for excused absence from school: Personal illness; Illness in the family; Quarantine of the home; Death of a relative; Work at home due to the absence of parents/guardian; Observance of religious holiday; Medical or dental appointment. RC 3321.04 Parental notes for these reasons (except when medical notes are provided) and for a fair, vacation, hunting, personal, etc. are limited to 30 hours per semester/60 hours in a year. Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case by case basis.

2. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- a. Truant: any absence from school without permission;
- b. Any absence by parental note not accepted by the school in accordance with local board policy;
- c. Any absence by parental note not approved by the Fulton County Attendance Officer, including, but not limited to, more than 30 hours in a semester or 60 hours in a year. (Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case by case basis.)

3. HABITUAL TRUANT: RC 2151.011 (B) (18) in Sub H.B. Bill 410 now defines habitual truancy as a school age child who is absent without a legitimate excuse for:

- 30 or more consecutive hours
- 42 or more hours in one school month
- 72 or more hours in a school year

4. SCHOOL MONTH: - consists of four school weeks.

5. SCHOOL YEAR: begins the first day of July of the calendar year and ends the 30th day of June of the following calendar year.

6. UNRULY CHILD: RC 2151.022

- (A) Any child who does not subject himself to the reasonable control of his parents, teachers, guardian, or custodian, by reason of being wayward, or habitually disobedient.
- (B) Any child who is habitually truant from school.

7. DELINQUENT CHILD RC 2152.02 (E)

- (1) Any child except a juvenile traffic offender, who violates any law of this state or the United States, or any ordinance or

regulation of a political subdivision of the state that would be an offense if committed by an adult.

- (2) Any child who violates any lawful order of the court made under this chapter, including a child who violates a court order regarding the child's prior adjudication as an unruly child for being a habitual truant.
- (3) Any child who violates any lawful order of the court made under this chapter.

8. **TARDINESS:** As a result of the new definition for habitual truant RC 2151.011 (B) (18) in Sub H.B. Bill 410, any issue of tardiness shall be covered by the student's hours of attendance.
9. **ABSENCE INTERVENTION TEAM: (RC 3321.191 (C) (2)** Each school district is responsible for establishing an Absence Intervention Team. Membership in the Absence Intervention Team is specified by statute. RC 3321.191(C)(2)(c) & (d) Schools with less than 5% chronic absenteeism percentage are exempt from the requirement of establishing an Absence Intervention Team. RC 3321.19 (E)
10. **SCHOOL** A "school" is defined as a brick and mortar building, virtual online, or any other assigned educational program.

B. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

The School is expected to assign a student to an Absence Intervention Team when a student is habitually truant and make a referral to the Attendance Officer. Students, who have a substantiated history of truancy and/or have been referred to the Attendance Officer during the prior school year, should have attendance monitored closely. Referrals on students with prior attendance issues should be made to the Absence Intervention Team and the Attendance Officer in a timely manner. (A listing of these students is provided to the home school at the end of the previous start of the new school year.)

After receiving a referral, the Attendance Officer will notify the student and his parents of the compulsory school attendance laws. A written notice to parent and child and a warning letter will be given at a home visit, or mailed to them by the Attendance Officer. Parents are advised that all further absences will require an acceptable written excuse (medical if warranted).

Copies of correspondence initiated by the Attendance Officer to the parent/guardian concerning a student will be sent to the school attended, as well as the home district school, if different, and should be filed with the student's records.

School Resource Officers (SRO) working within districts are to make timely written reports to the Attendance Officer documenting any contact with a student, his guardian or parent concerning the alleged truancy, so that due process can be completed by the Attendance Officer.

The Attendance Officer initiates all truancy actions with the appropriate court, ONLY after unsuccessful completion of the Absence Intervention Plan. RC3321.16(B)

C. PROHIBITION

A student shall not be suspended out of school as a disciplinary action for truancy.

Students who are found to be truant or unexcused from school should be assigned to the Absence Intervention Team, prior to any involvement with the juvenile court. The Attendance Officer will determine when to refer families for Mediation, or, with prior Juvenile Court approval to Juvenile Court Diversion.

D. RC 3313.609 GRADE PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY (SENATE BILL 55)

(A) As used in this section:

(1.) "Truant" means absent without cause.

(2.) "Academically prepared" means whatever educational standard the board of education of each city, exempted village, local and joint vocational school district establishes as necessary for the promotion of a student to the next grade level pursuant to the policy adopted under division (B) of this section.

(B) The board of education of each city, exempted village, local and joint vocational school district shall adopt a grade promotion and retention policy for students. The policy shall prohibit the promotion of a student to the next grade level if the student has been truant for more than 10% (100 hours) of the required attendance days of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade unless the student's principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level. The program will be reserved for students with problem attendance, not previously involved with the court system.

E. MEDIATION

Shalom Ministries will be providing Mediation Services to schools on a selective basis. The program will be reserved for students with problem attendance, not previously involved with the court system.

Students under age 10, and their parents, may be referred for Mediation services when absences become excessive. Principals should contact the Attendance Officer to request that Mediation be scheduled. The Mediation will be held at student's school, facilitated by a trained mediator. (Mediations may be limited in number per district due to staffing and funding constraints).

F. DIVERSION: UNRULY/DELINQUENCY TRUANCY COMPLAINT

The Juvenile Court is offering a Diversion program for habitually truant students. The goal of the Diversion Program is to avoid students having a permanent juvenile record.

In addition to a formal complaint filed by the Attendance Officer, students habitually truant may be directly referred, with prior Juvenile Court approval, to the Juvenile Court Diversion Program, by the appropriate school district or school pursuant to RC 3121.191 (C) (2) (b). This informal referral from the school district or school may be considered part of any Absence Intervention Plan.

Those students failing the Truancy Diversion offered by the Juvenile Court may be brought officially before the Juvenile Court on the original complaint of unruly or delinquency, or a formal complaint filed by the Attendance Officer for those unsuccessful informal referrals.

1. Diversion I: First time Habitual Truants and parents/guardians will meet with the Attendance Officer at the probation department. Principal is not required to attend Diversion I hearings. School is notified of this hearing, but is not mandated to attend. The Probation Officer will explain the complaint, and what is expected of the student/parent in order to complete Diversion I. (i.e. attend school daily, be on time, and obey all school regulations, and a tour of the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Training and Rehabilitation Center.) **If Diversion I is successful, student does not have a juvenile record.**

Should Diversion I fail (student continues to be truant/unexcused), school will notify Attendance Officer, who in turn will notify chief probation officer to schedule Diversion II, if appropriate.

2. Diversion II: Second time Habitual Truants and parents/guardians will meet with the Attendance Officer at the probation department. Principal is not required to attend Diversion II hearings. Student is placed on unofficial probation for 60 days, is required to tour the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Training and Rehabilitation Center within 30 days if not previously completed, and must attend two office visits with probation officer. **If Diversion II is successful, student avoids a permanent Juvenile record.**

Should Diversion II fail (student violates any terms of the unofficial probation) the student is referred to the Juvenile Court for formal action before the Judge.

3. MEDICAL EXCUSES: Once a student enters any Diversion, OR has appeared before the Juvenile Court and is under Court Order to attend school, all absences must be documented by a Medical Excuse. If no medical note is provided, absence may be entered as Unexcused and reported to the Attendance Officer and/or Probation Officer. **NOTE: Only written medical excuses (signed by a doctor) and legal proceedings (requiring student's attendance in court) are legitimate, excused absences recognized by the Juvenile Court.**

4. GOALS: The goals of the Diversion Program are: To quickly and efficiently deal with juveniles and swiftly administer justice; To allow youth to acknowledge responsibility for his/her actions with appropriate consequences; To provide the youth and family with needed resources; and to prevent further involvement with the juvenile justice system.

G. DISPOSITION OF UNRULY CHILD (HABITUALLY TRUANT)

A student adjudicated a school truant and/or unruly child, may be:

1. Placed on community control including probation RC 2151.354 (a)(2)
2. Have license or learner's permit suspended. RC 2151.354 (A) (3)
3. Place the child in counseling or other appropriate programming. RC 2151.354 (C) (1)
4. Require **parents** of habitually truant student to perform community service, participate in a truancy prevention mediation program; and receive a warning that subsequent adjudication of the child as an unruly or delinquent child may result in a criminal charge against the parent, guardian or custodian. RC 2151.354 (C) (2)

H. VIOLATION OF PROBATION/PENALTIES FOR STUDENTS

A student adjudicated to a school truant and violating Official Probation, or Court Ordered school attendance, by failing to attend school, may be:

1. Incarcerated up to 90 days at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Training and Rehabilitation Center. RC 2152.19 (A) (3)
2. Placed in an out of home placement, such as a foster or group home. RC 2152.19 (A) (1).
3. Placed on official probation or have current probation terms modified. RC 2152.19 (A) (4)
4. Have license or learner's permit suspended. RC 2152.19(A) (4) (1)

Schools must immediately report any unexcused absence of a student on probation to the Attendance Officer or Probation Officer assigned.

I. PENALTIES AGAINST PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF HABITUALLY TRUANT STUDENTS

The Juvenile Court or court of competent jurisdiction may take action against parent, guardian, or person having care of the child as set forth in the Ohio Revised code which may include, but not limited to:

1. Require the parent, guardian or other person having care of the child to participate in community service program or Truancy Mediation; RC 2151.354 (C) (2) (a) & (b)
2. Require the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to post a bond in a sum not exceeding \$500 with sureties to the approval of the court; RC 3321.38 (A)
3. If the parent is found in contempt of Court for the first offense, fine the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child up to \$250 and ordering the parent, guardian or other person having care of the child to serve not more than 30 days at the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio. RC 2705.05 (A)(1)
4. If the parent is found guilty of contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child, fine the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child up to \$1,000 and ordering that parent, guardian or other person having care of the child to serve not more than 180 days at the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio. RC 2919.21 or 2919.24
5. In appropriate cases, charges of educational neglect may be brought by the Fulton County Department of Jobs and Family Services. RC 2151.03

J. COURT APPEARANCES

The school is responsible for delivering an up-to-date attendance record to the Attendance Officer on all days of court proceedings. This record should indicate dates of excused absences, unexcused absences incurred by the student to date and show days of assignment of in-school suspensions. **The Juvenile Court also requires a current copy of student's grades and any disciplinary referral to include detentions/Saturday schools served or owed.** The school principal or administrator is **required** to attend official court hearings unless excused by the Juvenile Court. Attendance Officer will notify principal of date and time of hearing.

K. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES; PREGNANT AND/OR PARENTING STUDENTS

Pregnant and/or parenting students present special circumstances, and will be addressed individually in accordance with the Procedural Guidelines established for enforcement of compulsory education laws. Compulsory school

attendance for pregnant and/or parenting students will be actively enforced, with the assistance of the Juvenile Court. (See Addendum that follows).

-ADDENDUM-
***PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**
FOR ENFORCEMENT OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION

MARRIED or SINGLE STUDENTS;
MALE or FEMALE PARENTING STUDENTS, and/or FEMALE IS
PREGNANT

NOTE: The Procedural guidelines for Married or Single students; Pregnant/Parenting students are in place to address situations where habitual truancy is an issue, and where student and their child may be at risk. Students who are not exhibiting problematic attendance are not “required” to participate in the *GRADS program, but are encouraged to participate on a voluntary basis.

***Graduation, Reality, and Dual-Role Skills (GRADS)** is an in-school Family and Consumer Sciences instructional and intervention program for pregnant and parenting teens, male and female. Objectives focus on graduation and retention, positive health care practices, knowledge of positive parenting practices, setting vocational and career goals, balancing work and family and delaying subsequent pregnancies. Pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in the program are more likely to remain in school during pregnancy and after childbirth; are more likely to obtain early prenatal care; are less likely to deliver low birth weight babies; are likely to increase their knowledge of positive parenting practices; and are less likely to have a subsequent pregnancy while still in school.

Married Male/Female student: Mandatory School Attendance. See Section B of Uniform Truancy Procedures.

Female student is pregnant/parenting: Mandatory School Attendance. A Pregnant/Parenting Female student with problem attendance is required to provide the GRADS Coordinator with the following:

1. Completion of Prenatal physical form by Health Provider confirming pregnancy, and stating any condition/reason that precludes student's school attendance, OR listing restrictions on curriculum that would allow student's regular school attendance;
2. The student must have an appointment card signed at all prenatal, postnatal appointments, counseling sessions, LEAP, WIC and well baby checkups in order to have

absences excused. The appointment card will be provided to the student by the GRADS Coordinator.

All Physicians' written correspondence, including medical notes and forms relating to excusing student's school attendance, must be signed by the attending medical provider (no stamped signatures).

DETERMINATIONS (students with problematic attendance)

A pregnant student whose physician does not indicate in writing, any reason that the student should be excused from regular school attendance will:

1. Attend school regularly, participate in GRADS program, and provide medical excuses for any/all absences.
2. Begin/continue regular prenatal care, have appointment card signed each visit. (GRADS will provide student with appointment card... it is student's responsibility to carry and present card for signatures).
3. Utilize available counseling on family planning/birth control.
4. Enroll in ANY offered parenting classes available. Make LEAP inquiry at Dept. of Job & Family Services for qualifying benefits, and take any classes offered (have appointment card signed).

A pregnant/parenting student who fails to provide completed forms and is habitually absent from school will be considered truant.

A married student who is not pregnant, and not parenting, and is habitually absent from school will be considered truant.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and student (who has not been excused from regular attendance by a doctor, and is failing to comply with the above requirements) will be warned in writing by the Attendance Officer that student is in violation of the Ohio Attendance laws. Students will be referred by the school to an Absence Intervention Team or scheduled for Mediation by the attendance officer. A school nurse, public health nurse and children's services caseworker may also be asked to attend a Mediation if deemed appropriate.

(NOTE: A referral to the Absence Intervention Team is required prior to a truancy complaint being filed with the court.)

TRUANCY ACTION

A Pregnant/parenting student who is not medically excused from attending school, is habitually truant having 30 hours of consecutive unexcused absences, or 42 hours of unexcused absences in one school month, or 72 hours of unexcused absence during the school year, AND has failed to comply with the Absence Intervention Plan, may be charged with Truancy.

See Section B

A PREGNANT STUDENT WHOSE PHYSICIAN EXCUSES REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

1. Tutoring will be arranged by the home school or a recommendation made for online instruction; the school will request the physician to advise of any measures that would allow student to return to school before delivery. Student/parent may be asked to sign a Release of Information form.
2. Student will begin/continue regular prenatal care (appt. card reviewed by GRADS Coordinator, or tutor to verify appointments.)
3. Student will cooperate with tutor, and/or actively participate in online instruction.
4. Students will schedule/attend family planning counseling following delivery. (Have appointment card signed by counselor).
5. Student will participate in offered parenting classes, and make LEAP inquiry at Dept. of Job & Family Services for qualifying benefits and classes offered. (Have appointment card signed.)

NOTE: The GRADS program is in place to assist pregnant and parenting teens and promote healthy newborns. It is not a mandated program, but is highly encouraged for all pregnant and parenting teens.

TARDINESS

Each student is expected to be in his/her assigned location throughout the school day. If a student is late arriving at school, s/he must report to the school office before going to his/her first assigned location. Any student who is not in his/her assigned location may face disciplinary consequences.

VACATIONS DURING THE YEAR

It is recommended that parents not take their child out of school for vacations. When a family vacation must be scheduled during the school year, the parents must complete a "Student Leave Form" which can be obtained from the attendance office. The student must bring the form to all of his/her teachers and return the form to the attendance office no later than two (2) school days prior to the student leaving for vacation. On this form, the office will indicate the number of days excused or unexcused.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A major component of the educational program at Swanton Local Schools is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards. Students are expected to behave in accordance with Federal, State and local laws and rules and Board policies and Administrative Guidelines, and in a way that respects the rights and safety of others. Staff will take corrective action to

discipline a student and/or to modify the student's behavior when a student's behavior does not fall within these parameters.

School staff may report suspected criminal misconduct by a student to law enforcement. Law enforcement officers will be permitted to carry out necessary law enforcement functions in the schools, including the removal of a student from school grounds in appropriate circumstances.

EXPECTED BEHAVIORS

Students are expected to:

- act courteously to adults and fellow students;
- be prompt to school and attentive in class;
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, or ethnic background;
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive;
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the school.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

It is the responsibility of students, teachers, and administrators to maintain a classroom environment that allows a teacher to communicate effectively with all students in the class allowing students in the class the opportunity to learn.

DRESS AND GROOMING

Students are expected to dress appropriately at all times. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted. Specific rules and regulations cannot begin to cover all dressing and grooming styles and fads because they are constantly changing. However, the following specific regulations will be enforced:

1. The dress and grooming of students must be clean and in keeping with health, safety and sanitary requirements reflecting a positive image of our school. The dress and grooming of students must not disrupt the learning process.
2. The bottom hem line on student's shorts or skirt must extend at least to the mid-point of the thigh.
3. Students may not wear garments styled to expose the midriff or chest. No mesh tops or thin strapped tank tops will be allowed. Logos must be in good taste and void of obscenities (either gestures or visual). Any

shirts with tobacco, drug, sexual innuendo, alcohol advertisement, or gang insignia will not be allowed.

4. No bare feet and no dangerous or destructive shoes will be allowed.
5. All hats and coats are to be placed in the student's locker upon arrival and remain in the locker during the school day.
8. Students are not permitted to wear pajamas or pajama-like attire to school.
9. Students wearing electronic monitoring devices must keep them out of sight.

The dress regulations may be waived or amended for special spirit days with permission from the building administrator. Students who are representing the school at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and other such groups.

GANGS

Gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or that are disruptive to the school environment will not be tolerated. Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations or related activities that are likely to cause harm or personal degradation are prohibited.

Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures that symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities that are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined. Prohibited gang paraphernalia will be specifically identified and posted by the Principal.

CARE OF PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The School is not responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school.

Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student damages or loses school property, the student and/or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or repair. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse. The Board of Education will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property on a school bus or while en route to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s). Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means cyberbullying through electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistance (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the building principal or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official.

Complaints against the building Principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The building principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

If the investigation finds an instance of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying/cyberbullying by an electronic act or otherwise, has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. This may include suspension or up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyberbullying, the Principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517 – Anti-Harassment.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or other aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

The District shall implement intervention strategies (AG 5517.01) to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation following such a report.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

If after investigation, act of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the building Principal or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the custodial parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

COMPLAINTS

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member and they shall be promptly forwarded to the building Principal for review, investigation, and action.

PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY

The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against who the complaint is filed, and the witnesses consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. Records generated under this policy and related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

At least semi-annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the President of the Board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District web site. The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events. Allegations of criminal misconduct and suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Child Protective Services. District personnel shall cooperate with investigations by such agencies.

IMMUNITY

A School District employee, student, or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and R.C. 3313.666 if that person reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying promptly, in good faith, and in compliance with the procedures specified in this policy. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student, or volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

NOTIFICATION

Notice of this policy will be **annually** circulated and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying. The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to members of the School District related to the implementation of this policy and its administrative guidelines. All training will be age and content appropriate.

ANTI-HARASSMENT

General Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School district operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age(except as authorized by law), religion, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, “Protected Classes”), that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

For purposes of this policy, “School District community” means students, administrators, and professional and classified staff, board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

For purposes of this policy, “third parties” include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off School District property).

Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of unlawful harassment, when responsibility for reporting, and/or investigating harassment charges comprises part of one’s supervisory duties.

Definitions

Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school or work performance or participation; and may involve:

- A. teasing;
- B. threats;
- C. intimidation;
- D. stalking;
- E. cyberstalking;
- F. cyberbullying;
- G. physical violence;
- H. theft;
- I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
- J. public humiliation; or
- K. destruction of property.

Harassment

Harassment means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

- A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear or harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Sexual Harassment

Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- A. Submission to such a conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.
- B. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.
- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical/and or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.
- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videotapes, audio recordings or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, which may embarrass or offend individuals.
- F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
- G. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
- H. Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
- I. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.

- J. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment or education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment, or such that it is intended to, or has the effect of, denying or limiting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or activities.

Note: Sexual conduct/relationships with students by District employees or any other adult member of the School District community is prohibited, and any teacher, administrator, coach, or other school authority who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of the criminal charge of "sexual battery" as set forth in R.C. 2907.03. The issue of consent is irrelevant in regard to such criminal charge and/or with respect to the application of this policy to district employees or other adult members of the School District community.

Race/Color Harassment

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

Religious (Creed) Harassment

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

National Origin/Ancestry Harassment

Prohibited national origin/ancestry harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national

origin or ancestry and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin or ancestry, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

Disability Harassment

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disabling condition, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like.

Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Students and all other members of the School District community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other district employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) school days.

Members of the School District community, which includes students, or third parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behaviors, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance officers who shall investigate the allegation in

accordance with this policy. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend his/her 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the 5517 investigation and provide him/her with a copy of the resulting written report.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers".

NOTE: School Districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Compliance Officer in order to provide Complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The Compliance Officers may also serve as the District's Section 504 and Title IX Coordinators.

High School Assistant Principal
419-826-3045
601 N. Main St.
Swanton, Ohio 43558

Middle School Assistant Principal
419-826-4016
101 Elton Parkway
Swanton, Ohio 43558

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the handbooks and/or in the School District newsletter.

The Compliance Officers will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the student, other member of the School District community or third party in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

Compliance Officers shall accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District, or receive complaints that are initially filed within a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, a Compliance Officer will begin with an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the harassment or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents

of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Compliance Officers within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful harassment is expected to intervene to stop the harassment, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the harassment. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) school days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Compliance Officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Any student who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful harassment may see resolution of his/her complaint through either the informal or formal procedures as described below. Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of legally prohibited harassment or retaliation was substantiated are set forth below.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment or retaliation, time lines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The informal and formal procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of a student to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.

Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop inappropriate behavior and to investigate and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

Students who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed may initiate their complaint through this informal complaint process, but are not required to do so. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in the informal process.

Students who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

However, all complaints of harassment involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community against a student will be formally investigated. Similarly, any allegations of sexual violence will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a student feels that s/he is being unlawfully harassed and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. Such direct communication should not be utilized in circumstances involving sexual violence. The complaining individual should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking the initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the harasser of his/her complaint is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A student who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator in the school the student attends; (2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one of the Compliance Officers.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below on his/her own, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide students who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the student claiming unlawful harassment, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the student about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the alleged harasser.
- B. Distributing a copy of the anti-harassment policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the student claiming harassment and the individual accused of harassment to work out a mutual resolution. Such a meeting is not appropriate in circumstances involving sexual violence.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the Compliance Officers in accordance with the School Board's records retention policy and/or Student records policy. (See Policy 8310 and 8330)

Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the student elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

A student who believes s/he has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant", may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, principal, or other District employee at the student's school, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or another District employee who works at another school or at the district level. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, or other District employee at the student's school, Superintendent, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process, the Compliance Officer should keep parties informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the complainant from further harassment or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the alleged harasser. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever action s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing or retaliatory conduct, hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent", that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant administrative guidelines, including the Board's Anti-Harassment policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. Interviews with the Complainant;
- B. Interviews with the Respondent;

- C. Interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
- D. Consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonable believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful harassment. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances within ten (10) school days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a final decision regarding whether the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the Respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within ten (10) school days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent shall issue a final written decision as described above.

A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Superintendent may appeal through a signed written statement to the board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's final decision. In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment/retaliation regardless of whether the student alleging the unlawful harassment/retaliation pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an

external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the board or its designee.

Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or his/her designee will instruct all members of the School district community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provided during the course of the investigation.

All records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of harassment will be maintained by the Compliance Officer in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. Any records that are considered student education records in accordance with the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* or under Ohio's student records law will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State law.

Sanctions and Monitoring

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful harassment by taking appropriate action reasonable calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). when imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with the other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community , all subsequent sanctions

imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonable calculated to end such conduct prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

Retaliation

Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.

Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any school teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child with a disability under the age of twenty-one (21) or that a child under the age of eighteen (18) has suffered or faces a threat or suffering a physical or mental wound, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect a child to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the county children's services agency. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the Complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board Policy.

State law defines certain contact between a teacher and a student as "sexual battery." If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the Complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined in Ohio's Criminal Code, such knowledge should be immediately reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to a county children's services agency or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officer or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.

Allegations Involving Conduct Unbecoming the Teaching Profession/Suspension

The Superintendent will report to the Ohio Department of Education, on forms provided for that purpose, matters of misconduct on the part of licensed professional staff members convicted of sexual battery, and will, in accordance with Policy 8141, suspend such employee from all duties that concern or involve the care, custody, or control of a child during the pendency of any

criminal action for which that person has been arrested, summoned and/or indicted in that regard.

Education and Training

In support of this Anti-Harassment Policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practice. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for district students and staff where appropriate. All training as well as all information, provided regarding the Board's policy and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

Each of the behaviors and/or types of misconduct described below are prohibited and may subject the student to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, student conference, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, detention, in-school discipline, suspension and/or expulsion from school. Furthermore, any criminal acts committed at or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined at school. Certain criminal acts may result in permanent exclusion from school.

1. Possession/use of drugs and/or alcohol

Possessing, using, transmitting or concealing, or exhibiting evidence of consumption of an alcoholic beverage, controlled substance including, but not limited to, narcotics, mood altering drugs, counterfeit controlled substances, look-alikes, over the counter stimulants or depressants, anabolic steroids, or drug-related paraphernalia.

If a building Principal has a reasonable individualized suspicion of drug or alcohol use, s/he may request the student in question to submit to any appropriate testing, including but not limited to, a breathalyzer test or urinalysis. In such circumstances, the student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property for such testing with at least one other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial leaves the observed evidence of alcohol or drug use unrefined thus leading to possible disciplinary action. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

2. Possession/use of tobacco

Possession, consumption, distribution, purchase or attempt to purchase, and/or use of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes or similar devices in school, on school grounds, on school buses, and at any interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or other school-sponsored event. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, smokeless and electronic vapor cigarettes or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco. Smoking clove cigarettes is also prohibited.

Vaping Policy- E-cigarettes, vaping, juuling, or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, will be treated as a drug offense. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation, the student may complete an approved drug screen with an SLSD approved testing facility. Test results must be sent directly to the school administrator from the testing facility. Upon receipt/review of the results, if administration is able to clearly establish that no illegal substance has been discovered, the administrator may reduce the violation to a smoking or use of tobacco offense. If the student refuses to complete an approved drug screen or does not complete the screen within 24 hours, this will be considered a positive result for an illegal substance and will be treated as a drug offense.

3. Use and/or possession of a firearm

Bringing a firearm (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) onto school property or to any school-sponsored activity, competition, program, or event, regardless of where it occurs, will result in a mandatory one (1) year expulsion under Ohio law. This expulsion may be reduced on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent using the guideline(s) set forth in Board Policy 5610.

Firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994). Firearms include any unloaded firearm and any firearm that is inoperable but that can be readily operated.

Students are prohibited from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus that is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired, and indicating they are in possession of such an object and that it is a firearm or knowingly displaying or brandishing the object and indicating it is a firearm.

4. Use and/or possession of a weapon

A weapon is any device that may be used for offensive or defensive purpose, including but not limited to conventional objects such as guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.

A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle, a razor blade or any similar device that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

5. Use of an object as a weapon

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, and jewelry.

6. Knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence

Because the Board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the Principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

7. Arson

The intentional or purposeful destruction or damage to school or district buildings or property by means of fire. Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony.

8. Physically assaulting a staff member/student/person associated with the District.

Acting with intent to cause fear in another person of immediate bodily harm or death, or intentionally bullying, inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily harm upon another person. Physical assault of a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District, regardless of whether it causes injury, will not be tolerated. Any intentional, harmful or potentially harmful physical contact or bullying initiated by a student against a staff member will be considered to be assault. Assault may result in criminal charges and may subject the student to expulsion.

9. Verbally threatening (either orally, in writing or otherwise expressed) a staff member/student/person associated with the District.

Any oral, written statement, or otherwise expressed action that a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District reasonably feels to be a threat will be considered a verbal assault. Profanity directed toward a staff member in a threatening tone may also be considered a verbal assault. Confrontation with a student or staff member that bullies, intimidates, or causes fear of bodily harm is also prohibited.

10. Misconduct against a school official or employee, or the property of such a person, regardless of where it occurs.

The Board prohibits misconduct committed by a student against a school official or employee, including, but not limited to, harassment (of any type), vandalizing, assault (verbal and/or physical), and destruction of property.

11. Misconduct off school grounds

Students may be subject to discipline for their misconduct even when it occurs off school property when the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that occurred on property owned or controlled by the District. Misconduct is defined as any violation of the Student Discipline Code.

12. Extortion

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law.

13. Gambling

Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on any school activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that school activity.

14. Falsification of school work, identification, forgery

Falsifying signatures or data, or refusing to give proper identification or giving false information to a staff member. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, forgery of hall/bus passes and excuses, as well as use of false I.D.'s. Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and will subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action.

15. Bomb Threats, and other false alarms and reports

Making a bomb threat (i.e., intentionally giving a false alarm of a bomb) against a school building or any premises at which a school activity is being held at the time the threat is made may result in expulsion for a period of up to one (1) school year. Additionally, intentionally giving a false alarm of a fire, or tampering or interfering with any fire alarm is prohibited. False emergency alarms or reports endanger the safety forces that are responding to the alarm/report, the citizens of the community, and the persons in the building. What may seem like a prank, is a dangerous stunt that is against the law and will subject the student to disciplinary action.

16. Terroristic Threat

The threatening, directly or indirectly, to commit a crime of violence with the purpose to terrorize another with reckless disregard of the risk or causing terror in another.

17. Possession and/or use of explosives and/or fireworks

Possessing or using any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion, with substantially instantaneous release of gas and heat (including, but not limited to explosives and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs and poppers). Additionally, possessing or offering for sale any substance, combination of substances or article prepared to produce a visible and/or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation.

18. Trespassing

Although schools are public facilities, the law allows the Board to restrict access to school property. Being present in any Board-owned facility or portion of a Board-owned facility when it is closed to the public or when the student does not have the authorization to be there, or unauthorized presence in a

Board-owned vehicle; or unauthorized access or activity in a Board-owned computer, into district, school or staff computer files, into a school or district file server, or into the Network. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, the student is prohibited from being present on school property without authorization of the Principal.

19. Theft, or knowingly receiving or possessing stolen property

Unauthorized taking of property of another person or receiving or possessing such property. Students caught stealing will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students should not bring anything of value to school without prior authorization from the Principal. The school is not responsible for personal property.

20. Insubordination

Students are expected to comply with the reasonable directions of staff. Willful refusal or failure to follow or comply with an appropriate direction given by a staff member, or acting in defiance of staff members.

21. Damaging property (Vandalism)

Defacing, cutting, or otherwise damaging property that belongs to the school, district, other students, employees or others) and disregard for school property.

22. Persistent absence or tardiness

Attendance laws require students to be in school all day or to have a legitimate excuse for their absence. Penalties for unexcused absences can range from detention to a referral to court and/or revocation of the student's driver's license.

23. Unauthorized use of school or private property

Students must obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use of school property, or private property located on school premises, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

24. Refusing to accept discipline

Students failing to comply with disciplinary penalties may face enhanced penalties for such action.

25. Aiding or abetting violation of school rules

Assisting other students in the violation of any school rule. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

26. Displays of affection/sexual activities

Affection between students is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual

in nature. Sexual activity of any nature is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

27. Possession of Personal Communication Devices

Swanton Elementary School will follow all State of Ohio law regarding cell phone use and all other personal communication devices in schools as they evolve throughout the academic year. Disciplinary action may be taken if a student uses a personal communication device, including a cell phone in violation of district policy (po5136) or state law.

Personal Communication Device (“PCD”) is defined by Bylaw 0100 - Definitions.

Students in grades K-8 may possess personal communication devices (PCDs) in school, on school property, during after school activities (e.g., extracurricular activities) and at school-related functions, they must be powered completely off (i.e., not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight during school hours.

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a PCD to monitor or address a health concern, in accordance with the student’s individualized education program or Section 504 plan.

28. Violation of individual school/classroom rules

Each learning environment has different rules for students. These rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules within each learning environment, all of which will be consistent with this Code.

29. Violation of bus rules (see Section V – Transportation)

30. Interference, disruption or obstruction of the educational process

Any actions or manner of dress that materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with school activities or the educational process, or which threaten to do so are unacceptable. Such disruptions include, but are not limited to, delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic and performing arts events.

31. Harassment and/or Aggressive Behavior (including Bullying/Cyberbullying)

The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Harassment and/or aggressive behavior (including bullying/cyberbullying) toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive learning environment. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation.

Individuals engaging in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

Conduct constituting harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or disability may take different forms, including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. **Verbal:** The making of offensive written or oral innuendoes, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.
- B. **Nonverbal:** Placing offensive objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures based upon a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.
- C. **Physical:** Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, pushing, shoving, hissing, or spitting, on or by a fellow staff member, students, or other person associated with the District, or third parties, based upon the person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyber-bullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Any student who believes that s/he is the victim of any of the above actions or has observed such actions by another student, staff member, or other person associated with the District, or by third parties should contact the District's Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinator(s):

The Complaint Coordinators are available during regular school hours to discuss a student's concerns related to harassment and/or bullying/cyber-bullying, to assist a student who seeks support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the student.

The student may report his/her concerns to the Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators either by a written report, telephone, or personal visit. In reporting his/her concerns, the student should provide the name of the person(s) whom s/he believes to be responsible for the harassment and or bullying/cyber-bullying and the nature of the harassing and/or bullying/cyber-bullying incident(s). The Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators will promptly compile a written summary of each such report that will be forwarded to the Principal.

Each report will be investigated in a timely manner and as confidentially as possible. The District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. While a charge is under investigation, no information will be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. All individuals involved in an investigation as either a witness, victim or alleged harasser and/or bully/cyber-bully will be instructed not to discuss the subject outside of the investigation.

If an investigation reveals that a harassment and/or bullying/cyber-bullying complaint is valid, appropriate remedial and or disciplinary action will be taken promptly to prevent the continuance of the harassment and/or bullying/cyber-bullying or its recurrence.

Given the nature of harassing and/or bullying/cyber-bullying behavior, the school recognizes that false accusations can have serious effects on innocent individuals. Therefore, all students are expected to act responsibly, honestly, and with the utmost candor whenever they present harassment and/or bullying/cyber-bullying allegations or charges.

Some forms of sexual harassment of a student may reasonably be considered child abuse that must be reported to the proper authorities.

These guidelines shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of harassment and/or aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment and aggressive behavior. Making intentionally false reports about harassment or aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Anyone having further questions concerning prohibited behaviors and/or the complaint process should request a copy of Board policies and administrative guidelines 5517 and 5517.01.

32. Hazing

Performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption or risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this rule.

Hazing by any individual, school group, club, or team is not permitted. This includes any form of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm, no matter how willing the participant may be. Hazing activities are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property but connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property.

All incidents of hazing must be reported immediately to any of the following individuals: the building principal or other administrator; teacher; coach; student club advisor/supervisor, and/or Superintendent. Students who engage in hazing may also be liable for civil and criminal penalties.

33. Violent Conduct

Students may be expelled for up to one school year for committing an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program, or directing an act at a Board official or employee, regardless of where or when that act may occur, or their property that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult and results in serious physical harm to person(s) or property.

34. Improper Dress

Clothing may not include words or visuals that are lewd, obscene, disruptive, abusive, or discriminatory, or that advertise drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Dress or grooming that is disruptive of the classroom or school atmosphere is not allowed. Shoes must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons.

35. Careless or Reckless Driving

Driving on school property in such a manner as to endanger persons or property.

36. Burglary

Entering a building or a specific area of a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime, or entering a building without consent and committing a crime.

37. Fighting

Engaging in adversarial physical contact (differentiated from poking, pushing, shoving or scuffling) in which one or the other party(ies) or both contributed to the situation by verbally instigating a fight and/or physical action. Promoting or instigating a fight (i.e., contributing to a fight verbally or through behavior).

38. Lighting Incendiary Devices

Unauthorized igniting of matches, lighters and other devices that produce flames.

39. Possession of Pornography

Possessing sexually explicit material.

40. Unauthorized use of vehicles

Occupying or using vehicles during school hours without parental permission and/or school authorization.

DISCIPLINE

It is important to remember that the School's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, on school transportation, and on property not owned or controlled by the Board but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board. Furthermore, students may be disciplined for conduct that, regardless of where or when it occurs, is directed at a Board official or employee, or the property of such official or employee. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules.

The School is committed to providing prompt, reasonable discipline consistent with the severity of the incident. The consequences for misbehavior are designed to be fair, firm and consistent for all students in the School.

Because it is not possible to list every misbehavior that occurs, misbehaviors not listed above will be responded to as necessary by staff.

Two (2) types of discipline are possible, informal and formal.

INFORMAL DISCIPLINE

Informal discipline takes place within the school. It may include:

- change of seating or location;
- pre-school, lunch-time, after-school detention;
- in-school discipline

Detentions

A student may be detained after school or asked to come to school early by a teacher, after giving the student and his/her parents one days notice. The student or his/her parents are responsible for transportation.

In-School Discipline

The following rules apply to Detention and In-School Discipline:

- Students are required to have class assignments with them.
- Students are not to communicate with each other unless given permission.
- Students are to remain in their designated seats at all times unless permission is granted to do otherwise.
- Students shall not be allowed to put their heads down or sleep.
- No electronic communication devices, radios, CD/MP3 players, cards, magazines, or other entertainment/recreational articles or devices shall be allowed in the room.
- No food or beverages shall be consumed.
- Any student who has not passed all of the State-mandated assessment tests may be required to work on a study packet for one or more of the unpassed tests.

FORMAL DISCIPLINE

Formal discipline involves removal of the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to three (3) school days, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, expulsion for up to eighty (80) school days or the number of days remaining in a semester, whichever is greater, and permanent exclusion. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year.

DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

Before a student is suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed. As long as the in-school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting or be subject to appeal.

SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

When a student is being considered for a suspension, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the basis for the proposed suspension. The student will be given an opportunity to explain his/her view of the underlying facts. After that informal hearing, the Principal [or other administrator] will determine whether or not to suspend the student. If the decision is made to suspend the student, s/he and his/her parents will be given written notification of the suspension within one (1) day setting forth the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension, and the process for appeal. The suspension may be appealed within 3 days after receipt of the suspension notice to the Superintendent or designee. The request for an appeal must be in writing.

During the appeal process, the student shall not be allowed to remain in school.

If the appeal is heard by the Board's designee, the appeal shall be conducted in a private hearing. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the appeal shall be conducted in executive session unless the student or his/her representative requests otherwise. A verbatim transcript will be made and witnesses will be sworn in prior to giving testimony. If the appeal decision is to uphold the suspension, the next step in the appeal process is to the Court of Common Pleas.

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence. A suspended student will be responsible for making up school work missed due to suspension. Assignments may be obtained from the attendance office beginning with the first day of suspension. Make up of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns to school. The student must complete missing assignments during the suspension and turn them in to the teacher by the time the student returns to school.

EMERGENCY REMOVAL

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either in a classroom or elsewhere on the school premises, the Superintendent, Principal or Assistant Principal may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity or from the school premises. A teacher may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity under the teacher's supervision, but not from the premises.

If a teacher makes an emergency removal, the teacher will notify a building administrator of the circumstances surrounding the removal in writing within one (1) school day. No prior notice or hearing is required for any removal under this procedure. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from curricular or extracurricular activity for less than one school day, and is not subject to further suspension for expulsion, the following due process requirements do not apply.

If the emergency removal exceeds one (1) school day, then a hearing will be held within three (3) school days after the removal is ordered. Written notice of the hearing and the reasons for removal and any intended disciplinary action will be provided to the student, as soon as practical prior to the hearing. If the student is subject to an out of school suspension, the student will have the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the Principal, Assistant Principal, Superintendent or a designee, and may challenge the reasons for the removal or otherwise explain his/her actions.

Within one (1) school day of the decision to suspend, written notification will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) of the student. This notice

will include the reasons for the suspension, the right of the student or his/her parents(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal the Board or its designee and the student's right to be represented in all appeal proceedings. If it is likely that the student may be subject to expulsion, the hearing will take place within three (3) school days and will be held in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Expulsion Policy. The person who ordered or requested the removal will be present at the hearing. In an emergency removal, a student may be kept from class until the matter of the alleged misconduct is resolved either by reinstatement, suspension or expulsion.

EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL

When a student is being considered for expulsion, the student and parent will be provided with a formal notice of the proposed expulsion. This written notice will include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity to appear in person before the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the expulsion and/or explain the student's action, and notification of the time and place to appear. Students being considered for expulsion may be removed immediately. A hearing will be scheduled no earlier than three (3), nor no later than five (5) school days after the notice is given.

In accordance with Board Policy 5610, the Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion will be imposed for the same duration that it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

If a student is expelled, the student and the student's parents will be provided with written notice within one (1) school day of the imposed expulsion. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion, the right of the student, or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings, the right to be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee, and the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session.

Within 14 calendar days after the Superintendent notifies the parents of the expulsion, the expulsion may be appealed, in writing, to the Board of Education or its designee. A hearing on the requested appeal will be formal with an opportunity for sworn testimony. If the expulsion is upheld on appeal, a student's parents may pursue further appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

Students serving expulsions will not be awarded grades or credit during the period of expulsion. Expulsion for certain violations including use or possession of alcohol or drugs, may result in revocation of student's driver's license. When a student is expelled, the Superintendent will notify any college

in which the expelled student is enrolled under the Postsecondary Enrollment Option at the time the expulsion is imposed.

PERMANENT EXCLUSION

State law provides for the permanent exclusion of a student, 16 years of age or older who engages in certain criminal activity. Permanently excluded students may never be permitted to return to school anywhere in the State of Ohio. A permanent exclusion may be considered if the student is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing one or more of the following crimes while on the property of any Ohio school:

- A. conveying deadly weapons onto school property or to a school function;
- B. possessing deadly weapons onto school property or at a school function;
- C. carrying a concealed weapon onto school property or at a school function;
- D. trafficking in drugs onto school property or at a school function;
- E. murder, aggravated murder on school property or at a school function;
- F. voluntary or involuntary manslaughter on school grounds or at a school function;
- G. assault or aggravated assault on school property or at a school function;
- H. rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration on school grounds, or at a school function, or if the victim is a school employee;
- I. complicity in any of the above offenses, regardless of the location

This process is formal and may follow an expulsion with the proper notification to the parents.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E.I.A.), and, where applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) (as amended), and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended).

SUSPENSION OF BUS RIDING/TRANSPORTATION PRIVILEGES

When a student is being considered for suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the reason. The student will be given an opportunity to address the basis for the proposed suspension at an informal hearing. After that informal hearing, the Principal [or assistant principal or other administrator] will decide whether or not to suspend his/her bus riding/transportation privileges for all or part of the school year.

If a student's bus riding/transportation privileges are suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified, in writing within one day, of the reason for and the length of the suspension.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Administrators may search a student or his/her property (including purses, backpacks, gym bags, etc.) with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that a search will lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of law or school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice. Student lockers are the property of the District and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their contents or in the contents of any other District property including desks or other containers. School authorities may conduct random searches of the lockers and their contents at any time without announcement. Unannounced and random canine searches may also be conducted.

Additionally, students have NO reasonable expectation of privacy in their actions in public areas including but not limited to, common areas, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms, gymnasiums and playground. The District may use video cameras in such areas and on all school vehicles transporting students to and from regular and extracurricular activities.

Anything that is found in the course of a search may be used as evidence of a violation of school rules or the law, and may be taken, held or turned over to the police. The School reserves the right not to return items that have been confiscated.

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS

The School is committed to protecting students from harm that may be connected with the school environment and also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public child welfare agencies. While the School believes these agencies should conduct their investigations off school property if possible, investigations can take place at school in emergency situations or if the violation being investigated occurred on school property.

Before students are questioned as witnesses or suspects in an alleged criminal violation, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning and shall remain in the room during questioning.

If a student is questioned as the subject of alleged child abuse or neglect, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning, and s/he (or a designated school counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to

questioning, but the building administrator (or a designated school counselor) will remain in the room during questioning.

If law enforcement or children's services agency removes a student from school, the building administrator will notify a parent.

STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do so appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, nonsponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions, buttons, badges, or other insignia, clothing, banners and audio and video materials. All items must meet school guidelines.

A. Material cannot be displayed if it:

1. is obscene to minors, libelous, or pervasively indecent or vulgar;
2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law;
3. intends to be insulting or harassing;
4. intends to incite fighting; or
5. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it will cause or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.

B. Material may not be displayed or distributed during class periods or between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods, and/or before or after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTS AND LIMITED USE OF RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

The Board is committed to the District-wide use of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports ("PBIS") with students and the establishment of a school environment focused on the care, safety, and welfare of all students and staff members. Student Personnel shall work to prevent the need for the use of restraint and/or seclusion. PBIS shall serve as the foundation for the creation of a learning environment that promotes the use of evidenced-based behavioral interventions, thus enhancing academic and social behavioral outcomes for all

students. An emphasis shall be placed on promoting positive interventions and solutions to potential conflicts. PBIS emphasizes prevention of student behavior problems through the use of non-aversive techniques, which should greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the need to use restraint and/or seclusion.

Professional staff members and support staff determined appropriate by the Superintendent are permitted to physically restrain and/or seclude a student, but only when there is immediate risk of physical harm to the student and/or others, there is no other safe and effective intervention possible, and the physical restraint or seclusion is used in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate and protects the safety of all children and adults at school based on policy 5630.01 and the standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Building Conduct- PBIS MATRIX – The Bulldog Way

	We Better Our World -Respect-	We Better Ourselves -Responsibility-	We Celebrate Each Other -Relationships-
Hallway	<p>Walk with your class</p> <p>Between a 0-inch and 3-inch voice</p> <p>Use school-safe language</p> <p>Keep hands and feet to self</p>	<p>Go directly to your destination</p> <p>Keep the hallway clean</p> <p>Quiet locker opening and closing</p> <p>Walk on the path</p> <p>Follow the leader</p>	<p>Quietly wave to others</p> <p>Show kindness with a smile</p> <p>Keep personal space</p>
Arrival/ Dismissal	<p>Hallway: 3-foot voice</p> <p>Wait your turn</p> <p>Listen for your bus</p> <p>Keep hands and feet to self</p>	<p>Be patient</p> <p>Have items/materials ready</p> <p>Be ready to walk in bus line</p>	<p>Say "Hello" and "Goodbye"</p> <p>Use walking feet</p> <p>Use kind words</p>
Restroom	<p>Stay in your own space</p> <p>One person per sink</p> <p>Keep hands and feet to self</p> <p>0-inch voice</p>	<p>Trash in the trash can</p> <p>Wash your hands</p>	<p>Give others privacy</p> <p>Wait patiently for your turn</p>
Cafeteria	<p>Stay seated at the table</p> <p>Keep hands and feet to self</p> <p>In Line: 0-inch voice</p> <p>Tables: 3-foot voice</p>	<p>Trash in the trash can</p> <p>Eat only your food</p> <p>Walk while lining up</p>	<p>Kind words toward others</p> <p>Eat with manners</p>
Inside / Outside Recess	<p>Keep hands and feet to self</p> <p>Outside: 10-foot voice</p> <p>Inside: 3-foot voice</p>	<p>Clean up after yourself</p> <p>Trash in the trash can</p>	<p>Be a good sport</p> <p>Fair play</p> <p>Include everyone</p>
Bus	<p>Hands and feet to self</p> <p>Sit facing forward in your seat</p> <p>3-inch voice</p>	<p>No eating or drinking on the bus</p> <p>Stay out of the aisle</p>	<p>Use kind words</p> <p>Enjoy time with friends</p> <p>Keep personal space</p>
Classroom	<p>Listen to the speaker</p> <p>Stay in your area</p> <p>Hands and feet to self</p> <p>Remain seated</p>	<p>Complete your work</p> <p>Clean your area</p> <p>Quiet transitions</p> <p>Have material ready to learn</p>	<p>Use kind words</p> <p>Use manners</p> <p>Fair play</p>

SECTION V - TRANSPORTATION

BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

The School provides transportation for all students who live farther than 2 miles from school. The transportation schedule and routes are available by contacting the Transportation Director at 419.826.8891.

Students may only ride assigned buses and must board and depart from the bus at assigned bus stops. Students will not be permitted to ride unassigned buses for any reason other than an emergency, except as approved by the Transportation Director.

The Transportation Director may approve a change in a student's regular assigned bus stop to address a special need. Parents should send a note to the Principal stating the reason for the request and the duration of the requested change.

BUS CONDUCT

Students who are riding to and from school on district provided transportation must follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation.

The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety.

Students must comply with the following basic safety rules:

Prior to loading (on the road and at school) each student shall:

- be on time at the designated loading zone 10 minutes prior to scheduled stop;
- stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for school transportation;
- line up single file off the roadway to enter;
- wait until the school transportation is completely stopped before moving forward to enter;
- refrain from crossing a highway until the driver signals it is safe to cross;
- properly board and depart the vehicle;
- go immediately to a seat and be seated.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform the bus driver when their child will not be aboard school transportation. Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time.

During the trip each student shall:

- remain seated while the school transportation is in motion;
- keep head, hands, arms, and legs inside the school transportation at all times;
- not push, shove or engage in scuffling;
- not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything in, into, or from the vehicle;
- keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisle;
- be courteous to the driver and to other riders;
- not eat or play games, cards, etc.;
- not use nuisance devices (e.g., laser pointers) on the bus in a way that disrupts the safe transportation of students and/or endangers students or employees;
- not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment (including, but not limited to emergency and/or safety equipment).

Exiting the school vehicle each student shall:

- remain seated until the vehicle has stopped;
- cross the road, when necessary, at least 10 feet in front of the vehicle, but only after the driver signals that it is safe;
- be alert to a possible danger signal from the driver.

The driver will not discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless s/he has proper authorization from school officials.

VIDEOTAPES ON SCHOOL BUSES

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior.

If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the Principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

A student who misbehaves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

When transportation by District vehicle is either not available or feasible, there may be a need to provide transportation to students by private vehicle. However, no students will be permitted to ride in a private vehicle unless written consent is provided by each student's parent using Form 8660 F2 – Parental Consent for Transportation by Private Vehicle. Upon request, parents of participating students will be given the name of the driver, the owner of the vehicle, and the description of the vehicle.

SELF-TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

Driving to school is a privilege that can be revoked at any time. Students who are provided the opportunity to ride school transportation are encouraged to do so. Students and their parents assume full responsibility and liability for any transportation to and from school not officially provided by the School. The following rules shall apply:

- students under age 18 must have written parent permission to drive to school.
- students and their parents shall complete the Student Vehicle Form 5515 F1 – Application to Drive Vehicles On School Property and provide evidence of: driver’s license, insurance certificate & vehicle registration.
- Students are required to obey the parking lot speed limit of 15 mph.
- The student must obtain a permit from the High School Office and pay a fee of \$15 for the entire school year per semester.
- If a student’s parking permit is suspended, no fees will be refunded.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in loss of privileges and/or disciplinary action for a student.

When the School provides transportation, students shall not drive to school-sponsored activities unless the student’s parents provide written authorization for the student to drive and release the Board from liability using Form 5515 F2 - Parental Authorization and Release From Liability Form – which is approved by the principal.

An approved student driver may not transport other students to a school-sponsored activity unless the parents of the approved student driver and the parents of the student(s) to be transported in the approved student driver’s vehicle provide written authorization for the student to drive or to be transported and release the Board from liability using Form 5515 F2 – Parental Authorization and Release from Liability Form - which is approved by the principal.

All vehicles entering school property are subject to search and inspection.

BICYCLES

1. Permitting a student to ride a bicycle to Swanton Elementary School is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. However, if rules are violated, the school may revoke the privilege.
2. Riders should enter and leave school property by the designated route. Riders will walk their bicycle on and off school property.
3. Bicycles should be housed in the racks provided. The school assumes no responsibility for security except that of normal surveillance of the area. A lock should be used while the bicycle is stored.

4. The bicycles are to be ridden only to and from school and never during school hours.
5. Riders should familiarize themselves with bicycle safety rules and use them at all times.
6. Students are **NOT** permitted to ride their bikes to school if their route involves **crossing the railroad tracks or Airport Highway**.

WALKERS

1. Should not be at the school building until 5 minutes before the doors open.
2. Are to go directly home at dismissal unless they have a written note to go elsewhere.

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION

1. When a student is to be picked up by someone other than the parent/guardian, the school must be notified by a note.
2. A request to deny certain persons the right to pick up a student will be honored within the law.
3. When picking up a student before regular dismissal time, the person must go to the office first and sign the student out. The person needs to give their name, relationship to student, reason for early pickup, date and time.