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INTRODUCTION

The Cleveland Public Schools operates according to policies developed and established by the board of education. The board, which represents the local community, develops policies after careful study and deliberation. The board will regularly assess the effects of its policies and make revisions as necessary.

This manual contains the policies that govern the Cleveland Public Schools. Policy development in a modern, progressive school system is a dynamic, on-going process. New problems, issues and needs create a continuing need to develop new policies and revise existing ones.

Each person or office should update his or her copy of this manual as new policies are distributed.

PHILOSOPHY

The educational program of the district will focus on the individual. In assisting each individual to become a responsible citizen, the district is contributing to the betterment of our nation and society as a whole. While the curriculum must be broad enough to allow each individual to develop their own interests, the district will place emphasis on the achievement of excellence in core curriculum areas such as reading, writing, mathematics and communications. Education is essential to the development of character, physical and mental health, emotional security and provides the foundation for successful living in an ever changing world.

VISION FRAMEWORK

Vision

Whole student, whole community

Mission

We seek to expand educational opportunities in ways that will elevate Cleveland. We act with high standards, urgency, and a long-term view to ensure that all students are college, career and life ready.

Core Goals

- **Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will use higher level thinking skills to synthesize, evaluate, and apply knowledge enabling them to persevere when faced with a difficult task or problem.
- **Technology Skills**

Students will be able to use technology skills which are ingrained into their discovery of learning.
- **Goal Setting and Organization Skills**

Students will take ownership of their learning and prioritize their actions in tune with their individual short and long-term goals.
- **Communication Skills**

Students will communicate effectively through various modalities and develop the social skills necessary to succeed in their future.

Core Values

- **High Expectations**

We aspire to have high expectations for everything we do. We take responsibility for making sure our students succeed, and if we fall short, we do not make excuses or blame others. We achieve excellence with our students when we expect greatness from ourselves.

- **Strengths Based**

We value the strengths, experiences, and perspectives of others. We aspire to ensure all of our stakeholders, including ourselves, see the strength and value they all bring.

- **Lifelong Learning**

We strive to develop and become the engaged leaders necessary to realize our mission. We learn and improve constantly by ensuring alignment between our actions and beliefs, and assuming personal responsibility for results.

- **Partnership**

We are committed to partnering effectively with students, families, and community members to ensure our work advances the broader good for Cleveland. We are many minds with one mission. We trust in each other and assume the best intentions.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The district engages in collective bargaining with its certified personnel. In the event a conflict exists between bargained language and the requirements of the law, the law will govern and the bargained provision(s) will be void. In the event a conflict exists between bargained language and board policy, the bargained language will prevail.

PRIVACY AT SCHOOL

The board expects all actions and activities associated with the school to be conducted within the confines of the law and with the best interests of students and staff in mind.

To (a) ensure compliance with state and federal privacy laws, (b) reduce the risk of stifling the free exchange of ideas, (c) shield young people from potential embarrassment, and (d) otherwise limit the disruption of the educational environment for students and staff, the district does not permit the audio or visual recording of communications or activities occurring in classrooms, offices, or common areas during the regular school day without prior written consent of a district administrator and upon such terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the district administrator. Any person who believes that that consent has been unreasonably withheld may appeal the decision to the superintendent of schools, whose decision shall be final.