



LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICIES

Lighthouse Academy

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OVERVIEW

The Board of Directors adopts and incorporates by reference herein the following Policies set forth in the Charter Contract approved by the Authorizer and the Board:

ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE (Schedule 7 of the Charter Contract)

AGE OR GRADE RANGE OF PUPILS (Schedule 7 of the Charter Contract and the Management Agreement with IES)

APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS (Schedule 7 of the Charter Contract and the Management Agreement with IES)

BYLAWS (Board Operations Policy and General Governance, Schedule 2)

CURRICULUM (Schedule 7 of the Charter Contract and the Management Agreement with IES)

DESCRIPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES: Administration shall have the responsibilities and requirements set forth in the Description of Staff Responsibilities. (Schedule 5 of the Charter Contract)

DESCRIPTION OF STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES (Non-Administrative) (Schedule 5 of the Charter Contract)

EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (Article VI and Schedule 7 of the Charter Contract; and the Management Agreement with IES), and will contain the curriculum content required by applicable law.

FINANCES of the Academy shall be controlled by Article III, Article VI, Article XI of the Charter Contract; the Management Agreement with IES; the State School Aid Act, MCL § 388.1601, et seq.; the financial requirement of the Revised School Code relative to Public School Academies set forth in MCL § 380.501, et seq.

GENERAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS (Article VI of the Charter Contract and the Management Agreement with IES)

METHODS OF PUPIL ASSESSMENT (Article VI and Schedule 7 of the Charter Contract; and the Management Agreement with IES)

PHYSICAL PLANT (Article XI and Schedule 6 of the Charter Contract, and the Management Agreement with IES)

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE (Schedule 7 of the Charter Contract and the Management Agreement with IES)

BOARD POLICIES

COMMUNICATION WITH THE BOARD

The Superintendent and the School Leader shall keep the Board of Directors informed of Academy operations by contributing to the preparation of the monthly Board agendas and by providing oral and/or written reports as the Board deems necessary.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Board shall at all times comply with applicable law as it relates to conflicts of interest, including MCL 15.321, *et seq.*

DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The Board of Directors delegates to the Superintendent and School Leader the function of designing and implementing the procedures, required actions, and detailed arrangements under which the Academy will operate. These administrative procedures shall not be inconsistent with the policies adopted by the Board.

The Board itself will formulate and adopt administrative policies only when required by law, and when the Superintendent and/or School Leader recommend Board adoption.

The Superintendent and/or School Leader may also issue such administrative handbooks and student handbooks as he or she may consider necessary for the effective administration of the schools and distribute them to employees and students and/or their parents.

A copy of the Academy's administrative procedures and the student handbook shall be made a part of the Board's reference materials maintained in the Academy office.

The Superintendent and/or School Leader shall maintain a current organizational chart to which reference can be made by the Board or any employee of the Board.

The Board delegates to IES and the Superintendent and/or School Leader the authority and responsibility to implement administrative guidelines that are consistent with these policies as adopted by the Board of Directors. These administrative guidelines should be consistent with Federal and Michigan law, the Board Policies, and the Charter Contract.

ACADEMY OPERATIONS

ANTI-HARASSMENT/ANTI-VIOLENCE

It is the Academy's policy to maintain learning and working environments that are free from all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment, physical assault and threats of imminent harm. No board member, staff member or student at the Academy shall be subjected to any form of harassment or intimidation on the basis of a protected characteristic. No Board member, staff member or student of the Academy shall be subjected to any form of harassment including sexual harassment, bullying or physical assault or threats of imminent harm by another.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The Academy's athletic program shall comply with all Federal and State laws and regulations. No person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin or disability, while at the Academy, or at any Academy activity. Student athletes must comply with the Board of Directors' Policy regarding prohibition against performance-enhancing substances as required by Michigan law.

ANTI-BULLYING

The Hope Academy of West Michigan (HAWM) board of directors recognizes that a school that is physically and emotionally safe and secure for all students promotes good citizenship, increases student attendance and engagement, and supports academic achievement. To protect the rights of all students and groups for a safe and secure learning environment, the board of education prohibits acts of bullying, harassment, and other forms of aggression and violence. Bullying or harassment, like other forms of aggressive and violent behaviors, interferes with both a school's ability to educate its students and a student's ability to learn. All administrators, faculty, staff, parents, volunteers, and students are expected to refuse to tolerate bullying and harassment and to demonstrate behavior that is respectful and civil. It is especially important for adults to model these behaviors (even when disciplining) in order to provide positive examples for student behavior. Complaints regarding bullying should be delivered in writing to the School Leader, or his/her designee, of the Academy. The Administration shall develop guidelines to effectuate this policy.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Academy will cooperate with the County Health Department to enforce and adhere to the Michigan Public Health Code for the prevention, control and containment of communicable diseases.

CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

The Board of Directors seeks to protect those staff members and volunteers who may be exposed to blood pathogens and other potentially infectious materials in their performance of assigned duties. As such, the Board directs IES to develop a Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan to limit and/or prevent the risk of occupational exposure to blood and other infectious body fluids and the transmission of blood-borne disease.

DELEGATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW TO IES

The Academy has entered into a Management Agreement with Integrity Educational Services (“IES”) to, in part, provide all personnel and labor necessary for the operation of the Academy. The terms and conditions of employment shall meet the requirements of all applicable Federal and Michigan employment and discrimination laws, including but not limited to the following:

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC §2000e, *et seq.*

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, 29 USC §621, *et seq.*

Americans With Disabilities Act, as amended by the ADAAA of 2008, 42 USC §12101, *et seq.*

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 USC §1701, *et seq.*

Family Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 USC §2601, *et seq.*

Michigan’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL §37.2201, *et seq.*

Michigan’s Persons With Disabilities Act, MCL §37.1101, *et seq.*

Criminal History & Unprofessional Conduct Checks, MCL §380.1230, *et seq.* and

Student Safety Legislation, MCL §380.1230(a)-380.1230(h)

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Academy shall annually notify parents of education record information that it designates as Directory Information pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

DISCRIMINATION, SEXUAL OR OTHER HARASSMENT, TITLE IX COMPLAINTS

A person who believes they have been subjected to discrimination based on race, sex, age, religion, national origin, disability, height or weight, sexual harassment or other harassment or violation of Title IX, should immediately report the alleged violation to the Building Administrator, EEO Compliance Officer, or Title IX Coordinator. All alleged conduct should be reported as soon as the alleged discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment or violation of Title IX occurs. Such reports shall be investigated thoroughly.

DRUGS (INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO)

The Academy maintains zero tolerance for the use, possession, or distribution of any alcohol, tobacco or illegal drug on Academy property, in an Academy vehicle or at any Academy-sponsored event.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

The Academy shall conduct emergency drills as required by State law.

GENDER EQUITY (TITLE IX)

The Academy certifies compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, as amended, 20 USC §1681, *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation, at 34 CFR, Part 106, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. The Academy does not discriminate based on sex in employment or any educational program of activity it operates.

Complaints regarding discrimination based on sex should be delivered in writing to the Superintendent, School Leader, or his/her designee, of the Academy. The Administration shall develop guidelines to effectuate this policy.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Board of Directors, in compliance with State law, has adopted an appropriate program of health education, which will prepare students to maintain good health and enable them to adapt to changing health problems of our society. All health education curriculum shall be developed in accordance with applicable law and Michigan Department of Education Guidance.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the Academy's programs and facilities.

A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent or guardian involvement in this procedure is required by federal (IDEA) and State law.

MAINTENANCE OF STUDENT RECORDS – OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

Records of student discipline shall be maintained in accordance with state and federal law, including required provisions relating to confidentiality.

PARENT / FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

The Academy recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by both the school and the child's parents and family. In order to provide the most effective education for all

students, the Academy believes that teachers and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. The Academy, in collaboration with parents, has established programs and practices that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of our students and their families.

The Academy also supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The administrative leadership also helps to set expectations and create a climate conducive to parental participation.

The Academy believes that parent/family participation is essential to improved student achievement. To this end, the Academy is committed to establishing effective two-way communication; connecting students and families with community organizations that provide education enrichment and support, and providing parents with opportunities for input into their child's education. The Academy shall also insure that parents and legal guardians of a student enrolled in the Academy have the opportunity to review the curriculum, text books and teaching materials of the Academy at a reasonable time and place, and in a reasonable manner, and permit parents and legal guardians, subject to reasonable restrictions and limits, to observe instructional activity in a class or course in which their child is enrolled.

The Superintendent, School Leader, or his/her designee, shall develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy.

PARENT PARTICIPATION IN TITLE I PROGRAMS

In accordance with requirements of Section 118 of ESEA Title I, programs supported by Title I funds must be designed and implemented in consultation with parents of the students being served.

The Superintendent, School Leader or designee shall ensure that the Title I plan contains written procedures which have been developed with, approved by, and distributed to parents of participating students.

The Superintendent, School Leader, or his/her designee, shall develop guidelines to implement this policy.

PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

The Academy will notify parents in advance of pesticide applications unless an emergency exists. Notice will be in accordance with federal and state law.

PROHIBITION AGAINST PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES

It is the policy of the Academy that a student's eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics will be affected by the use of any performance-enhancing substance prohibited by law. Any loss of eligibility imposed pursuant to this policy shall be in addition to any other discipline under the Code of Conduct. Any staff member providing, promoting or advising the use of such substances shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

PUBLIC RECORDS / FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), MCL 15.231 *et seq.*, the Academy will make public records accessible as required by law. The Academy shall designate a FOIA Coordinator.

In responding to a FOIA request, the Academy may charge for any and all costs, including a good faith deposit, allowable under applicable law.

PURCHASING

The Academy will procure supplies, materials, and equipment in accordance with applicable law, including MCL §§380.1274, 380.1267, and 15.321.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

No Social Security number or portion of a Social Security number will be used in the conduct of the Academy's business other than as permitted by applicable law.

TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires the Academy to annually notify parents, students, staff and others who regularly occupy the school building of compliance with AHERA. An Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) and Preparedness for Toxic Hazard Policy (PTHP) have been developed for the Academy and are on file in the school office. Parents may schedule an appointment with the building administrator to review the AMP and PTHP.

VISITORS

Parents and other adults are encouraged to visit the Academy. The School Leader will ensure that visits do not disrupt the educational program.

The School Leader may impose such conditions on the presence of registered sex offenders on Academy premises, or at Academy functions, as he or she deems reasonable and appropriate, including: advance permission for visits; escort by a staff member or other adult; and, time and place restrictions.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents and other adults are encouraged to volunteer at the Academy. The School Leader may impose conditions on the presence of volunteers, as he or she deems reasonable and appropriate. The School leader may also establish guidelines that require background checks for volunteers in order to protect the safety of students, staff, and visitors.

WELLNESS POLICY

The Academy is committed to providing a healthy school environment that enhances learning and development of lifelong wellness practices.

The School Leader shall establish rules and regulations to be used in the implementation of this policy.

STUDENT POLICIES

ACADEMY SPECIFIC DRESS CODE/UNIFORM

The Board empowers the Administration to make decisions and interpretations concerning the dress code and enforcement thereof in accordance with the requirements of applicable law.

ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of the Board of Directors to provide an equal opportunity for all students, regardless of race, color, creed, disability, religion, sex, ancestry, age or national origin to learn through the curriculum offered by the Academy.

FIELD TRIPS

Only trips off school grounds approved by the School Leader shall be deemed official field trips. Faculty, staff or others are not to use the Academy's name or imply endorsement by the Academy without such approval.

HAZING

Hazing on or in any Academy property at any time, or in connection with any activity supported or sponsored by the Academy, whether on or off Academy property, is strictly prohibited.

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Board of Directors believes that immunization is one of the most cost-effective measures to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases. Accordingly, the Board requires that all students be properly immunized at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school pursuant to the provisions of the State Health Department regulations.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in the instructional or extra-curricular programs of an academy. It is, therefore, the policy of the Academy that those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular programs offered by the Academy.

MEDICATIONS

The Academy shall comply with applicable law in the administration of medication for students, including MCL §380.1178a.

PUBLICATIONS -- SCHOOL-SPONSORED, CURRICULUM-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

The Administration may impose reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on the distribution of all student publications and communications and may prohibit any speech or publication which may be reasonably anticipated to cause substantial disruption.

SEARCHES OF STUDENT LOCKERS AND LOCKER CONTENTS

Lockers, cubbies and other school-supplied storage areas are Academy Property: all lockers, cubbies and other storage areas assigned to students are the property of the Academy. At no time does the Academy relinquish its exclusive control of these areas. Students have no expectation of privacy in lockers, cubbies or other school-supplied storage areas.

The School Leader or his/her designee may search lockers, locker contents, cubbies or other school-supplied storage areas at any time, without notice and without parental/guardianship or student consent.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices: possession of cell phones and any electronic devices shall be consent to the search of those devices.

Notice of Policy: a copy of the Board of Directors policy regarding locker searches shall be provided annually to each student and parent/guardian of the student assigned a school locker.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Academy will follow all Michigan laws regarding misconduct which requires student discipline, including: arson; criminal sexual conduct; possession of dangerous weapons; physical assault involving an employee, volunteer, or contractor; physical assault against another student; verbal assault against an employee, volunteer, or contractor; bomb threats or similar threats; and, any other misconduct which may by law require disciplinary action by the Academy. The Academy shall develop a Student Code of Conduct prescribing offenses, their consequences, and due process rights of students.

Nothing in this Policy shall diminish the due process rights accorded to students who have been determined to be eligible for special education services under federal and State laws.

The Academy shall comply with the Statewide School Safety Information Policy.

STUDENT SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT

The Academy shall follow the guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education for seclusion and restraint; for notification requirements and for required training. Corporal punishment, as defined by applicable law, is prohibited at all times.

TECHNOLOGY / INTERNET USE

The Administration shall develop a technology use policy in accordance with the requirements of applicable law.