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2005

8000

Instruction

## Cooperstown Central School District

### INSTRUCTION

(Section 8000)

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## INSTRUCTION (Cont'd.)

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## **SUBJECT: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCES AND EVALUATION**

The Board of Education supports and encourages development of a District-wide, articulated curriculum that conforms to state mandates and is responsive to the needs of children in a rapidly changing society. The principals of the elementary and secondary schools shall be responsible to the Superintendent for developing District-wide efforts toward the short and long-range improvement of curriculum and instruction.

### **Curriculum Resources**

There are many resources for curriculum development that exist in our School District, and the instructional staff, under the guidance of the administration, is expected to delve into those resources for possible improvement of the instructional program. The Compact Level Teams, the Grade Level/Department Chairpersons and the Team Leaders are expected to play vital roles in curriculum development. Each teacher has the privilege of being an initiator of improvement, as well as a reactor to changing conditions, and the principals shall be involved in curriculum development.

From the staff, the Superintendent may appoint curriculum study committees; and their findings, as well as the collective judgments of the staff about the pertinence of various possible changes, shall be submitted by the Superintendent to the Board of Education for consideration in the forming of curriculum policy.

### **Curriculum Evaluation**

The Board of Education shall direct a continuing evaluation of the curriculum as part of a program of instructional improvement.

All aspects of the curriculum shall be subjected to a searching and critical analysis in an attempt to improve the learning and growth of students.

The administrative staff shall evaluate the curriculum in a systematic manner, involving school personnel and others as appropriate. Curriculum areas shall be designated each year for detailed study and development.

The Superintendent, with the assistance of the Principals, shall give an annual report each spring on curriculum development. The Superintendent shall also submit for Board approval all proposed curricular changes. The Board of Education from time to time may invite teachers or others to discuss the curriculum.

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**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PART 100 VARIANCE OR PART 200 INNOVATIVE PROGRAM WAIVER FROM COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS**

Consistent with the purposes of *A New Compact for Learning*, the Board of Education encourages collaboration by teachers, administrators, parents and students of the District in developing innovative educational programs and practices that will lead to greater achievement for all students.

Requests for a variance or waiver from the requirements in Part 100 and Sections 200.1/200.6, respectively, of the Commissioner's Regulations must be approved by the local Board of Education and signed by the Superintendent of Schools. An application may also be submitted by several districts, or a combination of districts, BOCES and/or private schools, applying as a consortium. Consortium applications must be approved by each participating local Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools.

Subsequent to Board of Education approval, all applications must be forwarded to the District Superintendent of Schools of which the local district is a part for review, consultation, and recommendation prior to submission to the State Education Department. The District Superintendent may provide technical assistance to the applicant and make recommendations to the State Education Department. Interested applicants may also request technical assistance through their Regional Education Coordinator.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Sections 100.2(n) and 200.6(k)

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

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## **SUBJECT: EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

It is the policy of this District that each student attending its public schools shall have equal educational opportunities and will not be excluded or prevented from participating in or having admittance to the educational courses, programs or activities; school services; and extracurricular events on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, or disability. Sexual orientation is defined as heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or asexuality, whether actual or perceived.

Administration shall establish grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints pertaining to discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, or disability.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act,  
29 United States Code Section 621  
Americans With Disabilities Act,  
42 United States Code (USC) Section 12101 et seq.  
Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,  
29 United States Code (USC) Section 794 et seq.  
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,  
42 United States Code (USC) Section 2000d, et seq.  
Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or  
national origin.  
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,  
42 United States Code (USC) Section 2000e, et seq.  
Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color,  
religion, sex or national origin.  
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972,  
20 United States Code (USC) Section 1681 et seq.  
Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.  
Civil Rights Law Section 40-c  
Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, creed,  
color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual  
orientation or disability.  
Executive Law Section 290 et seq.  
Prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed,  
color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability,  
military status, or marital status.

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

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## **SUBJECT: SAFETY CONDITIONS AND PROGRAMS**

The practice of safety will be considered an integral part of the instructional program through fire prevention, emergency procedures and drills, driver education, and traffic and pedestrian safety.

Each principal will be responsible for the supervision of a safety program for his/her school.

The safety program may include, but not be limited to, in-service training, plant inspection, fire prevention, accident recordkeeping, driver and vehicle safety programs, emergency procedures and drills, and traffic safety programs relevant to students, employees and the community.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Education to provide inspections and supervision of the health and safety aspects of the school facilities.

### **Eye Safety/Student Use of Hand-Held Laser Pointers**

Eye safety devices are to be provided by the School District for the protection of employees, students and visitors, and worn in the technology education classes and labs when activities present a potential eye hazard. The Superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that these devices are properly repaired, cleaned and stored to prevent the spread of germs or diseases after individuals use them.

Each classroom teacher is responsible for the safe and proper use of all instructional materials and equipment by students in his/her classroom. Laser pointers are to be used by students only when such use is approved and supervised by the classroom instructor.

Students will be advised not to stare directly into the beam from a laser pointer or direct the beam at the eyes of another individual. Students are not to aim the pointer into the audience. Students are to be made aware of the hazards associated with the particular type of laser pointer used.

Education Law Sections 409 and 409-a, 807-a, and 906  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Part 136 and Section 141.10

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: PREVENTION INSTRUCTION****AIDS Instruction in Health Education**

The Board of Education shall provide a health education program that will include appropriate instruction for all students concerning Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Accurate information concerning the nature of the disease, methods of transmission, and means of prevention shall be provided in an age-appropriate manner and shall be consistent with community values and will stress that abstinence is the most appropriate and effective premarital protection against AIDS.

A representative community advisory group consisting of appropriate school personnel, School Board members, parents, religious representatives, and other community members shall be established in order to make recommendations for curriculum content, implementation, and evaluation of an AIDS instructional program. Appropriate training will be provided for instructional staff.

No student shall be required to receive instruction concerning the methods of prevention of AIDS if the parent or legal guardian has filed with the principal a written request that the student not participate in such instruction, with an assurance that the student will receive this instruction at home.

AIDS instruction in the elementary grades shall be taught by the regular classroom teachers, while such instruction in the middle and high school grades shall be a part of the required health education curriculum.

**Substance Abuse-Prevention Instruction**

The Board of Education recognizes the need to educate students on the hazards of alcohol, tobacco and/or drug abuse. An educationally sequential health prevention program, utilizing as appropriate community, staff and student input, will be developed to inform students of:

- a) Causes for substance abuse;
- b) Physical and psychological damage associated with substance abuse;
- c) Avoidance of alcohol, tobacco and drugs; and
- d) Dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**Environmental Conservation Instruction**

The Board of Education supports and encourages the development of a District-wide, articulated curriculum of environmental conservation integrated into other program disciplines.

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: PREVENTION INSTRUCTION (Cont'd.)****Fire and Arson Prevention Instruction**

The Board of Education directs the administration to provide instruction in fire and arson prevention for all students in each school for a period of not less than forty-five (45) minutes each month that school is in session.

**Student Safety**

Instruction in courses in technology education, science, art and physical education, health, and safety shall include and emphasize safety and accident prevention.

Safety instruction shall precede the use of materials and equipment by students in applicable units of work in the courses listed above, and instructors shall teach and enforce all safety procedures relating to the particular courses. These shall include the wearing of protective eye devices in appropriate activities.

**Emergency Planning**

The School District shall maintain updated plans and operating procedures to be followed in the event of natural or manmade disasters or enemy attack. Students shall be provided instruction to respond effectively in emergency situations.

**Instruction on Prevention of Child Abduction**

All students in grades K through 8 in District schools shall receive instruction designed to prevent the abduction of children. Such instruction shall be provided by or under the direct supervision of regular classroom teachers and the Board of Education shall provide appropriate training and curriculum materials for the regular classroom teachers who provide such instruction. However, at the Board's discretion, such instruction may be provided by any other public or private agency.

The Commissioner of Education will provide technical assistance to assist in the development of curricula for such courses of study which must be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of students at successive grade levels in order to provide awareness skills, information, self-confidence, and support to aid in the prevention of child abduction.

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## SUBJECT: PREVENTION INSTRUCTION (Cont'd.)

For purposes of developing such courses of study, the Board of Education may establish local advisory councils or utilize the school-based shared decision making and planning committee established pursuant to the Regulations of the Commissioner to make recommendations concerning the content and implementation of such courses. Alternatively, the District may utilize courses of instruction developed by consortia of school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, other school districts, or any other public or private agency. Such advisory council shall consist of, but not be limited to, parents, school trustees and Board members, appropriate school personnel, business and community representatives, and law enforcement personnel having experience in the prevention of child abduction.

AIDS Instruction:

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Sections 135.3(b)(2) and (c)(2)

Civil Preparedness: New York State  
Office of Disaster Preparedness

Fire and Arson: Education Law Section 808

Prevention of Child Abduction:  
Education Law Section 803-a

Student Safety: Education Law Section 808  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Sections 107 and 155

Substance Abuse: Education Law Section 804  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 135.3(a)

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3410 -- Code of Conduct on School Property  
#5640 -- Smoking/Tobacco Use  
#7320 -- Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs and Other Substances (Students)  
*District Code of Conduct on School Property*

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL AND ON CAMPUS PROPERTY**

The Board of Education, in recognizing the educational uses of animals in the classroom, requires that permission be obtained from the Building Principal before animals are brought into the school or classrooms. It is the Principal's responsibility to ensure that there is an appropriate educational purpose if any animal is housed in a classroom. Animals are not to be transported on school buses with the exception of animals certified to assist persons with disabilities.

**Study and Care of Live Animals**

Any school which cares for or uses animals for study shall ensure that each animal in the school be afforded the following:

- a) Appropriate quarters;
- b) Sufficient space for the normal behavior and postural requirements of the species;
- c) Proper ventilation, lighting, and temperature control;
- d) Adequate food and clean drinking water; and
- e) Quarters which shall be cleaned on a regular basis and located in an area where undue stress and disturbance are minimized.

Only the teacher or those students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals.

It shall be the responsibility of the Principal or his/her designee to develop a plan of care for those animals housed in school in the event of an emergency school closing or in the event the animals remain in the classroom on days when school is not in session.

**Dissection of Animals**

Any student expressing a moral or religious objection to the performance or witnessing of the dissection of an animal, either wholly or in part, shall be provided the opportunity to undertake and complete an alternative project approved by the student's teacher; provided, however, that such objection is substantiated in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian. Students who perform alternative projects shall not be penalized.

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**SUBJECT: ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL AND ON CAMPUS PROPERTY (Cont'd.)**

## **Instruction in the Humane Treatment of Animals**

Students in elementary school must receive instruction in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals that are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty.

This instruction may be joined with work in literature, reading, language, nature study, or ethnology.

## **Dogs on Campus Property**

Dogs will not be allowed on campus at any time unless prior arrangements have been made with building principals for instructional purposes.

Americans with Disabilities Act,  
42 United States Code (USC) Section 12101 et. seq.  
Education Law Section 809  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 100.2(c)(8)

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

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Instruction

## **SUBJECT: CAREER AND TECHNICAL (OCCUPATIONAL) EDUCATION**

The Board of Education recognizes the need for career and technical education and reaffirms its policy of strengthening the local high school career and technical education program through utilization of any available federal and state funds for that purpose and of supporting the BOCES program.

### **Equal Opportunity**

The Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, age, marital status, military status or disability in any career and technical education program or activity of this District.

The career and technical education program and/or activities shall be readily accessible to students with disabilities.

### **Public Notification**

Prior to the beginning of each school year or academic semester, the District shall issue an appropriate public announcement which advises students, parents, employees and the general public that career and technical education opportunities will be offered without regard to sex, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, age, marital status, military status or disability. Included in such announcement will be the name, address, and telephone number of the person designated to coordinate Title IX/Section 504/ADA activities.

### **Grievance Procedure**

Grievance procedures for resolving complaints regarding discrimination shall be disseminated to adequately inform students, parents and employees of the existence of these procedures.

### **BOCES Advisory Council**

In accordance with Education Law, the Advisory Council of the BOCES is designated as the local Advisory Council for career and technical education in the School District.

Civil Rights Law Section 40-c  
Education Law Article 93  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Sections 100.2(h) and 141 et seq.  
Executive Law Section 290 et seq.

Adopted: 11/16/05

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## **SUBJECT: GUIDANCE PROGRAM**

A District plan for the K through 12 guidance program shall be filed in the District office and made available for public review. This plan shall be subject to annual review and revised as necessary in the following areas:

- a) Identification of guidance program objectives;
- b) Activities to accomplish the objectives;
- c) Identification of staff members and other resources to accomplish the objectives; and
- d) Provisions for the annual assessment of program results.

### **Guidance Program (K through 5)**

A coordinated guidance program in grades K through 5 shall be developed and implemented to:

- a) Prepare students to participate effectively in their current and future educational programs;
- b) Help those students exhibiting any attendance, academic, behavioral or adjustment problems;
- c) Educate students concerning avoidance of child sexual abuse; and
- d) Encourage parental involvement.

### **Guidance Program (6 through 12)**

A coordinated guidance program in grades 6 through 12 shall be developed and implemented including the following activities and services:

- a) Each student's educational progress and career plans will be reviewed annually;
- b) Instruction at each grade level to help students learn about various careers and career planning skills; and
- c) Other advisory and counseling assistance which will benefit students such as: helping students develop and implement postsecondary education and career plans; helping those students exhibiting any behavioral or adjustment problems; and encouraging parental involvement;
- d) Employment of personnel certified or licensed as school counselors.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 100.2(j)

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS: DRIVER EDUCATION, EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED AND CREATIVE, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Driver Education**

A driver education course may be offered under the conditions set forth by the New York State Education Department and Commissioner's Regulations.

Education Law Section 806-a  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 107.2

### **Exceptionally Talented and Creative Students**

The Cooperstown Central School will have a special program to meet the needs of those students identified as being exceptionally talented and creative.

Talented and creative students will include those who show evidence of high performance capability, and exceptional potential, in such areas as general intellectual ability, special academic aptitude or outstanding ability in visual and performing arts. The ETC program is designed to provide educational programs or services, beyond or different from, those normally provided for by the regular school program.

Committees to identify ETC students will be selected and approved annually by the appropriate Principals, with input from the ETC teachers. The selection of ETC students will be based upon teacher recommendations, parent recommendations, achievement test results, class performance and other appropriate measures. Student self-recommendations will also be considered. Additionally, the ETC committees, with the administration, will be responsible for insuring the appropriateness of the individual's program, and the progress of the student throughout the school year. Evaluation of the program, and recommendations for improvement, will also come under the auspices of the ETC committees and the administration.

Special teaching/learning strategies will be developed and implemented in order to allow ETC students the opportunities to investigate new ideas and areas of critical thinking. A major goal of the program is to have these students develop a strong sense of self, understand their abilities and use those abilities to their greatest potential.

The Exceptionally Talented and Creative Program will meet the requirements established by the State Education Department in order to receive State funding for this program.

Education Law Article 90 and Section 3204(2)(b)  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 142

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Instruction

**SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS: DRIVER EDUCATION, EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED AND CREATIVE, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Cont'd.)**

## **Physical Education Class**

All students, except those with medical excuses, shall participate in physical education in accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations. Any student whose condition precludes participation in a regular program shall be provided with adaptive physical education approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Education Law Sections 803 and 3204  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 135.4

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

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Instruction

## **SUBJECT: PATRIOTISM, CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION**

In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civil service and obligation, as well as to foster in students of the District moral and intellectual qualities which are essential in preparing them to meet the obligations of citizenship, the Board requires students attending District schools, over the age of eight (8) years, to attend instructional courses in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, the Holocaust, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850 (the "Irish Potato Famine").

The Board also directs that all students attending District schools in grades 8 through 12 receive instruction in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the United States Constitution, the New York State Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence.

The curricula for such courses must include the subjects specified by the Board of Regents and be for the period of instruction, as mandated by the Regents, which is necessary in these subjects in each of the appropriate grades.

One (1) week during each school year a uniform course of exercises shall be provided to teach students, in an age appropriate manner, the purpose, meaning and importance of the Bill of Rights Articles in the United States and New York State Constitutions. These exercises shall be in addition to the above required courses.

The Board directs that the above named subjects, as mandated by law, be addressed in the instructional curricula provided by the District.

Education Law Section 801

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #8242 -- Civility, Citizenship and Character Education/Interpersonal Violence Prevention Education

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: CIVILITY, CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER EDUCATION/  
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION**

**Civility, Citizenship and Character Education**

The Board of Education recognizes that teaching students respect, civility and understanding toward others, as well as the practice and reinforcement of appropriate behavior and values of our society, is an important function of the School System.

The School District wishes to foster an environment where students exhibit behavior that promotes positive educational practices, allows students to grow socially and academically, and encourages healthy dialogue in respectful ways. By presenting teachers and staff as positive role models, the District stresses positive communication and discourages disrespectful treatment. This policy is not intended to deprive and/or restrict any student of his/her right to freedom of expression but, rather, seeks to maintain, to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment free and educationally conducive environment for our students and staff.

Furthermore, the District shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades K through 12 includes a component on civility, citizenship and character education in accordance with Education Law. Character education is the deliberate effort to help students understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values.

Character education shall instruct students on the principles of:

- a) Honesty;
- b) Tolerance;
- c) Personal responsibility;
- d) Respect for others;
- e) Awareness and sensitivity to discrimination and/or harassment as defined in the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA);
- f) Civility in relation to people of different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, physical or mental abilities, sexual orientations, genders or sexes;
- g) Observance of laws and rules;
- h) Courtesy; and
- i) Dignity, and other traits which will enhance the quality of students' experiences in, and contributions to, the community.

As determined by the Board of Regents, and as further enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations, the components of character education shall be incorporated in existing School District curricula as applicable.

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**SUBJECT: CIVILITY, CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER EDUCATION/  
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION (Cont'd.)**

The District encourages the involvement of staff, students, parents and community members in the implementation and reinforcement of character education in the schools.

Education Law Sections 801 and 801-a  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Section 100.2(c)

**Interpersonal Violence Prevention Education**

The District will utilize the interpersonal violence prevention education package provided by the State Education Department. These materials will be incorporated as part of the health or other related curricula or programs for students in grades K through 12.

Education Law Section 804(4)

Adopted: 11/16/05  
Amended: 6/13/12

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**SUBJECT: SCHOOL DISTRICT COORDINATION WITH THE CLARK SPORTS CENTER**

The Board of Education recognizes the many new and diversified facilities available at the Clark Sports Center. The Board also appreciates the willingness of the gymnasium management to coordinate its programs with those of the Cooperstown Central School.

The Superintendent is therefore authorized to develop joint programs which further school physical education and athletic policies.

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: THE LACAVA NATURE CENTER**

The LaCava Nature Center is a specialized educational facility which provides CCS with an opportunity to offer students and other citizens of the community valuable experiences. Use of the Center for educational programs in the school should be promoted, and the community should be made aware of and encouraged to utilize the area.

The Board may appoint a director of the Nature Center each year. The director will be supervised by the High School Principal and his/her duties will be scheduled as necessary over the twelve month period. (This position by nature will entail some summer duties.) Like a department chairperson, the director will prepare a list of goals for the following twelve month period.

The director's job description will be prepared and reviewed annually by the two building principals, and important areas of responsibility will include:

- a) Long range planning for use of the Nature Center and the establishment of program-related goals;
- b) Establishment of curricular and extra-curricular programs that will make the center an integral part of the school curriculum;
- c) Development of in-service programs pertaining to the Center for staff and students;
- d) Supervision of upkeep and maintenance of the Center;
- e) With the principal, preparation of a budget for the Center to be submitted to the Board by the principal;
- f) Promotion of increased community utilization through a public awareness campaign; and,
- g) Continuation of efforts to attract external funding for program development and Center maintenance.

The director is expected to work with the whole K through 12 staff and student body to encourage Center use by both schools.

The Board will provide an annual budget for the Nature Center which will include the director's stipend and funds for supplies and maintenance of the Center. These monies will be expended during the twelve month period and all District budgetary rules and regulations will apply.

The director will make a written report to the Superintendent and the Board annually.

Adopted: 11/16/05

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## **SUBJECT: AFTER-SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM**

The Cooperstown Central School District recognizes that there are students, particularly in the early elementary grades who, because of parent's work schedules and school dismissal time, need after school care. In order to meet the needs of this group of students, the District will operate an After-School Care Program from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on days when school is in session.

The Board of Education will appoint an After-School Care Director, as well as an assistant(s) upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. Staff salaries will be approved by the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. The daily operation of the program will be determined by the Director and his/her assistant(s) with the guidance of an advisory committee from the Cooperstown School Community Association. The Director will be responsible to the Superintendent (or his/her designee) and will make regular reports to the Board through the Superintendent.

The initial costs of the After-School Care Program will be borne by the District. Nevertheless, the District expects that the program will be self sufficient.

All students of the Cooperstown Elementary School in grades K through 5 are eligible to participate in the After-School Care Program. However, due to several physical and economic constraints, participation in the program may be limited on a first come, first serve basis. Full-time students will be given preference over regular part-time students.

In the event that the District receives grant funding from the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership (CROP), the regulations governing that federal after school program will be in effect.

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: SUMMER SCHOOL**

The School District may provide summer school in any given year, but is not required to do so. Summer school is an additional opportunity to meet the needs of students by providing courses for enrichment, acceleration, and improvement of skills or making up course work from the regular school year.

**Summer School Program Requirements****Summer Elementary School**

A summer elementary school shall provide an elementary school program during the months of July and August of at least twenty (20) hours of instruction. Daily instructional sessions must be provided of at least one (1) hour but not more than five (5) hours.

**Summer Secondary School**

Summer secondary school shall provide a secondary school program during the months of July and August of at least twenty (20) hours of instruction, exclusive of days used for registration, final examinations or Regents examinations. Daily instructional sessions must be provided of at least one (1) hour but not more than five and one half (5 1/2) hours.

**Resident Students - Public, Nonpublic and Home Schooled**

When the School District operates a summer school or participates in a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) regional summer school, all resident students, including public, nonpublic, and home-schooled students, are entitled to attend the District's summer school program. For the purpose of summer school instruction, a resident nonpublic school student is not considered to be an enrollee of the nonpublic school. The School District cannot charge resident students fees for any part of the District's program offered to meet high school diploma requirements. However, students must meet any academic requirements for a particular course.

**Nonresident Students**

When the District operates a summer school or participates in a BOCES regional summer school, the District decides whether or not it will accept nonresident students. The District must treat all nonresident applicants equally and may charge tuition calculated in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations Section 174.2.

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: SUMMER SCHOOL (Cont'd.)****Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are entitled to attend summer school on the same basis as their nondisabled peers. Students who qualify under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are entitled to those accommodations deemed necessary to ensure access to all public school programs and activities. If a student with a disability requires accommodations to participate in a summer school program, the District is required to provide necessary supports and services, including testing accommodations.

Students with disabilities receive extended school year programs and services if the Committee on Special Education (CSE) determines for particular students that the programs and services are required to prevent substantial regression during July and August.

**Attendance**

Part 104 of Commissioner's Regulations pertaining to attendance applies to all students enrolled in scheduled instruction during the school year from July 1 through June 30, including summer school. The School District must use the same Board-approved attendance policy for summer school that is used during the regular school year. Summer school attendance requirements are based on a pro-ration of the regular year attendance requirements.

**Minimum Attendance for Course Credit**

Commissioner's Regulations Section 104.1 specifically authorizes school districts to adopt minimum attendance requirements, which distinguish between excused and unexcused student absences for the purpose of awarding course credit. Such policies may provide that a properly excused student absence does not count as an absence for the purpose of determining course credit eligibility if the student has performed any assigned make-up work. Minimum attendance requirements for the purpose of awarding course credit will be in accordance with the District's Comprehensive Student attendance policy as may be applicable.

**Recognition of Earned Credit**

All New York State registered high schools must grant transfer credit for all credit awarded by any public or nonpublic registered New York State high school. After consultation with relevant faculty, the High School Principal may also grant transfer credit for work done at institutions other than New York State registered high schools upon determining that the work is consistent with New York State learning standards and was comparable in scope and quality to the work done in the District high school(s).

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: SUMMER SCHOOL (Cont'd.)****Students with Disabilities**

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(Continued)

# POLICY

2005

8248

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: OUTSIDE SPEAKERS**

Assemblies and classroom presentations by speakers who are not employees of the school district should be used to enrich our curricular program. In addition to providing enrichment for children beyond that which can be provided by our regular teaching staff, such programs provide an important opportunity for indigenous community talent to assist in the programs of our school district. In addition to district support, our PTO is urged to continue to support such programs, with the encouragement and approval of the respective building principals. Such approval should be based on the appropriateness of the program vis-à-vis our curricular objectives and the ability to schedule the program with minimal disruption to the school's regular program.

In selecting speakers who are not school district employees, a recommendation from other school districts or recognized professional organizations must be on file before a decision is made to commit to any particular speaker. In lieu of this, speakers may be selected with the expressed approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee if recommended by a current staff member. A professional staff member must be in attendance at any assembly or classroom presentation given by speakers who are not employees of the school district. Individual assessments of each individual should be made where appropriate by the sponsor and kept on file for future reference.

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: ARMED FORCES GUIDANCE**

The Board of Education recognizes service in the Armed Forces of the United States is a post graduation option for students. Armed Forces representatives will therefore be given the same opportunities for presentations and student contracts accorded other career and educational institutions. (State Education Law 2-A)

Procedure

- a) Armed Forces Representatives should request in writing an appointment to meet with students. This same process applies to college and employment representatives. The appointment time and date will be announced to students one week in advance. Students who wish to attend an Armed Forces presentation will sign up in the Guidance Office, and a pass will be granted to meet with the recruiter. Students should use study hall time and not class time for these meetings. If this is not possible, a presigned pass from the classroom teacher must be obtained.
- b) The Guidance Staff will encourage parental involvement in cases of student interest. Recruiters are requested to contact parents directly before meeting with their son or daughter.
- c) The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a recognized standardized test that is used by Cooperstown Central School students to determine an individual's aptitude, strengths and weaknesses. The test results are used by students when making important educational decisions. They are also used by colleges and employers, but will only be used for Armed Forces recruitment purposes when a student personally releases his/her results to military personnel.
- d) At the end of the Junior year, each student will be asked if he/she wants his/her name and other directory information given to military recruiters the following October. Directory information for those students wishing to be included will be name, address, date of birth and phone number.

# POLICY

2005

8250

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

Evaluation may be concerned with the extent to which:

- a) Each student achieves in accordance with his/her ability;
- b) Each staff member performs at full potential;
- c) The total learning environment, including instructional processes, physical facilities, and the educational program, remains consistent with the needs of students and the larger society and contributes to the accomplishment of the goals of the school.

The Board of Education expects staff members to maintain a continual program of evaluation at every level to determine the extent of progress toward the schools' objectives. The Board of Education will periodically request the Superintendent to present factual information that it considers necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the School System.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 100.2(m)

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8251

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: COURSE ADOPTION/DELETION**

The Board will rely on its professional administrators to oversee the design and implementation of instructional programs and courses of study that will forward the educational goals of the District.

All course offerings will be reviewed by the Superintendent, who will make recommendations regarding their adoption or deletion by the Board. All courses must meet or exceed guidelines established by the State Department of Education. Any course that does not meet guidelines established by the State Education Department should be considered for deletion.

If the course no longer meets the needs or goals of the District, it should be considered for deletion.

Administration regulations will be developed by the Superintendent.

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FUNDED BY TITLE I**

The Board of Education recognizes the rights of parents/persons in parental relation to be fully informed of all information relevant to their children, including children who participate in programs and projects funded by Title I. Therefore, the Board of Education encourages the participation of parents of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education, including the development and implementation of district programs, as well as activities and procedures that are designed to carry out No Child Left Behind (NCLB) parent involvement goals.

**District-Wide Parent Involvement Policy**

In order to facilitate parental participation, in accordance with NCLB requirements, as outlined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Section 6318(B), the District will:

- a) Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I Plan. If the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of children participating in Title I programs, the District will submit any parent comments to the State Education Department along with the District's plan;
- b) Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- c) Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement through implementing and encouraging participation in appropriate parental involvement activities. Parents, staff, designated members of the community, and students as appropriate will participate in one meeting per year for the purpose of reviewing the district's Title I Plan program components at the close of the year and developing the plan for the coming school year. Input from parents will be sought on an annual basis to ensure that the parent involvement plan guidelines meet their needs. Recommendations for possible changes will be discussed and modifications made as appropriate;
- d) Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with those of other programs including, but not limited to, the Head Start Program, the Reading First Program, Even Start Program, Parent Resource Centers and other programs. Each building principal is responsible for ensuring that instruction in Title I programs are congruent with district instructional initiatives and programs, e.g., Early Literacy Intervention, Response to Intervention, district approved ELA and math programs;
- e) Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the Title I schools. The evaluation shall include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under the policy and use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and, to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies at the District and school levels. This review will take place at the annual Title I Planning Meeting;

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FUNDED BY TITLE I (Cont'd.)**

- f) Involve parents in the activities of the Title I schools. Parents of Title I students have the opportunity to participate on 2010 building teams at the elementary and middle school levels, become involved in the Parent Teacher Organization, and attend school sponsored instructional focus sessions; and
- g) Involve parents of children in Title I programs in decisions regarding how funds reserved for parental involvement activities are spent. Parent involvement activities are funded through the general budget.

**School-Level Parent Involvement Policy**

In accordance with Section 6318(c), the Board of Education directs each school receiving Title I funds to ensure that a building level parental involvement plan is developed with the participation of that school's parents. In addition to the goals stated above, each school building level plan will describe the details to:

- a) Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I programs and to explain Title I requirements and the right of the parents to be involved. All parents of children participating in Title I programs will be invited and encouraged to attend the meeting;
- b) Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening; and may provide (with funds provided under this provision of law) transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement;
- c) Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy;
- d) Provide parents of participating children with timely information about programs, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use in Title I programs, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, the proficiency levels students are expected to meet, and if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible;

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FUNDED BY TITLE I (Cont'd.)**

- e) Develop a school-parent compact jointly with parents that outlines how the parents, school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and detail the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help all children achieve the state's standards; and
- f) The compact must include:
  - 1. A description of the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served in Title I schools to meet the State's student academic achievement standards.
  - 2. A description of the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, television watching, volunteering in their child's classroom and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and
  - 3. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis including, but not limited to:
    - (a) Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
    - (b) Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and
    - (c) Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities. Parent conferences are held annually. In addition, progress reports/report cards are sent home three or four times per year depending on the level. A parent volunteer program/procedure exists as parents are encouraged to participate in their children's classroom.

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community in order to improve student academic achievement, the District and each school shall:

- a) Provide assistance to parents of children served by the District or school, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. Parents requesting assistance and information regarding State requirements and assessments are encouraged to contact the appropriate building principal;

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FUNDED BY TITLE I (Cont'd.)**

- b) Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. In addition, the district will hold an informational meeting at the beginning of each school year for parents of Title I students. At this meeting, Title I staff will explain the district's program and provide time for questions and answers. Information materials will be available and separate parent training opportunities will be provided so that parents have an understanding of district reading and math programs. This will enable parents to feel comfortable when providing at-home assistance;
- c) Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contribution of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school. Building level meetings are held regularly during which time the importance of home/school partnerships are stressed;
- d) Coordinate and integrate to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parent as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Each building principal is responsible for ensuring that instruction in Title I programs are congruent with district instructional initiatives and programs, e.g., Early Literacy Intervention, Response to Intervention, district approved ELA and math programs; and
- e) Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

In addition to the above activities which are required for the District and each school, the District and each school:

- a) May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- b) May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- c) May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- d) May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FUNDED BY TITLE I (Cont'd.)**

- e) May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- f) May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- g) May establish a District-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section;
- h) May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and
- i) Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements, the District and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 6311 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

**Procedures for Filing Complaints/Appeals**

The District will disseminate free of charge to parents of children in Title I programs, and to appropriate private school officials or representatives, adequate information regarding the District's written complaint procedures for resolving issues of violation(s) of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to Title I, Part A programs.

**Comparability of Services**

The School District shall ensure equivalence among the schools in the District of the same grade span and levels of instruction with regard to teachers, administrators and auxiliary personnel as well as equivalence in the provision of curriculum materials and instructional supplies in Title I programs. Due to the district's building and grade configuration, this provision does not apply.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA),  
as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001  
20 United States Code (USC) Sections 6318 and 6321  
34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 74-86 and 97-99, and 200

Adopted: 11/16/05  
Amended: 04/04/06  
04/02/08

# POLICY

2005

8270

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to further the District's educational goals through the use of appropriate and high quality technological materials and equipment. For the purpose of this policy, technology refers to computers, interactive videodiscs, Compact Disc-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) devices, local area networks, satellite transmission and other telecommunications equipment.

Continuing advances in technology are bringing about changes that have an increasing impact on the way we obtain, process, evaluate and use information. Therefore, the District is committed to:

- a) A comprehensive staff development program to ensure appropriate and effective use of technology.
- b) The preparation of students to utilize multiple types of technology.
- c) The integration of technology within and across all curriculum areas.
- d) The equitable distribution and access to technological equipment and materials for all students.
- e) The promotion of technology as an alternative to traditional methods of gathering, organizing and synthesizing information.
- f) The provision of sufficient funds, within the budgetary constraints of the Board, for the implementation of technology instruction.

The Board directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to assess the technological needs of the District's instructional program, research and review current materials and make recommendations to the Board.

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: THE CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT: INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING/SAFETY POLICY**

In compliance with The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the District has adopted and will enforce this Internet safety policy that ensures the use of technology protection measures (i.e., filtering or blocking of access to certain material on the Internet) on all District computers with Internet access. Such technology protection measures apply to Internet access by both adults and minors with regard to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to the use of computers by minors, considered harmful to such students. Further, appropriate monitoring of online activities of minors, as determined by the building/program supervisor, will also be enforced to ensure the safety of students when accessing the Internet.

Further, the Board of Education's decision to utilize technology protection measures and other safety procedures for staff and students when accessing the Internet fosters the educational mission of the schools including the selection of appropriate teaching/instructional materials and activities to enhance the schools' programs; and to help ensure the safety of personnel and students while online.

However, no filtering technology can guarantee that staff and students will be prevented from accessing all inappropriate locations. Proper safety procedures, as deemed appropriate by the applicable administrator/program supervisor, will be provided to ensure compliance with the CIPA.

In addition to the use of technology protection measures, the monitoring of online activities and access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web *may* include, but shall not be limited to, the following guidelines:

- a) Ensuring the presence of a teacher and/or other appropriate District personnel when students are accessing the Internet including, but not limited to, the supervision of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging and other forms of direct electronic communications. As determined by the appropriate building administrator, the use of e-mail and chat rooms may be blocked as deemed necessary to ensure the safety of such students;
- b) Monitoring logs of access in order to keep track of the web sites visited by students as a measure to restrict access to materials harmful to minors;
- c) In compliance with this Internet Safety Policy as well as the District's Acceptable Use Policy, unauthorized access (including so-called "hacking") and other unlawful activities by minors are prohibited by the District; and student violations of such policies may result in disciplinary action; and

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: THE CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT: INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING/SAFETY POLICY (Cont'd.)**

- d) Appropriate supervision and notification to minors regarding the prohibition as to unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding such students.

The determination of what is "inappropriate" for minors shall be determined by the District and/or designated school official(s). It is acknowledged that the determination of such "inappropriate" material may vary depending upon the circumstances of the situation and the age of the students involved in online research.

The terms "minor," "child pornography," "harmful to minors," "obscene," "technology protection measure," "sexual act," and "sexual contact" will be as defined in accordance with CIPA and other applicable laws/regulations as may be appropriate and implemented pursuant to the District's educational mission.

Under certain specified circumstances, the blocking or filtering technology measure(s) may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The power to disable can only be exercised by an administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the School District.

The School District shall provide certification, pursuant to the requirements of CIPA, to document the District's adoption and enforcement of its Internet Safety Policy, including the operation and enforcement of technology protection measures (i.e., blocking/filtering of access to certain material on the Internet) for all School District computers with Internet access.

### **Internet Safety Instruction**

In accordance with New York State Education Law, the School District may provide, to students in grades K through 12, instruction designed to promote the proper and safe use of the Internet. The Commissioner shall provide technical assistance to assist in the development of curricula for such course of study which shall be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of students at successive grade levels in order to provide awareness, skills, information and support to aid in the safe usage of the Internet.

### **Notification/Authorization**

The District's Acceptable Use Policy and accompanying Regulations will be disseminated to parents and students in order to provide notice of the school's requirements, expectations, and student's obligations when accessing the Internet.

(Continued)

# POLICY

2010

8271  
3 of 3

Instruction

**SUBJECT: THE CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT: INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING/SAFETY POLICY (Cont'd.)**

Student access to District's computer system will automatically be provided unless the parent has submitted written notification to the District that such access not be permitted. Procedures will be established to define the process by which parents may submit a written request to deny or rescind student use of District computers.

The District has provided reasonable public notice and has held at least one (1) public hearing or meeting to address the proposed Internet Content Filtering/Safety Policy prior to Board adoption. Furthermore, appropriate actions will be taken to ensure the ready availability to the public of the District's Internet Content Filtering/Safety Policy, as well as any other District policies relating to the use of technology.

47 United States Code (USC) Sections 254(h) and (l)  
47 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 54  
Education Law 814

Adopted: 11/16/05  
Amended: 02/06/08  
04/07/10

**SUBJECT: INSTRUCTION FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS OR STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to ensure that students of foreign birth or ancestry, who have limited English proficiency (LEP) or English Language Learners (ELL), are provided with an appropriate program of bilingual transitional education or a free-standing program of English as a Second Language (ESL).

The District has developed a comprehensive plan to meet the educational needs of students with limited English proficiency. The plan will be kept on file in the District and made available for SED review upon request. The plan includes:

- a) The District's philosophy for the education of ELL/LEP students;
- b) Administrative practices and procedures to:
  1. Diagnostically screen students for limited English proficiency;
  2. Identify students with limited English proficiency;
  3. Annually evaluate each ELL/LEP student including his/her performance in content areas to measure the student's academic progress.
- c) A description of the nature and scope of the bilingual and/or English as a second language instructional program and services available to ELL/LEP students;
- d) A description of the criteria used by the District to place ELL/LEP students in appropriate bilingual or free-standing English as a second language programs;
- e) A description by building of the curricular and extracurricular services provided to ELL/LEP students;
- f) A description of the District and school level procedures for the management of the program, including staffing, site selection, parental notification, coordination of funds, training, and program planning.

The instructional programs and services available to limited English proficient pupils to help them acquire English proficiency may include, pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations, bilingual education programs, free-standing English as a second language programs, appropriate support services, transitional services, in-service training, and parental notification.

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: INSTRUCTION FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS OR STUDENTS  
WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (Cont'd.)**

A student who, as a result of a disability, scores below the State designated level on the Language Assessment Battery-Revised (LAB-R) or the NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) shall be provided special education programs and services in accordance with the individualized education program (IEP) developed for such student and shall also be eligible for services available to an ELL/LEP student when those services are recommended in the IEP. Such a student will be counted as an ELL/LEP student as well as a student with a disability for purposes of calculating State aid.

The parent/guardian of a student identified as an English language learner or as limited English proficient shall be informed in his/her native language, if necessary, of the student's identification for and/or participation in an English language learner instructional program as well as other school related information.

The Superintendent shall ensure that all data required by the Commissioner's Regulations is submitted to the State Education Department in a timely manner.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Sections 1112(g) and 3302(a)  
Education Law Sections 207, 215, 2117, 3204(2)(2-a), 3602 and 3713  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Section 100.2(g) and Parts 117 and 154

# POLICY

2005

8310

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: PURPOSES OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The purpose of instructional materials shall be to implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school.

Instructional materials should contribute to the development of positive social and intellectual values of the students.

The Board of Education shall provide the faculty and students in the District with such instructional materials as are educationally needed and financially feasible to make the instructional program meaningful to students of all levels of ability.

Education Law Section 701

Adopted: 11/16/05

## **SUBJECT: SELECTION OF LIBRARY AND AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS**

The Board of Education agrees that the responsibility of the school library is:

- a) To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities and maturity levels of the students served.
- b) To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards.
- c) To provide a background of information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
- d) To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking.
- e) To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contribution to our American heritage.
- f) To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.

In interpreting these principles, the following will apply:

- a) Broad and varied collections will be developed systematically by the librarian based on recommendations of the professional staff and suggestions of students and parents. Final approval will be made by the building principal.
- b) Qualitative standards of selection involving factual accuracy, authoritativeness, artistic quality and appeal will be applied by librarians before purchases are made.
- c) Materials will not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political opinions or religious views of the author.
- d) Materials will be continuously re-evaluated in relation to changing curriculum and instructional needs. Worn out, out-dated materials will be discarded.

Rules of the Board of Regents Section 21.4

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8330

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Any criticism of instructional materials that are in the schools should be submitted in writing to the Superintendent. The Board of Education will be informed. A committee, including the librarian and building principal, will be designated by the Superintendent to investigate and judge the challenged material according to the principles and qualitative standards stated in Policy #8320 -- Selection of Library and Audiovisual Materials.

### **Curriculum Areas In Conflict With Religious Beliefs**

In accordance with applicable law and regulation a student may be excused from the study of specific materials if these materials relating to health and hygiene are in conflict with the religion of his/her parents/guardians. Alternatives may be provided that are of comparable instructional value.

Education Law Section 3204(5)  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 135.3

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #8320 -- Selection of Library and Audiovisual Materials  
#8360 -- Religious Expression in the Instructional Program

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8331

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

Controversial issues may be studied as part of the curriculum and teachers shall present these issues in their classrooms in an impartial and objective manner.

Teachers wishing to call upon outside speakers in the presentation of controversial issues are required to obtain the approval of the principal who shall keep in mind the obligation for presenting opposing views as well, and who shall inform the Superintendent prior to the presentation.

It is recognized that parents and citizens of the community have a right to protest to the school administration when convinced that unfair and biased presentations are being made by the teacher. In considering such protests, the Superintendent of Schools shall provide for a hearing so that both parties may fairly express their views. If requested, the Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of Education.

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8340

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: TEXTBOOKS/WORKBOOKS**

The term "textbook" shall refer to a book supplied to a student for a fixed period of time for his/her personal use and basic to the study of a subject.

The Board of Education shall make provision for funds to be budgeted for the purchase of textbooks and related instructional materials.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education shall designate the textbooks to be used. Textbooks once designated cannot be superseded within a period of five (5) years except by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board.

Students will be required to pay for lost books or for excessive damage to books.

### **Textbooks for Resident Students Attending Private Schools**

Resident students attending private schools will be supplied non-sectarian textbooks in accordance with the requirements of Education Law.

### **Workbooks**

The Board of Education shall approve the expenditure of funds for the purchase of workbooks and manuals.

The term "workbook" shall refer to the type of book that provides spaces to write in and is consumed each year. It is usually paper-covered and designed to be used in connection with a textbook.

Education Law Article 15

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8350

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS**

It is the intent of the Board of Education to abide by the provisions of the United States Copyright Law (Title 17 United States Code Section 101 et seq.).

All employees are prohibited from copying materials not specifically allowed by the copyright law, fair use guidelines, licenses or contractual agreements, or the permission of the copyright proprietor.

Any employee who willfully disregards the copyright policy shall be in violation of Federal Copyright Laws and District policy and shall assume all liability.

A copyright officer may be appointed by the Superintendent to provide information for all personnel regarding current copyright law and to maintain copyright records.

Regulations and procedures shall be developed by the administration detailing what can and cannot be copied. Appropriate copyright notices will be placed on or near all equipment used for duplication.

Title 17 United States Code (USC)  
Section 101 et seq.

Adopted: 11/16/05

**SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

The Board of Education acknowledges the importance of religion to the understanding of society and the richness of the human experience. In approaching the teaching about religion in the school, the District will be guided by three concepts when making decisions about the appropriateness of activities for inclusion in the school program: the activity should have a secular purpose; the activity should neither advance nor inhibit religion; and the activity must not foster an excessive entanglement of "government" with religion.

Nurturing the development of knowledge and respect for the rights of all cultural and religious groups is a continuing goal of the School District. Students, faculty and administration are reminded of the pluralism of religious beliefs and are urged to be conscious of and respect the sensitivity of others.

Opportunities to learn about cultural and religious traditions should be provided within the framework of the curriculum. Information about religious and cultural holidays and traditions focusing on how and when they are celebrated, their origins and histories should be part of this instruction. This educational opportunity should be handled with great care, sensitivity and respect for the feelings and beliefs of individuals.

An environment should be created and encouraged where students of various ethnic backgrounds feel comfortable in sharing comments about their religious and cultural traditions. No student should be singled out to share or participate in such discussions solely on the basis of that student's identification with the cultural/religious heritage being addressed. A student's preference not to share or participate in such discussions should be honored and respected without penalty.

**School Activities Related to Religious Holidays or Themes**

School activities related to the teaching about religious holidays or themes must be consistent with, representative of, and congruent with the District's curriculum.

In planning school activities related to the teaching about religious holidays or themes, special effort must be made to ensure that the activity is not devotional and that students of all faiths can join without feeling they are betraying their own beliefs.

In planning school activities related to the teaching about religious holidays or themes, age appropriate activities are encouraged within the framework of the curriculum. Teaching about religious and cultural holidays may include such special activities as parties and special foods, if they reinforce educational goals.

(Continued)

# POLICY

2005

8360  
2 of 3

Instruction

**SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM (Cont'd.)**

## **Symbols in the Schools**

The purpose of using religious symbols should be to teach about religious concepts and traditions, and to convey historical or cultural content, not to promote or celebrate religious concepts, events or holidays.

## **Music in the Schools**

The purpose of using religious music should be to teach musical concepts, to convey historical and cultural content, or to create aesthetic experiences in a setting which emphasizes artistic expression and educational value, not to promote or to celebrate a religious faith.

## **District Calendar**

The days on which members of a religious group may be absent to observe a religious holiday (legal absence) will be noted on the school planning calendar and the District calendar distributed to parents/guardians. Out of respect for a student's observance of these holidays, teachers will be sensitive to the needs of the student by allowing them to make up all class work, homework, and tests without penalty. Parents/guardians are encouraged to notify the school prior to the absence in order to assist the staff in instructional planning and in meeting the needs of the student.

## **Curriculum Areas in Conflict with Religious Beliefs**

Students shall be given the option to be excused from participating in those parts of an activity, program, or area of instruction involving a religious theme which conflicts with their own religious beliefs or that of their parents/guardians in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Alternatives may be provided that are of comparable instructional value.

## **Implementation**

Administrative regulations will be developed to implement the terms of this policy. Further, the District shall vigorously publicize and disseminate this policy and accompanying regulations in order to ensure community, faculty, student, and parental/guardian awareness.

United States Constitution, First Amendment  
Equal Access Act,  
20 United States Code (USC) Sections 4071-4074

(Continued)

# POLICY

2005

8360  
3 of 3

Instruction

**SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM (Cont'd.)**

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section  
9524, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of  
2001  
Education Law Sections 1609(9) and (10), 1709(1) and  
(3), 3204(5) and 3210  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Sections 16.2 and 109.2

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #7460 -- Constitutionally Protected Prayer in the Public Schools  
#8330 -- Objection to Instructional Materials

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8410

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHOOL DAY**

### **School Calendar**

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the preparation of a school calendar to be presented to the Board for adoption.

### **School Day**

The school day shall be set by the Superintendent with approval of the Board.

Education Law Sections 3204(4) and 3604(7)(8)  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 175.5

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8420

Instruction

**SUBJECT: OPENING EXERCISES**

The Board directs the administration to include the Pledge of Allegiance as part of the opening exercises in all the schools. Under certain circumstances, such as religious conviction, individuals may be excused from this requirement as a protection of their Constitutional rights.

Education Law Section 802  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 108.5

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8430

Instruction

**SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Independent study, for credit, will be available to meet special individual needs of students in grades 11 and 12, exceptions may be made with administrative approval. Credit shall be granted only for courses in the approved curriculum.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 100.5(d)(1)

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8440

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: HOMEWORK**

The Board of Education acknowledges the educational validity of homework as an adjunct to and extension of the instructional program of the schools. "Homework" shall refer to those assignments to be prepared by the student outside of the school or independently while in attendance at school.

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8450

Instruction

**SUBJECT: HOME TUTORING (TEMPORARY INSTRUCTION)**

Resident children attending public or non-public schools who qualify for home tutoring due to a long term illness (an absence of at least two weeks) shall be provided with such instruction in accordance with New York State Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations.

Procedures for students requiring home tutoring shall be developed under the direction of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Education Law Sections 1604(20), 1709(24), 3202,  
and 4401  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Section 175.21

Adopted: 11/16/05

# POLICY

2005

8460

Instruction

## **SUBJECT: FIELD TRIPS**

The Board recognizes that field trips are an educationally sound and important ingredient in the instructional program of the schools.

A field trip means any journey by a group of students away from the school premises, under the supervision of a teacher, which is an integral part of an approved course of study and conducted for the purpose of affording a first-hand educational experience not available in the classroom.

Field trips are a part of the curriculum of the schools, and student conduct and attendance on field trips are governed by the same rules that govern regular classroom activities. The District must obtain written parental/guardian permission for students going on school-sponsored field trips.

The Superintendent will prepare procedures for the operation of a field trip activity. Field trip support will be determined annually by the Board during its budget deliberations. Regardless of the fiscal support for field trips, the rules of the District for approval and conduct of such trips will apply.

The Superintendent/designee may cancel previously approved field trips due to extenuating circumstances.

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3410 -- Code of Conduct on School Property  
#5730 -- Transportation of Students  
*District Code of Conduct*  
Commissioners Decision 14349

Adopted: 11/16/05  
Amended: 12/14/16

**SUBJECT: HOME INSTRUCTION (HOME SCHOOLING)**

From time to time, parents will choose to instruct their children at home. Although New York State law does not recognize home schools as private elementary or secondary schools, the School District will attempt to cooperate with parents who wish to provide home schooling for their children realizing that the child who is educated at home should receive an education in a manner consistent with an educational plan and at least substantially equivalent to that given to students of like age and attainments in the local public schools. The required subjects should be taught in a competent, systematic, and sequential manner, specifically in relation to the required courses as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulation Section 100.10.

Primary responsibility for determining compliance with Commissioner's Regulations addressing home instruction rests with the Superintendent of Schools of the school district in which a home-instructed student resides.

**Provision of Services to Home-Instructed Students**

They are not awarded a high school diploma. A high school diploma may only be awarded to a student enrolled in a registered secondary school who has completed all program requirements set by the Board of Regents, the school or the District.

**a) Extracurricular Participation**

Students instructed at home are not eligible to participate in interscholastic sports. Commissioner's Regulations mandate that only students enrolled in the public school are allowed to participate in interscholastic sports.

The District does permit home-instructed students to participate in selected extracurricular activities. All transportation to and from school as well as to and from off campus events will be the responsibility of the parents.

**b) Textbooks and Materials**

The District is not required to loan available textbooks and other materials (e.g., library materials, microscopes, computer software, and movie projectors) to home-instructed students. However, the School District shall provide home-instructed students with such textbooks and other materials upon request.

**c) Health Services**

The School District is not required to furnish health services.

**d) Remedial Programs**

The District is not responsible for providing remedial programs.

**SUBJECT: HOME INSTRUCTION (HOME SCHOOLING) (Cont'd.)**e) Career and Technical/Gifted Education

The District is not authorized to provide Occupational and Vocational Education programs (career and technical education) nor programs for the Gifted to home-instructed students.

f) Special Education Services

The District is not authorized to provide individualized education program (IEP) services to home-instructed students as home schools are not recognized in New York State as private elementary or secondary schools pursuant to Section 3602-c of the Education Law.

While the Public School District may not provide special education services to students that are home schooled, the Committee on Special Education (CSE) of the Public School District must, if parental consent is obtained, conduct an individual evaluation of a home schooled student and who is suspected of having a disability and develop an IEP for such child, which would be the District's offer of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the student if the parents choose to enroll their child in a public or private school. However, the parents of a home schooled student may refuse consent to an initial evaluation and, if they do so or if they do not respond to a request for such consent, the School District may not seek to compel the parent to have their child evaluated to determine eligibility for special education services.

g) Use of School Facilities

Students instructed at home shall not be allowed to use school facilities, except as provided for community organizations in Policy #3280 -- Community Use of School Facilities.

Education Law Sections 3204, 3205, 3210(2), 3212(2),  
3240-42, 3602-c, and 4402  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Sections 100.10, 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(b)(2) and  
200.2(a)

Adopted: 11/16/05  
Amended: 04/23/08  
Amended: 05/13/15

**SUBJECT: LOAN OF INSTRUCTIONAL COMPUTER HARDWARE**

The School District shall loan, upon request of an individual or a group of individual students, to all students legally attending nonpublic elementary or secondary schools located in the School District, instructional computer hardware which is designated for use in any public elementary or secondary schools of the State or is approved by any school authorities as such term is defined in Education Law Section 2(12). Such instructional computer hardware is to be loaned free to such children, commencing with the 2007-2008 school year, subject to such rules and regulations as are or may be prescribed by the Board of Regents and school authorities.

The School District shall not be required to loan instructional computer hardware to nonpublic school students in excess of the instructional computer hardware acquired pursuant to Education Law Section 753. Instructional computer hardware shall be loaned on an equitable basis to children attending nonpublic schools in the District and to students with disabilities residing in the District who attend programs under the provisions of Education Law Section 4401(2)(c),(2)(e),(2)(g),(2)(i), and (2)(l). However, the School District shall not be required to loan to children attending nonpublic schools in the District, or to such students with disabilities, instructional computer hardware purchased with local or federal funds or with State funds, other than Instructional Computer Hardware Aid funds.

Instructional computer hardware containing computer software programs which are religious in nature or content shall not be purchased or loaned by the School District.

Instructional computer hardware shall be loaned upon the individual written request of nonpublic school students, but such requests shall not be required of students attending public school districts. Requests may be presented directly to the lending District or, with the consent of the lending District, to an appropriate official of the nonpublic school which the student attends. The form of request used by the lending District may provide for a guarantee by a parent or guardian for the return of such hardware or, in the case of loss or damage, for payment of the value thereof.

School authorities shall adopt regulations specifying the date by which written requests for the purchase and loan of instructional computer hardware must be received by the District. Notice of the date shall be given to all nonpublic schools in the School District. Such date shall not be earlier than the first day of June of the school year prior to that for which such instructional computer hardware is being requested. For a child not attending a nonpublic school prior to June first, the parent/guardian may submit a written request for instructional computer hardware within thirty (30) days after such child is enrolled in the nonpublic school. In no event, however, shall a request made later than the times otherwise provided pursuant to Education Law Section 754 be denied where a reasonable explanation is given for the delay in making the request.

The District has established December 1st as the date by which such requests for the purchase and loan of instructional computer hardware must be received by the District unless otherwise authorized in accordance with law and Commissioner's Regulations.

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: LOAN OF INSTRUCTIONAL COMPUTER HARDWARE (Cont'd.)**

Such instructional computer hardware shall remain the property of the lending District and shall bear an identifying label. The school authorities of each District shall establish lending procedures which apply to students in public and nonpublic schools, and shall inform the authorities of such schools of these procedures.

**Instructional Computer Hardware and Technology Equipment Apportionment**

The School District shall be eligible for an apportionment under the provisions of Education Law Section 753 for approved expenses for:

- a) The purchase or lease of micro and/or mini computer equipment or terminals for instructional purposes; or
- b) Technology equipment with a useful life used in conjunction with or in support of educational programs including but not limited to video, solar energy, robotic, satellite, laser and such other equipment as the Commissioner of Education shall approve; or
- c) The repair of such equipment and training /staff development for instructional purposes.

Such aid shall be provided pursuant to the Instructional Computer Technology Plan developed by the District which specifies requirements for each School District's Technology Plan, including an assurance of the Superintendent of Schools, in a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, that the School District has provided for the loan of instructional computer hardware to students legally attending nonpublic schools pursuant to Education Law Section 754.

The School District shall not be required to purchase or otherwise acquire instructional computer hardware or technology equipment, the cost of which exceeds the amount of state aid provided pursuant to Education Law Section 753.

Expenses aided pursuant to Section 753 shall not be eligible for aid pursuant to any other provision of Education Law.

The School District shall maintain a separate record of expenditures incurred from State aid received pursuant to Education Law Section 753 and the Rules of the Board of Regents Section 21.3.

Education Law Sections 2(12), 753, 754, 3602(6), 3602(26), 4401(2)(c), (2)(e), (2)(g), (2)(i), and (2)(l)  
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Sections 21.3, 100.12, 155.1(a)(4), and 175.25

Adopted: 03/05/08