

Alliance Intermediate School Student Handbook 2023-2024



Mrs. Stephanie Garren, Principal
Mrs. Erica Jackson, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Kaitlin Edwards, Instructional Coach
Mr. Tim Calfee, School Counselor
Mrs. Bethany Rhome, Secretary
Mrs. Katie Barnes, Secretary

*Alliance Intermediate is committed to working with families, community members,
and organizations to prepare students for life, college, and careers.
At the same time, we will strive to develop kind, caring, and empathetic Aviators.*

Alliance Intermediate School
701 North Johnson Avenue
Alliance, Ohio 44601
(330)-829-2269

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Shawn Jackson- Directory of Secondary Education
Michelle Balderson- Director of Elementary Education
Kirk Heath - Treasurer
Nick Cowles - Director of Operations
Dr. Amy Cramer - Special Education Coordinator
Cathy Brookes- District Gifted Interventionist and Testing Coordinator
Chad Morris- Director of Technology

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Welcome to Alliance Intermediate School!

Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

Our philosophy of education is simple: Students will rise to the occasion, and most often exceed our expectations, with the joint support of educators and families. The needs of students are diverse, but as a team we are *more* than capable of supporting students and helping them grow.

Our primary mission at AIS is to educate Alliance's fourth and fifth graders and we follow a clear path of standards to achieve this. To create an environment that supports academics, we have also established clear expectations and interventions for student behavior. These expectations are taught and retaught through classroom and building initiatives, and they are tied to specific incentives and consequences. This is what we refer to as our PBIS System.

The purpose of Alliance Intermediate School's handbook is to help you get a better sense of the supports, practices, procedures, and policies at AIS. If you have additional questions, please reach out. It is an expectation that families review this handbook and familiarize themselves with the content.

Thank you for engaging in your student's educational journey and teaming with us to make it the very best experience possible.

Your Principal and Partner in Learning,

Stephanie A. Garren

ALLIANCE CITY SCHOOLS VISION

All Aviators will graduate prepared for life, college and careers.

ALLIANCE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION

Our mission is for all students to reach their fullest potential and become productive citizens through teachers who establish high expectations; a safe, positive and engaging learning environment; and content that supports critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity.

AVIATOR PROFILE

- Communicators - Ask thoughtful questions, listen well and are able to clearly and concisely express their thoughts and ideas.
- Collaborators - Are able to compromise and work with people of all personality types and backgrounds to reach a common goal.
- Critical Thinkers - Have the ability to analyze and assess complex problems or situations and produce logical conclusions and solutions.
- Creative Innovators - Use imaginative and unique ideas to develop more efficient and effective methods of problem solving.
- Caring Citizens - Have selfless attitudes and strive to build stronger communities through civic pride, volunteerism, and community involvement.
- Courageous Risk Takers - Are not afraid to take chances in order to accomplish something greater or facilitate change, whether it involves their career, finances, personal life or society.

Alliance Intermediate Glossary of Terms

We recognize that in 2022-2023, a lot has changed in the landscape of education. This quick guide glossary is intended to familiarize you with terms and acronyms that we regularly refer to here at the intermediate building. We hope it helps!

Term	Meaning
AIS	Short for Alliance Intermediate School. Our name changed from Northside to AIS in the fall of 2019.
Blended	An elective that students participate in, where they work on iReady differentiated learning paths.
C & A	Child and Adolescent counseling available in the school setting.
CARE Team	A school-based team that meets weekly to support the non-academic needs of students. This could include behavior, mental health, hygiene, resources for families, etc.
Clever	A digital learning platform where students can access shortcuts to sign into various curricula and digital resources used in the classroom. Students access everything through Clever.
Climate Specialist	Staff member that supports the behavioral and social-emotional needs of students. They are one of many resources to improve academic outcomes by helping create a healthy school climate and culture.
Core Plus More	An intervention, provided during elective periods, for reading and math support. Students are eligible based on academic data.
FSS	Family Support Specialist- Part time staff member that helps connect families to important resources such as food, clothing, housing, utilities, and holiday help.
Google Classroom	A learning platform within the Google Suite that teachers and students use on a regular basis, beginning in the elementary grades.
HAC	Home Access Center (HAC) is the platform for your child's current and previous grades. Think of it like a digital gradebook. It is every parent's best friend.
iReady	A digital resource used to assess a student's performance and growth three times a year (at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year) in math and reading. Their performance determines an individualized lesson path to help your child grow to grade level expectations or beyond.
LEAD	Elective designed to encourage personal and interpersonal <u>leadership</u> and develop effective social-emotional habits that will last a lifetime.
OST/AIR	Ohio State Tests (OST) in reading and math are taken every spring. Fifth graders also take a science assessment at the same time.
Parent Square	Our district communication tool. ALL updates and notices will come through Parent Square. You can access it via an App or website.
PBIS	Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) is a school-wide system that encourages building relationships, teaching/reteaching expectations, and providing support to encourage positive behaviors.
RTI	Response to Intervention (RTI) is a process used to provide students with academic or behavioral interventions to help them succeed in the classroom.
SIL	Student Improvement Lab (aka in-school suspension)
STEM	Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) Elective

WALKERS

Students who walk or ride (car riders) to school are to arrive at the building at **7:45am**. Students are not permitted in the building before 7:45am. When the walkers are dismissed, they are NOT to hang out on the property.

BICYCLES

Only students who walk are permitted to ride bicycles to school. The school is not responsible for damaged or stolen bikes. Locks are *strongly* encouraged.

CUBBIES/LOCKERS

Cubbies/lockers remain the property of the school and are assigned to students for their convenience. Cubbies/lockers will be searched, without the necessity of student or parent consent, during the school year. Random searches may be carried out during the school year. Students may be disciplined for any item that is found in their cubby/locker that is prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct. Locker use is a privilege that will be revoked if issues are occurring due to locker use. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, using the locker outside of permissible times, and being late to class or the bus due to socializing around the locker.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to reinforce and extend concepts and learning experiences presented in the classroom. Homework also provides an opportunity to teach each child individual responsibility toward his/her own learning and develops self-discipline in the organization and management of materials and time.

We are an upper-elementary school and parent involvement in checking folders, designating homework routines, etc is just as important as it was in the early elementary years. You can expect homework in mathematics or reading almost every day at Alliance Intermediate School.

If your child is/will be absent from school for three days or more and homework is needed, you must request this when reporting your child absent. Homework is ready each day by 3:15pm in the office area if requested for absences of 3 or more days.

Homework is expected to be completed and returned to school. Please check Home Access Center (HAC) regularly to keep up to date with your child's homework and other assignments. Your support and interest in your child's homework conveys an important message to him/her about the value of education.

Home Access Center (HAC)

Every family member has a password and login for Home Access Center. This allows you to check your student's grades at any given moment throughout the school year. It is recommended that you check grades TWICE a week.

You can access HAC from the Parents/Students section of the school website type in <http://hac.sparcc.org/HomeAccess> on your device. If you are new to HAC, click the link that says "Click here to register for HAC". Enter the information request, but be sure to use the email address that our school has on file. If your child was enrolled in Alliance City Schools last year and you forgot your password or username, please click the "Forgot my Username or Password" link on the HAC login page.

NAVIGATORS

Navigators is an after school program offered at Alliance Intermediate School. Students are offered a snack, receive 20 minutes of homework help, then participate in a variety of high-interest activities. Navigators is open to all students on a lottery basis, depending on the number of applicants. For more information, please contact the main office.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling services are available to all AIS students through the school guidance counselor, Mr. Tim Calfee. Students can be referred by staff or family, or seek out this service themselves. In addition, two counselors provided through Child & Adolescent (C&A) Services will also be available for those needing additional support. Referral forms can be provided by the office for those who are interested in C&A Counseling.

FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Through a partnership with the Stark County Educational Service Center and Alliance City Schools, a Family Support Specialist (FSS) is assigned to each building in order to provide support for students who face non-academic obstacles that may prohibit them from coming to school ready to learn. Mrs. Pam Kemp is Alliance Intermediate School's Family Support Specialist. She works with families, staff, and community resources to meet the needs of our students. If you need family assistance, please call the office and ask to speak with Mrs. Kemp.

C.A.R.E. TEAM

C.A.R.E. Team stands for Coordinate and Align Resources to Empower, Educate, and Engage. The CARE Team is a county initiative that brings together a school's key resources and creates systems and structures to support the unique needs of students and families. Weekly meetings allow the team to address health, behavioral, social/emotional, and home needs that our staff and resources can improve. Team members include the School Counselors, Principal, Dean of Students, Curriculum Coach, Family Support Specialist, Climate Specialists, and a Community Liaison.

DRESS CODE

Students and staff are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate to the school environment and does not cause disruption to the academic process. Research has shown a correlation between appearance and behavior, especially in the school setting.

Cleanliness and appropriateness are the two most important aspects of personal appearance. While the standard of cleanliness is rather obvious, the standard of appropriateness raises some questions. What is appropriate for a formal occasion would not be worn at a picnic. Thus, appropriateness is relative to what the activity is and the activity's purpose. **In Alliance City Schools, our activity is education and our purpose is learning.**

To assist parents, students, staff, and administrators general guidelines for appropriate dress and appearance include the following:

1. Parents and students maintain responsibility for their dress and personal appearance.
2. When any dress or grooming interferes with the *cleanliness, health, welfare, or safety* of students, or when any dress or grooming disrupts the educational process by being *distracting, indecent, or inappropriate to the educational process*, it is prohibited.

3. The principal, with the assistance of the staff, has the responsibility of uniformly administering the dress code. The decision of the principal is final.
4. As new trends in fashion or dress are accepted or become out of date, the District reviews the changing standards of the community served.

In order to minimize misunderstanding in terms of what is appropriate for Alliance City Schools, the following regulations will define appropriate standards for dress while at school or school sponsored activities:

1. Shorts or skirts must be longer than fingertip length. No exceptions.
2. No significant holes in pants that are above fingertip length.
3. No shirts and blouses that expose the midriff (they must be able to be tucked in).
4. All shoulder straps must follow the 2 finger width rule. No shirts that expose the back are permitted.
5. Hats and sunglasses are not to be carried to or worn in school.
6. No dress that promotes hate, violence, profanity, vulgar or negative messages, anything advertising or related to alcohol, tobacco, and drugs or anything sexually explicit is permitted.
7. No transparent garments, open mesh garments, or garments with large open sides may be worn without an additional shirt underneath.
8. Shoes or sandals must not present a safety hazard. Slippers are not permitted.
9. No biking pants or spandex worn as pants are permitted, without shirts that cover appropriately.
10. No pajama pants.
11. Hair must be clean, worn out of the eyes, and groomed at all times; free of grooming tools such as picks, rollers, combs, and other such articles. This applies to both girls and boys.
12. Lower garments are to be worn at waist level; if a belt is worn, it must be of proper length; undergarments are not to be exposed or worn as outerwear.
13. No "dog collars," spiked bracelets or chains that could be dangerous to persons or destructive to school property.
14. No gang or cult-related items of any kind.
15. No inappropriately tattered clothing or clothing with inappropriate (number or size or location) of holes.
16. Body piercings, which present a safety concern or a distraction to the educational process, as deemed by the building administrator, are not permitted.

Student violations of the dress code can result in removal from class. Parents will be contacted to bring appropriate clothing for their student to change attire.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

While students may bring electronic devices, they are to remain off and in their locker at all times. Students are **NOT** to carry around personal electronic devices.

Students are not permitted to text or call anyone during the school day. All forms of communication must be done through the main office secretary or via the teacher.

If a student has a phone out or is caught playing with a smart watch;

1. 1st Offense: Staff will confiscate the phone for the student to pick up at the end of the day.
2. 2nd Offense: Staff will confiscate the phone for the student to pick up at the end of the day and a call will be made home.
3. After the 2nd Offense: Staff will confiscate the phone until the parent or guardian can pick it up.

Parents and guardians, please closely monitor all apps and usage on any device your student may have. Children at this age are prone to misuse devices, which leads to trouble both in and outside of school.

VIOLATIONS OF ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Violation of the appropriate use of electronic devices (1) may result in detentions, Twilight School, In School Suspension, Out of School Suspension, or any other discipline deemed appropriate by the administration; and (2) student may be required to turn the device over to school personnel and the student and/or parent may pick up the device from the Main Office at the end of the school day. A refusal to relinquish a cell phone for **any reason** will result in automatic out-of-school suspension.

Violations of the Acceptable Use Policy outside of school, but on school accounts, still fall within the same potential consequences.

**Alliance City Schools will not be responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken electronic devices brought to school.*

GRADING SCALE

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for providing a system of grading student achievement that can help the student, teachers, and parents properly judge how well the student is achieving the goals of the District's program and are consistent throughout all buildings in the District. The Board believes that the District's grading system should be a reliable system and one that ensures each student's grades accurately signify his/her degree of accomplishment of those expected learning outcomes. Board Policy 5421 establishes the grading scale as:

A	93-100	C	73-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	78-79	F	BELOW 60

CAFETERIA/SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

All Alliance City Schools participate in a no-cost breakfast and lunch. Students eat at no cost to parents due to a federal grant. All cafeteria meals consist of a balanced diet. An individualized cafeteria PIN number is used to receive breakfast and lunch. While we cannot force students to eat their lunch, they are required to get in line and receive a lunch (unless they packed).

Only school purchased meals or packed lunches are permitted. **Do not send pop or glass bottles** to school in packed lunches. **Clear liquids only**. If your child is going to be late for school, please notify the office by 9:00 AM to order him/her a lunch.

Breakfast will be available on a 2-Hour Delayed Start schedule.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS AND FOOD ALLERGIES

Food Service is happy to accommodate students with special dietary needs and food allergies within our abilities. *Students must provide written medical documentation from the treating physician in order to provide for this accommodation.* This documentation must include, but is not limited to, a statement of the allergy, what dietary changes from the traditional school meal are necessary, what specific foods must be omitted or substituted, and what dietary items can be used to replace the items. This documentation should be given to the school nurse.

We are unable to substitute any item for milk except in the case of an allergy or disability according to the USDA and the Ohio Department of Education [USDA Final Rule Fluid Milk Substitutions in the School Nutrition Program (73 FR 52903)]. This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.

DELAYED START (2-Hour Delay) AND EARLY DISMISSAL

Delayed Start (2-Hour Delay) Days:

Due to inclement weather, the district will determine a Delayed Start. This is to allow roads to be treated and for students to be safely transported to school. Please note your child's bus and school start time will both be delayed by two hours. Students and families will be notified by All Call, ACS Facebook and Twitter. The following TV stations : Channel, 5,3,9,19, and 11. Radio Stations: WDPN 1310, WHBC 1480. WHBC 94.1

Early Dismissal Days:

ACS provides teachers and support staff on-going professional development throughout the school year. On Early Dismissal Days, all students will be dismissed at 1:00pm.

ALLIANCE CITY SCHOOLS STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Alliance Board of Education recognizes the rights of students as individuals and therefore seeks to balance and protect those rights by establishing the rules and regulations necessary to create a suitable curricular climate as well as a suitable co-curricular climate.

Students in Alliance City Schools have the responsibility to act in such a way as not to interfere with the right of others to the same educational opportunity. By accepting the right to participate in school programs on or off school property, the students shall also accept the responsibility to conduct themselves according to the rules, regulations, and provisions governing the operation of these programs.

Enforcement of the Code of Conduct: All school personnel are charged with the responsibility to enforce proper discipline. A variety of techniques and methods are employed to enforce the Student Code of Conduct. It is easy to punish, but more difficult to change behavior. Efforts are designed to change the behavior. Efforts are designed to change the negative behaviors and to enable students to learn respect, responsibility, self-discipline, and a positive attitude for learning.

The building Administrator has the discretionary authority to use or authorize other school personnel to use the following disciplinary measures. The order of this listing does not connote a procedural order or degree of severity.

Some disciplinary measures which may be used are: student conferences, parent conferences, detentions, reduced schedule (shortened school day), behavior contracts, before or after school detentions, financial

restitution, restricted lunch, exclusion from school programs or events, or special programs (before, during, and after school).

Some behaviors require a removal from the classroom, such as in-school suspension, as a means of limiting the disruption of school for other students. In other cases, behavior may be so severe and intolerable that out-of-school suspension, emergency removal, expulsion, and/or police referral may be necessary.

The Student Code of Conduct describes the misconduct that will lead to disciplinary action and procedures to be employed in the removal, suspension, and expulsion of students. The code shall be made available to all students and posted in a central location within the school. Types of misconduct for which a student may be suspended, expelled, and/or removed from school or from school sponsored supervised activities are as follows:

1. **Aiding or Abetting Violation of School Rules** – If a student assists another student in violating any school rule, he/she will be disciplined. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior. At no time should a student lie, mislead, or withhold information regarding any problems or other actions that are in violation of school rules.
2. **Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs, or Other Look-Alike Substances** – Possessing, using, selling, buying, transmitting, or secreting an alcoholic beverage, intoxicant, narcotic, or hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, barbiturate, amphetamine, related drugs or look-alike substances, or related paraphernalia or intoxicant on school property, including Board of Education owned vehicles, or while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored and supervised activities is not permitted. (Students will be referred for assessment and the police authorities may be notified.) Proper use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule.
3. **Cheating** – Plagiarism and cheating are forms of falsification and subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. Cheating is prohibited and may result in a zero (no credit, no points) being recorded for the article of work involved. Additional penalties may also be given.
4. **Criminal Acts** – Any criminal acts toward or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials and students will be disciplined by the school. It is not considered double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime) when school rules and the law are violated.
5. **Disrespect** – Willful intimidation, insult, or other abuse, verbally or written, of school personnel or other students is not conducive to learning and will not be permitted.
6. **Disruption** – Engaging in any conduct which causes or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption of any school function or activity is prohibited. This includes conduct that interferes or creates a reasonable likelihood that it will interfere with the health, safety, or well being of the rights of the other students. Some examples include running, throwing an object, horseplay, littering, being persistently unprepared for classes, eating food in classes, note writing, failure to follow rules established in the classroom, and other disruptive actions as determined by the Principal.
7. **Electronic Devices and Communication Devices** – See page 8.
8. **False Alarms and/or Inducing Panic** – The act of initiating a fire alarm or initiating a report warning of a fire or an impending bombing or other catastrophe without cause is a violation of state law and is subject to discipline by the school and possible contact of police authorities. (Reference: Ohio Revised Code)

9. **Fighting** – Hostile contact toward a student or other person associated with the District that may or may not cause injury is inappropriate. The act of hostile bodily contact among two or more students in or on school property, including Board of Education owned vehicles, or while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored activity, which is likely to result in physical harm, and/or a substantial disruption will not be tolerated for any reason. Any fight may result in police charges being filed. Most fights can be stopped if the students involved will simply inform a staff member of the pending problem. Rarely is a fight spontaneous. Usually, several students are aware of a situation that may lead to a fight before it occurs. These students are responsible for making the problem known to the school staff. Additionally, any students who instigate a fight will be disciplined accordingly.
10. **Fire** – The unauthorized use of any fire while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored activity or on Board of Education property or vehicles is not permitted. Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated.
11. **Forgery** – Forgery is the act of falsely using, in writing, the name of another person, or falsifying times, dates, grades, addresses, or other data on school forms, or correspondence directed to the school. Using another student's planner is a violation of this rule. Forgery of hall/bus passes and excuses or false identification are not acceptable.
12. **Gambling** – The act of illegal gambling for money or valuables on school premises or at school events is prohibited. Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized sports betting, any other form of wagering, or activities/items that promote gambling. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved will be disciplined and may be banned from that activity.
13. **Grooming and Attire/Violation of Dress Code** – Dress or appearance that constitutes a threat to the student's health or safety, disrupts the educational process, damages school property, or is blatant exhibitionism shall be prohibited. (See District Dress Code for further explanation.)
14. **Harassment** – Every individual deserves to be able to come to school without fear of demeaning remarks or actions. The harassment of other students or members of staff, or any other individuals is not permitted. Harassment is any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive learning environment. Physical, verbal, or sexual harassment on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, age, and or disability will not be tolerated. Some forms of sexual harassment of a student by another student may be considered a form of child abuse, which requires that the student-abuser be reported to proper authorities in compliance with State law.
15. **Hazing** – No student, including, but not limited to, leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in the hazing of any person. As used in this policy, "hazing" means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.
16. **Inciting Others to Violence or Disruption** – Students will be disciplined if they, by words, acts, or deeds directly incite others to commit violence or a disruption to the atmosphere of order and discipline necessary for effective learning.
17. **Insubordination** – Insubordination is the noncompliance of directions or reasonable requests made by any school authority, including intentional interference with a teacher's conducting of the class or failure to identify oneself to school personnel when requested.
18. **Loitering and Trespassing** – Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the school to restrict access on school property. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded, the student is not allowed on school property without

authorization of the Principal. Willful presence in a school building or a restricted area of a school building at unauthorized times is also be considered trespassing and subject to discipline.

19. **Misuse of the Internet** – Students are expected to comply with Board Policy regarding use of technology and Internet services. Using technology to access, view, possess, or transmit offensive or slanderous materials is not acceptable.
20. **Offensive, Violent, or Sexual Materials/Actions** – Possessing, using, selling, buying, transmitting, doing, and secreting any of the following is not permitted: Materials or actions, which appeal predominantly to base or other prurient sexual interests, which are blatantly offensive to prevailing standards in the community, and which are without redeeming social value. OR Materials or actions, which contain language potentially offensive to prevailing community standards. OR Materials which are lies or slanderous to any person or institute, or which are intended to hold any student, teacher, or other employee, race, ethnic group, or religion, as such, up to scorn, ridicule, or contempt.
21. **Persistent and/or Expanded Misbehavior** – Students who repeatedly violate school rules are showing a blatant disregard for the right of other students to receive a quality education. This will result in the acceleration of the typical system of disciplinary consequences. The student could be suspended or expelled for repeated violations of regulations governing student conduct.
22. **(A) Physical Attack and/or (B) Threat Thereof** – The act of physically assaulting or threatening to assault any person on school property, including Board of Education owned vehicles or while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored activity is prohibited. A student shall not by words, acts, or deeds threaten to commit, or have committed, acts of violence against persons or property. Statements of threat are considered acts of violence with intent to affect the welfare and safety of others. Threats are taken seriously and will not be condoned.

BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business. This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

- A. any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the

other student(s); or

B. violence within a dating relationship.

"Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.

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

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

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

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above. All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The Building Principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

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

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

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above. Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or other aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above. If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

The District shall implement intervention strategies (AG 5517.01) to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation following such a report. This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

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

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

Complaints

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

Students, parents/guardians, and school personnel may make informal or anonymous complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator, or other school personnel. Such complaints shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. A school staff member or administrator who receives an informal or anonymous complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the information provided. This written report shall be promptly forwarded by the school staff member and/or administrator to the Building Director for review, investigation, and appropriate action.

Individuals who make informal complaints as provided above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. Anonymous

complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action shall be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

When an individual making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

23. **Possession of Fireworks or Explosives** – Explosives, fireworks, and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, small firecrackers, and poppers are dangerous and forbidden. The act of unauthorized possession, use, or threatened use of any fireworks, explosives, or other such instruments capable of inflicting bodily injury will not be tolerated.
24. **Possession or Use of Weapons** – The act of transporting, possessing, using, or threatening to use a weapon will not be tolerated. A weapon includes conventional objects like guns, pellet guns, knives, or club-type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Students who violate this rule will be suspended and may be recommended for expulsion. Criminal charges will be filed for this violation.
25. **Profanity** – The use of profane or obscene language or gestures is not acceptable.
26. **Public Display of Affection (PDA)** – Public display of affection is not permitted. Demonstration of affection is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature.
27. **Refusing to Accept Discipline** – The school may use informal discipline to prevent the student from being removed from school. When a student refuses to accept the usual discipline for an infraction, the refusal can result in sterner action. This includes refusing to go to the office, taking a detention slip from a staff member, throwing the detention slip away, or refusing to serve a detention.
28. **Sale of Articles** – Students may not sell or offer for sale within the school or on school grounds any articles or services to fellow students or employees, or solicit contribution of such persons. This is not to be interpreted as a restriction of approved school fundraising activities.
29. **Shakedown and/or Strong Arm** – Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else and it is against the law. Students who engage in the act of extortion or borrowing or attempting to borrow any money or thing of value from a person in the school, upon Board of Education owned vehicles, or while in attendance at a Board of Education sponsored activity, unless both parties enter into the agreement freely and without the presence of either implied or expressed threat, will be disciplined and authorities may be contacted.
30. **Theft** – Theft is the act of taking or acquiring the property of others without their consent including personal or school belongings, testing/evaluation materials and school forms (building passes, etc.). When a student is caught stealing school or someone's property, he/she will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students are encouraged not to bring anything of value that is not needed for learning to school without prior authorization from the Principal. The school is not responsible for personal property.

31. **Tobacco** – The use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products on school premises or at school-sponsored functions, including Board of Education owned vehicles is prohibited.
32. **Truancy and/or Persistent Tardiness** – Ohio attendance laws require students to be in school all day or have a legitimate excuse for absence. Excessive tardiness to school, excessive tardiness to class, truancy from school, truancy from class, and truancy from detention are considered violations of this rule and subject to discipline.
33. **Use of an Object as a Weapon** – Any object that is used to threaten or harm another may be considered a weapon. This includes, but is not limited to, padlocks, pens, pencils, chairs, jewelry, and so on or an object converted from its original use to an object used to threaten or injure another. Students who violate this rule will be suspended and may be recommended for expulsion. Police charges may be filed for this violation.
34. **Vandalism and/or Destruction of Property** – The act or attempted act or willful destruction or defacement of school or private property either on school grounds, or during a school activity, function, or off-site school event will be cause for discipline by the school and possible contact of police authorities.
35. **Violation of Bus Rules** – Students are expected to comply with bus rules. Rules for the bus include the following: no throwing any object inside or outside of the bus; no body parts hanging outside a window or door; no consumption of food or beverages; riders must remain seated until the driver gives permission to leave; using the emergency exit door without permission; and leaving or boarding a bus at locations other than the assigned stop unless parental and administrative authorization has been given. Students may be denied bus privileges for not following the bus rules.

NOTE: *If a student is told to report to or go to the Office by any staff person or school personnel, including teachers, secretaries, custodians, cafeteria workers, or administrators, they should do so immediately without discussion or argument. Explanations can be given after the student reaches the Office at the appropriate time. It is the student's responsibility to deliver all communications concerning discipline and other school business to their parent.*

PROTECTIVE FACIAL COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS

During times of elevated communicable disease community spread (pandemic or epidemic), the Superintendent will issue periodic guidance through Board of Education plans/resolution(s) in alignment with public health officials and/or in accordance with government edicts and including any Pandemic Plan developed by the District's Pandemic Response Team.

School settings can be a source of community spread. Wearing face masks/coverings is especially important during these times and can help mitigate the risk of exposure from person to person.

As such, during times of elevated communicable disease community spread, the Superintendent may activate this policy by notifying the school community, requiring all school staff, volunteers, and visitors (including vendors) to wear appropriate face masks/coverings on school grounds unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the District's educational or operational processes.

Face masks/shields will be provided by the District to employees. Alternatively, employees may elect to wear their own face coverings if they meet the requirements of this policy as well as any requirements issued by State or local health departments.

In addition, the Board may require that students shall wear a face mask unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason. Efforts will be made to reduce any social stigma for a student who, for medical or developmental reasons, cannot and should not wear a mask.

If face masks/coverings are required, and no exception is applicable, students shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, and in accordance with policies of the Board and/or may be reassigned by the Superintendent to an online/virtual learning environment if the Superintendent determines that reassignment is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or others.

During times of elevated communicable disease community spread as determined by the Board in consultation with health professionals, all students are required to wear masks while being transported on District school buses or other modes of school transportation or while waiting for a school bus outdoors and unable to maintain a distance of six (6) feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household.

Use of Mask/Face Covering

Face coverings/masks should:

- A. fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- B. fit snugly against the side of the face so there are no gaps;
- C. not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- D. be held securely through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

Facial masks/coverings generally should not include surgical masks or respirators unless medically indicated (as those should be reserved for healthcare workers) or masks designed to be worn for costume purposes.

All employee facial masks/coverings shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress/staff grooming policies (Policy 3216/4216). All student facial masks/coverings shall meet the requirements of the appropriate Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Policy 5511 Dress and Grooming.

Any person may be required to temporarily remove a face mask or covering when instructed to do so for identification or security purposes. Failure to comply with such a request violates this policy and may lead to disciplinary or other action.

Exceptions to the use of masks/face coverings include when:

- A. facial masks/coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
- B. facial masks/coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- C. facial masks/coverings are not advisable for health reasons;

- D. facial masks/coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies;
- E. facial masks/coverings are not required when the individual works alone in an assigned work area;
- F. there is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer not to wear a facial mask/covering in the workplace;
- G. settings where masks might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs);
- H. individuals who have difficulty wearing a face covering;
- I. the individual is communicating with students who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled, where an accommodation is appropriate or necessary;
- J. the individual is actively participating in outdoor recess and/or physical activity where students are able to maintain a distance of six (6) feet or more or athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Department of Health order;
- K. the individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;
- L. students and staff can maintain distancing of at least six (6) feet and removal of the facial covering is necessary for instructional purposes, including instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a facial covering would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;
- M. students are able to maintain a distance of six (6) feet or more and a mask break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the educational setting;
- N. an established sincerely held religious requirement exists that does not permit a facial covering.

Use of Face Shields

Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin may be permitted as an alternative to face masks/coverings with permission of the Superintendent as the Board recognizes that face shields may be useful in some situations, including:

- A. when interacting with students, such as those with disabilities, where communication could be impacted;
- B. when interacting with English-language learners or when teaching a foreign language;
- C. settings where masks might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs); or
- D. for individuals who have difficulty wearing a face covering.

AIS PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) EXPECTATIONS

Our primary mission is to educate Alliance's fourth and fifth graders, and we follow a clear path of standards to achieve this. However, to create an environment that supports academics, we have also established clear expectations for student behavior. These expectations are taught and retaught through classroom and building initiatives, and they are tied to specific incentives and consequences.

The expectations are designed to be concise and promote consistency so that infractions are kept to a minimum. The expectations support the Board approved School Code of Conduct and apply during any and all times spent on school property. The expectations are few in number, are stated positively, and are aligned with clear examples and non-examples, located in the school PBIS Matrix.

AIS Expectations for Behavior:

1. Be Responsible
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Safe
4. Be a Learner

The staff at Alliance Intermediate will work to ensure the behavior expectations are defined, taught, retaught, and encouraged throughout the year. They will be reinforced on a daily basis through the behavior card system and tied to specific rewards and consequences. Repeated minor infractions and any major infractions will result in administrative referral.

*See Alliance Intermediate School Behavior System Packet for details

STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRALS

Students exhibiting misconduct during school hours and/or at school-sponsored activities will be referred to the administration by staff or school officials. Students receiving a referral to the Dean's office will be dealt with according to the policies/procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and/or Student Discipline Guidelines.

In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from a curricular or co-curricular activity for less than twenty-four (24) hours and is not subject to further suspension or expulsion at that time, due process requirements, outlined in this policy, do not apply.

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTIONS

Teachers and administrators may assign student detentions. Detentions are assigned for minor behavior problems and tardiness. These detentions are to be served after school as assigned by the building administrator or teacher. Students will be required to attend detention from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. In the event of a snow day or other calamity day, the detention will be served the following day.

TWILIGHT

Twilight is a longer version of after-school detentions for students. Twilight is assigned for a variety of disciplinary cases. The student is assigned through the progressive disciplinary system OR by the principal or dean for other reasons. Students will be required to attend Twilight from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. In the event of a snow day or other calamity day, the Twilight will be served the following day.

STUDENT IMPROVEMENT LAB (SIL)/IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Students who have attendance and/or behavior problems may be assigned to the Student Improvement Lab (SIL), usually for one to three days. Students will be given credit in their regular classes for all the

work they complete while in SIL. *If a student is absent while assigned to SIL, that time must be made up before the student is returned to regular classes.* Students who have discipline problems in SIL may be required to return to SIL or be suspended from school. **In the event of a snow day or other calamity day, the SIL will be served the following day.**

SHORT TERM REMOVAL FROM CLASS OR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

If a student's presence and behavior poses a continuing disruption or danger to persons or property, the student may be removed from curricular or co-curricular activities under staff supervision with the following conditions:

1. Students are NOT permitted to remove themselves from class without permission. This will result in an automatic detention. We have policies and procedures in place for restroom breaks, time-outs, etc.
2. The specific reasons for removal from the classroom (by the teacher) must be submitted to the administrator and comply with building expectations/guidelines.
3. In the case of a removal from school for behavioral reasons, other consequences may be given.
4. Following any short-term removal, a conference between the principal, teacher, parent/guardian, and student may be required before reinstatement to the curricular or co-curricular activity is approved.

****Administration may request a parent or guardian come to observe/shadow their child throughout the day to observe their behavior and disruption issues. There have been many cases where this support was all that was needed to motivate positive change in a student's choices.***

DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

The Board of Education recognizes that students have limited constitutional rights when it comes to their education.

Accordingly, the Board establishes the following procedures which District Administrators shall use when dealing with students:

A. Student subject to suspension:

When a student is being considered for an out-of-school suspension by the Superintendent, Principal, or other administrator:

1. The student will be informed in writing of the potential suspension and the reasons for the proposed action.
2. The student will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension and to explain his/her actions.
3. An attempt will be made to notify parents or guardians by telephone if a suspension is issued.

4. Within one (1) school day of the suspension the Superintendent, Principal, or other administrator will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student. The notice will include the reasons for the suspension and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend. If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.
5. Notice of this suspension will also be sent to the:
 - a. Superintendent;
 - b. student's school record (not for inclusion in the permanent record).
6. If a student leaves school property without permission immediately upon violation (or suspected violation) of a provision of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code or prior to an administrator conducting an informal hearing as specified above, and the student fails to return to school on the following school day, the Principal, Assistant Principal, Superintendent, or any other administrator, may send the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) notice of the suspension, and offer to provide the student and/or his/her parents an informal hearing upon request to discuss the reasons for the suspension and to allow the student to challenge the reasons and to explain his/her actions, any time prior to the end of the suspension period.

Appeal of Suspension to the Board or its designee

The student who is eighteen (18) or older or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing which may be held in executive session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian, if held before the Board.

The procedure to pursue such appeal will be provided in regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer or the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend.

While a hearing before the Board may occur in executive session, the Board must act in public.

Appeal to the Court

Under Ohio law, appeal of the Board's or its designee's decision may be made to the Court of Common Pleas.

B. Students subject to expulsion:

When a student is being considered for expulsion by the Superintendent:

1. The Superintendent will give the student and parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of the intended expulsion, including reasons for the intended expulsion.
2. The student and parent or representative have the opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or designee to challenge the proposed action or to otherwise explain the student's actions. The written notice will state the time and place to appear, which must not be earlier than three (3) school days nor later than five (5) school days after the notice is given, unless the Superintendent grants an extension upon request of the student or parent.
3. Within one (1) school day of the expulsion, the Superintendent will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student and Treasurer of the Board. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date of the notice of expulsion. If the offense is one (1) for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.

Appeal of Expulsion to the Board

A student who is eighteen (18) or older or a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the expulsion by the Superintendent to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and will be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing which may be held in executive session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian, if it is held before the Board.

The procedure to pursue such appeal will be in accordance with regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date of the Superintendent's decision to expel with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent.

While a hearing before the Board may occur in executive session, the Board must act in public.

Appeal to the Court

Under State law, the decision of the Board or its designee may be further appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

C. Students subject to emergency removal:

Students whose conduct warrants emergency removal shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.03 - Emergency Removal.

D. Students subject to permanent exclusion:

Students whose conduct is that for which permanent exclusion is warranted shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.01 - Permanent Exclusion of Nondisabled Students.

E. Students subject to suspension from bus riding/transportation privileges:

Students whose conduct warrants suspension from bus riding and/or transportation services shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.04 - Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges.

In determining whether disciplinary action set forth in this policy is to be implemented, District Administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. Further, any individual charged with making a disciplinary determination under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

In addition, this statement of due process rights is to be placed in all student handbooks in a manner that will facilitate understanding by students and their parents.

These procedures shall not apply to in-school disciplinary alternatives including in-school suspensions. An in-school suspension is one served entirely in a supervised learning environment within a school setting. Nor shall these disciplinary alternative procedures apply to students who are prohibited by authorized school personnel from all or part of their participation in co-curricular, interscholastic, and/or non interscholastic extracurricular activities.

REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, AND PERMANENT EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of the schools, whether by emergency removal, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or permanent exclusion, is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student in this District, and one (1) that cannot be imposed without due process. However, the Board has zero-tolerance of violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior by its students.

No student is to be removed, suspended out-of-school, expelled, and/or permanently excluded unless his/her behavior represents misconduct as specified in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code approved by the Board. The Code shall also specify the procedures to be followed by school officials when implementing such discipline. In determining whether a student is to be suspended or expelled, District Administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. In addition to the procedural safeguards and definitions set forth in this policy and the student/parent handbook, additional procedures and considerations shall apply to students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (See Policy 5605 - Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities.)

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board but where such conduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board, or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a District official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.

For purposes of this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, the following shall apply:

- A. "Emergency removal" shall be the exclusion of a student who poses a continuing danger to District property or persons in the District or whose behavior presents an on-going threat of disrupting the educational process provided by the District. (See Policy 5610.03 "Emergency Removal")
- B. "Suspension" shall be the temporary exclusion of a student by the Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, or any other administrator from the District's instructional program for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. Suspension shall not extend beyond the current school year, if at the time a suspension is imposed, fewer than ten (10) days remain in the school year.

The Superintendent may instead require a student to participate in a community service program or another alternative consequence for a number of hours equal to the remaining part of the period of the suspension. The student shall be required to begin such community service program or alternative consequence during the first full week day of summer break.

The Superintendent may develop a list of appropriate alternative consequences, and set forth such list in the applicable guidelines.

In the event, the student fails to complete the required community service or the assigned alternative consequence, the Superintendent may determine the next course of action. Such course of action, however, shall not include requiring the student to serve the remaining time of the suspension at the beginning of the following year.

The procedures for suspension are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Policy 5611 - Due Process Rights.

A student who is suspended shall be permitted to complete any classroom assignments missed because of the suspension, and receive at least partial credit for a completed assignment. Grade reductions on account of the student's suspension are permitted; however, no student may receive a failing grade on a completed assignment solely on account of his/her suspension.

- C. "Expulsion" shall be the exclusion of a student from the schools of this District for a period not to exceed the greater of eighty (80) school days or the number of school days remaining in a semester or term in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place or for one (1) year as specifically provided in this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code. Only the Superintendent may expel a student. The procedures for expulsion are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Board Policy 5611 "Due Process Rights".

When making a determination whether or not a student will be expelled or permanently excluded under this policy, the Superintendent shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

1. Firearm or Knife

Unless a student is permanently excluded from school, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one (1) year for bringing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to a school building or on to any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or to any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, except that the Superintendent may reduce this period on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. Similarly, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one (1) year for possessing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at school or on any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, at interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or at any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, except the Superintendent may reduce this period on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. The expulsion may extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place. The Superintendent shall refer any student expelled for bringing a firearm (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)) or weapon to school to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system serving the District.

A firearm is defined as any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device. A destructive device, includes, but is not limited to any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter (1/4) ounce, mine, or other similar device.

A knife capable of causing serious bodily injury is defined as any weapon or cutting instrument consisting of a blade fastened to a handle; a razor blade; or any similar device (including sharp, metal martial arts weapons such as ninja throwing stars) that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, modify or reduce such expulsion in writing, to a period of less than one(1) year, on a case-by-case basis, upon consideration of the following:

- a. Applicable State or Federal laws and regulations relating to students with disabilities (for example, where the incident involves a student with a disability and the misconduct is determined by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child to be a manifestation of the student's disability);
- b. The degree of culpability given the age of the student and its relevance to the misconduct and/or punishment and/or evidence regarding the probable danger posed to the health and safety of others, including evidence of the student's intent and awareness regarding possession of the firearm or knife; capable of causing serious bodily injury; and/or
- c. The academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

2. Violent Conduct

If a student commits an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity and the act:

- a. would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult;
- and
- b. results in serious physical harm to person(s) as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5), or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6)

the Superintendent may expel the student for a period of up to one (1) year. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, upon consideration of the following:

- a. applicable State or Federal laws and regulations relating to students with disabilities (for example, where the incident involves a student with a disability and the misconduct is determined by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child to be a manifestation of the student's disability);
- or
- b. other extenuating circumstances, including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

3. Bomb Threats

If a student makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat, the Superintendent may expel the student for a period of up to one (1) year. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, for the following reasons:

- a. for students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, upon recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs;
- or
- b. other extenuating circumstances, including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

- D. "Permanent exclusion" shall mean the student is banned forever from attending a public school in the State of Ohio. (See Policy 5610.01)

If a student is expelled for more than twenty (20) school days or for any period of time that extends into the next school year, the Superintendent shall provide the student and his/her parents with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of those public or private agencies in the community which offer programs or services that help to rectify the student's behaviors and attitudes that contributed to the incident(s) that caused the expulsion.

RELIGIOUS/PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Decisions of the United States Supreme Court have made it clear that it is not the province of a public school to advance or inhibit religious beliefs or practices. Under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, this remains the inviolate province of the individual and the church of his/her choice. The rights of any minority, no matter how small, must be protected. No matter how well intended, either official or unofficial sponsorship of religiously-oriented activities by the school are offensive to some and tend to supplant activities which should be the exclusive province of individual religious groups, churches, private organizations, or the family.

District staff members shall not use prayer, religious readings, or religious symbols as a devotional exercise or in an act of worship or celebration. The District shall not act as a disseminating agent for any person or outside agency for any religious or anti-religious document, book, or article. Distribution of such materials on District property by any party shall be in accordance with Policy 7510 and AG 7510A - Use of District Facilities and Policy 9700 and AG 9700 - Relations with Special Interest Groups.

The Board of Education acknowledges that it is prohibited from adopting any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs.

Any student enrolled in the District may choose to engage in religious expression before, during, or after school hours in the same manner and to the same extent that a student is permitted to engage in secular activities or expression. However, no student will be required to participate in any religious expression or activities.

Observance of religious holidays through devotional exercises or acts of worship is also prohibited. Acknowledgement of, explanation of, and teaching about religious holidays of various religions is encouraged. Celebration activities involving nonreligious decorations and use of secular works are permitted, but it is the responsibility of all faculty members to ensure that such activities are strictly voluntary, do not place an atmosphere of social compulsion or ostracism on minority groups or individuals, and do not interfere with the regular school program.

The Board shall not conduct or sanction a baccalaureate service in conjunction with graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall not include religious invocations, benedictions, or formal prayer at any school-sponsored event.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, a moment of silence may be provided each school day for prayer, reflection, or meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. However, under no circumstances shall students be compelled to participate.

The flag of the United States shall be raised above each school and/or at other appropriate places during all school sessions, weather permitting. The flag shall be raised before the opening of school and taken down at its close every day.

The mottoes of the United States of America ("In God We Trust") and the State of Ohio ("With God, All Things Are Possible") shall be displayed in an appropriate manner in a classroom, auditorium, or cafeteria of a school building of the District, if copies of the mottoes or money to purchase copies of the mottoes are donated to the District. The donated or purchased copies of the mottoes shall meet the applicable design requirements as provided by statute.

Professional staff members are authorized to lead students in the Pledge of Allegiance at an appropriate time each school day. However, no student shall be compelled/required to participate in the recitation of the Pledge. Additionally, the Board prohibits the intimidation of any student by other students or staff for the purposes of coercing participation. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines that require any staff member who conducts this activity does it at an appropriate time, in an appropriate manner, and with due regard to the need to protect the rights and the privacy of a nonparticipating student. Wording of the Pledge of Allegiance as set forth in the United States Code shall not be altered.

DISTRICT ATTENDANCE POLICY

The educational program offered by this District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session or during the attendance sessions to which s/he has been assigned.

A student in grades 9 through 12 may be considered a full-time equivalent student provided the student is enrolled in at least five (5) units of instruction, as defined by State law, per school year.

In accordance with statute, the Superintendent shall require, from the parent of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a written statement of the cause for such absence. The Board of Education reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence or prolonged absence.

The Board considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:

- A. personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- B. appointment with a health care provider
- C. illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- D. quarantine of the home
- E. death in the family
- F. necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- G. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- H. out-of-state travel (up to a maximum twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the student's school is open for instruction) to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extracurricular activity.

Any classroom assignment missed due to the absence shall be completed by the student.

If the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours that the student's school is open for instruction, a classroom teacher shall accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance.

- I. such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent
- J. medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751
- K. service as a precinct officer at a primary, special or general election in accordance with the program set forth in Policy 5725

Attendance need not always be within the school facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board.

The Board shall consider each student assigned to a program of other guided learning experiences to be in regular attendance for the program provided that s/he reports to such staff member s/he is assigned for guidance at the place in which s/he is conducting study, and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study.

The Superintendent may excuse a student over fourteen (14) years of age from attendance at school for a future limited period for the purpose of performing essential work directly or exclusively for his/her parents or guardians. Such excuse should not exceed five (5) days and may at the discretion of the Superintendent be renewed for five (5) additional days. At no time, however, shall such excuse cause a student to be absent from school for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive days.

At the discretion of the Superintendent a student may be excused for a longer period of time than ten (10) days if a child's parent or guardian has recently died or become totally or partially incapacitated and there is no older brother or sister living in the home who is out of school. (The Superintendent may request a certificate of a physician attesting to the physical condition of the parent or guardian.)

Attendance shall be taken at the beginning of every block/period in buildings with block/period-based scheduling. Absences from a class block/period shall be accounted for to the nearest full hour.

Attendance shall be taken at the commencement of the school day in buildings with non-period-based schedules. Attendance for students arriving late or leaving early must be tracked and recorded to the nearest full hour.

Contacting the Parent/Guardian of an Absent Student

When a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a student has failed to initiate a telephone call or other communication notifying the school or building administration of the student's excused or unexcused absence within 120 minutes after the beginning of the school day, the attendance officer or designee for each school building shall make at least one (1) attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or other person having care of any student who is recorded as absent without legitimate excuse within 120 minutes after the beginning of each school day by a method designated by the Superintendent in accordance with Ohio law (see AG 5200).

Excessive Absences

When a student of compulsory school age is absent from school with combined nonmedical excused absences and unexcused absences in excess of thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year, that student is considered "excessively absent" from school. The District or school shall notify the child's parent or guardian of the child's absences, in writing, within seven (7) school days after the date of the absence that triggered the notice requirement. At the same time, written notice is given, any appropriate intervention action listed herein may be taken.

The following "medical excuses" will not count toward a student's excessive absence hours: 1) personal illness; 2) illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child; 3) quarantine of the home; 4) health care provider appointments (doctor, dentist, mental health provider, etc.); 5) medically-necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751; 6) death in the family; or 7) other set of circumstances the Superintendent deems on a case-by-case basis to be a good and sufficient cause for medical absence from school.

A medically excused absence occurs any time a student is out of school due to illness or medical visit (physician, dentist, mental health, etc.). A medical excuse for personal illness will be accepted in the form of a doctor's note within five (5) school days of the absence or parent call-in on the day of the absence due to illness or doctor's visit. A student may have up to ten (10) medically excused absences without a doctor's note, but with a phone call from a parent/guardian. For the 2020-2021, medical excuse absences will be accepted through this process for students participating both in-person and remotely. This policy will be extended beyond ten (10) days if the student or someone in the student's family is in quarantine due to recognized pandemic/epidemic (e.g., COVID-19) or experiencing symptoms of the pandemic/epidemic.

Habitually Truant

A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is of compulsory school age and absent without a legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, for forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) school month, or for seventy-two (72) or more hours in one (1) school year.

Legitimate excuses for the absence of a student who is otherwise habitually truant include but are not limited to:

- A. the student was enrolled in another school district;
- B. the student was excused from attendance in accordance with R.C 3321.04; or
- C. the student has received an age and schooling certificate.

Absence Intervention Team

To the extent required by law as determined on an annual basis, within ten (10) days of a student becoming habitually truant, the Principal shall assign the student to an absence intervention team.

Within fourteen (14) school days after the assignment of a student to an absence intervention team, the team shall develop an intervention plan for that student in an effort to reduce or eliminate further absences. Each intervention plan shall vary based on the individual needs of the student, but the plan shall state that the attendance officer shall file a complaint not later than sixty-one (61) days after the date the plan was implemented, if the child has refused to participate in, or failed to make satisfactory progress on, the intervention plan. Within seven (7) school days after the development of the plan, reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the student's parent/guardian/custodian, with written notice of the plan.

Each absence intervention team may vary based on the needs of each individual student but shall include a representative from the child's building, another representative from the child's building who knows the child, and the child's parent or parent's designee, or the child's guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian. The team also may include a school psychologist, counselor, social worker, or representative of a public or nonprofit agency designed to assist students and their families in reducing absences.

The members of the absence intervention team shall be selected within seven (7) school days of the student meeting the habitually truant threshold. Within the same period of seven (7) school days, the Principal shall make at least three (3) meaningful, good faith attempts to secure the participation of the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian on that team. A good faith attempt to secure the participation of the parent shall include, but not be limited to, contacting (or attempting to contact) the parent by telephone, email, or regular mail. If the student's parent responds to any of those attempts but is unable to participate for any reason, the Principal shall inform the parent of the parent's right to appear by designee. If seven (7) school days elapse and the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian fails to respond to the attempts to secure participation, the attendance officer shall investigate whether the failure to respond triggers mandatory abuse or neglect reporting to the public children services agency. At the same time, the absence intervention team shall continue to develop an intervention plan for the child notwithstanding the absence of the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian.

Intervention Strategies

In order to address the attendance practices of a student who is habitually truant, the intervention team may, as part of an intervention plan, take any of the following intervention actions:

- A. provide counseling to the student
- B. request or require the student's parent to attend a parental involvement program
- C. request or require a parent to attend a truancy prevention mediation program
- D. notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the student's absences
- E. take appropriate legal action
- F. assignment to an alternative school

In the event that a student becomes habitually truant within twenty-one (21) school days prior to the last day of instruction of a school year, the Principal may, in his/her discretion, assign the designee to work with the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian to develop an absence intervention plan during the summer.

The absence intervention process shall commence upon the first day of instruction of the next school year.

Reporting Requirements

The attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court against a student on the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of an absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, provided that all of the following apply:

- A. The student is habitually truant.
- B. The school district or school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the absence intervention plan, other intervention strategies, and any offered alternatives to adjudication, if applicable.
- C. The student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan, as determined by the absence intervention team, or any offered intervention strategies or alternative to adjudication.

If the student, at any time during the implementation phase of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, is absent without legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours or forty-two (42) or more hours in one school month, the attendance officer shall file a complaint in juvenile court against that student, unless the absence intervention team has determined that the student has made substantial progress on the absence intervention plan.

In the event that the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies falls on a day during the summer months, the absence intervention team may extend the implementation of the plan and delay the filing of the complaint for an additional thirty (30) days from the first day of instruction of the next school year.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish an educational program for parents of truant students which is designed to encourage parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly. Any parent who does not complete the program is to be reported to law enforcement authorities for parental education neglect, a fourth class misdemeanor if found guilty.

Whenever any student of compulsory school age has sixty (60) consecutive hours in a single month or a total of ninety (90) hours of unexcused absence from school during the school year, s/he will be considered habitually absent under R.C. 3321.13(b)(2). The Board authorizes the Superintendent to inform the student and his/her parents, guardian, or custodian of the record of absences without a legitimate excuse as well as the District's intent to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, if appropriate, and the Judge of the Juvenile Court of the student's unexcused absences and habitually absent status.

If a student who is habitually truant violates the order of a juvenile court regarding the student's prior adjudication as an unruly child for being a habitual truant, s/he may further be adjudicated as a delinquent child.

The District shall report to the Ohio Department of Education, as soon as practicable, and in a format and manner determined by the Department, any of the following occurrences:

- A. when a notice that a student has been absent with or without legitimate excuse for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year is submitted to a parent/guardian/or custodian;
- B. when a child of compulsory school age has been absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) school month, or seventy-two (72) or more hours in a school year;
- C. when a child of compulsory school age who has been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant violates the court order regarding that adjudication;
- D. when an absence intervention plan has been implemented for a child under this policy.

This policy was developed after consultation with the judge of the juvenile court of Stark County/Counties, with the parents, guardians, or other persons having care of the students attending school in the district, and with appropriate State and local agencies.

NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Any form of discrimination or harassment can be devastating to an individual's academic progress, social relationship, and/or personal sense of self-worth. As such, the Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of Protected Classes in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students, and does not tolerate harassment of any kind.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students, without regard to the Protected Classes, age (unless age is a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students.

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators").

Michelle Balderson
Director of Primary Education
330-821-2100
200 Glamorgan St.,
Alliance, OH 44601

baldersonmi@alliancecityschools.org

Shawn Jackson
Director of Secondary Education
330-821-2100
200 Glamorgan St.,
Alliance, OH 44601
jacksonsh@alliancecityschools.org

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation, or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

Use the link [Alliance City Schools Board of Education Policies](#) to see the full board policy code po2260

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education of the Alliance City School District (hereinafter referred to as “the Board” or “the District”) does not discriminate on the basis of sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), in its education programs or activities, and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and its implementing regulations, not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The Board is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment.

The Board prohibits Sexual Harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. When the District has actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating Sexual Harassment and will take appropriate action when an individual is determined responsible for violating this policy. Board employees, students, third-party vendors and contractors, guests, and other members of the School District community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy. The Board will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs and activities.

This policy applies to Sexual Harassment that occurs within the District's education programs and activities and that is committed by a member of the School District community or a Third Party.

This policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs off school grounds, in a private setting, and outside the scope of the District's education programs and activities; such Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity may be prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, or by Board policies and administrative guidelines, applicable State and/or Federal laws and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook(s) if committed by a Board employee.

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Education's implementing regulations for Title IX, this policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, even if the Sexual Harassment occurs in the District's education programs or activities. Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States is governed by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, or by Board policies and administrative guidelines, applicable State and/or Federal laws and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook(s) if committed by a Board employee.

The Board of the Alliance City School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity, and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to oversee and coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX and its implementing regulations:

Shawn Jackson
Director of Secondary Education
330-821-2100. Ext 1243
200 Glamorgan St. Alliance, Ohio 44601
jacksonsh@alliancecityschools.org

Michelle Balderson
Director of Elementary Education
330-821-2100. Ext. 1254
200 Glamorgan St. Alliance, Ohio 44601
baldersonmi@alliancecityschools.org

The Title IX Coordinator shall report directly to the Superintendent. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator.

Use the link [Alliance City Schools Board of Education Policies](#) to see the full board policy code po2266

ANTI-HARASSMENT-General Policy Statement

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

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

SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended ("ADA"), and the implementing regulations (collectively "Section 504/ADA"), no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Board of Education does not discriminate in admission or access to, or participation or treatment in its programs or activities. As such, the Board's policies and practices will not discriminate against students with disabilities and will make accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities its facilities, programs, and activities. No discrimination will be knowingly permitted against any individual with a disability on the sole basis of that disability in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the District.

"An individual with a disability" means a person who has, had a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aids and cochlear implants or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services, or learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.

With respect to public preschool, elementary and secondary educational services, a qualified person with a disability means a disabled person:

- A. who is of an age during which nondisabled persons are provided educational services;

- B. who is of any age during which it is mandatory under Ohio law to provide educational services to disabled persons; or
- C. to whom the State is required to provide a free appropriate public education pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA).

With respect to vocational education services, a qualified person with a disability means a disabled person who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the vocational program or activity.

Compliance Officer(s)

The Board designates the following individual to serve as the District's 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator (hereinafter referred to as the "District Compliance Officer(s)").

Dr. Amy Cramer
Director of Special Education
330-821-2100
200 Glamorgan St.
Alliance, OH 44601
crameram@alliancecityschools.org

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually on each individual school's web site.

Building Principals shall serve as Building Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer(s) ("Building Compliance Officers").

The District Compliance Officer is responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of their implementing regulations, may be obtained from the District Compliance Officer.

The District Compliance Officer(s) will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints.

The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA. See below. The Board will further establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards in accordance with Section 504, including the right to an impartial due process hearing. See AG 2260.01B.

Training

The District Compliance Officer(s) will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and are informed of the Board's policies, administrative guidelines and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Section 504/ADA.

The Board will provide in-service training and consultation to staff responsible for the education of persons with disabilities, as necessary and appropriate.

Facilities

No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, providing accommodations to parents with disabilities who desire access to their child's educational program or meetings pertinent thereto. Programs and activities will be designed and scheduled so that the location and nature of the facility or area will not deny a student with a disability the opportunity to participate on the same basis as students without disabilities.

Education

The Board is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students within its jurisdiction who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities. An appropriate education may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities. For disabled students who are not eligible for specially designed instruction under the IDEIA, the special education and related aids and services (including accommodations/modifications/interventions) they need in order to have their needs met as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met, shall be delineated, along with their placement, in a Section 504 Plan (Form 2260.01A F13). Parents/guardians/custodians ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process and development of a Section 504 Plan.

The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability who resides within the District with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the District places a person in a setting other than the regular educational environment, it shall take into account the proximity of the alternate setting to the person's home.

The Board will provide non-academic extracurricular services and activities in such a manner as is necessary to afford qualified persons with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in such services and activities. Non-academic and extracurricular services and activities may include counseling services, physical recreational athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interests groups or clubs sponsored by the District, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to persons with disabilities, and employment of students. In providing or arranging for the provision of meals and recess periods, and non-academic and extracurricular services and activities, including those listed above, the District will verify that persons with disabilities participate with persons without disabilities in such services and activities to the maximum extent appropriate.

Use the link [Alliance City Schools Board of Education Policies](#) to see the full board policy code po2260.01

ALLIANCE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
OFFICE DIRECTORY

Name	Position	Email
Stephanie Garren	Principal	garrenst@alliancecityschools.org
Erica Jackson	Asisstant Pricipal	jacksoner@alliancecityschools.org
Bethany Rhome	Secretary	rhomebe@alliancecityschools.org
Katie Barnes	Secretary	barneska@alliancecityschools.org
Kaitlin Edwards	Instructional Coach	edwardska@alliancecityschools.org
Tim Calfee	Counselor	calfeeti@alliancecityschools.org
Mrs. Pam Kemp	Family Support Specialist	cainro@alliancecityschools.org
Myra Zink	Nurse	zinkmy@alliancecityschools.org

**Verification of Receipt of the
Alliance Intermediate School
Student Handbook 2023-2024**

I have received a copy of the Alliance Intermediate School Student Handbook. I understand that the handbook contains information that I may need during the school year. By signing this, I am attesting that I read and understand all expectations for AIS students.

Student Name (please print) _____

Homeroom Teacher (please print) _____

AIS staff uses a variety of methods for sharing information and communication. Please list at least one email address that we may use for school newsletters.

Most importantly, keep your phone number up to date with the office and your child's teacher AT ALL TIMES. We also require that you give alternative contacts with up-to-date phone numbers in the case of an emergency.

It is *imperative* that we are able to communicate any needs or concerns with you in a prompt manner.

By signing below, you are acknowledging an understanding of the Alliance Intermediate School Expectations and District Board Policies.

Parent Name (printed) _____

Signature _____

Phone Number _____