

# ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENT & PARENT / GUARDIAN  
HANDBOOK  
2024 - 2025



#### **ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**

37 Maple Street  
P.O. Box 149  
Ellington, CT 06029  
860.896.2352

[www.ellingtonpublicschools.org](http://www.ellingtonpublicschools.org)

Mr. John R. Guidry, J.D, Principal  
Mr. Brandon HuBrins, LMSW, Ass't Principal  
Mr. Marc Richard, Assistant Principal  
Dr. Jessica Marshall, Guidance Director

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47 Main Street  
P.O. Box 179  
Ellington, CT 06029  
860.896.2300

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#### **PREFACE**

The material covered within this student handbook is intended as a method of communicating to students and parents regarding general district information, rules and procedures and is not intended to either enlarge or diminish any Board policy, administrative regulation or negotiated agreement. Material contained herein may therefore be superseded by such Board policy, administrative regulation or negotiated agreement. Any information contained in this handbook is subject to unilateral revision or elimination from time-to-time without notice.

This booklet is written for our students and their parents. It contains required and useful information. Because it cannot be as personal a communication as we would like, we address students not directly as "you" but rather as "the student," "students," or "children." Likewise, the term "the student's parent" may refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume responsibility for the student. Both students and parents need to be familiar with the student handbook which is intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere conducive for learning.

The Student Handbook is designed to be in harmony with Board policy. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy that affect portions of this Handbook will be made available to students and parents through newsletters, web pages, and other communications.

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## WELCOME TO ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

### ELLINGTON VISION OF THE GRADUATE

Ellington Public Schools' Graduates will develop the skills that will allow them to be exceptional learners and leaders who are courageous, reflective, and contributing citizens of the world.

Ellington Public Schools develop students who are:

Self-directed and Reflective Learners who

- Pursue learning in areas of personal interest
- Set goals to advance learning based on reflection and feedback
- Demonstrate perseverance and flexibility in pursuing goals

Involved Citizens who

- Participate and contribute to the enhancement of community life
- Pursue opportunities to learn about other cultures and different points of view
- Demonstrate awareness of the impact of personal actions on others and the world

Co-creators and Collaborators who

- Work synergistically and equitably to achieve a common goal
- Recognize their own and other perspectives to enrich their learning

Problem Solvers and Innovators who

- Engage in inquiry around real-world problems
- Translate ideas into actionable solutions
- Take intellectual risks
- Think divergently

Effective Communicators who

- Communicate ideas in compelling, impactful ways
- Demonstrate an awareness of audience and adjusts style and tone accordingly

## SCHEDULES

Ellington High School uses two main bell schedules: a standard weekly schedule and the occasional half day schedule:

Standard Schedule with 30-min lunch waves	Monday (40 min periods)	Advisory Tuesday (36 min periods)	Wednesday (40 min periods)	Thursday (40 min periods)	Friday (40 min periods)
A (7:35-8:15)		A (7:35-8:11)			
B (8:19-8:59)		B (8:15-8:51)			
C (9:03-9:43)		C (8:55-9:31)			
D (9:47-10:27)		D (9:35-10:11)			
E (10:31-11:11)		Advisory (10:15-10:39)			
		E (10:43-11:19)			
F (11:14-12:48)	1 <sup>st</sup> lunch (11:14-11:44) 2 <sup>nd</sup> lunch (11:46-12:16) 3 <sup>rd</sup> lunch (12:18-12:48)	<b>F (11:22-12:56)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> lunch (11:22-11:52) 2 <sup>nd</sup> lunch (11:54-12:24) 3 <sup>rd</sup> lunch (12:26-12:56)	1 <sup>st</sup> lunch (11:14-11:44) 2 <sup>nd</sup> lunch (11:46-12:16) 3 <sup>rd</sup> lunch (12:18-12:48)	1 <sup>st</sup> lunch (11:14-11:44) 2 <sup>nd</sup> lunch (11:46-12:16) 3 <sup>rd</sup> lunch (12:18-12:48)	1 <sup>st</sup> lunch (11:14-11:44) 2 <sup>nd</sup> lunch (11:46-12:16) 3 <sup>rd</sup> lunch (12:18-12:48)
G (12:51-1:31)		G (12:59-1:35)			
H (1:35-2:15)		H (1:39-2:15)			

### Notes:

- **Three 30-minute waves** have been provided for lunch: one at the beginning of F block, one in the middle of F block, and one at the end of F block.
- In order to accommodate three lunch waves, **F block has a longer instructional period** than other blocks (62 minutes vs. 40 minutes).

Early Dismissal / Half Days (23 min periods + no lunch)
<b>A</b> (7:35-7:58)
<b>B</b> (8:02-8:25)
<b>C</b> (8:29-8:52)
<b>D</b> (8:56-9:19)
<b>E</b> (9:23-9:46)
<b>F</b> (9:50-10:13)
<b>G</b> (10:17-10:40)
<b>H</b> (10:44-11:05)

### EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

All school closings, delays, emergencies, and early dismissals due to weather will be communicated through *Infinite Campus*. Emergency closings will also be posted on the district website, <http://www.ellingtonpublicschools.org>. In the event school is closed because of bad weather or another emergency, announcements will be made on radio stations WTIC (1080 AM, 96.5 FM) as well as WFSB (TV Channel 3), WTNH (TV Channel 8), WVIT (TV Channel 30) and WTIC (TV Channel 61).

### FACILITIES

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes, such as athletics and clubs and/or performance groups. Students are expected to remain in the area in which their activity is scheduled to take place. After being dismissed and unless involved in a teacher/staff supervised activity, students are expected to leave the campus immediately.

### VISITORS

Visitors must press a call button at the front door for entry into the building, at which time they are screened to determine the reason for the visit. All visitors must first report to the main office. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time (7:35-2:15) are not permitted.

Unauthorized persons shall not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. School Administrators are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering the building or from loitering on the grounds. During their suspension, students who have been suspended or expelled are not permitted on school grounds or anywhere a school activity is taking place. This includes any athletic or other events that occur off the EHS campus. Such persons will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be permitted.



## LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

The library/media center provides students with print and digital materials for research, reading for enjoyment, and enrichment. Students may access the library for help with research projects, quiet study, and group work. Students are responsible for any materials they sign out. Materials must be returned to the circulation desk according to the due date. Students must pay for any materials they lose or damage. Just as with all other financial obligations, any library obligations must be discharged in full before receiving a cap and gown prior to graduation.

Students wishing to spend their study hall in the library must: 1) check in at their assigned study hall for attendance and 2) obtain a written pass to the library from their study hall teacher. For study halls that run during the daily lunch period, students must obtain a special library pass from the librarian in the morning and present this pass to their study hall teacher before they are dismissed. Students are expected to arrive on time at the beginning of the block, sign in on the Google sheet, and remain for the duration of the period. Students are expected to return promptly from lunch, just as they would for any other class or study hall. Students who arrive late will not be admitted, and students who do not return from lunch in a timely manner may incur loss of library privilege.

## ATTENDANCE

### STUDENT ATTENDANCE/EXCUSES/DISMISSALS

Connecticut state law requires parents to cause their children, ages five through eighteen inclusive, to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. Parents or persons having control of a child five years of age have the option of not sending the child to school until ages six or seven. Mandatory attendance terminates upon graduation or withdrawal with written parent/guardian consent at age seventeen.

A student is considered to be “in attendance” if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent. A student not meeting the definition of “in attendance” shall be considered absent.

Classroom learning experiences are the basis for public school education. Time lost from class is lost instructional opportunity. The Board of Education requires that accurate records be kept of the attendance of each child, and students should not be absent from school without parental knowledge and consent.

### Definitions (related to chronic absenteeism)

#### *Chronically absent child:*

An enrolled student whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than ten percent of the total number of days that such student has been enrolled at such school during such school year.

#### *Absence:*

An excused absence, unexcused absence or disciplinary absence, as those terms are defined by the State Board of Education or an in-school suspension that is greater than or equal to one-half of a school day.

#### *District chronic absenteeism rate:*

The total number of chronically absent children in the previous school year divided by the total number of children under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education for such a school year. In the calculation of the District’s chronic absenteeism rate and the school chronic absenteeism rate, a student’s engagement, in grades 9-12, in remote virtual learning shall be excluded if such engagement accounts for not less than one-half of the school day. In addition, the calculation of chronic absenteeism rates shall exclude absence resulting from a student taking a mental health day pursuant to P.A. 21-46.

*School chronic absenteeism rate:*

The total number of chronically absent children for a school in the previous school year divided by the total number of children enrolled in such school for such school year.

*Excused absence:*

A student's absence from school shall be considered "excused" if written documentation of the reason for such absence has been submitted within ten (10) school days of the student's return to school and meets the following criteria:

**A.** For absences one through nine, a student's absences from school are considered "excused" when the student's parent/guardian approves such absence and submits appropriate documentation to school officials.

**B.** A student's engagement in remote classes, remote meetings, activities on time-logged electronic systems, and completion and submission of assignments, if such engagement accounts for not less than one-half of the school day during remote learning is excluded from the definitions of "excused absence" and "unexcused absence."

**C.** Absence resulting from a student enrolled in grades K-12, taking two mental health days during the school year. Such absence is to permit the student to attend to his/her emotional and psychological well-being in lieu of attending school. A student cannot take these mental health days during consecutive school days.

**D.** For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, a student's absences from school are considered excused for the following reasons:

- Student illness (must be verified by a licensed medical professional to be deemed excused, regardless of the length of the absence);
- Student's observance of a religious holiday;
- Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
- Mandated court appearances (documentation required);
- The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends (no parental documentation required);
- Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by District administration and to be in accordance with Connecticut State Department of Education guidance.

*Unexcused absence:*

A student's absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless:

- The absence meets the definition of an excused absence and meets the documentation requirements; or
- The absence meets the definition of a disciplinary absence, which is the result of school or District disciplinary action and is excluded from these State Board of Education approved definitions.

When the school in which a child is enrolled receives no notification from a parent or other person having control of the child is aware of the child's absence, a reasonable effort shall be made by school personnel or volunteers under the direction of school personnel to notify by telephone and by mail such parent or other person having control of the child.

Responsibility for completion of missed classwork lies with the student, not the teacher. Unless a student has an extended illness, all make-up work will be complete within five days after the student returns to school.

### **Excused Absences for Children of Service Members**

An enrolled student, age five to eighteen, inclusive, whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted ten days of excused absences in any school year and, at the discretion of the Board of Education, additional excused absences to visit such child's parent or legal guardian with respect to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian. In the case of such excused absences such child and parent or legal guardian shall be responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's teacher prior to any period of excused absence, and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by such child prior to his or her return to school from such period of excused absence.

### **Chronic Absenteeism**

The Board of Education, in compliance with statute, requires the establishment of attendance review teams when chronic absenteeism rates in the District or at individual schools in the District meet the following circumstances:

- A team for the District must be established when the District chronic absenteeism rate is 10 percent or higher.
- A team for the school must be established when the school chronic absenteeism rate is 15 percent or higher.
- A team for either the District or each school must be established when (a) more than one school in the District has a school chronic absenteeism rate of 15 percent or higher or (b) a District has a District chronic absenteeism rate of 10 percent or higher and one or more schools in the District have a school chronic absenteeism rate of 15 percent or higher.

The membership of attendance review teams may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school social workers, teachers, chronically absent children, parents or guardians of chronically absent children, and representatives from community-based programs who address issues related to student attendance by providing programs and services to truants.

Each attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals for such truants and chronically absent children and making any additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each established attendance review team shall meet at least monthly.

### **TRUANCY**

A student is considered truant if they have four (4) or more unexcused absences in one month or if they have ten (10) or more unexcused absences in a school year.

If a student is found to be truant, EHS will use the following procedure:

- A parent meeting will be scheduled and an attendance plan will be created. Attendance plans may include home visits from EHS staff or discipline/loss of privilege for absences if appropriate given the circumstances of the truancy.
- If truancy continues, the student will be referred for a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting. Additional support and structures to improve attendance will be implemented at this meeting.
- If truancy continues, a referral to an outside agency such as the Ellington Truancy Board, Ellington Youth and Family Services or the Connecticut Department of Children and Families will be made for additional family support to improve attendance.

The District shall annually include in information for the strategic school profile report for each school and the District that is submitted to the Commissioner of Education, data pertaining to truancy and chronically absent children.

## Dismissal

No school, grade, or class may be dismissed before the regularly scheduled dismissal time without the approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

No teacher may permit any individual student to leave school prior to the regular hour of dismissal without the permission of the Principal.

No student may be permitted to leave school at any time other than at regular dismissal without the approval of the student's parent/guardian. If a court official with legal permission to take custody of a child, or if a police officer arrests a student, the parent/guardian should be notified of these situations by the administration.

Legal Reference Connecticut General Statutes

10-220(c) Duties of boards of education (as amended by PA 15-225)

10-184 Duties of parents (as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157)

10-185 Penalty

10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by PA11-136, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes and PA 14-198, An Act Concerning Excused Absences from School for Children of Service Members, and PA 16-147, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee)

45a-8c Truancy clinic. Administration. Policies and procedures. Report. (as amended by PA 15-225) PA 15-225 An Act Concerning Chronic Absenteeism

10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy - in general

## DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

At EHS absences and tardies are accrued based on the COURSE. If a student moves from section to section (of the same course), their attendance will follow them. Attendance will not follow the students, if they move from CP to Honors classes (or vice versa).

Upon the first unexcused absence in a class in a single semester: The administrator or administrator's designee will issue the student an After School Detention for 40 minutes.

Upon the second unexcused absence in a class in a single semester:

- The administrator or administrator's designee will issue the student an After School Detention for 40 minutes.
- The classroom teacher will discuss the situation with the student, and may contact the parent.

Upon the third unexcused absence in a class in a single semester:

- The administrator or administrator's designee will assign the student 1 Saturday Detention (9am-12pm)
- The teacher will notify the counselor who will review the circumstances with the student to develop appropriate interventions to avoid a loss of credit and will contact the parent.

Upon the fourth unexcused absence in a class in a single semester:

- The administrator or administrator's designee will assign the student 1 Saturday Detention (9am-12pm)
- The administrator or administrator's designee will notify the parent, student and counselor of the detention and the student's loss of credit for the course for that semester.

Upon the fifth unexcused absence in a class in a single semester:

- The administrator or administrator's designee will assign the student 1 Saturday Detention (9am-12pm) as well as 1 week of pass restriction if absences are accrued through excessive tardies.

Upon the sixth or more unexcused absences in a class in a single semester: The administrator or administrator's designee will assign the student 1 Saturday Detention (9am-12pm) as well as a 2 week suspension of all extra curricular activities.

Lengthy absences while class is in session (e.g. "wandering the halls") will be treated as a class cut and marked as an unexcused absence for that class.

Full-day unexcused absence will be considered as truancy and will result in a 3 hour Saturday detention.

*Note: Unexcused absences include:*

- *Absences where a parent or guardian has not provided a bona fide excuse. Depending upon Connecticut State reporting requirements, a bona fide excuse may be called in or substantiated by written documentation.*
- *Any class "cut".*
- *Any absence due to inability to secure timely private transportation to school (does not include absence due to late bus).*

#### **ABSENCE LIMIT FOR COURSE CREDIT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL**

- Students who have four (4) unexcused absences or nine (9) or more total absences (both excused and unexcused) during the Fall or Spring semester will receive the academic grade earned but will not receive credit for the semester. An opportunity will be given to appeal this loss of credit.
- Students who lose credit are expected to remain in class for possible reinstatement of credit. (See Appeals Process, below).

**TARDINESS** (not present in the classroom and prepared for learning when bell rings)

Excused Tardy: To excuse a tardy at the beginning of the student's school day, the student must present a note from a parent / guardian with a specified arrival time and the reason for being tardy to the attendance clerk to determine if the tardy is excused. Just as with absences, tardiness will not be excused for oversleeping, unverified transportation problems, etc. The following are acceptable reasons for being tardy to a class.

- Personal illness
- Appointment with a health or legal professional
- Family emergency
- Late bus (does not require a note from parent / guardian)

To excuse a tardy mid-way through the student's school day, the student must present to their teacher a current, signed, and unused pass from another staff member excusing their lateness to class.

Unexcused Tardy: Lateness to periods A-H up to 15 minutes to class without a legitimate pass from a staff member or acceptable note from a parent/guardian. Teachers will admit late students to class and mark them as "tardy" if they are unexcused. Students more than 15 minutes late to class without a legitimate reason or pass will be considered to have an unexcused absence for that class period.

### Consequences for unexcused tardies:

- Three unexcused tardies within a single semester are equivalent to one unexcused absence and will receive the consequence for a first unexcused absence.
- Six unexcused tardies within a single semester are equivalent to second unexcused absence and will receive the consequence for a second unexcused absence.
- Nine unexcused tardies within a single semester are equivalent to third unexcused absence and will receive the consequence for a third unexcused absence.
- Twelve unexcused tardies within a single semester are equivalent to fourth unexcused absence and will receive the consequence for a fourth unexcused absence, including potential loss of credit
- Additional tardiness in a semester will result in further disciplinary action.

### **CREDIT APPEALS PROCESS**

Students who have lost credit due to excessive absences or tardies will be called down to the main office and given a letter: 1) documenting their loss of credit and 2) detailing the date and time of their appeal hearing.

At the appeal hearing, the student will appear before members of the EHS Attendance Appeals Committee to present to the committee why they believe that they should have their credit returned.

A parent/guardian or other advocate is encouraged to accompany the student to their credit appeal hearing.

In cases with significant extenuating circumstances, an administrator, working in conjunction with the student's counselor, may choose to exempt the student from the appeals process and return their credit without a hearing.

### **LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS/RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL**

Under no circumstances may a student leave the school or school grounds during school hours without permission from his/her parents or guardians and school administration. In the event it is necessary for a student to be dismissed early, a parent or guardian should send a written request to the office. Telephone requests for early dismissal of a student shall be honored only if the caller can be positively identified as the student's parent or guardian. Children of single-parent families will be released only upon the request of the parent whom the court holds directly responsible for the child and who is identified as such in the school records, unless prior arrangements have been made with the school. Arrangements should be made with the building administrator by the parent or guardian to pick up the student in the school office.

If someone other than a parent/guardian picks up the student, the person appearing in the school office should bring a note of identification from the parent or guardian.

### **Early Dismissal**

All students are required to be in attendance for all scheduled classes and study halls. All students, regardless of age, must present to the office a note from a parent or guardian requesting early dismissal no later than the beginning of the school day on the date of early dismissal. A request for early dismissal will be honored to accommodate an emergency or other extraordinary situation. In the case of an emergency, the office will accept a telephone request from the parent prior to dismissal, provided that a note from the parent / guardian is forthcoming. Any student who leaves the building or grounds without clear permission from the administration will receive an unexcused absence for all missed classes. Unless a student has a court generated certificate of emancipation, he/she may not be dismissed without a parent or guardian's permission as noted above.

### Senior Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

Seniors are eligible for late arrival if they have unscheduled blocks at the beginning of the school day. Likewise, seniors may leave the building when their last class of the day has ended. However, it is important to note that Ellington High School does not have an open campus, and once seniors have arrived at school they may not leave the building until the end of their scheduled classes. Seniors using school transportation must remain in the building and be accounted for during the entire school day.

**Please note that schedule changes will not be made to accommodate this privilege.** These privileges will be revoked when there is a pattern of misbehavior, tardiness or absence to other scheduled classes and study halls, cut classes, or truancy.

### STUDY HALL

If a student needs to see a teacher for help or make-up work during a study hall, **the student must first provide the study hall teacher with a signed pass obtained beforehand from the receiving teacher.**

The student will be marked present by the study hall teacher. The two teachers should communicate to ensure that the student is honoring the intent of the pass and to verify that the student has returned to the study hall if appropriate.

Guidance passes must be obtained prior to the beginning of the study period. Generally, students will need to sign up a day in advance. The student must give the pass to the study hall teacher at the beginning of class and prior to going to the guidance office. The student should be marked present by the study hall teacher. Study hall teachers should not send students to the guidance office without the pass unless they deem it to be an emergency.

If students are working on a group project, they will need a pass from their teacher to collaborate in the library.

Classroom study halls are to be silent work periods. Students are expected to bring homework or reading materials to occupy themselves during study hall. Cafeteria study halls are primarily academic work periods. Moderate conversation among students is permitted. Card playing during study hall is prohibited. Students are allowed to use electronic devices in study hall in accordance with the Ellington Board of Education "Bring Your Own Device" policy.

### HALL PASSES

The use of Hall passes is crucial to maintaining a safe school environment, as this ensures that everyone is accounted for. Students are expected to obtain and display a hall pass whenever leaving the classroom for any reason.

When requesting a hall pass, students must provide a clear reason for leaving and an estimated return time. It is important for teachers to understand that hall passes should be granted only for necessary / urgent reasons.

**In order to allow the teacher ample time to initiate the day's lesson and learning expectations, hall passes are prohibited during the initial 10 minutes of any class.**

## EXPECTATIONS & CODE OF CONDUCT

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT (in general)**

Students are responsible for conducting themselves properly in a responsible manner appropriate to their age and level of maturity, as well as in accordance with our Core Values and Beliefs. The district has authority over students during the regular school day and while going to and from school on district transportation. This jurisdiction includes any school-related activity, regardless of time or location, and any off campus school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location. Student responsibilities for achieving a positive learning environment in school or school related activities include:

- Attending all classes, regularly and on time.
- Being prepared for each class with appropriate materials and assignments.
- Being dressed appropriately.
- Showing respect toward others.
- Behaving in a responsible manner.
- Paying required fees and fines.
- Obeying all school rules, including safety rules and rules pertaining to Internet safety.
- Seeking change in school policies and regulations in an orderly and responsible manner, through appropriate channels.
- Cooperating with staff investigations of disciplinary cases and volunteering information relating to any offense.

### **Conduct Off School Grounds**

Students are subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion, for misconduct which is disruptive of the educational process and is a violation of Board of Education policy, even if such conduct occurs off-school property and during non-school time. In determining whether conduct is “seriously disruptive of the education process” for purposes of suspension and expulsion, the administration, in cases of suspension, and the Board of Education or impartial hearing board, in matters of expulsion, may consider, but consideration is not limited to: (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school, (2) whether other students were involved, or whether there was gang involvement, (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence, or the unlawful use of a weapon and whether any injuries occurred, and (4) whether the conduct involved the use of drugs and or alcohol.

### **ASSEMBLIES**

There are times when classes, grades, teams or the entire school may gather for assembly programs. These programs are arranged to bring information or entertainment to the student community. A student’s conduct in assemblies must meet the same standards as in the classroom.

### **DRESS CODE**

The Ellington Board of Education believes in maintaining the highest behavioral and academic standards for students, and to that end, also believes that proper apparel should be worn to promote a positive, safe, and healthy learning environment. The school administration is responsible for the interpretation and implementation of this policy at the school level.

For more details regarding the creation and interpretation of the current Dress Code Policy, please click the following link: [EHS Dress Code Policy](#)



Students whose dress and grooming does not conform to these standards will be referred to the building Principal or his/her designee. Students will be warned by the Principal/designee and advised of the adjustments that must be made. If the student fails to remedy the problem, consequences will be applied according to EHS Disciplinary Guidelines.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statute 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

### **SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

The school district recognizes the value of certain ceremonies and observances in promoting patriotism and good citizenship among the students. Therefore, activities in schools commemorating national holidays such as Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and Presidents' Day are encouraged. Ellington reminds students, faculty and administration of the variety of religious beliefs, and all are urged to be conscious of and respect the sensitivities of others.

Activities related to a religious holiday or theme will be planned to ensure that the activity is not devotional, and that students of all faiths can join without feeling that they are betraying their own beliefs. Therefore,

- school and class plays shall not be overly religious, and church-like scenery will be avoided;
- religious music shall not entirely dominate the selection of music; and
- program notes and illustrations shall not be religious or sectarian.

Students shall be given the option to be excused from participating in those parts of a program or curriculum involving a religious theme which conflicts with their own religious beliefs. If a parent or student has any questions regarding the use of religious music, artwork and/or symbols in a particular course/activity, the Principal should be contacted.

An opportunity will be provided, at the beginning of each school day, for students to observe an appropriate period of silent meditation and to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Participation in these activities is voluntary. Nonparticipants are expected to maintain order and decorum appropriate to the school environment.

### **TEXTBOOK CARE AND OBLIGATIONS**

Students are responsible for the care of books and supplies entrusted to their use. They will be assessed for damage to textbooks, equipment or materials. If an item is not returned they will be charged a replacement fee. Failure to return or pay replacement fee may prohibit students from receiving graduation cap and gown.

**DISCIPLINE****EHS Disciplinary Guidelines****Revised 08/30/2024**

<b>Incident Description (Health and Safety)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>+ offense</b>
<b>Weapon on school grounds / at school event</b>	Police referral, 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Burglary / Breaking and Entering</b>	Police referral, 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Robbery</b>	Police referral, restitution, 5 to 10-day OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>School Threat</b>	Police referral, 5 to 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Arson or open fire without permission</b>	Police referral, 5 to 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>False fire alarm / tampering with alarm</b>	Police referral, 5 to 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Calling 911</b>	Police referral, 5 to 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Blackmail</b>	Police referral, 5 to 10-day OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Sexual Battery</b>	Police referral, 10-day OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Sexual Offense</b>	1 to 5-day ISS or OSS, possible police referral, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Harassment-Sexual</b>	3 to 10-day ISS or OSS, possible police referral, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Fighting / Physical Altercation / Battery / Assault / Throwing Object w Intent to Injure</b>	3 to 10-day OSS, possible police referral, possible peer mediation, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Verbal Altercation</b>	Saturday detention		
<b>Inciting a Fight or Riot / Filming or Distributing a Fight or Altercation</b>	3 to 10-day ISS or OSS, possible police referral, possible peer mediation, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Creating an Unsafe Environment / Serious Disorderly Conduct</b>	1 to 10-day ISS or OSS, possible police referral, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Threat / Intimidation / Verbal Harassment</b>	1 to 10-day ISS or OSS, possible police referral, possible peer mediation, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Racial Slurs / Hate Speech / Hate Crimes</b>	1 to 10-day ISS or OSS, possible police referral, possible peer mediation, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Bullying / Cyberbullying</b>	1 to 10-day ISS or OSS, possible police referral, possible peer mediation, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Theft / Stealing, possession of stolen property, sale or intent to sell stolen property</b>	Saturday detention to 3-day ISS or OSS, restitution, possible police referral	3 to 5-day ISS or OSS, restitution, police referral	5 to 10-day ISS or OSS, restitution, police referral, recommendation for expulsion
<b>Transporting students off school grounds</b>	1-day ISS	3-day ISS	5-day ISS or OSS
<b>Leaving grounds without permission or allowing others to enter without permission</b>	1-day ISS	3-day ISS	5-day ISS
<b>Vandalism</b>	1 to 10-day ISS or OSS, restitution, possible police referral, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Destruction of Personal Property</b>	1 to 3-day ISS, restitution, possible police referral	3 to 5-day ISS, restitution, police referral	5 to 10-day ISS or OSS, restitution, police referral, recommendation for expulsion
<b>Motor vehicle violation</b>	Revocation of parking privileges, possible police referral, possible 1 to 10 days ISS or OSS		
<b>Pornography</b>	1 to 10-day ISS or OSS, possible police referral, possible recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Possession / use of tobacco / tobacco paraphernalia / E-cigarette / E-cigarette paraphernalia</b>	3 hour Saturday Course Temporary loss of extra-curricular activities	2-days ISS Temporary loss of extra-curricular activities and Mandatory online health course	3-5 days ISS or OSS 1 year loss of extra-curricular activities Subject to 2 months of random search/test
<b>Sale or distribution of tobacco / tobacco paraphernalia / E-cigarette / E-cigarette paraphernalia</b>	Police referral, 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Possession of drugs / drug paraphernalia / alcohol</b>	Police referral, 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		
<b>Sale or distribution of drugs / drug paraphernalia / alcohol</b>	Police referral, 10-day ISS or OSS, recommendation for expulsion		

Incident Description (Other Behaviors)	1 <sup>st</sup> offense	2 <sup>nd</sup> offense	3 <sup>rd</sup> + offense
Insubordination/disrespect	detention, possible mediation	Saturday detention(s), possible mediation	1 to 10 day ISS or OSS, possible mediation
Cheating / plagiarism / tampering with grades	admin conference, zero on assessment	Saturday detention(s), F for the quarter	3 days ISS or OSS, F for semester
Forgery	Saturday detention(s)	1-day ISS	3-day ISS
Throwing objects (w/out injury)	detention	2 consecutive detentions	Saturday detention
Profane, vulgar, or obscene behavior, writing, or gesture directed at student	detention(s)	Saturday detention(s)	1 to 5-day ISS or OSS
Profane, vulgar, or obscene behavior, writing, or gesture directed at staff	Saturday detention(s)	1 to 3-days ISS	5 to 10-day ISS or OSS
Public displays of affection	detention	2 consecutive detentions	Saturday detention
Spitting	Detention (if victimless) or Saturday detention	Saturday detention(s) to 3-day ISS	3 to 5-day ISS
Inappropriate behavior / horseplay	detention	2 consecutive detentions	Saturday detention
Disruption / disruptive behavior	Saturday detention(s)	1 to 3-day ISS	3 to 5-day ISS
Hazing	admin conference to 10-day ISS or OSS, possible recommendation for expulsion		
Teasing	detention	Saturday detention	1 to 3-day ISS
Skipping class	detention	Saturday detention	Saturday detention(s) and potential loss of credit
Tardiness	Detention for first set of 3	Saturday detention for second set of 3	Saturday detention(s) and potential loss of credit
Truancy	3 hour Saturday detention		
Failure to attend detention or ISS	Double the original assigned detention or ISS		
Loitering / roaming	Detention	2 consecutive detentions	Saturday detention
Dress code violation	Administrative conference	detention	2 detention
Violation of <a href="#">EHS's Personal Electronics School Policy</a>	Item confiscated and held in main office until the end of the school day	Item confiscated and returned to parent custody. Student serves an after-school detention	Item confiscated and family meeting is held to discuss ongoing issue. Student serves 1 day ISS
Trespassing / unauthorized area	Detention	Saturday detention	1 to 3-day ISS
Refusal to identify	Saturday detention(s)	1-day ISS	3-day ISS
Leaving class without permission	detention	2 consecutive detentions	Saturday detention
False information / lying	Detention	Saturday detention	1 to 3-day ISS
Selling "stuff" without permission	detention	2 consecutive detentions	Saturday detention
Unauthorized use of computers	Saturday detention	1-day ISS	3 to 5-day ISS
Sleeping in class	detention	2 consecutive detentions	Saturday detention
Misuse of hall pass	detention	2 consecutive detentions	Saturday detention
Bus Violation	3 days bus suspension	5 days bus suspension	10 days bus suspension
Mask Violation (if masking is required)	Administrative Conference	1-day OSS	

A student who violates the district policies and school rules shall be subject to disciplinary action. Ellington High School employs restorative justice practices, although disciplinary actions may include using one or more discipline management techniques, such as verbal warning, restitution for damaged/stolen property, counseling, detention, removal from class, removal to an alternative education program, in school suspension, out of school suspension, and expulsion. Disciplinary measures will be appropriate for the offense. In addition, when a student violates the law, that student may be referred to legal authorities for prosecution. Students are subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion for misconduct which is seriously disruptive of the educational process and violates board of education policy even if such conduct occurs off-school property and during non-school time. Please see the above guidelines for disciplinary consequences.

## DETENTION

A student may be detained after school hours for not more than 45 minutes on one or more school days for violation of the school rules. For significant or multiple violations, students may be assigned a Saturday morning detention, which will be 3 hours (9am-12pm).

Students who fail to serve assigned detentions will still be held accountable for time owed. Having a job does not constitute an excuse for missing an assigned detention. The student is expected to make the necessary arrangements with the employer. Students who owe two (2) or more hours will lose all privileges (i.e. participation in extracurricular activities, attendance at non-academic after school and evening events...etc.) until the time is made up. Detention time will not be made up in the form of in-school suspension; however, may be fulfilled through pre-approved community service hours. Arrangements must be made through the office of the Assistant Principal. Should a student accumulate four (4) hours of owed detention time, a parent meeting will be called to make arrangements to fulfill the accumulated hours. If a student has missed an assigned detention, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the office of the Assistant Principal to make up the time.

## SUSPENSION

When a student causes serious disruption of the teaching and learning process within the school, the administration may suspend the student. School administrators will determine, using state guidelines, whether the suspension will be in-school or out-of-school.

The administration may suspend a student for infraction of school rules. Suspension is defined as an exclusion from school privileges for not more than ten (10) consecutive days, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which suspension was imposed.

### IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

Students serving an in-school suspension will be housed in one room and the students will not leave this area between classes. In-school suspension will be from 7:35 am. – 2:15 pm. Students with late arrival or early dismissal will forfeit this privilege while serving an in-school suspension. Students will be required to complete the assignments of the ISS supervisor and follow the ISS schedule for the duration of their consequence.

### OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

Students are not allowed on school premises during their period of suspension. Class work missed may be made up. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate communication with the teacher regarding make-up work and then to complete the assigned work. Students who are suspended for **more** than three consecutive days will have work assignments from teachers available to them and will be called when the assignments are ready. Make up time for students who are suspended for more than three consecutive days will be determined by the subject area teacher.

### LOSS OF PRIVILEGE DUE TO SUSPENSION

Suspension from school will result in loss of extracurricular and social privileges during the period of suspension. Also, students who are serving a suspension (ISS or OSS) may not participate in or attend any field trips, after school activities, practices or athletic events during the period of suspension (the date that the suspension is served.) For multiple days of suspension that span a weekend or other non-school days, students cannot participate in extracurricular activities until after the final day of suspension is served.

Additionally, multiple suspensions will result in a loss of the following privileges:

- Underclassmen (9-11): 3 incidents of OSS = Loss of Prom
- Seniors:
  - 2 incidents of OSS = Loss of Class Day
  - 3 incidents of OSS = Loss of Prom
  - 4 incidents of OSS = Loss of Class Night
  - 5 or more incidents of OSS may result in exclusion from graduation ceremony

## EXPULSION

A student may be expelled from school when the student causes a serious disruption to the teaching and learning process. Prior to an expulsion hearing, information concerning legal services that are provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services shall be provided to the student and his/her parent or guardian. The Board of Education may expel a student from school privileges if, after a full hearing, the Board finds that the student's conduct endangers person(s), property or the educational process or is in violation of a publicized Board policy. Students who have been expelled are eligible for an alternative educational program. Expulsion from school will result in the loss of all extracurricular and social privileges during the period of expulsion. For any student expelled, the Board of Education may shorten the length of or waive the expulsion period if the student successfully completes a Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board. Such a Board specified program does not require the student or the parent/guardian of the student to pay for participation in the program.

Student possession and/or use of weapons, including martial arts weapons, or other dangerous instruments in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school sponsored activity is cause for expulsion for a calendar year. A student who offers illegal drugs for sale or distribution on or off school grounds is also cause for expulsion for a calendar year. The Board may modify the expulsion period on a case-by-case basis.

Whenever a student is expelled, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled will be included on the student's cumulative education record. The record will be expunged if the student graduates from high school and the expulsion was not for weapon possession and/or for the sale or distribution of illegal drugs.

If a student's expulsion is shortened or the expulsion period waived based upon the fact that the student successfully completed a Board specified program and/or met other conditions required by the Board, the notice of expulsion will be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school or, if the Board so chooses, at the time the student completes the Board specified program and meets other Board required conditions.

A district student who has committed an expellable offense who seeks to return to a District school after having been in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement for one year or more, in lieu of expulsion from the District, shall be permitted to return to the appropriate school setting within the District. Further, the District will not expel the student from any additional time for the offense(s).

## ACADEMICS

### EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

#### Ellington Public Schools Vision Statement

Ellington Public Schools grows exceptional learners and leaders who are courageous, reflective, and contributing citizens of the world.

### Ellington Public Schools Mission Statement

Ellington Public Schools creates a culture of learning that challenges and inspires all students on their personalized educational journeys.

### Ellington Public Schools Core Values and Beliefs

We empower students and staff with the skills to discover and pursue their own passions and to embrace opportunities to be courageous, reflective, and contributing citizens of the world. We create an equitable, inclusive and supportive culture where people are safe, accepted, and valued. We value learning as an enlightening, lifelong process that happens in multiple ways. We believe that positive relationships among all stakeholders create synergy and are the foundation for our learning community. We celebrate innovation, collaboration, creativity and multiple forms of success. We ensure that our learning environments are flexible spaces that encourage interaction, co-creation and independence. We have an unrelenting commitment to the belief that everyone can continually learn and grow.

### HOMEWORK

The Ellington Public Schools define “homework” as independent practice and learning that happens outside of the classroom. These learning opportunities can help to serve as a connection between home and school. Independent practice reinforces skills that students should be able to practice with little support. Learning outside of the classroom may include work on long-term projects and tutorials or readings to prepare for new learning.

To be educationally meaningful, independent practice and learning assignments should:

- Reinforce skills introduced in the classroom by providing additional practice.
- Be at an appropriate level of challenge and allow for personalization.
- Promote engagement in classroom activities and student success.
- Provide opportunities for students to reflect on their learning and current performance.

### MAKE-UP WORK

Any student absent from class for any reason, including suspensions, must make up all work missed. It is the responsibility of the student to see his/her teachers to obtain the work and missed instruction, if needed. Our guideline for make-up work allows for two school days for each day of absence due to illness, with the exception of those students placed on homebound instruction. **Students on field trips should get their work ahead of time. The two-day rule does not apply to field trips.** Students should check each teacher’s grading policy for exact requirements.

### LATE WORK

Unless otherwise agreed to by the individual instructor:

- There will be a **10%** grade reduction for each day late.
- After the work is 5 days late, there would be no acceptance of work. The grade would become a **0** at this point.
- There will be no redo/retake opportunity for students who submit late work without extenuating circumstances. [Click here](#) for the **EHS Redo / Retake Policy**.

## GRADE POINT AVERAGE, CLASS RANK, & COURSE/LEVEL WEIGHTING

EHS does not rank its students. A grade level grade point average (GPA) distribution chart will be communicated to students at the end of each school year to indicate a student's place in his/her class. Final GPA distribution will be calculated after the third quarter senior year. This timeline will also be used to communicate valedictorian, salutatorian, and class scholars (top 5%).

Student grades for all subjects given whole or fractional credit will be used in computing GPA. All courses are assigned a level: AP/ECE, Honors, or College Prep. A student's grade will be multiplied by an assigned point value multiplier and then averaged to determine GPA. This Program of Studies identifies the level of difficulty for each course. Each level is assigned a quality point multiplier, as displayed below:

**\*AP/ECE. . . . 1.2**

**Honors... . . . 1.1**

**College Prep 1.0**

*\*Students MUST take the AP exam and/or ECE final exam to earn the associated course weighting towards their cumulative GPA.*

The only courses not utilized when computing GPA will be those courses taken on a pass/fail basis, independent study courses, online coursework, courses from the Hartford Academy of Performing Arts, summer school courses, courses / credits that are transferred, after school and evening courses, and high school partnership courses.

Grades of students who change levels in a class will be weighted in the new class according to the values used in computing the GPA. Also, when a student changes from one level to another, the multiplier for the latest level class will be used to determine the incoming grade.

When students transfer into Ellington High School from another school, their GPA is determined in the same manner as is for all Ellington High School students--meaning only taking into account those courses taken at EHS. The first year the student is at Ellington High School, the student will begin earning their EHS GPA. The student's EHS GPA will be computed at the end of their first semester at EHS and continue throughout their time at EHS. Their cumulative GPA will reflect only the courses taken at EHS.

### Report Cards/Midterm Reports

Report cards are posted four times a year, approximately every nine weeks. In addition, grades are up-to-date in Infinite Campus at the mid-marking period to report progress. Report cards and in-progress grades are posted on the portal. Grades given to students are determined by the teacher of the course, and the determination of the student's grade by the teacher, in the absence of clerical or mechanical mistakes, shall be final.

Parents/guardians will be notified when mid-term grades and report cards are posted on the portal. Additional communication may be sent throughout the year if a teacher sees significant change in a student's performance or a student's grade drops to failing. **Parents should view marginal grades** as areas of real concern where the potential for failure is significant. In particular, teachers will notify parents if a student's average drops and, as a result, he/she is failing a given course.

### Posting of Grades

Throughout the school year, scores for all graded assignments will be entered into the electronic grade book within ten (10) school days. Parents/guardians are expected to use the online portal to monitor academic progress and attendance.

### **Incomplete Grades/Academic Eligibility**

- Students are required to make up an incomplete grade within 10 school days of the end of the marking period. Exceptions to this policy require a review by the school counselor and an administrator to establish a timeline for completion of the exam and/or work.
- Students with incomplete grades are subject to the Academic Eligibility policy for participation in all extra-curricular activities. During the first three marking periods, grades of incomplete must be made up within seven (7) calendar days from the end of the quarter. **Academic eligibility for extracurricular activities will be determined on the 8th calendar day following the close of the previous quarter.** Please also see the Athletic Handbook for specific guidelines around deadlines for incomplete grades for athletes.

### **HONOR ROLL/SCHOLAR ATHLETE**

The rules for honor roll and scholar athlete eligibility, as listed in the Program of Studies, apply to all courses. Teachers follow the same grading procedures for all courses. All grades appear on the students' transcripts and permanent records.

In general, students must carry a minimum of six credits during each quarter, and students are encouraged to do their best in all of their classes. Honor roll and scholar athlete status will be based on an average of **all** numeric grades without consideration for the course level. A grade below a 77 in any single class will eliminate a student from the honor roll. Students achieve marking period honors as follows:

**High Honors/Scholar Athlete:** minimum average of 89.50 with no grade lower than an 87

**Honors:** minimum average of 79.50 with no grade lower than a 77

### **GRADUATING FROM ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **Graduation Requirements**

In order to graduate from Ellington High School students must:

- Fulfill the legally mandated number and distribution of credits prescribed by the state and adopted by our Board of Education.
- Satisfactorily demonstrate mastery of the subject-specific content standards adopted by the state. The Board of Education may grant credit to students who fulfill high school graduation requirements for successfully demonstrating mastery of content standards through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning. These pathways may include dual enrollment and early college, courses taken in middle school, internships, independent studies, virtual learning, and cross-curricular graduation requirements.
- Complete twenty-five (25) credits, along with the satisfactory completion of the performance standards determining eligibility for, and participation in, graduation. Students with fewer than the required number of credits or students who have not satisfactorily completed their academic requirements will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students who have accumulated five or more out-of-school suspensions in their senior year may be excluded from the graduation ceremony.
- Unless given an exception from administration, students enrolled in an AP/ECE Courses with additional lab time must be enrolled in no less than 5 courses per semester.
- Again, unless given an exception from administration, all other students must be enrolled in 6 courses per semester.

#### **Credits**

The amount of credit earned for each course can be found in the most current Ellington High School



Program of Studies.

Students may be able to retake failed courses within their regular schedule at Ellington High School. Failed courses may also be made up in summer school or approved alternate educational programs. See the section on “Summer School”, below.

For seniors unable to fulfill their requirements within the normal structure of the school day, Ellington High School may accept coursework equivalent to one high school credit from an alternate educational program pre-approved by the administration.

### **Early Graduation Requirements**

Any student who wishes to complete all requirements for graduation in fewer than eight semesters must apply for early graduation approval. All of the following requirements and criteria must be met in order to be considered for early graduation:

- A student requesting to graduate early must submit an early graduation request form to his/her school counselor. Final and official approval must be obtained from the school administrator.
- The application form for early graduation must be completed by the end of five semesters for students who plan to graduate after six semesters.
- The application form for early graduation must be completed by the end of six semesters for students who plan to graduate after seven semesters.

Academic accomplishments, college placement, financial plans, job placement, and a review of the student’s records will be taken into consideration in making decisions concerning requests for early graduation.

### **Other Academic Recognition(s)**

Honor Roll

In an effort to encourage academic achievement, the high school faculty and administration publish a scholastic honor roll at the close of each marking period. The honor roll designates those students who have attained high honors or honors status. Each spring an academic awards ceremony recognizes continued effort by students throughout the year. Significant achievements are shared with classmates, faculty, families, and friends at this evening ceremony.

### **SUPER BADGE**

The Super Badge Program awards extra privileges to 9th-12th grade students who have shown outstanding results by attaining all levels listed below:

- Maintaining a 80% or above in each of their classes
- Having no more than 1 unexcused absence, or 3 unexcused tardies in each of their classes for the previous quarter
- Having no behavioral referrals for the previous quarter

[Click this link](#) to learn how you can earn a Super Badge and what additional privileges you can earn.

### **PROMOTION, RETENTION AND PLACEMENT**

Regular class attendance and participation in instructional activities is considered vital to students meeting the school system’s academic standards. It is expected that a student will be in school every day. High school students not in compliance with the attendance policy risk loss of credit for excessive absences, tardies, or class cuts.

These guidelines are to be used in conjunction with state law as a reference by staff in considering students for promotion/retention.

### For the class of 2020 and beyond - 25 total credits

- Credits needed to become a sophomore: 6
- Credits needed to become a junior: 12
- Credits needed to become a senior: 18
- Credits needed to graduate: 25

Any student who does not accumulate the required credits by the end of the school year will not be promoted to the next class, as indicated in the chart above. These non-promoted students will not be allowed to participate in any activities or events associated with the next sequential class. Once they achieve the necessary credits for promotion, they will be considered a member of the next class, as indicated in the chart above.

The amount of credit earned for each course can be found in the most current EHS Program of Studies. Failed courses may potentially be made up in summer school. Please see the section on “Summer School”, below.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Failed courses may be made up in summer school:

- Students who take course(s) in summer school or an approved alternative educational program must meet the passing standard of the sponsoring school.
- Students cannot attend summer school for a course if credit is lost due to class cuts or absences (including absences that are accrued due to excess tardies).
- Students who recover credit in summer school will receive a grade of a “P” on their transcript.

### **EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION**

A student will be exempted from instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Bilingual Education, or Family Life and Sex Education upon receipt of a written request for such exemption from his/her parent or guardian. In addition, a student will be excused from participating in, or observing animal dissections as part of classroom instruction upon a written request from the student’s parent or guardian. The student must complete an alternate assignment determined by the school.

### **CHEATING/PLAGIARISM**

Students are expected to pursue their school work with integrity and honesty. Cheating and plagiarism demonstrates a lack of integrity and character. That is inconsistent with District goals and values. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable. Any misrepresentation by students of homework, class work, tests, reports, or other assignments as if they were entirely their own work shall be considered forms of cheating and/or plagiarism.

**Recycling of assignments:** No student will be permitted to submit the same material in two different courses. Recycling papers addresses various ethical issues, including “self-plagiarism,” providing individuals with an unfair advantage. Consequences of cheating and/or plagiarism shall be academic in nature unless repeated incidents require disciplinary action. Consequences for cheating will take into account the grade level of the student and the severity of the misrepresentation.

## **TESTING**

### **EXAMS (MID-YEAR AND FINAL)**

Comprehensive exams are administered in all courses at the high school at the conclusion of the first and the second semester. Five days (including an exam make-up day) are set aside at mid-year and the end of the year for these exams. Exam grades are printed on report cards; however, they do not appear on transcripts. They are not counted as part of the second quarter and fourth quarter grades, but rather

count independently in the final grade.

**Course grades are calculated as shown below:**

<b>First Semester Grades:</b>		
1st Quarter Grade	2nd Quarter Grade	Mid-term Exam Grade
40%	40%	20%

<b>Second Semester Grades:</b>		
3rd Quarter Grade	4th Quarter Grade	Mid-term Exam Grade
40%	40%	20%

### STATE TESTING

All students in grade 11 shall annually take the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT School Day examination, and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessment field test. At no cost, all students in grades 9 and 10 will take the PSAT in preparation for the grade 11 SAT School Day examination. Special education students participate in state testing programs except in the rare case when participation in an alternate assessment is beneficial to the student's IEP. In order to graduate, students must meet District standards for graduation, in addition to required course credits. State mandated tests are one of the measures to be used to determine if students have met the identified standards.

### NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires schools selected to participate in this national testing program to notify parents of children who will be taking the test of their right to exclude their child. Parents also have the right to inspect all NAEP data, questions and assessment instruments.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES (AP)

The College Entrance Examination Board, in cooperation with thousands of colleges, has established a program by which students can earn college credit for work done in high school through the Advanced Placement (AP) program. **All students are eligible to take AP coursework.** Each May, tests are given in these subject areas and students may receive college credit based on their scores on the exams. Students are required to take the AP Exam in the spring to earn AP course weighting on their transcript. Some colleges will advance a high school graduate to the sophomore level immediately because of his/her performance on the Advanced Placement exam. Students can thus save time and money in college or open up their college schedules to allow greater flexibility. Details about the requirements of various colleges and preparation necessary to take the advanced placement exams can be obtained from your counselor, the AP teacher, or at <http://www.collegeboard.com>

## SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATION

### PARENT CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Parents are encouraged to become partners in their child's educational successes. Each fall we host parent/teacher conferences, which provide time for parents to meet briefly with each of their son/daughter's teachers. Conferences with teachers may be held at any time during the school year. Parents and students, as well as teachers, counselors or administrators may initiate a conference. A parent or student may arrange a conference with an individual member of the school staff or a group conference with school staff members. Meetings are held during school hours but every effort will be

made to accommodate parent schedules.

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT/COMMUNICATIONS**

Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school based on communications and interactions. Parents/guardians are urged to encourage their children to put a high priority on education and to make the most of their educational opportunities available.

Parents/guardians should become familiar with all of the child's school activities and with the District's academic programs, including special programs. Attendance at parent-teacher conferences, participation in parent organizations, attendance at Board of Education meetings and being a school volunteer are strongly encouraged. The [school website](#) is a valuable resource.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE**

Students may distribute literature on school grounds and in school buildings, provided such distribution does not interfere with or disrupt the educational process. No literature may be distributed unless a copy is submitted in advance to and approved by the Superintendent of Schools and/or the Building Principal.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS**

Printed materials may be distributed to parents by students as an inexpensive means of mass communications to achieve educational and/or community service objectives. At the same time, this procedure can prove objectionable to parents and the school district if overdone.

To provide the most effective use of this technique without exploitation of staff or students, the superintendent or his/her designee may approve such distribution providing:

- The materials relate to the school, community, local recreational or civic activities.
- The materials do not relate to any religious belief or activity, or promote private gain.
- The materials do not promote any political party, candidate or position.
- The materials do not promote profit making organizations.
- The materials do not advocate a position regarding a referendum question.

All requests from groups or individuals to have students distribute materials to people in the community will be referred to the office of the superintendent to determine whether the requests comply with overall school purposes and this policy. Publications prepared by or for the school may be posted or distributed, with prior approval by the principal, sponsor or teacher. Such items include school posters, brochures, school newspapers and yearbooks.

### **ADVERTISING**

The public schools maintain careful controls on the way in which students are exposed to materials and announcements, other than those directly related to school sponsored programs and activities. Caution is exercised to prevent exploitation of the system and its students. District-prescribed standards shall be met.

### **TEACHER AND PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Parents have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). The response will indicate whether the teacher is certified for the subject matter and grade taught; the teacher's undergraduate major and any graduate degrees or certifications a teacher may have. Parents will also be advised, if requested, as to whether the child is provided service by paraprofessionals and their qualifications.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

### **GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING**

Social services and counseling are rendered by professionally qualified members of the school staff. The responsibilities of the school counselors and school psychologists include helping the student function more successfully within the school environment. The district's comprehensive counseling program strives to assist students in acquiring critical skills in the academic, career, and personal/social aspects of development.

School counselors will use a variety of methods to assist students in overcoming barriers to learning, to make strong connections with the educational opportunities in the school, and to ensure that every child learns in a safe, healthy and supportive setting.

Counseling is an opportunity to talk with someone about things that are important to students. These opportunities to talk may be personal, social, educational, or vocational. Counselors will listen and be open and honest with students. Appointments with school counselors may be arranged through the Google calendar appointment request link posted in each grade level school counseling Google Classroom or by stopping by the counseling office before school, between classes, or after school. Educational and career planning guidance is available along with information to develop a plan for the student's future. Parent notification and involvement will be solicited.

Referral for psychological and/or psychiatric assistance by other social services agencies within or outside the school may also be recommended. Please note: The school will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parents/guardian's written consent.

### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

The school provides [special education services](#) for those students identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). A student or parent with questions about these services should contact Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services

The District utilizes **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**, a process which combines systematic assessment, decision-making and a multi-tiered delivery model to improve educational and behavioral outcomes for all students. Academic and behavioral support and targeted interventions will be provided for students who are not making academic or behavioral progress at expected levels in the general curriculum. The MTSS program is an early intervention system that helps students succeed in school. The team assists students with both academic and behavioral concerns and it consists of teachers, administrators, and support staff. Teachers and parents can refer students or groups of students to the MTSS Team for support. The team will review the student(s) history, standardized testing, attendance, disciplinary records, teacher records, present performance and other pertinent data. Based on this information, they will develop goals to help the student succeed. Data will be kept concerning the achievement of these goals and it will be evaluated every six to eight weeks based on the student(s) needs. After the evaluation, the interventions may be maintained or altered if necessary. For more detailed information regarding the MTSS program, please refer to the Connecticut Department of Education website.

For students eligible for Special Education services, a planning and placement team (PPT) is designed to provide communication and decision-making at the school level concerning the effective use of resources. The team is also responsible for follow-up and annual review of all students in Special Education.

Any student identified as possibly needing special education and/or related services must be referred to a special education Planning & Placement Team (PPT). The PPT will determine whether further evaluations are warranted. Parents must give their consent before any evaluation can be done or any services can begin. An Individualized Education Plan (IEP), based upon the diagnostic findings of the evaluation study will be developed by the PPT should a student qualify for special education services, with parental involvement. Please visit our website for more information.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

Connecticut state law requires every school to know which languages students and their families speak. Based on the Home Language Survey, which is completed as part of school registration, the district contacts families whose children may qualify to receive English Language Learner (ELL) services. The Language Assessment Scales (LAS) Placement Test is used to evaluate a student's English language proficiency. If your child qualifies for services, district personnel will contact you to discuss the ELL program.

### MIGRANT STUDENTS

Ellington Public Schools support migrant students with appropriate education services to address their special needs while receiving full and appropriate opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to meet. Individualized programming is available to meet the specific needs of each student. Please contact school administration for further information.

### SCHOOL ALTERNATIVES

Connecticut celebrates a long tradition of excellence and innovation in education. Its schools offer a range of educational programs to meet the diverse needs and career aspirations of its students in a variety of settings including comprehensive local schools, regional vocational-technical schools, vocational agriculture centers, charter schools, and magnet schools. All these programs serve to prepare students for college, the workplace and active citizenship.

The Open Choice program allows urban students to attend public schools in nearby suburban towns. It allows suburban and rural students to attend public schools in a nearby urban center. Enrollments are offered by school districts on a space-available basis in grades K-12. Lotteries are used to place students when there are more applications than spaces available. The program includes Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven and their surrounding districts.

### STUDENT SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students are reminded that everyone, freshmen through seniors, **must** carry at least **six** credits during all four quarters in order to be considered a full-time student.

Changes may be made to a student's initial schedule requests throughout the spring following the course selection process. Change requests should be made by the last day of school. Students should sign up for an appointment with their school counselor during study hall or before or after school to review their change request(s). Please note that requests for changes to a student's schedule are only made when necessary or required. **Student requests for changes to their schedule due to teacher, block, or peer preferences will NOT be honored.**

- During the summer, schedule changes will be considered as a result of summer school course completion. Other program changes will be made during this period of time upon approval of the administration.
- ADD/DROP period will take place only during the first 10 school days of a new semester. Students adding a course during the add/drop period are required to make up the missed assignments or complete alternative assignments.

- A student must have written parental permission to withdraw from a course. The request to withdraw must be submitted to the student's school counselor. Students are required to carry a minimum of six/five credits at all times. Students who withdraw from a semester course after the drop period will receive a withdrawal (W) for that course. Students will not be allowed to withdraw from a course 4 weeks prior to the end of the semester.
- Necessary prerequisites, class sizes, and the limitations of both the student and master schedule will affect requests for course changes and/or additional courses.
- Written permission of parents and a parent-student conference with school counseling and / or administration may be required if student course selections are requested/need to be modified.
- After the 10 day add/drop period, all course changes require the approval of the administration.

### **CLASS PLACEMENT**

Every effort will be made to place students with teachers where a positive student-teacher relationship will be established. Parents will have an opportunity to provide information relative to placement. The final decision for placement rests with the principal or his/her designee.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS PLANNING**

The Student Success Plan (SSP) is an individualized student driven plan developed to address every student's needs and interests, helping the student to stay connected in school and to achieve postsecondary educational and career goals. Every student, grades six through twelve, shall have a SSP.

### **TRANSFERS AND WITHDRAWALS**

Parents of students withdrawing from school must notify the guidance office in advance of their last day. At that time, they will be given forms to complete. Included will be a formal written statement of withdrawal and release of records form.

On their last day of attendance, students will be given a form that must be signed by each of their teachers. This form will indicate their grade at the time of withdrawal and that all materials have been returned. Records cannot be forwarded until all materials have been returned.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS, FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS**

Students should start early to establish records worthy of scholarship consideration. In general, requirements for scholarship consideration are some combination of the following: serious attention to studies, good character, financial need and involvement in the activities of the school. Many scholarships and awards are available to qualified students. Students should consult with a School Counselor for information about what scholarships are available and how, when and where to apply.

## **STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS**

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

The school health office is designed to provide care to students who become ill or are injured while in school.

A cumulative health file is maintained for each student. This file includes notations of past illnesses, results of physical examinations, and other pertinent health information. Scoliosis and hearing tests are administered to students in grade eight. The results are provided to the parents.

Parents are notified of any deviation from the normal pattern of health and suggestions are given for follow-up. It is likewise important that parents notify the school nurse in case of a student's illness. If a student is to be excused or limited for an extended period from participation in school activities, he/she

is required to bring a statement signed by a physician. The school nurse is available to parents and students for conferences regarding health issues.

### **Administration of Medication**

Administration of medication means any one of the following activities: handling, storing, preparing or pouring of medication; conveying it to the student according to the medication order; observing the student inhale, apply, swallow, or self-inject the medication, when applicable; documenting that the medication was administered; and counting remaining doses to verify proper administration and use of the medication. The administration of medication is regulated in a twenty page BOE policy. Please refer to the full document for more information or consult with the school's health care professional.

### **Communicable/Infectious Diseases**

Students with any medical condition which within the school setting may expose others to disease or contagious and infectious conditions may be excluded from school and referred for medical diagnosis and treatment. Additional information concerning this may be obtained from the school nurse. Before a child may return to school after an absence due to such a condition, parents and students may be required to submit medical evidence that their child has recovered sufficiently to prevent exposing others.

### **Defibrillators in schools (AEDs)**

Ellington High School has three automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and school personnel trained in AED operation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The AEDs and trained personnel will be available during the school's normal operational hours, at school sponsored athletic events and practices on school grounds, and at school-sponsored events not taking place during normal school operational hours. The school also has an emergency action response plan addressing the use of trained school personnel to respond to individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life threatening emergencies.

### **Disabilities**

The Ellington school district will not discriminate on the basis of disability as required under ADA, IDEA and Section 504 and C.G.S. 10-76a and any similar law or provision.

### **Emergency Medical Treatment**

Parents are asked each year to complete an emergency information form for use by the school in the event of a medical emergency.

### **Health Records**

School nurses maintain health records using the Connecticut "Health Assessment and Record Form." These records are accessible to certified staff working with the child and to school health aides if permission is granted by the nurse or building administrator. Parents may request to inspect the health records of their child. Copies may be provided if requested. Original copies of the record are sent where a student transfers to another school in the state. If moving out-of-state, a copy will be forwarded. Health records are maintained for at least six (6) years after the student graduates. The District will comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) to maintain the privacy of protected health information.

A diabetic student may test his/her own blood glucose level per the written order of a physician or advanced practice nurse stating the need and the capacity of the student to conduct self testing. Such self testing shall be done in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Education.

### **Homebound instruction**

Home instruction is available to students who are unable to attend school for medical and/or mental health reasons for a period of two weeks or longer as diagnosed by a physician, psychiatrist with proper documentation on the school form provided to the parents for the physician to complete. A 504 meeting or a Planning and Placement Team will also be scheduled as necessary. Home instruction may also be



provided for those students who have been excluded from regular school attendance for disciplinary reasons. Contact Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services, 860.896.2300.

### **Homeless Students**

Homeless students, as defined by federal and state legislation (McKinney-Vento Act), will have all programs, services, and transportation that other students are entitled to and they may continue to attend the school of origin. The local liaison for homeless children is Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services at 860.896.2300. Please contact her for further information.

### **Immunizations**

All students must be immunized against certain diseases and must present a certificate from a physical or local health agency. If the student should not be immunized due to medical or religious reasons, a statement from a physician or the parent as appropriate must be provided. The required immunizations are: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chickenpox), Meningococcal, Pneumococcal, Rubella and Haemophilus Influenzae Type B. Parents or guardians of any children unable to have the mandated immunizations prior to initial school entry and the boosters as required in the later grades may have the immunizations, on the recommendation of the Board of Education, be paid by the town.

In addition to the required immunizations for initial entry into school for kindergarten, regular and special education preschool programs, additional immunizations are required for entry into seventh grade and for entry into eighth grade. The school must enroll any homeless student even if the student is unable to produce the required medical and immunization records.

For further information regarding immunizations contact the school nurse.

### **Physical Examinations**

In accordance with C.G.S, section 10-206, the Ellington Board of Education requires each tenth-grade student to have a health assessment during the tenth grade year. This mandated health assessment must be performed anytime from January 1<sup>st</sup> of a student's ninth grade year through May 1<sup>st</sup> of the tenth grade year, and must be performed by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine (M.D. or D.O.) who is licensed in this or another state, or by a qualified registered nurse (R.N) or advanced practice registered nurse (A.P.R.N.) or a physician assistant (P.A.) licensed to practice in this state.

The health assessment must be documented on the State Department of Education's required health assessment record (HAR-3) or "blue form", and must include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- Review and update the state-mandated immunizations to ensure compliance with requirements (obtain information from the health office).
- Hemoglobin or hematocrit, blood pressure, height, weight, vision, hearing speech, postural and gross dental screenings;
- Risk assessment for tuberculosis. If the student is in a high risk group, a Mantoux test for tuberculosis sensitivity must be administered and the test results must be documented on the form;
- Chronic disease assessment

For your information: CT colleges now require students to have the meningococcal vaccine for college entry; other states may require this for college entry as well.

If a parent or legal guardian (or a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor) objects on religious grounds to:

- The state-mandated health assessment, a signed statement to that effect must be submitted to the school nurse.
- Immunization, a signed copy of the Immunization Exemptions and Exclusions-From School form must be already on file or submitted to the school nurse along with the complete HAR-3 form.

If a mandated immunization is contraindicated for medical reasons, a written statement for the health care provider, including the reason for the deferment, must be submitted to the school nurse along with completed HAR-3 form.

The HAR-3 form is reviewed by the school nurse and filed in the student's confidential school health record. If you have questions or confidentiality concerns, please speak with the school nurse.

Families who may require financial assistance in order to obtain a health assessment for their child should contact the school nurse.

## **INSURANCE**

School insurance is made available to families through a specific program. Brochures are distributed to all students at the beginning of each academic year. While the program is not mandatory, it is suggested that parents take advantage of the opportunity to provide adequate protection for their children while in school. Any such arrangements are contractual between the parent and insurance carriers and the Ellington Public Schools assumes no liability from disputes arising from such contract.

## **CAFETERIA**

All eating is to be done in the cafeteria. Rules of cleanliness are to be observed at all times. Misconduct in the cafeteria may be cause for receiving an assigned seat or forfeiting the right to eat in that location or such other disciplinary action deemed appropriate for the misconduct.

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers nutritionally balanced lunches daily to students. Free and reduced price meals are available based on financial need. Information on this program can be obtained from Lindsay Cowles, Food Service Director. Applications for free/reduced lunches are available in the main office and can be found on the district web site.

Food and beverages offered for sale to students, whether in the cafeteria, school store, or vending machines, will meet federal and state standards and guidelines. Sodas and sports drinks will not be available for sale during school hours.

Necessary accommodations will be provided, where required, for students with food allergies. Emergency procedures to treat allergic reactions which may occur will be determined by the school nurse.

## **LUNCH CHARGING**

The goal of the food service program is to provide students with nutritious foods that will enhance learning. The school nutrition program is an essential part of the education system and by providing good-tasting, nutritious meals in pleasant surroundings; we are helping to teach students the value of good nutrition.

Although not required by law, because of the District's participation in the Child Nutrition Programs, the Board approves the establishment of a system to allow a student to prepay for meals. The District shall maintain a "no charging policy" for secondary students. The Middle & High School Main Offices extend credit to students who have no money or owe the cafeteria money. If a student has any amount of money on their lunch account, they receive a lunch and reimburse the difference.

## **FOOD ALLERGIES**

The school is committed to providing a safe environment for students with food allergies and to support parents regarding food allergy management. A plan based upon guidelines promulgated by the State Department of Education will be implemented for each student for the management of students with life-threatening food allergies and glycogen storage disease.

Substitutions to the regular meal provided by the school will be made for students who are unable to eat school meals because of their disabilities, when that need is certified in writing by a physician. Meal services will be provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the disabled student. An Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) and an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) shall be developed and implemented for students identified with food allergies. Such students may also be eligible for accommodations and services under Section 504 and special education law.

### WELLNESS

Student wellness, including good nutrition and physical activity, is promoted through the District's educational program, school activities, and meal programs. Federal and state standards will be met pertaining to all foods and beverages available for sale to students. A sequential program of physical education is provided.

### GREEN CLEANING PROGRAMS

A green cleaning program to clean and maintain the school was implemented by July 1, 2011. The program provides for the procurement and proper use of environmentally preferable cleaning products in the school. The cleaning products used meet standards approved by the Department of Administrative Services and minimize potential harmful effects on human health and the environment. Parents/Guardians may request a written copy of the District's policy pertaining to the green cleaning program and a written statement which includes the names and types of environmentally preferable cleaning products used in the school and where in the building they are applied; the schedule for applying the products; and the names of the school administrator or designee whom the parent/guardian or student may contact for more information.

*"No parent, guardian, teacher, or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect"*

## SCHOOL SAFETY, SECURITY & PROPERTY

### SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY

It is a prime directive for the administration to ensure a safe environment for all members of the high school community. The following measures have been implemented to enhance building, personnel and student security:

- Student and staff parking/vehicle identification process.
- Building perimeter security 7:35 am - 2:20 pm.
- Video surveillance
- Vape detectors
- Google monitoring
- Unannounced regular State Police patrol of building and grounds.
- Use of external and internal markers to discourage unauthorized visitors.
- All external doors are locked for the duration of the school day. During this time all entrants to the building will be through the front doors only and designated student access doors.
- Visitors must press a call button at the front door for entry into the building, at which time they are screened to determine the reason for visit and then report to the main office to sign in.
- Other security measures as recommended by the Connecticut State Police School Safety Audit conducted Spring 2013.

Ongoing dialogue and a cooperative program of action have been initiated between the high school administration and the Ellington Resident State Troopers' Office for the purpose of developing and maintaining improved security for our school community.

Please note: The possession of any weapon or weapon facsimile on school grounds or at school related activities is a serious offense that results in out of school suspension with a recommendation for expulsion. In addition, the distribution and/or sale of drugs on school property or at school activities results in out of school suspension with a recommendation for expulsion.

Each school in the District will develop and implement a school security and safety plan based upon the standards issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Each school, as required by law, shall establish a school security and safety committee which will assist in the development and administration of the school's security and safety plan.

The District has developed and maintains an emergency disaster preparedness and response plan for implementation as needed, "School Security and Safety Plan". The plan is based upon the standards promulgated by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Development and implementation of the plan includes collaboration with local and state emergency responders, (law enforcement, fire department, emergency rescue squads and local public health administrators). The plan, representing an all hazards approach, utilizes the four recognized phases of crisis management: (1) mitigation/prevention, (2) preparedness, (3) response, (4) recovery.

The school has school-resource officers on a part-time basis that work collaboratively with the school administration to maintain a safe school environment.

#### **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**

Video/audio equipment will be used to monitor student behavior on campus. The principal and his/her designee will review the video recordings routinely and document students' misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the district's discipline policy. Videos shall be treated as protected student records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

#### **PROPERTY, LOCKERS, AND EQUIPMENT**

It is the policy of the Board to hold students responsible for any loss of or damage to the property of the school under the jurisdiction of the Board when the loss or damage occurs through fault of the student. Any student damaging or defacing school property will be financially liable for restoring the property regardless of the condition of the property at the time of the destructive act, in addition to any other discipline up to and including arrest or civil prosecution as deemed appropriate.

In addition, anyone who witnesses such an act and fails to report it to the proper authorities will be considered as having contributed to that action. Such charges for damaged property will be exactly those which the school must incur to repair the damage.

Each student is assigned a locker, books and/or other equipment. These items are the property of the school, loaned to students for their convenience during the school year, and should be kept in good order and not abused.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by district policy. Parents will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk or locker.

Students should not attempt to repair school equipment but should notify the (main office) immediately if it isn't functioning properly. Any damage done will be the responsibility of the person to whom it was loaned for the current year. Students (may/may not) bring in locks from home and attach to assigned lockers. Students are warned not to bring large sums of money or valuables to school, liability for these items remains with the student.

## LOST AND FOUND

Any articles which are found in the school or on school grounds should be turned in at the main office. Unclaimed articles will be disposed of at the end of the school year. Loss or suspected theft of personal or school property should be reported to the main office.

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The right to inspect desks, lockers and other equipment assigned to students may be exercised by school officials to safeguard students, their property and school property. An authorized school administrator may search a student's locker, desk and / or belongings under the following conditions:

- There is reason to believe that the student's desk, locker and / or belongings contain contraband material.
- The suspected presence of contraband material presents a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety and health in school.
- Administration will conduct an appropriate search of students who are present in the lavatories when vape detectors are triggered. Upon the fourth such occurrence, students will be given a consequence equivalent to being found in possession of vapor products, regardless of whether such items are found upon the searched student's person or personal property. Such occurrences thereafter will be cumulative, just as if each such subsequent occurrence uncovered the presence of a vapor product during the search process.

This document serves as advance notice that school board policy allows desks, lockers and / or belongings to be inspected if the administration has reason to believe that materials injurious to the best interests of students and the school are contained therein.

Under special circumstances, school officials may search students, particularly if there is reasonable suspicion that a student possesses illegal matter, such as a dangerous weapon or illegal substances. Students must be aware that such items are forbidden both on school property and at school-related activities.

Student vehicles parked on school grounds may be searched if there is reasonable cause to search.

## FIRE DRILLS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Fire drills are held at regular intervals as required by state law. Students must follow the exit directions posted in each classroom. A crisis response drill will be substituted for one of the required monthly school fire drills every three months. Crisis response drills will be planned and conducted with the local law enforcement agency.

For all drills, students are expected to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly and in an orderly manner. When the alarm sounds, students are to proceed along the posted exit routes in a quick, quiet and calm manner. Students should not return to the building until the return signal is given.

## SAFETY/ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Student safety on campus and at school related events is a high priority of the District. Although the District has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensure school safety. A student should:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk.
- Follow the school's code of discipline
- Remain alert to and promptly report safety hazards, such as intruders on campus.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of staff who are overseeing the welfare of students.

## STUDENT SAFETY

### **CHILD ABUSE**

All school employees, including teachers, superintendents, principals, coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics, paraprofessionals and other professional school staff including guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists and licensed nurses are obligated by law (C.G.S. 17a-101) to report suspected child abuse, neglect, or if a child is placed in imminent danger of serious harm to the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families Services. Specific procedures governing the reporting of abuse and neglect are in effect, and staff receive yearly training in their use.

Reporting of child abuse and neglect is a responsibility which is taken seriously. If there is any doubt about reporting suspected abuse or neglect, a report will be made. The school will work with the parents and appropriate social agencies in all cases.

Child abuse is defined as any physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means or injuries which are not in keeping with the explanation given for their cause. Improper treatment such as malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional abuse, cruel punishment or neglect are also considered child abuse.

### **HARASSMENT STATEMENT**

Every child has the right to feel safe, valued and comfortable in school. No one else's behavior should ever make children feel afraid or embarrassed because of their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or any disability they may have. The District has zero tolerance for harassment of any kind. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop.

Parents are urged to reinforce with their child(ren) that if he/she is harassed (or sees harassment happening to someone else) that he/she should report the behavior to a teacher or administrator. To maintain a productive and positive learning environment, the Board of Education will make every attempt to halt any harassment of which they become aware by calling attention to this policy or by direct disciplinary action, if necessary.

A student who believes he/she has been harassed is encouraged to report the incident to the high school administration. The allegations will be investigated and addressed and appropriate disciplinary action taken when necessary.

### **Dangerous Weapons and Instruments**

No guns, knives or any other weapon-like objects, including martial arts weapons and facsimiles of weapons, capable of threatening or causing injury or death may be brought onto school grounds. Any object used to cause injury will be considered a weapon. Violators will be subject to arrest and prosecution, as well as, appropriate disciplinary action. Any student found to possess a weapon on school grounds or during a school-activity will be expelled from school.

An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. Such readmission is at the discretion of the Board of Education (unless the Board has delegated authority for readmission decisions to the Superintendent). The Board or Superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.

### **Bullying, Hazing, and/or Harassment -**

District pupil services personnel and administrators are responsible for taking a bullying report and investigating the complaint. Parents of students involved in a verified act of bullying will be invited to attend at least one meeting at school.

Please click [here](#) to electronically report any bullying, hazing, or harassment concerns. Students and

parents may also report these concerns by printing off / filling out [this form](#) and dropping it off in the “Anonymous Reporting” box, located outside of the EHS Main Office in the foyer. All reports of bullying, hazing, or harassment--regardless of whether the report is delivered electronically or in paper form--may be anonymous.

Bullying behavior by any student in the Ellington Public Schools is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. Bullying outside of the school setting may also be addressed if it has a direct and negative impact on a student’s academic performance or safety in school. Students and/or parents may file verbal or written complaints concerning suspected bullying behavior, and students shall be permitted to anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school administrators. Any report of suspected bullying behavior will be promptly reviewed. If acts of bullying are verified, prompt disciplinary action may be taken against the perpetrator, consistent with his/her rights of due process. Board policy and regulation set forth this prohibition and the related procedures in detail, and are available to students and their parents/guardians upon request.

Public Act No. 11-232 defines bullying as: (A) the **repeated** use by one or more students of a written, oral, or electronic communication, such as cyber bullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district, or (B) a **physical act or gesture** by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district, that: (i) Causes **physical or emotional harm** to such student or damage to such student’s property, (ii) places such student in **reasonable fear of harm** to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property, (iii) creates a **hostile environment** at school for such student, (iv) **infringes on the rights** of such student at school, or (v) **substantially disrupts the education process** or the orderly operation of a school. Physical acts or gestures, based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as: race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics are to be considered under the classification of bullying.

**Cyberbullying** means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

**Hazing** is any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student organization.

**Harassment** is based on race, color, national origin, sex or disability. It is based on a protected category defined in the law under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin, under Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, and under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. When an incident occurs related to the above and is sufficiently serious to create a hostile environment, it is considered harassment. Harassment can include verbal acts, name calling, graphic and written statements (including cyber means) or other conduct that may be threatening, harmful or humiliating. It does not have to include intent to harm, be directed to a specific target or involve repeated incidents. If it is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create a hostile environment, a student may be afraid to come to school or feel very uncomfortable in school.

Students and community members who believe they have been the victims of bullying or harassment should not erase any offending material. A copy of any material should be printed and brought to the attention of the Principal, Assistant Principal, or the Lead Teacher. All reports of bullying and harassment will be investigated by the administration.

**Sexual Harassment** is unwelcome sexual attention, whether verbal or physical, from peers, teachers,

staff or anyone with whom the victim may interact. Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment should report the alleged misconduct immediately to his/her teacher, social worker, guidance counselor, administrator, school nurse or any responsible individual with whom the student feels comfortable, either informally or through the filing of a formal complaint.

The district will notify the parents of all students involved in sexual harassment by student(s) when the allegations are not minor and will notify parents of any incident of sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee. A complaint alleging sexual harassment by a student or staff member may be presented by a student and/or parent in a conference with the principal or designee or with the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Kristy LaPorte.

### **Informal/Verbal Complaints of Bullying by Students**

Students may make complaints of conduct that they consider to be bullying by verbally reporting to a teacher, administrator, or other professional employee such as a guidance counselor, school psychologist, nurse, social worker or school therapist. Student complaints of bullying should specify the actions giving rise to the suspicion of bullying, including the time and place of the conduct alleged, the number of such incidents, the target of such suspected bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. A teacher, other professional employee, or administrator who receives a student complaint shall promptly record the complaint in writing, including the information provided by the student. The written report by the teacher, other professional employee and/or administrator shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal (or other responsible program administrator) for review and action.

### **Formal/Written Complaints of Bullying**

Students and/or their parents or guardians may also file formal written complaints of conduct that they consider to be bullying. Such written reports should specify the actions giving rise to the suspicion of, including time and place of the conduct alleged, the number of such incidents, the target of such suspected bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any teacher or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal for review and action.

### **Complaints of Bullying**

Students who make complaints of bullying to a teacher and/or administrator may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the teacher(s) or administrator(s) who receives the complaint. Should anonymity be requested, the principal or his/her designee shall meet with the student to review the request for anonymity and the impact that maintaining anonymity of the complaint may have on the investigation of the complaint and/or possible remedial action. At such a meeting, the student shall be given the choice as to whether to maintain the anonymity of the complaint. Anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action will 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 bullying.

## **DRUGS, TOBACCO, ALCOHOL**

**Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances)** Pursuant to the goal of the Board of Education (Board) to maintain a drug, tobacco and alcohol-free school district, EHS shall take positive action through education, counseling, parental involvement, and medical and police referral to resolve school related incidents involving possession, sale, and/or use of restricted substances. These substances shall include but are not limited to alcohol and controlled substances as defined in the Penal Code of the State of Connecticut.

Alcohol, tobacco, stimulants, street drugs, including but not limited to marijuana, heroin and cocaine; anabolic steroids, hormones and analogues, diuretics and other performance enhancing substances; including supplements and Creatine, are addressed by this policy and accompanying administrative regulations.



Possessing, using, or transmitting any substance which is represented to be or looks like a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, depressant, or intoxicant of any kind, including such substances that contain chemicals which produce the same effect of illegal substances including but not limited to Spice and K2 and bath salts are addressed by this policy.

### **Definitions**

*Drugs* are defined as any substance--other than typical food or water--that is intended to be taken or administered (ingested, injected, applied, implanted, inhaled, etc.) for the purpose of altering, sustaining, or controlling the recipient's physical, mental, or emotional state. Drugs may include, but not be limited to, alcoholic beverages; controlled substances such as marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, barbiturates, amphetamines, narcotics; and non-authorized prescription drugs. *Controlled substances*, for purposes of this policy shall include all controlled substances prohibited by federal and state law, look-alike drugs, alcoholic beverages, anabolic steroids, drug paraphernalia, any volatile solvents or inhalants, such as but not limited to glue and aerosol products, and prescription or patent drugs, except those for which permission for use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy.

*Under the influence*, for purposes of this policy shall include any consumption or ingestion of controlled substances by a student.

*Electronic nicotine delivery system* means an electronic device that may be used to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or other substance to a person inhaling from the device, and includes, but is not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device.

*Vapor product* means any product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit or other electronic, chemical or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that may or may not include nicotine that is inhaled by the user of such a product.

### **Privacy Rights**

Personal privacy rights of students shall be protected as provided by law. School properties may be inspected by school authorities to maintain health and safety. Searches to locate drugs, narcotics, liquor, weapons, poisons, and missing properties are matters relating to health and safety and may be regarded as reasonable grounds for searches by school personnel. Privileged communication between a certified or paraprofessional employee and a student concerning drug abuse shall remain confidential except in cases where the employee is obtaining physical evidence of a controlled substance, and/or where there is an immediate threat to, or where students' health, safety, and welfare may be jeopardized.

### **Illegal Activities**

Use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs, including prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia and/or alcoholic beverages in violation of state law or Board of Education policy is prohibited at any time on school premises or at any school-sponsored activity. If a student is under the influence of a drug or alcohol, or engaged in the illegal activity of possessing or selling drugs and/or alcohol, the police will be notified, his/her parent(s)/guardian will be contacted, he/she will be suspended from school, referred to a **Student Support Team**, and considered for expulsion. In cases of the illegal activity of possessing or selling drugs or alcohol, students will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. If a student is arrested and is awaiting trial for possession of, or possession of with intent to sell drugs in or on school property or at a school-sponsored event, the student will not be allowed to attend school without the permission of the Superintendent.

### **Notification of Policy**

Annually, students will be notified through the student handbook, or through other means, of disciplinary sanctions for violation of this policy.

Principals shall include statements, appropriate to student maturity, in school handbooks and on

District/school websites to the effect that:

- the unlawful manufacture, distribution, sale, dispensing, possession or use of controlled substances, other illegal drugs, performance-enhancing substances, alcohol or tobacco including electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products is prohibited in school, on school grounds, on school transportation and at school sponsored activities;
- compliance with the standards of conduct stated in the handbook is mandatory;
- a violation of its provisions will subject students to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution;
- CIAC controlled activities at the high school and middle school levels sponsored by the District/school are included in this policy and accompanying administrative regulations; and
- CIAC may impose sanctions beyond those applied by the District for the use of performance-enhancing substances, as defined in this policy, by athletes.

### **Disciplinary Action**

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action which includes, but is not limited to, suspension or expulsion, and/or a program recommended by the Student Support Team. Student athletes who violate this policy, participating in CIAC-controlled activities shall also be declared ineligible for such activities in accordance with CIAC policy and regulation. Any disciplinary actions imposed will ensure that similar violations will be treated consistently. The Superintendent shall propose and the Board of Education shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

The following guidelines for reporting alleged violations are to be followed:

- If an employee suspects student possession, use, abuse, distribution or sale of controlled substances, other illegal drugs, performance-enhancing drugs, alcohol, or tobacco/tobacco products the employee shall refer the matter to the Principal or his/her designee. The Principal or designee will notify the student's parent/guardian, recommend a specific assessment, as appropriate, and contact law enforcement personnel as appropriate.
- If an employee obtains physical evidence of a controlled substance, other illegal drug, drug paraphernalia, performance-enhancing drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia from a student in school, on school grounds, on school provided transportation or at a school sponsored event, the employee shall turn the student and the controlled substance over to the school principal or designee. The Principal will notify the student's parent/guardian, recommend a specified assessment as appropriate, notify law enforcement personnel and shall surrender possession of the controlled substance to the proper authorities within the time period required by state law.

### **Drug-Free Awareness Program**

The District provides a drug awareness program for students including the following topics:

- health and safety-related dangers of drug abuse;
- review of the Board of Education's policy of maintaining drug-free schools;
- notification of the availability of drug counseling and rehabilitation programs; and
- official penalties for drug abuse violations in schools.

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

It is the policy of the Board to prevent and prohibit the use (except as duly authorized through the school nurse), possession, distribution or sale of any drug, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol by any student at any time on school property, at school-sponsored events or on school-provided transportation.

The District provides: (1) a supportive environment for recovering chemically dependent students during and/or after their involvement in a treatment program for chemical dependence and will provide (2) assistance to those students who are affected by drug/alcohol possession or use by others.

Any student in District schools found to be using, selling, distributing, in possession of or under the

influence of intoxicants, mood altering drugs or substances, or look-alike drugs, or in possession of any related drug paraphernalia during a school session, on school premises, or anywhere at a school-sponsored activity or trip, on school-provided transportation, or otherwise off school grounds when such student's conduct violates the substance abuse policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process shall be subject to consequences as stated in the disciplinary guidelines.

A breath alcohol tester is approved for use at events/activities such as dances and proms at the middle school and high school levels.

### **Inhalant Abuse**

In addition to the prohibitions pertaining to alcohol, drugs and tobacco contained in this policy, no student shall inhale, ingest, apply, use or possess an abusable glue, aerosol paint or substance containing a volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply or use any of these in a manner:

- Contrary to directions for use, cautions or warnings appearing on a label of a container of the glue, paint aerosol or substance; and
- Designed to affect the central nervous system, create or induce a condition of intoxication, hallucination or elation, or change, distort, or disturb the person's eyesight, thinking process, balance or coordination.

For purposes of this policy, inhalants are include but are not limited to:

- Nitrous Oxide – Laughing Gas, Whippets, CO2 Cartridge
- Amyl Nitrite – “Locker Room,” “Rush,” “Poppers,” “Snappers”
- Butyl Nitrite – “Bullet,” “Climax”
- Chlorohydrocarbons – Aerosol Paint Cans, Cleaning Fluids
- Hydrocarbons – Aerosol Propellants, Gasoline, Glue, Butane

Further, no student shall intentionally, knowingly or recklessly deliver or sell potentially abusable inhalant materials as listed above to another student.

No student shall intentionally use or possess with intent to use inhalant paraphernalia to inhale, ingest, or otherwise introduce into the body an abusable glue, aerosol paint or substance or other substance that contains a volatile chemical.

Any student in the District schools found to be in possession of, using, distributing, or selling potentially abusable inhalant materials shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in this policy, up to and including suspension and a recommendation for expulsion. Violators of this policy may also be required to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program. The Superintendent shall propose and the Board of Education shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

The Board of Education shall incorporate into the curriculum at all levels education pertaining to potential inhalant abuse which is appropriate for students given their age, maturity, and grade level. Inhalant abuse educational programs/information for parents/guardians will be offered in a manner convenient to parents/guardians.

### **Performance-Enhancing Drugs (including food supplements)**

In addition to the prohibition pertaining to alcohol, drugs, tobacco and inhalants, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, distribution or sale of performance-enhancing drugs, including anabolic steroids and food supplements, including Creatine, by students involved in school-related athletics or any co-curricular or extracurricular school activity/program, other than use for a valid medical purpose as documented by a physician. Bodybuilding and enhancement of athletic ability and performance are not considered valid medical purposes.

School personnel and coaches will not dispense any drugs, medication or food supplements except as in

compliance with Connecticut State Law, District policy and as prescribed by a student's physician, dentist, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.

Students shall be made aware of the dangers of steroid abuse and that such abuse, unauthorized possession, purchase, or sale will subject them to disciplinary action and CIAC sanctions.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The Superintendent shall propose, and the Board of Education shall approve, procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this section is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

It is the expectation of the Board that District schools, as members of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Association (CIAC), require all athletes playing in CIAC-controlled sports to be chemical free.

### **Tobacco/E-Cigarette Use by Students**

There shall be no smoking or any other unauthorized use or possession of tobacco, tobacco products, including chewing tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia, and electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products by students in any school building or school vehicle at any time or on any school grounds during the school day, or at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of designated school personnel. Such as when the student is at any school function, extracurricular event, field trip, or school related activity such as a work-study program. An ongoing program of student support and counseling will be offered to provide support for students who wish to break the smoking habit.

Tobacco includes, but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, nicotine, nicotine delivery systems or vapor products, chemicals, or devices that produce the same flavor or physical effect of nicotine substances; and any other tobacco or nicotine innovations.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The Superintendent shall propose and the Board of Education shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar actions are treated consistently.

### **Medical Marijuana**

The conditions which follow are applicable to a District student who holds a certificate authorizing the palliative use of marijuana issued by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) for the medical use of marijuana as set out in P.A. 12-55, "An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana" and as amended by P.A. 16-23.

The District will not refuse to enroll a student or otherwise penalize a student for being a medical marijuana certificate holder unless failure to do so would cause the school to lose a monetary or licensing benefit under federal law or regulations.

A student medical marijuana certificate holder is subject to, without bias, the same code of conduct and disciplinary standards applicable to all students attending District schools.

A student medical marijuana certificate holder shall not:

- Undertake any task under the influence of marijuana that would constitute negligence;
- Possess or engage in the medical use of marijuana
  - On a school bus;
  - At any school sponsored activity;
  - On the grounds of any preschool, elementary or secondary school;
- Utilize marijuana on any form of public transportation or in any public place;
- Operate, navigate, or be in actual physical control of any motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana, except that a qualifying certified marijuana user for medical purposes shall not be considered to be under the influence of marijuana solely because of the presence

of metabolites or components of marijuana that appear in insufficient concentration to cause impairment;

- Use marijuana in any manner not authorized by P.A. 12-55, as amended by P.A. 16-23.
- Offer to give, sell, or dispense medical marijuana to another student or other individual on school property, in school-provided vehicles, at school events, or when functioning as a representative of the school.

If District officials have reasonable belief that a student may be under the influence, in possession of, or distributing medical marijuana, in a manner not authorized by the medical marijuana statute, law enforcement authorities will be informed.

A student who violates any portion of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action and applicable criminal prosecution.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-21b Smoking prohibited in certain places.

10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.

10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student. Surrender or physical evidence obtained from students.

10-220b Policy statement on drugs.

10-221(d) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures re sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs.

21a-240 Definitions dependency producing drugs.

21a -240(8) Definitions "Controlled Drugs," dependency producing drugs.

21a-240(9) Definitions "controlled substance."

21a-243 Regulation re schedules of controlled substances.

21a-408 et. seq. Palliative Uses of Marijuana (as amended by P.A. 16-23)

53-198 Smoking in motor buses, railroad cars and school buses.

P.A. 11-73 An Act Regulating the Sale and Possession of Synthetic Marijuana and Salvia Divinorum.

P.A. 12-55 An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana.

P.A. 16-23 An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana.

P.A. 14-76 An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations Regarding Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Youth Smoking Prevention.

P.A. 15-206 An Act Regulating Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products

Federal Regulation 34 CFR Part 85 Drug-free Schools & Communities Act.

20 U.S.C. Section 7181 et. seq., No Child Left Behind Act.

Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012. (part of s.3187, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act)

New Jersey v. T.L.O, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).

Veronia School District 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646. (1995)

Board of Education of Independent School District No 92 of Pottawatomie County v. Earls 01-332 U.S. (2002).

### **Use of Passive Alcohol-Detecting Device at School Sponsored Activities**

Once a decision has been made by the school administration to use an alcohol-detecting device at a school-sponsored activity, the following steps will be followed:

- Students will be notified prior to any extracurricular or school-sponsored event where an alcohol-detecting device may be used. Prior notification may include, but is not limited to, student/parent handbook, student assembly, morning announcements, advertisements on tickets, and written notification distributed to students.
- Every student will be required to state his/her name and repeat a phrase while the passive alcohol-detecting device is in use by an administrator or an administrative designee.
- If a student refuses to be tested with the passive alcohol-detecting device, the student will be denied access to the event and parents will be immediately contacted.

- If alcohol is detected by the passive alcohol-detecting device, the student will be taken to a private area, and, after 10 minutes, an additional reading will be taken.
- See Drug and Alcohol Regulations for additional information.

### **Use of Passive Alcohol-Detecting Device Without Prior Notification Including During the School Day**

If there is reasonable suspicion (indications of reasonable suspicion may include, but are not limited to, such characteristics as alcohol odor, slurred speech, unsteady gait, lack of coordination, presence of an alcohol container, bloodshot or glazed eyes) that a student consumed or was under the influence of alcohol, then:

- An administrator and/or administrator designee will take the student to a private area and will question and observe the student.
- If the administrator or an administrator designee thinks the student is under the influence of alcohol, then the student will be asked to state his/her name and repeat a phrase while a passive alcohol-detecting device is in use.
- If the student refuses the request, the judgment of the administrator will stand, and appropriate disciplinary consequences will follow, including up to a ten (10) day suspension and possible recommendation to the Board of Education for expulsion, and parents will be contacted.
- If the passive alcohol-detecting device is used and no alcohol is detected, then another test will be performed. If the test is negative for the second time, parents/guardians will be notified and the student will be allowed to return to the school-sponsored event and/or resume the regular school day program.
- If the passive alcohol-detecting device is used and the student tests positive, then another test will be administered. If the second test is negative, parents/guardians will be notified and the student will be allowed to return to the school-sponsored event and/or resume the regular school day program.
- If the student tests positive for a second time, his/her parents/guardians will be contacted, the student will be removed from the event and/or the regular school day program and appropriate disciplinary consequences will follow, including up to a ten (10) day suspension and possible recommendation to the Board of Education for expulsion. See Drug and Alcohol Regulations for additional information.

### **Police/Medical Emergencies**

- Police will be contacted if a student is in possession of drugs/alcohol.
- If a student is sick as a result of alcohol/drug consumption, the school nurse will be contacted for an evaluation during the school day; for activities outside the school day or if the nurse is unavailable during the school day, the police/EMT personnel will be contacted.

### **Training**

Administrators, administrator designees and the school nurse will be trained in the use of the passive alcohol-detecting device. Administrators new to the district will be trained by previously trained school personnel.

### **Calibration**

The passive alcohol-detecting device will be calibrated as often as suggested by the manufacturer.

### **Records**

Results of the passive alcohol-detecting device will be maintained in confidential, administrative disciplinary records.

### **PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG USE**

School personnel are prohibited from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any student enrolled within the school system. Administrators, school nurses, nurse practitioners, district medical advisors, school psychologists, school social workers and school counselors, may recommend that a

student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner. Further, the District is prohibited from requiring a child to get a prescription before he/she may attend school, be evaluated to determine eligibility for special education or receive special education.

### **PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS SCHOOLS / VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME**

Students enrolled in a school identified as “persistently dangerous” by the State Department of Education or a student who is the victim of a violent criminal offense, as defined by the State Department of Education, are entitled to transfer to a safe school elsewhere in the district with free transportation.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **STUDENT AUTOMOBILE USE**

Students’ use of motor vehicles at Ellington High School is a privilege granted by the school to authorized students only. Students should request an application for a parking pass from the main office prior to the start of school. Students who obtain a driver’s license during the school year may request a parking permit from the main office at any time. Parking passes are available per [EHS Parking Permit Guidelines](#) for a nominal fee; details regarding the current cost of a valid parking pass will be provided to students and families in late July / early August. Student parking is only in the back parking lot. Students are not to park in spaces designated for staff. Students are subject to the rules, regulations and administrative guidelines in the parking regulations and must comply with all state laws and licensure requirements. All vehicles coming into or leaving the school grounds are subject to the regulations of the school. A student may drive to school, provided the student abides by the traffic rules and has parental permission. Students who fail to comply with parking rules will be subject to the following consequences:

- First offense will result in a warning and the letter will be emailed to the parent
- Second offense will result in a behavioral referral, an after-school detention and a letter notifying the parent.
- Third offense will result in a parental phone call from the administrator, a Saturday Detention, and a warning of towing the vehicle (at the owner's expense) if there is a fourth offense.
- Fourth offense will result in the car being towed (at the owner's expense).

Students are not allowed to go to their cars during school hours unless approved by the high school administration. In that case, they will be escorted. Any violation of proper automobile use may result in the suspension of parking privilege or any such discipline which is appropriate for the circumstances.

### **SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION**

School transportation privileges are extended to students conditioned upon their satisfactory behavior on the bus. Unsatisfactory student behavior on the bus may result in suspension of transportation services or such other disciplinary action that is appropriate for misconduct.

The following rules shall apply to student conduct on school transportation:

- Passengers shall follow the driver’s directions at all times.
- Passengers shall board and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stop nearest their home.
- Passengers shall not stand while the bus is in motion.
- Passengers shall keep books, instrument cases, feet, and other objects out of the aisle of the bus.
- Passengers shall not deface the bus and/or its equipment.
- Passengers shall not extend head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window nor hold any object out of the window nor throw objects within or out of the bus.
- Passengers shall not smoke or use any form of tobacco.
- Passengers shall not eat on the bus.

- Usual classroom conduct shall be observed. Unruly conduct, including the use of obscene language, will subject the passenger to disciplinary action.
- Upon leaving the bus, the passenger will wait for the driver's signal before crossing in front of the bus.
- Students must ride the bus to which they are assigned.

The following procedures shall be followed when a discipline concern arises on a bus serving a regular route or an extracurricular activity:

- A conference involving the principal, the student passenger, the driver, and the parent(s) may be required.
- The principal may suspend the student's bus-riding privileges. If such a suspension occurs, the parents will be notified prior to the time the suspension takes effect.
- In the case of serious misconduct that endangers the safety of other passengers or the driver, the driver shall have the authority to remove the student and call for law enforcement assistance. The principal and parents shall be notified of the situation as soon as possible. The student shall not be provided bus service again until a conference involving all persons listed above has been held.

Disciplinary sanctions and changes in transportation for a student with a disability shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

### **TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMPLAINTS/PROCEDURES**

All complaints concerning school transportation safety are to be made to the Transportation Coordinator/District Business Manager. A written record of all complaints will be maintained and an investigation of the allegations will take place.

### **VIDEO RECORDS ON SCHOOL BUSES/SCHOOL CAMPUS**

The district has installed video recording equipment on school buses to monitor school transportation and discipline. Videotaping will be done randomly during the school year, students will not be notified when a recording device has been installed and in use on their bus. Tapes will be viewed by the administration. Students violating bus conduct rules will be notified and disciplinary action will be taken. Video recordings shall be treated as protected student records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Video/audio equipment will be used to monitor student behavior in common areas on campus. The principal or his designee will review the tapes when warranted and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the District's discipline policy.

## **TECHNOLOGY USE**

### **CYBER BULLYING**

The District's computer network and the Internet, whether accessed on campus or off campus, during or after school hours, may not be used for the purpose of harassment. All forms of harassment over the Internet, commonly known as cyber bullying, are unacceptable, a violation of District policy and of the District's acceptable computer use policy and procedures. Cyberbullying means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, such misuses of technology as harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs. It is also recognized that the author (poster or sender) of the inappropriate material may be disguised or logged on as someone else.



Students and community members who believe they have been the victims of such misuses of technology as described, should not erase the offending material from the system. A copy of the material should be printed and brought to the attention of the Safe School Climate Specialist, the Principal or Director of Technology. All reports of cyberbullying will be investigated by the Safe School Climate Specialist.

In situations in which the cyberbullying originated from a non-school computer, but brought to the attention of school officials, any disciplinary action shall be based upon whether the conduct is determined to be severely disruptive of the educational process so that it markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operation of school. Also, such conduct must be violative of a publicized school policy. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, threats, or making a threat off school grounds, to kill or hurt a teacher or student.

Disciplinary action may include loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension or expulsion. A communicated threat or a hate crime will be reported to the police.

Students will be provided instruction about appropriate online behavior.

### **STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

The mission of the Ellington Public Schools' technology initiative is to improve learning and teaching through access to information, research, teacher training, collaboration and dissemination of successful educational practices, methods, and materials. The Ellington Public Schools support access by students to rich information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources.

The use of computers and related technology supports the curriculum and enhances communication. Users, students and staff will access a vast scope of information available in the school system, as well as connections to global resources via the Internet. Since neither the Ellington Public Schools, nor any of its staff, controls the content of the information available on the Internet, users must be aware that some of the information may be controversial or offensive. Users encountering such controversial or offensive information should exit the site and contact their teacher or school administration.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom, and general school rules for behavior apply. Thus, all users are expected to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner, in accordance with Board of Education policy. Students shall not use electronic devices in a manner that poses a threat to academic integrity, disrupts the learning environment, or violates the privacy rights of others, including but not limited to unauthorized photos or recordings. Students shall not record audio or video without the express permission of the person being recorded or of authorized staff. Students shall not send, share, view, or possess pictures, text messages, e-mails or other digital material depicting sexually explicit or offensive content on a cell phone or other electronic device while the student is on school grounds, at school-sponsored events or on school buses or vehicles provided by the district. The definition and determination of offensive content is at the sole discretion of the administration. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disciplinary action that may include loss of computer access, referral to legal authorities or other administrative action.

### **Ellington Public Schools (EPS) Accounts**

- EPS provides various student accounts to facilitate the use of technology in the classroom. These accounts include an EPS login to computers, Internet and the school portal. In addition, students grades 3-12 will have an EPS Google Account that provides access to the Google Apps for Education tools, such as Google docs, Gmail and other features. In addition, students in gr. 1-2 will have an EPS Google Account (without email access). Beginning in grade 6, students will have a Naviance account for college and career planning and to assist with the management of student success plans.
- Individual teachers may also use applications that require the creation of additional student accounts to support student learning and facilitate communication with students and parents. The specific applications used will be posted on the district website as Ellington Public Schools Approved Apps/Accounts.
- School accounts and associated files are not private and may be inspected at any time without prior notice by any administrator, teacher, or network administrator.
- No person may use another individual's account with or without his or her permission.

### **EPS Technology**

Vandalism to any EPS technology, including uploading viruses, is prohibited. Failure to comply with any part of this policy may result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the district's administration including, but not limited to, financial compensation for damages caused by the student.

### **Network Access**

Ellington Public Schools provides content filtered Internet access for student use. Circumventing the content filter to access blocked websites is not permitted.

### **Ethical Use of Information**

Students shall comply with the Ellington BOE Policy (Use of Electronic Devices) and shall not use electronic devices in a manner that poses a threat to academic integrity, disrupts the learning environment, or violates the privacy rights of others, including but not limited to unauthorized photos or recordings.

### **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

- EPS allows students to bring their own technology into the classroom as a tool for learning for grades 5-12. Use of student owned devices is permissible only when deemed appropriate by teachers or school administration.
- Each student is responsible for the proper care of his or her personal device and its security. EPS is not liable for theft or damage to personal devices.
- EPS reserves the right to inspect a student's personal device if there is a reason to believe that the student has violated Board policies, school rules, or has engaged in other misconduct while using a personal device at school.
- Personal devices may not be plugged into the wired network (EPS LAN). Access to the wireless network is allowed using a student's district computer account.

### **1:1 DEVICES AND INSURANCE OPTIONS**

Ellington Public Schools will continue our one-to-one chromebook initiative for all students in grades 1-12. All students in grades 1-12 will be assigned a school issued Chromebook. Students in grades 1-8 will leave this device at school. Students in grades 9-12 will take this device home at the end of each school day and are responsible for bringing it back to school fully charged on a daily basis.

As with any school owned property (textbooks, instruments, etc), families are responsible for any damage that requires a repair or replacement of the device. Families are never responsible for replacement costs that are attributed to age and normal wear and tear on the device. For grades 1-4, a chromebook is assigned to each student and remains in the students classroom at all times. For grades 5-12, Ellington Public Schools has three options for parents to ensure the student has a device that is in optimal condition for learning.

- **Option 1:** Student will receive a school issued chromebook and insurance will be purchased that will cover accidental damage (payment of \$25 cash or check made out to *the school Activity Fund*). Fee will be waived if student is eligible for Free/Reduced lunch.
- **Option 2:** Student will receive issued chromebook without insurance, and agree to pay for any possible repairs.
- **Option 3:** Student will bring his/her own device (Chromebook/laptop) to school.

An information form was sent to each family before the start of the school year and is available on the Ellington Public School website at <https://www.ellingtonpublicschools.org/technology>. Parents should return the form before the start of the school year.

### STUDENT PRIVACY, SHARING AND PUBLISHING OF STUDENT WORK

Ellington Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for students, in both physical and virtual settings. The use of digital platforms, including online services or mobile applications for general district operations and curricular use has and will continue to grow in a 21st century school district. With student information used in many of these platforms, the risk that this information could be distributed, lawfully or otherwise, also grows. The Board has implemented this policy to protect student interests while promoting the innovative use of such platforms to provide students with a 21st century education. Student data privacy information is available on the Ellington Public School website at <https://www.ellingtonpublicschools.org/technology>

In Ellington, we believe publishing and sharing student work online makes learning authentic and relevant to students. Sharing examples of students engaged in high-quality learning experiences extends learning beyond the classroom walls, helps students create a positive digital footprint, and prepare students with 21st century skills. Also, the sharing of student work and accomplishments connects families, community members and other stakeholders to the learning process. We believe this is possible while respecting the safety and privacy of all students by adhering to the following guidelines.

Posting photos of students online (class website, social media, etc.) and posting pictures of students doing great work is encouraged. Teachers are asked to make sure no identifiable student information is included with the picture (last name, e-mail, address, phone number, any account username) and that the student's parents haven't opted out of allowing student pictures to be posted.

Posting student work (writing, projects, videos) online is encouraged, as it can help paint a positive picture of daily teaching and learning in the Ellington Public Schools. Teachers are asked to refrain from posting students' full names and to check that the student's parents haven't opted out of allowing student work to be posted.

*If you do not want your child's picture or work published, [please complete the form on our district website under Departments, Information Technology](#). You may indicate if you would prefer not to have your child's picture or student work published, or if you would prefer that neither are published. A new form must be submitted each year.*

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are school-sponsored activities that are not part of the established requirements for a particular course. The academic eligibility policy will also apply to field trips that occur during the school day unless the trip is an integral part of a specific course. Events, such as attending dances or athletic events as spectators, are not included under this policy.

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

All ninth grade students are eligible for fall extracurricular activities. Beyond that transition phase for freshman, all students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities must meet each of the following academic requirements:

- Be enrolled in at least six (6) courses (units of work) during each marking period unless enrolled in an AP lab course then five (5) units of work each marking period.
- Have completed the prior year's portfolio standards (excluding Freshmen)
- Have no more than one (1) F, regardless of the number of courses taken. Students who receive a single grade of F will be placed on academic probation.
- Students with more than one (1) F will be academically ineligible. The period of ineligibility will begin on the date report cards are issued and extend until the issuance of the following quarter's report cards.

Definitions:

*Extracurricular activities* are school-sponsored activities that are not part of the established requirements for a particular course. The academic eligibility policy will not apply to course specific field trips that occur during the school day. School events, such as attending dances or athletic events as spectators, are not included in this policy.

A *unit of work* means a class taken for credit during that quarter.

*Academic probation:* Any student who does not meet the standards for eligibility will be placed on academic probation. In order to participate in extracurricular activities, such as a club or sport, the student will be required to develop a plan to improve his or her academic performance. A template for action plans will be developed and shared with students. The plan will be reviewed and approved by (or modified with input from) the student's school counselor.

While on academic probation, a student will be allowed to participate in practices, rehearsals, performances, and games. Action plans for students will be monitored by the club advisor or by the coach and Athletic Director.

Students may exit academic probation by attaining quarterly grades in which they are passing all classes. During the first three marking periods, grades of incomplete must be made up within ten (10) school days from the date report cards are issued. Students with incomplete grades due to extended illness will remain eligible during the ten-day period. Grades not completed within the ten days are then considered failing grades under the academic eligibility policy. Fourth quarter incomplete grades must be made up within ten (10) working days following the closing of school in June of that year. Athletes must also comply with Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference regulations.

## ATHLETICS, CLUBS and PERFORMING GROUPS

[Click here](#) for the 2024-2025 Student & Family Athletic Handbook.

Athletics and clubs are considered an integral part of the school's educational program. Whether participation is on the intramural, interscholastic, or class level, students have an opportunity to acquire qualities of fitness, self-discipline, and cooperation.

Student interscholastic activities shall be governed by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) regulations. Eligibility for participation is governed by state law as well as the regulation of the CIAC. For specific details regarding EHS athletic eligibility, see p. 13 & 15 of the Student & Family Athletic Handbook.

In terms of being able to participate in or attend individual events, students must attend all daily scheduled classes to participate in or attend an activity, game, or event scheduled for that same day. Exceptions to this rule will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the principal or designee.

Student clubs, performing groups, athletic teams and other extracurricular activities may establish rules of conduct for their participants. Consequences set forth by club advisors and coaches can and may be "in addition to" administrative consequences.

Both student athletes and club participants are governed by the same guidelines.

### Extra-curricular Activities Behavior expectations and consequences:

- Each student will demonstrate and encourage in others those behaviors that reflect EHS Knighthood Characteristics.
- All team members / participants must show respect to their opponents/participants, officials, coaches and spectators. Failure to do this may result in complete or partial suspension from the team / club.
- If transportation is provided through EHS, students must travel to and from contests or events on the transportation vehicle assigned and accompanied by the coach or their designee, unless special arrangements are made with the athletic director or club coordinator in advance of the contest / event.
- The following behaviors will be considered serious violations of the EHS Code of Conduct and may result in suspension or dismissal from an athletic team or club:
  - Civil or criminal law infraction (on or off campus).
  - Infraction of school rules requiring administrative action.
  - Misconduct by an athlete that is potentially detrimental to the athletic program, school, or school district.
  - Verbal abuse of officials, other players, or coaches.
  - Hazing/Bullying – please refer to Board of Education Policies.
- Student-Athletes / Club Participant should understand that their behavior at any event, either on campus or away, is subject to the rules of the student and athletic handbooks. Furthermore, administrative consequences may result from improper behavior at any event.
- Any suspension assigned by high school administration will be served on the date and time arranged by the administration. Suspensions and detentions will not be scheduled to accommodate athletic practice, contest schedules, club activities / events / meetings.

- *Students who are serving a suspension (ISS or OSS) may not participate in or attend any field trips, after-school activities, practices, athletic events or club activities during the period of suspension (the date that the suspension is served), regardless of location.*

**Example: One-day suspension on a Friday concludes on that same day at 11:59 pm**

- *For multiple days of suspension that span a weekend or other non-school days, students cannot participate in extracurricular activities or events--again, regardless of location--until after the final day of suspension is served.*

***Example: A two-day suspension on a Friday concludes on Monday at 11:59 pm. (The period of suspension from activities includes the weekend)***

### STUDENT PUBLICATIONS/MEDIA BROADCASTS

Student publications are governed by the same expectations for appropriate content that apply to student speech throughout the school. While Ellington High School respects the right of students to enjoy freedom of creative expression, it also reserves the right to redact any content that contains inappropriate or offensive language, or that could be construed as discriminatory or offensive. Examples include, but are not limited to text that is sexually explicit, sexual innuendo, profanity, or makes use of racial slurs. The school principal or his/her designated representative (other than the advisor) may also review content prior to its publication/broadcast.

### POSTERS

Signs and posters that students wish to display must be approved by the administration prior to posting. Posters displayed without authorization will be removed. Any student who posts such material without authorization shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students have the right to express their views in speech, writing, or through any other medium or form, limited solely by those restrictions imposed on all citizens generally and those specifically applicable to children and youths in a school setting.

The school encourages student publications not only because they offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism, but also because they provide an opportunity for students to express their views and a means of communicating both within and beyond the school community.

All student publications must comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, also statements, materials advocating racial or religious prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school policies and/or regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted.

Expressions of personal opinion must be clearly identified as such and must bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those of the student publishers must be provided.

In addition, student newspapers and/or publications which are paid for by the school district and/or produced under the direction of a teacher as part of the school curriculum are not considered a public forum. In such cases, the Board of Education reserves the right to edit or delete such student speech which it feels is inconsistent with the district's basic educational mission.

## FUND RAISING

Student clubs or classes, outside organizations, and/or parent groups occasionally may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. Student fundraising events shall be kept to a minimum. An application for permission must be made to the principal at least 30 days prior to the event. Fundraising projects shall be limited to items and activities not generally funded through the school district budget. Fundraising activities should not interfere with the regular operation of the school. Approval by the Principal is required for house to house solicitation for any fundraising activity.

Beverage or foods not allowed for sale during regular school hours may be sold provided:

1. the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend
2. the sale is at the location of such event
3. the food or beverage is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

All students are encouraged to participate in school sponsored activities. Any student who would like to request confidential financial help to participate in a school sponsored activity should contact a guidance counselor, activity advisor or administrator.

## FEES

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided without charge to students. A student is expected, however, to provide his or her own supplies such as, but not limited to, pencils, pens, erasers, and notebooks. The student may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Class dues
- Security deposits
- The materials for a class project that the student will keep upon completion of the project
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel
- Voluntary purchases of pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, etc.
- Student accident insurance
- Insurance on school-owned instruments, instrument rental and uniform maintenance
- Parking fees and student identification cards
- Fees for damaged library books and school-owned equipment
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extra-curricular activities
- Pay-for-Play fees
- Chromebook insurance

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips may be scheduled for educational, cultural, or extracurricular purposes. Field trips are valuable educational activities which enhance classroom learning. Any student whose behavior is considered detrimental to the well-being of other students may be barred from participation by the high school administration.

Due to the many opportunities for field trips, it is necessary for students to regulate their participation in order to avoid excessive absence and negative grade impact.

The Ellington Board of Education strongly encourages all transportation of students to be on buses or other transportation vehicles which conform to the requirements of law and regulations of the State Department of Education. The Board emphasizes the practice of school employees using their private automobiles to transport students should be the exception, not the norm, and occur on a limited basis.

### Student Behavior

All school policies are in effect through the duration of the trip as if students were attending school. Violation of any school policies will subject the student(s) to not only the disciplinary sanctions of such policy but may result in forfeiture to participate in future trips.

### Parent Notifications

Field trip itineraries will be provided to parents in a timely manner. Before a student is allowed to participate, signed permission slips shall be obtained from the parent/guardian of each student participant. Permission slips shall be taken on the trip and retained for at least six months after completion of the trip. Information provided on the permission slip shall include, but not be limited to:

- Purpose
- Location
- date(s) and approximate time(s) of departure and arrival
- type of transportation
- total costs
- release to seek emergency attention if needed
- required apparel or equipment as needed
- information regarding special medical issues of which a chaperone should need to be aware.

Modifications may be made to the standard permission slip to accommodate special circumstances.

### DANCES and OTHER SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

- The EHS School Dance Policy Form must be signed before purchasing a dance ticket.
- All students and \*guests are required to use the passive alcohol screening device as a condition for participation (mandatory for certain events, such as all dances, Class Day/Night, etc.). For any student found under the influence and/or in possession of drugs and/or alcohol, that student will not be allowed to attend any of the remaining dances during that school year. Parents will be called and asked to bring their son/daughter home immediately. Consequences listed within this handbook will also be imposed.
- No one will be allowed to enter a dance more than one hour after the start time of a dance.
- Students leaving an event may not return. Also, no student will be allowed to leave the dance before 9:30 pm without parental permission.
- Middle school students may not attend senior high school dances.
- All dances, other than proms and formals, will end no later than 10:00 pm.
- All school rules will apply to all events.
- Any student wishing to bring a guest must have written approval from the Administration or Lead Teacher prior to the purchase of the guest's ticket.
- For dances, students must present their tickets at the door. No tickets will be sold at the door.
- Prom Advisory:
  - For the prom, guest passes may be obtained and must be approved during the two weeks prior to the sale of prom tickets. Prior to approval of guests, students are advised to refrain from monetary commitments related to the prom.
  - Any student who has three or more out-of-school suspensions cannot attend the prom.
  - If the prom occurs on a school day:
    - all students wishing to leave early to prepare for the prom must submit a parental permission note to the office.
    - Students with a parental permission note will be allowed to leave at a time to be designated annually approximately 60 days prior to the prom date.
- All guests to school dances must be under 21 years of age.



**\*Guests**

EHS students may invite a guest provided:

- They have a signed guest permission form from an administrator **at least one week in advance**.
- A ticket must be purchased for the guest in advance.
  - **Graduates are considered guests** and, therefore, must follow the rules pertaining to guests.
  - Guests will be checked against a guest list when they enter the dance.
  - The group sponsoring the dance is responsible for establishing the guest list as tickets are sold.

**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The Robert W. Murphy Chapter of the National Honor Society at Ellington High School selects for membership those juniors and seniors who demonstrate scholarship, leadership, service and character. The following descriptions of leadership, service and character are based on those found in the National Honor Society Handbook, a publication of the national organization, which exists under the auspices of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

**Scholarship and Eligibility**

The scholarship requirement is set by the National Council and is based on a student's cumulative GPA. Juniors and seniors, who at the end of the first quarter, have a weighted GPA of at least 87.5 will be considered academically eligible. They will be invited to attend a meeting at which the National Honor Society Advisor will explain the selection process and establish a timeline for providing information to be used by the selection committee to support their candidacy. All necessary forms are distributed, and deadlines given, at that meeting.

**Leadership**

Leadership is based not only on holding offices, but also on effective functioning in those offices. Leadership also exists outside elected positions, including effective participation in positions of responsibility. It may also be demonstrated by a student who takes a constructive lead in classroom, extracurricular or community activities. Leaders promote appropriate school activities and contribute constructive ideas that improve the school, influence others positively, and show initiative in scholastic endeavors.

**Service**

A student who puts service to others above self-interest and who gives time, talent and effort not for personal gain but for the class, the school or the community demonstrates service. One who dependably and consistently performs committee work or who represents the school in various types of competition and who renders service to the community through the school demonstrates service. Service is never based upon activities for which a student receives grades or pay.

**Character**

A student of character maintains the highest standards of honesty and reliability. A person of character demonstrates trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship; and is one who cooperates willingly with school and community rules and guidelines concerning areas such as school activities, attendance, and property. Neither personality alone nor minor incidents, unless they are repeated so as to indicate a pattern of behavior, determine character.

## **Materials to Support Candidacy**

### **Teacher Recommendations:**

The process includes six teacher recommendation forms that may be distributed to the teachers who the students think will be most aware of their potential.

- **four** of teacher recommendations must come **from Ellington High School**
- **two** teacher recommendations **may be from outside the high school** but must be courses for which the student is receiving high school credit

### **Non-Credit Activities:**

Students will additionally submit three activity forms. The students will be responsible for completing the first part of each form. They will submit the forms to the group advisor who will evaluate the student and return the forms to the NHS advisor.

- **only one** of the activity forms may be **from outside of school**
- **only one** may be **from the same area**
- **all three** must be from **on-going activities; two must be EHS-related activities\*\*\***

\*\*\*Please note that beginning with members of the EHS Class of 2022, the following are **NO LONGER considered EHS-related activities**; rather, they are classified as Town of Ellington activities (outside of school): **Rise Above, Ellington Rescue Post 512, and the Police and Fire Explorers.**

### **Selection**

A committee, composed of the chapter advisor and five faculty members appointed by the principal, using the information gathered and the national guidelines, selects students to the chapter. Membership will be granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council on the condition of their having met the standards for selection.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

In compliance with regulations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Act of 1987 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Ellington Board of Education adopts the following Equal Employment Opportunity and Equal Educational Opportunity Policies. The Board of Education complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws prohibiting the exclusion of any person from any of its educational programs or activities because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law.

### **Title IX Coordinator**

#### **District 504 Coordinator**

Dr. Kristy LaPorte  
 Director of Special Services  
 Ellington Public Schools  
 47 Main Street, P.O. Box 179  
 Ellington, CT 06029  
 860.896.2300

#### **EHS 504 Coordinator**

Mrs. Jessica Marshall  
 Ellington High School  
 37 Maple Street, P.O. Box 149  
 Ellington, CT 06029  
 860. 896.2352

## SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Ellington spectators should:

- Be considerate of opposing players and coaches
- Become familiar with the spirit and the rules of the game
- Accept decisions made by officials
- Be gracious and sportsmanlike in victory and defeat
- Cheer good play by either team
- Support cheerleaders in a positive manner
- Remember all school rules of behavior apply to athletic contests

Ellington spectators should not:

- Berate officials, coaches, players, cheerleaders or those responsible for the event
- Use profane language or derogatory gestures
- Throw objects on the field or playing court
- Use noisemakers or signs of any kind

***Failure to follow rules will result in removal from the event. Additional consequences may be applied by the school administration.***

## STUDENT INFORMATION, WORK & PRIVACY

### DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Certain information maintained by the district is considered “directory information.” Directory information includes information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to, the parent’s name, address and email address, the student’s name, address, telephone number, photographic, computer and/or video images, date and place of birth, major field(s) of study, grade level, enrollment status (full-time; part-time), participation in school-sponsored activities or athletics, weight and height (if the student is a member of an athletic team), dates of attendance, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent previous school(s) attended. Directory information does not include a student’s social security number, student identification number or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems unless the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user’s identity, such as a PIN or password.

### STUDENT RECORDS

A student’s school records are confidential and are protected by federal and state law from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained for each student from the time the student enters the district until the student withdraws or graduates. This record moves with the student from school to school.

By law, both parents, whether married, separated, or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is under 18 or a dependent for tax purposes. A parent whose rights have been legally terminated will be denied access to the records if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The Superintendent is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated. Records may be reviewed during regular school hours upon completion of the written request form. The record’s custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records.

Parents of a minor or of a student who is a dependent for tax purposes, the student (if 18 or older), and school officials with legitimate educational interests are the only persons who have general access to a student's records. "School officials with legitimate educational interests" include any employee, agents, or facilities with which the district contracts for the placement of students with disabilities, as well as their attorneys and consultants, who are:

- Working with the student;
- Considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for a student with disabilities under IDEA or an individually designed program for a student with disabilities under Section 504;
- Compiling statistical data; or
- Investigating or evaluating programs.

Certain other officials from various governmental agencies may have limited access to the records. Parental consent is required to release the records to anyone else. When the student reaches 18 years of age, only the student has the right to consent to release of records.

A student over 18 and parents of minor students may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the district refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor has the right to a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requester has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record.

Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, parents and the student are not allowed to contest a student's grade in a course through this process. Parents or the student have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the district is not in compliance with the law regarding student records. The district's policy regarding student records is available from the principal's or superintendent's office.

First copy of student records is free. All other copies of student records are available at a cost of \$0.25 per page, payable in advance. Parents may be denied copies of a student's records (1) after the student reaches age 18 and is no longer a dependent for tax purposes; (2) when the student is attending an institution of post-secondary education; (3) if the parent fails to follow proper procedures and pay the copying charge; or (4) when the district is given a copy of a court order terminating the parental rights. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, upon written request of the parent, one copy of the record will be provided at no charge.

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it, unless the parent objects to the release of any or all directory information about the child. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days after the first day of school. Directory information includes information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to, the parent's name, address and email address, the student's name, address, telephone number, photographic, computer and/or video images, date and place of birth, major field(s) of study, grade level, enrollment status (full-time; part-time), participation in school-sponsored activities or athletics, weight and height (if the student is a member of an athletic team), dates of attendance, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent previous school(s) attended. Directory information does not include a student's social security number, student identification number or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems unless the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN or password.

Military recruiters or institutions of higher learning shall have access to secondary school students' names and addresses, unless a parent/guardian or secondary student aged 18 or over requests in writing that such information not be released.

The District, when a student moves to a new school system or charter school, will send the student's records to the new district or charter school within ten business days of receiving written notice of the move from the new district. Unless the parents/guardians of the student authorize the record transfer in writing, the sending District is required to send a notice when the records are sent to the new district. Parents and eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the Requirements of FERPA. Complaints may be addressed to: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 5400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202-4605.

The district's HIPAA Privacy Officer is Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS**

Interested persons may inspect "public district records" which are maintained at the office of the Superintendent of Schools, during normal hours of business. Copies of records, permitted by law to be disclosed, may also be attained.

### **ADMISSION/PLACEMENT/ENROLLMENT**

When a student enrolls in Ellington High School from another school district, we will notify the previous district of the enrollment and request the student's educational and medical records. The previous school district is required by law to transfer the records with or without written parent authorization. Similarly, when the Guidance Department receives notification of a student's enrollment in another district, we are required to transfer all records. We will notify the parent or guardian of the transfer at the time they are sent to a new school if no written parent authorization is on file.

A student seeking enrollment in Ellington High School for the first time or following attendance in another Connecticut public school district, out-of-state attendance, private school attendance or admission through a bona fide foreign exchange program should contact the principal. A student who is transferring from non-public schools or schools outside the district will be placed at his/her current grade level pending evaluation and observation of the student after such assessment and consultation with the parents, the principal will determine the grade placement of the child. Nonresidents may request permission to attend Ellington High School on a tuition basis provided space is available and permission of the Superintendent is granted. Nonresident students from other school districts within the state, (districts in the Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and New London regions) who apply pursuant to Board of Education regulations, may enroll in particular programs or schools within the district on a space available basis, without payment of tuition, as part of the inter-district public school attendance program called Open Choice. The Regional Educational Service Centers will determine which school districts are close enough to make transportation feasible. The Parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age, may exercise the option to withdraw a student from school by personally appearing at the school district office, to sign a withdrawal form. This form will include an attestation from the school's guidance counselor or a school administrator that the district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community. A student who has attained the age of sixteen and who has voluntarily terminated enrollment in the district's schools and subsequently seeks admission may be denied readmission for up to ninety (90) school days from the date of such termination unless such student seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which school accommodation will be provided not later than three school days after such student seeks readmission. A student, nineteen years of age or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if he/she cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one. Students who are classified as homeless under federal law and do not have a fixed residence will be admitted pursuant to federal law.

Parents of students attending District schools have the option to enroll their child(ren) in a magnet school with which the District is a nonparticipating district, if the magnet school has unused student capacity. The District will pay any tuition charge.

### **SURVEYS/STUDENT PRIVACY**

Students will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
- mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family;
- sex attitudes or behaviors;
- illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of another individual with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers;
- income; or
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student’s parents.

In addition, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey that is to be administered by a school to a student, prior to its use. Parents will be notified at least two weeks in advance of any survey that will be given to their children.

Parents will be notified of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination that is required as a condition of attendance administered by the school and which is not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of students.

### **STUDENT PRIVACY AND SHARING AND PUBLISHING STUDENT WORK**

See Above in Technology

## **ANNUAL NOTICES**

### **ANNUAL NOTICES**

#### **Reporting Form for Bullying, Harassment, or Discrimination**

Date of the alleged discrimination or harassment: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the alleged discrimination or harassment: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of individual(s) alleged to have engaged in discrimination and/or sexual harassment:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

See above.

### **Information Regarding The Americans With Disabilities Act And Section 504 Of The Rehabilitation Act Of 1973**

Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities In compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADA), the District shall ensure that no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities 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 including extracurricular athletics or other non-academic activities, conducted by the District or those provided by the District through contractual or other arrangements. Programs and activities shall be accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by law.

The Superintendent or his designee will ensure all Section 504-qualified students with disabilities are identified annually. Students will be evaluated by a team of individuals knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of the evaluation data and placement options. Accommodations will be provided as required by law.

The Superintendent or his designee will develop administrative regulations as needed for the implementation of this policy and to meet the requirements of state and federal law. Regulations will include provisions to ensure notice of the District's responsibilities are provided as required and that procedures are established for students, parents and staff with complaints concerning District compliance with the provisions of law.

Should you have any questions regarding Section 504, please call either your child's school principal or the Director of Special Services, Dr. Kristy LaPorte for the Ellington School District at 860.896.2300.

### **Asbestos**

The federal Asbestos Hazards Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires all school buildings to be reevaluated to determine if asbestos is present and if it poses a significant health hazard to the building's occupants. The District has on file plans showing the location of asbestos in each building and measures undertaken to comply with regulations to maintain a safe school environment. Requests to review these plans may be made in the school office. Questions about the plan or its contents should be directed to Director of Facilities, 860.896.2313.

### **Bullying - Safe School Climate Plan**

The Ellington Board of Education is committed to creating and maintaining a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe educational environment free from bullying, harassment and discrimination. In order to foster an atmosphere conducive to learning, the Board has developed the following Safe School Climate Plan, consistent with state law and Board Policy. This Plan represents a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying and cyberbullying and sets forth the Board's expectations for creating a positive school climate and thus preventing, intervening, and responding to incidents of bullying.

Bullying behavior is strictly prohibited, and students who are determined to have engaged in such behavior are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from school. The district's commitment to addressing bullying behavior, however, involves a multi-faceted approach, which includes education and the promotion of a positive school climate in which bullying will not be tolerated by students or school staff.

### Prohibition Against Bullying and Retaliation

- The Board expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior on school grounds; at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop; on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by Board of Education.
- The Board also prohibits any form of bullying behavior outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school;
- In addition to prohibiting student acts which constitute bullying, the Board also prohibits discrimination and/or retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying.
- Students who engage in bullying behavior in violation of Board Policy and the Safe School Climate Plan shall be subject to school discipline, up to and including expulsion, in accordance with the Board's policies on student discipline, suspension and expulsion, and consistent with state and federal law.

“Bullying” means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student’s property,
- places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property,
- creates a hostile environment at school for such student,
- infringes on the rights of such student at school, or
- substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral, or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics. *(The student against whom the activity is directed must be attending school in the same district as the students engaged in the activity.)*

The District Safe School Climate Coordinator is Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services, and the Safe School Climate Specialist is Mr. Brandon HuBrins, Assistant Principal.

Anonymous reports of bullying/harassment can be submitted in the following ways: 1. In person by filling out the form and submitting it in the lock box located in the main atrium near the front door, and 2. on the Ellington High School website under "Student Services"

### Equal Opportunity

Each student is encouraged to develop and achieve individual educational goals. The district will provide every student with equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, or disability. No student will be excluded on such a basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, student athletics, counseling services, employment assistance, extracurricular activities or other school resources.

Programs and activities shall be accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by law.



Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services, is the designated district compliance officer, who will coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

FERPA - Notification Of Rights Under FERPA For Elementary And Secondary Institutions The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, et seq., affords parents and eligible students (i.e., students over 18, emancipated minors, and those attending post-secondary educational institutions) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five (45) calendar days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parents or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parents or eligible student believe are inaccurate or misleading, or otherwise violates the student's privacy rights. Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise violates the student's privacy rights. Parents or an eligible student should write the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record the parents or eligible student want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading, or otherwise violates the student's privacy rights.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parents or eligible student, the District will notify the parents or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parents or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to a school official with legitimate interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Education; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District will disclose a student's education record without consent to officials of another school, including other public schools, charter schools, and post-secondary institutions, in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

## **Non-Discrimination**

Administrative Regulations Personnel/Student Nondiscrimination

[BOE Policies 4118.11, 4218.11, 5145.4]

Personnel / Students Rights, Responsibilities and Duties

### **I. Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment**

Neither sex discrimination nor sexual harassment will be tolerated in the Ellington School District. The Board of Education prohibits any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment by students, personnel, individuals under contract, or volunteers subject to the control of the Board of Education. Employees who engage in sex discrimination or sexual harassment will be subject

to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

#### A. Definitions:

##### **Sex Discrimination**

Sex discrimination is defined as when an employer refuses to hire, disciplines or discharges any individual, or otherwise discriminates against an individual with respect to his or her compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment on the basis of the individual's sex. Sex discrimination is also defined as when a person, because of his or her sex, is denied participation in, or the benefits of, a program that receives federal financial assistance.

##### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is defined as unwelcome conduct of sexual nature, whether verbal or physical, including but not limited to, advances or requests for sexual favors, insulting or degrading sexual remarks or conduct, threats or suggestions that an employee's submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, is used as the basis of employment decisions affecting such individual or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Pressure for sexual activity;
2. Remarks with sexual or sexually demeaning implications;
3. Unwelcome or inappropriate sexual advances from a co-worker or supervisor, such as unwanted hugs, touches, or kisses;
4. Suggestions or demands for sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning an individual's employment status, benefits, duties or work assignments;
5. Use of profanity;
6. Dirty jokes, derogatory or pornographic posters, cartoons or drawings.

In the student context, sexual harassment is defined as conduct of sexual nature, whether verbal or physical, including but not limited to, advances or requests for sexual favors, insulting or degrading sexual remarks or conduct, threats or suggestions, where submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used and/or threatened to be used as a basis for making any educational decision affecting a student; or where such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program, or to create a hostile or abusive educational environment.

Although not an exhaustive list, the following are examples of the type of conduct prohibited by the policy against sexual harassment of students:

1. Statements or other conduct indicating that a student's submission to, or rejection of, sexual overtures or advances will affect the student's grades and/or other academic progress.
2. Unwelcome attention and/or advances of a sexual nature, including verbal comments, sexual invitations, leering and physical touching.
3. Display of sexually suggestive objects, or use of sexually suggestive or obscene comments, invitations, letters, notes, slurs, jokes, pictures, cartoons, epithets or gestures.

## B. Title IX Coordinator

Questions, complaints, and other matters concerning sex discrimination or sexual harassment will normally be handled by the District's Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will be designated by the Superintendent of Schools and may be reached at the office of the Superintendent. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state law and Board of Education policy concerning sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In the alternative, such questions, complaints or other matters may be referred directly to the Superintendent or his or her designee. Any person having inquiries concerning the Ellington Public Schools' compliance with Title VII, Title IX and Section 504, should contact Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services at the Ellington Public Schools, P. O. Box 179, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029 or 860. 896.2300.

## C. Complaint Procedure

Employees, students, parents, volunteers, or other individuals who believe they have been victims of sex discrimination or sexual harassment within the Ellington Public Schools are encouraged to promptly report such claims. Complaints will be investigated and corrective action will be taken as appropriate. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible and reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of sex discrimination or sexual harassment will result in disciplinary action against the retaliator.

Anyone who believes that he/she has been subjected to behavior that could constitute sexual harassment should immediately inform the alleged harasser that his/her behavior is unwelcome and unacceptable, and that such behavior must stop immediately. Complaints shall be filed with the Title IX Coordinator on the form provided for this purpose. If the Title IX Coordinator is the alleged discriminator or harasser, the complaint should be forwarded directly to the Superintendent or his/her designee. Normally, complaints should be made within thirty (30) days of the act of discrimination or harassment. Complaint forms are available from the Title IX Coordinator, guidance office, and building principal. The complaint should state the name of the complainant and the date of the complaint, the date of the alleged discrimination or harassment, the individual(s) alleged to engaged in sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment, and a statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination or sexual harassment.

Any individual who makes an oral complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment will be provided a copy of this policy and a complaint form, and will be encouraged to submit a written complaint. All complaints are to be forwarded immediately to the Title IX Coordinator unless that individual is the alleged discriminator or harasser, in which case the complaint should be forwarded directly to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

## D. Investigation

The Title IX Coordinator, or his/her designee, shall investigate the complaint. The investigation should normally include consultation with all individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the complainant, the individual(s) alleged to engaged in sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment, any witnesses to the conduct, and any victims of similar conduct, if known.

The investigation shall be carried on discreetly, maintaining confidentiality insofar as possible while still conducting an effective and thorough investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator shall provide a written report to the Superintendent of Schools, or other appropriate personnel, summarizing the results of the investigation and recommended disposition of the matter. If there is a reasonable cause to believe that sex discrimination or sexual harassment has occurred, the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the discrimination and/or harassment ceases and will not recur, up to and including termination of the employment of the individuals responsible for discrimination and/or sexual harassment.

Following a finding of sexual harassment, individuals may be periodically interviewed by the appropriate supervisor or Title IX Coordinator as necessary to ensure that the sexual harassment has not recurred and that no retaliation has occurred. Such review will continue for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Superintendent of Schools.

#### E. Posting and Training

A copy of this policy shall be provided to all employees upon hire. The Board shall post in a prominent and accessible location in each school building information concerning the illegality of sexual harassment and remedies available to victims of sexual harassment. The Board shall provide training and education to all new supervisory employees within six months of their assumption of a supervisory position. Such training such include information concerning the federal and state statutory provisions concerning sexual harassment and remedies available to victims of sexual harassment. The Board will provide access for students to this procedure.

#### F. Complaints to State and Federal Agencies

At any stage in these complaint/grievance procedures, non-employee complainants have the right to file a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Any such complaints must be filed within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the date of the alleged discrimination or harassment.

Any employee who believes that he or she has been discriminated against or sexually harassed in the workplace may also file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 1229 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112 (TELEPHONE NUMBER 566-7710) and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office, One Congress Street, Boston, MA 02114 (TELEPHONE NUMBER 617-565-3200). Connecticut law requires that a formal written complaint be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities within 180 days of the date when the alleged discrimination/harassment occurred. Remedies for sex discrimination and sexual harassment include cease and desist orders, back pay, compensatory damages, hiring, promotion or reinstatement.

#### II. Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), a person with a disability is anyone who (a) has, (b) has a record of having or (c) is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity such as learning, self-care, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and performing manual tasks.

#### A. Procedures for Complaints/Grievances Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

It is the express policy of the Board of Education to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints and/or grievances alleging any violation of Section 504. In order to facilitate the timely resolution of such complaints and/or grievances, any eligible person, including any student, parent/guardian, staff member or other employee who feels that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of disability should contact the District's designated Section 504 Coordinator within thirty (30) days of the alleged occurrence to discuss the nature of the complaint. If the Section 504 Coordinator is the subject of the complaint and/or grievance, the complaint and/or grievance should be submitted to the Superintendent, who shall investigate or appoint a designee to do so. Timely reporting of complaints and/or grievances facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints and/or grievances. Any person having inquiries concerning the Ellington Public Schools' compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504, should contact Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services at the Ellington Public Schools, P. O. Box 179, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029 or 860. 896.2300.

Complaints and/or grievances will be investigated promptly and corrective action will be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible. Complaints and/or grievances regarding a student's rights with respect to his/her identification, evaluation, or educational placement shall be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth below in Section II.

#### B. Procedures for Complaints/Grievances Regarding a Student's Identification, Evaluation, and/or Educational Placement

Complaints and/or grievances regarding a student's identification, evaluation, or educational placement shall be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth below:

##### 1. Informal Level

A. In order to facilitate the prompt investigation of complaints, any complaint and/or grievance regarding a student's identification, evaluation or educational placement should be forwarded to the district's Section 504 Coordinator within thirty (30) days of the alleged occurrence to discuss the nature of the complaint. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the resolution of potential educational disputes as it assists the district in gathering current, accurate information and enables the district to take corrective actions when necessary to ensure that a student is provided with an appropriate educational program.

B. The Coordinator shall maintain a written record containing the following:

- a. Full name and address of complainant;
- b. Specific areas of disagreement relating to the child's identification, evaluation, and/or educational placement; and
- c. Remedy requested.

C. At the time the complaint is filed, the Coordinator should direct the complainant to the appropriate Principal or Director who will investigate the complaint and send a written report to the Coordinator. The Coordinator shall then meet informally with the complainant and other relevant individual(s), shall provide confidential counseling where advisable and shall finally seek an informal agreement between the parties concerned. Every attempt shall be made to seek a solution and resolve the Section 504 complaint at this level when possible.

D. This process shall take no longer than ten (10) working days from the time the complaint was received.

##### 2. Formal Level/Impartial Hearing

A. If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution offered in the initial informal procedures, he/she may initiate more formal procedures to further explore and resolve a Section 504 complaint/grievance regarding a student's identification, evaluation, or educational placement.

B. The complainant shall present the written complaint to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) days after the conclusion of the informal resolution process.

The Superintendent may resolve the complaint alone or with the appropriate principal/director.

C. If the complaint is not resolved, the Superintendent shall hear and fully review the case within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the complaint/grievance regarding a student's identification, evaluation, or educational placement.

- a. The Coordinator shall inform all parties of the date, time and place of the grievance hearing and of their right to present witnesses or representatives, if desired. The Coordinator shall provide assistance to the complainant in understanding the grievance procedure process.
- b. A written record of the hearing shall be kept.
- c. A written decision shall be sent to the complainant within ten (10) working days after the conclusion of the hearing.

D. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision, he/she may, within fifteen (15) days of the Superintendent's decision, request that the Superintendent submit the matter to an impartial hearing officer, or to a mediator.

### Ellington High School Safe School Climate Plan

All Hazards Plan: Each school within the Ellington Public Schools district has a School Security and Safety Committee and a **Safe School Climate Committee**, which will be listed in the individual school annexes. The School Security and Safety Committee may be combined with the Safe School Climate Committee. If these committees are not combined, then both committees' members need to be listed in the individual school annexes.

The Safe School Climate Committee is responsible for the duties outlined in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 10-222k, including implementing the provisions of this Plan regarding the collection, evaluation, and reporting of information related to instances of disturbing or threatening behavior that may not meet the definition of bullying.

Under Public Act No. 13-3, Section 87, the School Security and Safety Committee must include the following members at a minimum:

- Local police officer;
- Local first responder (fire /emergency medical services);
- Teacher at school;
- Administrator at school;
- Mental health professional;
- Parent or guardian;
- Any other person the board of education deems necessary.

As the School Security and Safety Committee, this team is responsible for assisting in the development of this Plan, and for administering the Plan:

Role / Function	EHS
Building Admin	Marc Richard
Lead Teacher	Kirsten LaBranche
Local Police Officer	Brian Santa
Emergency Responder	Walter Lee
Teacher	Patrick Gosselin
Mental Health Professional/School Psychologist	Vallerie Watt
Parent	Jenna Rodriguez
Parent	Jason Shaw
Faculty/Staff	Valerie Watt
Faculty/Staff	Jessica Marshall
Faculty/Staff	Lynn Ouellet
Faculty/Staff	Andrea Howarth
Faculty/Staff	Michelle Landry (Security)

Safe School Climate Committee - Scheduled Meeting Times: **Meetings will be held once a quarter.**

**Ellington High School Safe School Climate Plan**

Year: 2024-2025

District: Ellington

School: Ellington High School

National School Climate Standard	Current School Status (Informed by Data) To What Extent is This Evident?	Areas Identified as Needing Improvement	Identified Strategies to Realize Improvement	Measurement and Documentation Options for Determining Improvement	Timeline for Reaching Improvement Goals
<b>Standard 1:</b> The school community has a shared vision and plan for promoting, enhancing and sustaining a positive school climate.	Staff will participate in professional development for emotional intelligence and facilitation of storytelling throughout the year.	Students indicate a need for a more inclusive and safe school when dealing with diversity and race. Staff indicated a desire to have targeted training to teach skills for engaging in difficult conversations.	Both the heritage and Culture and Climate committee's will collaborate to align work to support students and staff monthly.  Four Roundtable classes a quarter will be dedicated to teachers building rapport and trust with the students as well as the students	Student and teacher surveys and Jamboard feedback sessions.  Discipline referral data.	Annually

			building rapport with one another.		
<p><b>Standard 2:</b> The school community sets policies specifically promoting (a) the development and sustainability of social, emotional, ethical, civic and intellectual skills, knowledge and dispositions and (b) a comprehensive system to address barriers to learning and teaching and re-engage students who have become disengaged.</p>	<p>Guidance counselors and school psychologist meet with each grade to discuss the warning signs of at risk youth for suicide and assess any students who are in need of safety planning and or social and emotional support.</p> <p>Students who show signs of disengagement through behavior, academics, or attendance are referred to the action team, 504, PPT or credit appeals processes. In these meetings a team of school staff, family and community supports, and the student meet to explore concerns and plan interventions</p>	<p>A better understanding of how to integrate our current data collection strategies into Infinite Campus will help streamline our process.</p> <p>An updated strategy to monitor and support students with excessive tardies will be reviewed.</p> <p>Continued staff exposure to diverse student experiences outside of school to increase empathy and understanding.</p>	<p>Development of a systematic process to track discipline referrals.</p> <p>Continue community home visits (where feasible) to foster a team approach to supporting families needing a “wrap around” approach.</p> <p>Continued annual readings of text that speak to the experiences of our students in different communities and from different walks of life.</p> <p>Updates to our handbook to better support discipline within the school.</p>	<p>Reduction in chronic absenteeism rate</p> <p>Reduction in student complaints regarding culture and climate</p>	Annually
<p><b>Standard 3:</b> The school community’s practices are identified, prioritized and supported to (a) promote the learning and positive social, emotional, ethical and civic development of students, (b) enhance engagement in teaching, learning and school-wide activities; (c) address barriers to learning and</p>	<p>EHS has the following practices in place to promote a positive learning environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adherence to the Vision of the Graduate</li> <li>- Adherence to the Seeds of Civility</li> <li>- Security Officer, SRO, and student relationship building to provide preventative interventions with support of administration</li> </ul>	<p>Student, teacher and parent feedback last year indicated that priority areas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better use of study halls / student time management</li> <li>- Self care strategies</li> <li>- Understanding perspectives of those you disagree with</li> </ul>	<p>Create more opportunities for both one on one and small group facilitated discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- listening to learn about others</li> <li>- Difficult conversations</li> <li>- Race and culture</li> </ul> <p>Create opportunities for class specific learning around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vision of The Graduate</li> </ul>	Surveys	Annually



<p>teaching and re-engage those who have become disengaged; and (d) develop and sustain an appropriate operational infrastructure and capacity building mechanisms for meeting this standard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Link crew freshman orientation and student support</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seeds of Civility</li> <li>● Ellington Unplugged</li> <li>● RULER</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Standard 4:</b> The school community creates an environment where all members are welcomed, supported, and feel safe in school; socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically.</p>	<p>Parents and staff members are surveyed each year regarding their perceptions about our school climate</p>	<p>Student, teacher and parent feedback last year indicated that priority areas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better use of study halls / student time management</li> <li>- Self care strategies</li> <li>- Understanding perspectives of those you disagree with</li> </ul>	<p>The school will implement the following to continue to ensure the school is a safe learning environment:</p> <p>Hold regular Safe School Climate and Safety committee meetings.</p> <p>Identifying meaningful professional development opportunities for staff.</p>	<p>Surveys</p>	<p>Annually</p>
<p><b>Standard 5:</b> The school community develops meaningful and engaging practices, activities and norms that promote social and civic responsibilities and a commitment to social justice.</p>	<p>The district has developed a Vision of the Graduate that supports students being “courageous, reflective, and contributing citizens of the world.”</p> <p>Students are required to earn community service hours towards graduation</p> <p>Student council regularly promotes and supports student activities</p>	<p>Hands on, relevant social justice opportunities for students.</p> <p>The promotion of afterschool clubs, sports and transportation for these activities in order to foster a greater sense of community and support.</p>	<p>The creation of the Culture and Climate hub called the Action Alliance. This entity will offer strategic planning and opportunity for student led groups to create presentations for staff and students regarding the work of each after school club which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uknighted Leadership</li> <li>- Gay straight Alliance</li> </ul>	<p>Evidence of student leadership</p>	<p>Annually</p>

	and advocates for the student body with the support of administration.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Women's Leadership Coalition</li><li>- Link Crew</li><li>- Yearbook</li><li>- Gaming Club</li></ul>		
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