

Newman Elementary School Handbook



**NEWMAN
ELEMENTARY**
WHERE LEARNING ROCKS!

2018-2019

**1155 Central Ave.
Needham, MA 02492
(781) 455-0416 Phone
(781) 453-2523 Fax**

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Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

We are excited that you will be joining us as partners in your child's education this year. The Newman Elementary School is an inclusive neighborhood school located in Needham, Massachusetts. The building itself opened its doors in 1960 and has since served as a junior high school, state police barracks, and now as Needham's largest elementary school. The physical structure sits on 60 beautiful acres abutting protected wetlands. The grounds are complete with large play structures and many playing fields. The wetlands provide an amazing site for bringing our curriculum to life and the size of the building and its facilities attract many community programs including community theatre, high school theatre productions, and community youth sports. Over the past few years, the Newman School has undergone an expansive renovation project, which involved replacing the building's HVAC system, updating the highly used auditorium, and replacement of our playgrounds. As the largest elementary school in Needham, Newman serves over 700 students in preschool through 5th grade. Newman offers an engaging and supportive learning environment for all children. We are an inclusive school, providing a variety of instructional settings that best suit the needs of students with individual learning styles. In addition to our regular education programs, Newman houses three of the district's specialized programs: the Early Childhood Center, an integrated preschool program, the Elementary Learning Center, a specialized program for students in grades K-2, and the Needham Science Center, a district-wide resource for science education.

Our school follows our Core Values, CARES, in which we provide opportunities for students to continuously grow, as they become increasingly **Cooperative, Active, Respectful, Engaged, and Successful** community members. Finally, just as we encourage our students to be active learners, faculty are a Professional Learning Community, using student work and data to provide targeted and meaningful instruction so that all students can reach their full potential. We are proud of the supportive parents, dedicated teachers, and enthusiastic students who comprise the Newman School Community.

Included in this handbook is information regarding the policies and procedures of our school, as well as helpful information regarding the Needham Public Schools. Please take advantage of this useful resource. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at 781-455-0416 or via email at Jessica_Peterson@needham.k12.ma.us

Go Newman Pride!

Sincerely,
Jessica Peterson, Principal



Пожалуйста, свяжитесь с офисом программы ELL по телефону 781-455-0800, если вам нужен перевод этого документа

이 서류에 대한 번역이 필요하시면 ELL 프로그램 사무실(781-455-0800)로 전화주시기 바랍니다.

Por favor telefone para o escritório do programa ELL no número 781-455-0800 se precisar deste documento traduzido.

Si usted desea que este documento sea traducido, por favor llame a la oficina del Programa de aprender el idioma inglés al número 781-455-0800.

Needham Public Schools School Calendar

2018-2019

August/September (17)					February (15)				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
		29	30	31					1
3	4	5	6	7	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	25	26	27	28	

October (22)					March (21)				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5					1
8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31			25	26	27	28	29

November (18)					April (17)				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2	1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	29	30			

December (15)					May (22)				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3
10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10
17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17
24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24
31					27	28	29	30	31

January (21)					June (12)				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31						

	Holiday/Recess
	PreK-8 Early Release (ER)
	PreK-12 Early Release (ER)
	PreK-8 Delayed Opening- 2 hrs
	Professional Day

NOTE: Classes at the high school (grades 9-12) begin at 8:35 on Fridays.

AUGUST 2018	
8/29	General Staff meeting/Prof. Dev
8/30	Professional Development
SEPTEMBER 2018	
9/3	Labor Day - No School
9/4	All Schools Open
9/5	First Day of Kindergarten
9/5	Preschool Orientation
9/6	First Day of Preschool & KASE
9/10	Rosh Hashanah - No School
9/19	Yom Kippur - No School
9/25	PreK-8 Early Release
OCTOBER 2018	
10/8	Columbus Day - No School
10/25	PreK-12 Early Release
NOVEMBER 2018	
11/6	PreK-8 Delayed Opening Election
11/12	Veterans' Day Observed No School
11/21	No School- Prof Development
11/22-23	Thanksgiving Recess
DECEMBER 2018	
12/12	PreK-8 Delayed Opening
12/24-1/1	Winter Recess
JANUARY 2019	
1/2	Classes Resume
1/21	Martin Luther King Jr.- No School
1/30	PreK-12 Early Release
FEBRUARY 2019	
2/12	PreK-8 Early Release
2/18-22	February Recess
2/25	Classes Resume
MARCH 2019	
3/13	PreK-8 Early Release
3/28	PreK-12 Early Release
APRIL 2019	
4/9	PreK-8 Delayed Opening
4/15-4/19	April Recess
4/22	Classes Resume
MAY 2019	
5/23	PreK-12 Early Release
5/27	Memorial Day - No School
JUNE 2019	
6/3	Graduation
6/11	PreK-8 Early Release
6/18	Last day if no snow days-ER
6/25	Last day 5 snow days-ER

Approved by School Committee July 11, 2017

Important Information for Families

Newman Elementary School

1155 Central Ave.

Needham, MA 02492

(781) 455-0416 Phone

(781)-453-2523 Fax

School Hours, Recess and Lunch, Grades 1-5

School Hours		Recess/Lunch	
Grades 1 - 5	8:45-3:10 pm	Grade 1	11:45am – 12:35pm
		Grade 2	12:35pm – 1:30pm
		Grade 3	12:10pm – 1:00pm
		Grade 4	10:55am – 11:45am
		Grade 5	11:20am – 12:10pm

Kindergarten, KASE, & Preschool Hours

AM Kindergarten AM KASE AM Preschool	8:45 am – 11:28 am
PM Kindergarten PM KASE PM Preschool	12:27 pm – 3:10 pm

Communication with Faculty and Staff

Effective communication between home and school is an essential characteristic of successful schools. We encourage parents to call, email, or drop by the front office to talk, ask questions, or just say hello! Your child's teacher is always the best person to answer your questions – each teacher has both voice mail and email. The email address for staff is their first name and last name in the following format: john_smith@needham.k12.ma.us

Newman News

The Newman News is an email newsletter from the school providing important communication for parents. This weekly newsletter is sent to your email address. If you do not have computer access, please contact the school office to receive a hard copy. Please read these bulletins carefully since they contain valuable information about school. To sign up to receive the Newman News, as well as the superintendent of schools listserv, please visit the Needham Public School's website at www.needham.k12.ma.us.

If you have information you would like to share with the Newman community, this information should be submitted to the secretary by Monday of the week the bulletin is published. Please send submissions to Carol_Patsio@needham.k12.ma.us

Conferences and Progress Reports

Each child's progress is assessed in two different ways. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled in the fall and spring. At these times, teachers review the child's portfolio, which contains examples of the child's work, and discuss the child's progress. Written progress report cards are sent home at mid-year and on the last day of school for Grades 1–5.

Kindergarten conferences are scheduled in the fall and spring during regular school hours; Kindergarten classes are canceled on that day.

If you have any concerns at any other time during the year, please contact your child's teacher to set up a time to speak with him or her.

Curriculum Nights

Parent/Teacher Nights are held in the fall to introduce parents to their child's teacher and the curriculum being taught in the classroom. Teachers explain grade level expectations, how he or she teaches to those expectations, and how parents can help in their child's learning. The purpose of this evening is to give parents a general overview of the district curriculum and routines of the classroom.

Getting to and From School

Morning Arrival Time

Children are welcome in the building anytime after 8:30 a.m. Prior to this time doors are locked, faculty are not assigned to duties, and supervision is not available for children. In the event that children arrive before this time, the principal or assistant principal will contact the family.

The Needham Extended Day Program (NEDP) is available for families who need to drop their children off prior to 8:30. This is an independent organization that provides before and after school programming at the Newman School. They can be reached at 1-800-444-NEDP.

Crossing Guards

We encourage students to walk and bike to school! Crossing guards are stationed at the following intersections:

- Central Avenue at Newman
- Central Avenue at High Rock Street
- High Rock Street at Marked Tree Road

Walking or Biking to School

Students walking or biking to school may enter and leave via the playground door or the front entrance. Children in grades 4 and 5 may ride their bikes to school. Third graders may ride to school in the spring, provided they pass a bike safety course. Bicycles should be locked in the bike rack (located in the front of the school to the right) for the entire time that school is in session. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen bicycles. Cyclists are required to wear a helmet.

Arrival by Active Driveline

Cars should enter the Newman grounds and proceed to the right of the building, follow the driveline around the lot and drop off near the cafeteria doors. Please pull all the way forward.

Dismissal Pickup Locations

There are two ways to pickup your child at the 3:10pm dismissal.

1. **Pickup on the Playground** – Please park in the large lot and walk to the recess door.
2. **Active Driveline** – Please proceed to the right upon entering the school grounds and queue in the driveline. Stay in your vehicle and pull forward.

Change of Dismissal

Occasionally, parents may need to change a child's dismissal (for a medical appointment, etc.). All changes to dismissal should be submitted in writing using the Change of Dismissal form (included in this book and online) prior to 9:00 am. Email or phone call changes will **not** be accepted. Finally, dismissal changes by phone to accommodate playdates or other social gatherings are strongly discouraged.

Mid Day Kindergarten Arrival and Dismissal

Parents dropping off and picking up K students mid-day may park in the visitor parking to the left of Main Entrance and walk their students into school.

Busing

All bus traffic comes to the main driveway, except for vehicles carrying children who need assisted transportation. Bus passes are issued in the fall to all bus riders. This entitles students to transportation from their designated bus stop to school and back. In the interest of safety, students are not allowed to ride on a bus that is not on their regular route. Parents are responsible for their child's transportation to and from social, athletic, and religious activities.

Kindergarten buses leave Newman with A.M. Kindergartners at 11:28 a.m. and drop children off at their homes at a designated time. The bus driver will only release a Kindergartner from the bus if a parent or caretaker is visibly present; otherwise the child will be returned to school and the parent called. PM Kindergartners will be picked up at their homes between 11:30 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. according to the route schedule.

Suspension of Bus Privileges

A student's bus privileges may be suspended or revoked if the behavior violation occurs on a school bus or while waiting to board, boarding or exiting the school bus. A student may also be suspended or expelled from school for inappropriate conduct that occurs while riding, boarding or exiting the school bus. Such discipline shall be handled in the following manner with discretion given to the school administration:

1. First violation - A verbal or written warning shall be issued from the student's principal/designee to the student and parent/guardian that a violation has occurred, stating the violation. Student and parent/guardian are informed that the school bus privilege may be suspended if any further violation occurs.
2. Second violation – A verbal or written warning to the child and parent/guardian is followed by a required

conference with the principal/designee before the child is allowed back on the bus. Parent/guardian and student are informed that the school bus privileges will be suspended if any further violation occurs.

3. Third violation – Principal/designee notifies student and parent/guardian in writing that the student loses AM bus privilege for 5 days. Parent/guardian and child are required to have a conference with principal/designee before the child is allowed back on the bus.
4. Fourth and subsequent violations – Principal/designee notifies student and parent/guardian in writing that student loses AM/PM bus privilege for 5 days. Parent/guardian and child required to have a conference with principal/designee prior to child riding the bus. For 5th and subsequent violations, school bus privileges may be suspended for a longer, defined period of time as determined by the principal/designee, by written notice to the parent/guardian.

In cases where the student becomes physically aggressive or unruly on the bus, so that the safety of students and/or the driver is seriously endangered, the student may be excluded from the bus, even on a first violation.

Absences/Late Arrivals

If your child is going to be absent, please call the “Safe Arrival and Delivery” line at the school’s main number and leave a message before 8:45 am. If your child is going to be late, he or she should check in at the front desk before going to class. If a student has to leave school early for some reason, please send in a note to the teacher/front office alerting them to the time of pickup, who will be picking him/her up, etc. The child will be sent to the front office at the appointed time and should be met there.

No School Announcements

School may be canceled or delayed if the weather is exceptionally bad or for some other emergency. Information will be broadcast over local cable TV; radio stations WBZ, WEZE, WEEI, WHDH; and TV channels 4, 5, and 7. Please do not call the school department, or the Needham police or fire departments for “no school” information.

Please note that during inclement weather, if you need to pick up your child early, you must come to the school office to sign them out. A student information form will be sent home in early September, and should be filled out carefully by all parents and caregivers.

School Attendance

School attendance is very important for a student’s success in school. Children who do not attend regularly have difficulty keeping up and also miss out on being part of the social fabric of the school. There may be times when your child is ill. If your child is too ill to attend school, you should contact the school first thing in the morning and keep the school informed if the absence continues. If your child is having difficulty attending school for any reason, please contact the school so that we can see if there is any way we can be of assistance to you.

Massachusetts General Laws are very explicit about the need for students to attend school and about the obligation of schools to account for the attendance of all children. Students who fail to attend school without parent or school permission are considered truant, and school districts are required to notify the attendance officer and court system whenever truancy is a problem. Students who miss more than seven days of school or fourteen partial days in a sixmonth period without documentation of a medical illness may be asked to provide medical documentation for any future absences. Again, undocumented absences must be reported.

If unexcused absences for a particular student are in excess of seven days, the parent or guardian will

initially receive a letter from the school administration. In the event that attendance does not improve, the parent or guardian will be asked to attend a meeting at the school. Further truancy may result in a report being filed with the Needham Police Department’s truancy officer.

Visitors and Volunteers

Visitors

Parents and visitors are always welcome in our schools. For the safety of our children and to minimize disruption, visitors must report to the main office when they enter the building. **Please do not go directly to your child’s classroom.** The office staff will gladly assist you by calling your child to the office or dropping off items in the classroom. If you are volunteering or helping out with a school activity, please sign in at the office and be sure to wear a visitor’s badge that will be provided at the front desk.

If you have an important message or something to deliver to your child during the school day, please leave it with the school secretary who will make sure that the child gets whatever is needed in a timely way. This practice minimizes disruptions to the student’s learning and teacher’s teaching.

CORI Process for Volunteers

All volunteers who may have direct and unmonitored contact with children will be required to participate in the Criminal

Offender Record Information check prior to volunteering in the school. The school secretary will provide the form to you for completion and then submit it to the Director of Personnel for processing with the Criminal History Systems Board. Based on the CORI information, the superintendent or his designee will determine if the volunteer may have unmonitored contact with children. All parents who will be working in the Newman Media Center, volunteering in the classroom, and/or chaperoning a field trip must have a completed and approved CORI form on record before they will be permitted to work with students in the school.

Student Expectations

Appropriate Dress Guidelines

Responsibility for student dress resides with parent/guardians. Students are expected to dress for school in a manner that is appropriate and helpful to the general learning environment. The Principal or her designee reserves the final judgment regarding the appropriateness of student clothing. If necessary, parents/guardians will be called to bring a change of clothing for their child. **Please NO:** short shorts or short skirts; clothes that expose the mid-torso or undergarments; clothes with inappropriate language or pictures; hats inside the building. We encourage students to be active during all seasons and weather. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for INDOOR and OUTDOOR activities.

Cell Phones & SMART Devices

Students are prohibited from using cell phones and SMART devices (watches, etc.) on school grounds. SMART watches or other accessories with phone or texting capabilities are not allowed in the classroom. If a student needs to make a phone call or contact home, s/he may go to the office and ask to use the phone.

Toys and Playground Equipment

In order to ensure the safety of students and to provide an environment with minimal distraction, the school administration asks that certain items stay at home. Please have your child leave all toys (electronic and otherwise) at home. This includes fidget spinners and other devices that are disruptive to student learning. Certain recess equipment such as footballs, basketballs, and yo-yo's are permitted provided they are used ONLY at recess and appropriately. Lacrosse sticks may be used at recess by 4th and 5th graders and only with a soft or tennis ball. Finally, although they are not prohibited, it is strongly encouraged that parents dissuade students from bringing trading cards (Pokémon, etc.) and/or other "trade-able" items (Silly Bandz, stickers, etc.) to school. Often, trades that seem fair initially create discontent later, causing hurt feelings and a disruption to the day. We appreciate your cooperation.

Special Programs

Students at the Newman Elementary School have a variety of opportunities to be involved in the school and as a smaller community. Listed below are some of the programs that help to enhance the educational experience for students at the Newman School:

Specialty Classes

Students in grades K-5 experience a wide range of specials classes throughout their elementary experience. Beginning in Kindergarten, students experience Media, Physical Education, and Music. In grades 1-5, students add to this repertoire Spanish, Art, and "STEAM." STEAM is a rotating class that integrates science, technology, engineering, art, and music as a means to extend student interest and learning. Also, all fourth and fifth grade students sing in a grade level chorus.

Beginning in 3rd grade students may join one of our extra-curricular musical ensembles – Beginning Band, Advanced Band, Beginning Strings, or Advanced Strings. There are additional district-wide opportunities available such as Honors Band, Honors Chorus, and private instrumental lessons. Information will be sent home each fall with details on the programs available for students.

Extended Day and Enrichment Classes

The Newman School is proud to host two extended day programs for students in grades K-5. For those students in Kindergarten, KASE (Kindergarten After-School Enrichment Program) is a tuition-based program that provides a full day opportunity for students to expand their learning. In addition, NEDP (Needham Extended Day Program) provides before and after school child care for families needing support beyond the school day. Finally, NCE (Needham Community Education) is a fee-based program of courses offered to students based on interest level. If parents are interested in any of the programs above, they are encouraged to contact the Community Education Department at (781) 455-0400, ext.235 for more information.

METCO

The Needham Public Schools participate in the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity. Under authority of Massachusetts State Law, this program is aimed at reducing racial isolation in the public schools. Each year we welcome students from Boston at the Newman Elementary School. For further information about the METCO program, please contact the METCO office at (781) 455-0800, ext.2554.

Student Council

Fourth and fifth grade students at the Newman Elementary School have the opportunity to join this student leadership group. Students are not elected, rather they write letters of interest to the faculty advisors. The members of the Student Council provide many services to the larger community, such as service learning projects, a student newspaper, assisting with Community Meetings, and a presence on the PTC. We are proud of our students and their dedication to serving others.

Newman Community Meetings

Each month at the Newman Elementary School, we gather together as a large school community to celebrate our accomplishments, share with one another, and listen to important news and announcements from important town and school representatives. Following the Responsive Classroom model, students gather together and the meeting is kicked off with an allschool greeting. Next, students participate in an activity or enjoy a special presentation from peers or other members of the community. Finally students share with one another any exciting work they are particularly proud of and announce any important news. These celebrations are an important tradition at the Newman School and offer an opportunity for students and staff to have fun together while acknowledging one another for our important and unique contributions to the greater school community.

Student Support Services

Teacher Support Team (TST)

In order to best support the diverse needs of our Newman students, Newman faculty meet regularly as a TST (Teacher Support Team) to discuss concerns and brainstorm strategies and solutions that best support students. It is during this time that experts from a variety of fields are able to share their knowledge with one another in order to provide the best educational support to students. Interventions for academic and behavior concerns are discussed; as well accommodations or further supports students may need to be successful. The TST process is a wonderful opportunity for staff to get information and support from other professionals to help provide an education that meets the needs of all learners.

Counseling and Guidance Services

Our guidance staff works very hard to address the social and emotional needs of all students. Age-related issues such as developing empathy, friendships, and conflicts at home are often topics discussed with our counselors. All students have the opportunity to access support from our guidance staff through "lunch bunch" groups and/or private sessions. In addition, our guidance staff often works closely with classrooms providing group lessons to address important topics such as bullying and respecting others in order to promote the healthy social and emotional growth of all students. If your child is experiencing challenges at school and you would like more information about counseling, please contact the Newman Office at 781455-0416, and they will connect you with a counselor.

English Language Learners (ELL)

Students for whom English is not their first language may qualify for support services from ELL Specialists. After initial screening and assessment, if students are found eligible, students will receive programming and support to help promote English language acquisition as well as support the student's academic success. For more information, please contact the ELL Program office at 7814550800, ext. 2504.

Literacy Specialists

For students who qualify, reading support is available for struggling readers. After students are initially assessed, support needs are determined and instructional supports are put in place to help facilitate the growth of successful and proficient readers.

Special Education Services

Special education services provide specialized instruction to students who have been identified through testing as having a disability that prevents them from making effective progress in the classroom.

Parents/guardians are a large part of this process in sharing their insights and concerns for their children. If a child is found eligible for special education services a TEAM meeting is called, including parents and teachers, to develop the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). This program is designed to support the student's access to the general education curriculum. Special Education evaluation and services can only be provided with parent permission. If you would like more information or believe your child may have a disability, please contact your child's teacher or your school's principal or go to http://rwd1.needham.k12.ma.us/special_education/ For those parents of students with special needs looking for additional support and resources, please visit your school's SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) site for helpful information.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Communication with the Health Office

The school nurse can be reached by telephone, email or via a dedicated fax line. She is also generally available in the

Health Office fifteen minutes before the start of school and thirty minutes after dismissal. The nurse may also be reached by:

Phone 781-455-0416, ext 379
Fax 781-453-5607

We encourage parents/guardians to call any time they have concerns and specifically for the following reasons:

- A new medical diagnosis or a change in your child's health status
- A newly prescribed medication
- A change in a current medication
- A serious injury, illness or hospitalization
- A fracture, sprain, stitches, or a cast
- A contagious disease such as chicken pox, flu, strep throat, whooping cough
- If a child is absent for an extended period of time
- If there are any recent changes in your family that may affect your child, such as a birth, recent loss or sudden illness

Serious Injuries and Communicable Diseases:

To allow sufficient time to recover from an illness or injury, and to minimize the spread of an infectious illness, your child should be kept home from school if he/she has:

- A communicable disease
- Fever greater than 100 degrees F within the last 24 hours
- Vomiting/diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Pain that requires the use of narcotic medications
- An upper respiratory illness with significant coughing and/or nasal discharge

Ways to Be Involved



Newman PTC

The PTC, through fundraising activities and your generous contributions of time and money, funds programs that enrich and enhance the curriculum and foster a sense of community. These dollars are used to purchase such things as technology, books and equipment for classrooms. Grants are awarded to individual teachers as well as by grade level, for activities and projects that augment the curriculum. Other examples of PTC support include fees for participating in the Child Assault and Prevention Program (CAPP), supplementary classroom materials, and technology and equipment for schoolwide use such as playground equipment, printers, and workbooks. In addition, the PTC sponsors many non-fundraising events that are self-sustaining such as early release day activities, family game night, ice skating party, BookFair, and more. **Scholarships are available so that all of Newman's children can participate in all PTC events. Please see the principal or assistant principal for more information.**

Subcommittees of the PTC work to bring specific programs and resources to the school. The Curriculum Grants Committee provides monies for requests of teachers for curriculum enriching activities and materials. The Curriculum Enhancement Committee brings authors, musicians, and performers of all kinds to the school to complement the curriculum. Other committees focus on such things as kindergarten welcome, community service, environmental awareness, media center volunteers, health and wellness, the Mayrathon and Springfest. For a full list of PTC committees, please see our trifold, or visit our website, <http://newmanptc.org/> and see how you can volunteer.

Officially, the PTC is a Massachusetts charitable trust and its full legal name is Newman School Parent Teacher Council Trust. The PTC is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax-deductible contributions to the Newman School PTC are gratefully accepted throughout the school year through our Invest In Our Children fundraising campaign. However, the PTC does require that all unsolicited cash donations be placed in the unrestricted General Fund. The members of the Newman School PTC include the faculty and administrators of the school, as well as the parents or guardians of children who attend Newman. All members have full voting privileges at PTC meetings and are strongly encouraged to participate in any way they can. PTC meetings are held throughout the school year. For more information, please visit <http://newmanptc.org/>

School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council is a representative, school building-based committee comprising the principal, parents, teachers and community members. Each school in Massachusetts is mandated by state law to have a School Advisory Council. School Advisory Councils assist principals by reviewing the school budget and developing the School Improvement Plan. This fall, we will be holding our annual election for those interested in a parent seat. I encourage you to sign up as this is a tremendously meaningful way to be involved in your child's education.

METCO Family Friends & Volunteers

Volunteering is a great way to be a part of your child's school experience. Volunteers are needed in many areas of the school: classrooms, media center—you name it. One particularly important way that you can support our school is to volunteer to be a METCO Family Friend. METCO Family Friends volunteer to host play dates throughout the year with students who are Boston students who are a part of the METCO program. This is a great way to establish relationships with other parents and for students to build friendships with one another. Please visit the PTC website for more information on how your family can be a part of this great opportunity.

Additional Resources for Parents

**Needham Public Schools
Central Administration Offices
1330 Highland Ave
Needham, MA 02492
781-455-0400**

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

The SEPAC is a selfgoverned organization of Needham parents and caregivers of children with special needs. The SEPAC provides a forum for parents and caregivers to share information and promote understanding, respect for and support for all children with special needs in the community. The SEPAC advises school officials on the education and safety of students with disabilities and on the planning, development and evaluation of special education programs within the Schools. Visit the SEPAC web site at: Needhamsepac.org for more information or to be added to their email list.

Needham Youth Services

Needham Youth Services (formerly known as the Needham Youth Commission) offers a range of programs for youth in partnership with the Needham Public Schools and/or within school buildings. For further information regarding programs for youth, please contact the Youth Services at 781-455-7518.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The education of children is a responsibility shared by the school and parents. Teachers and parents work together to develop characteristics important in the educational growth of children. Regular attendance is essential to the learning process and helps to establish good student work habits. Participation in classroom activities is an important factor in educational success. Student absences, tardiness and early dismissals affect this learning process. Therefore students are expected to be in attendance every day of the school year from arrival to dismissal. Students should be home when they are ill; otherwise, all efforts should be made to have them in school. To the greatest extent possible, all appointments should be made before or after school and recreational trips scheduled during school vacations.

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 76, Section 1 states that all children between the ages of six and sixteen must attend school. A school district may excuse up to seven days or fourteen half-days in any period of six months. In addition to this law, each school may have its own attendance policy with which parents/guardians should be familiar. Parents/guardians are required under the law to ensure regular school attendance of their children and are subject to a fine for failure to comply with the law. If a child is absent for five (5) or more consecutive days, a doctor's note (certificate) is required when the child returns to school. Failure to provide a medical note will result in the absence being considered as unexcused.

***ABSENCES-REPORTING**

In the event a child will be absent for the day, parents or guardians are expected to call the school office before the beginning of school. Parents and guardians must furnish the school with a home, work or other emergency telephone number where they can be contacted during the school day. Parents will be contacted as soon as practical and within three (3) days of the student's absence if the Parent(s) or Guardian has not contacted the school regarding an absence.

***ABSENCES-EXCESSIVE**

Parent(s) or Guardians will be notified when a student has at least five days in which the student has missed two or more classes/periods (unexcused) or who has five or more unexcused absences in the school year. The building principal (or his/her designee) will make a reasonable effort to meet with the parent or guardian of a student who has 5 or more unexcused absences to develop an action plan to improve the student's attendance. In all circumstances Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact school staff and work collaboratively with them to correct the reasons that the student is missing school. Excessive, unexcused absences may also result in the school taking legal action to remedy this situation.

ABSENCES-PLANNED

School vacations are planned well in advance, at appropriate intervals during the school year and parents should make family plans accordingly. It should be realized that teachers cannot realistically provide work in advance of planned absences that will adequately make up for missed instruction; therefore, teachers shall not be required to provide work for any student prior to a planned absence. Parents who allow their child to be out of school for vacations are assuming responsibility for their child's educational program. When a student returns to school, he/she shall complete work not available during their absence. The time limit for completion is the length of the absence.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND EXPECTATIONS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The goal of the Social and Emotional Learning program in the Needham Public Schools is to help students develop self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills. The promotion of a social and emotional learning framework in our schools is designed to foster a school culture that promotes respect, inclusion and strong classroom and school culture. The implementation of this framework endeavors to provide an appropriate learning environment for our students.

The elementary school faculties establish a system of rules that govern their teaching and common spaces. Teachers engage students in establishing classroom rules and procedures that provide a structure to support all students as they learn and grow. Students are expected to demonstrate behavior appropriate to specific settings within the school, on the bus and on the playground. Teachers are asked to communicate clearly the rules of these settings to their students. School rules should be simple and few and emphasize a spirit of cooperation, high expectations and caring for one another. The rules will be stated in the affirmative wherever possible.

Children benefit from the consistency of having adult models both at school and at home in order to develop acceptable social behavior. The partnership between school and home is a critical support to our students in their social and emotional development. One of our guiding principles is the fostering of this partnership so that teachers and parents can share information, strategies, ideas, insights and, when needed, can problem-solve to assist our students in developing and maintaining appropriate behavior in the school setting.

STRATEGIES TO HELP CHILDREN MODIFY BEHAVIOR

All students are expected to demonstrate respect for other individuals, their rights and their property in school and during all school-sponsored activities, including those times when they are riding school buses. Students are expected to behave in accordance with school rules and regulations. When appropriate, school personnel will modify environments to help prevent the likelihood of misbehavior.

Behavior expectations will be in keeping with each child's developmental readiness. Through classroom structures and direct skill instruction, children will be instructed in how to:

1. Make sound decisions and seek adult help (assistance when needed)
2. Behave responsibly
3. Cooperate with teachers and peer groups

The process for communicating with parents regarding problems with behavior will be initiated early on. Teachers are expected to contact parents for a conference, following the emergence of a behavior difficulty. Our schools believe that a strong home/school partnership is helpful in addressing the student's progress. Likewise, parents should contact their child's teacher with any concerns about social or behavioral problems. It is expected that most behavior problems will be solved at the parent-teacher level. However, if necessary, the Principal may communicate directly with parents regarding a challenging behavior. The following are examples of steps that may be taken in order to help students modify their behavior:

1. Parent-teacher conference - At the first sign of an emerging behavioral pattern or difficulty
2. Teacher creates a behavior plan and/or contracts with the student for improvement
3. Involvement of the principal, school counselor and/or resource teacher as collaborative consultant to the teacher
4. Teacher applies to the Teacher Support Team for review of the student's progress and the development of a behavior intervention

BUS CONDUCT

The school bus is an extension of the school itself and rules regarding behavior are the same as in the school. School bus safety is a primary concern of the Needham Public Schools, and we reserve the right to take whatever action is necessary to maintain a high level of safety. The school reserves the right to exclude students from school and/or the bus for misconduct of a serious nature that occurs on the bus or at the bus stop that may impact the school environment. The right of a student to school bus transportation is a qualified right dependent on good behavior. In a case where a student seriously or continuously misbehaves, parents/guardians will be notified by the principal or designee of the school to which the student is assigned. The bus pass may be revoked if, in the opinion of the principal, such action is necessary for the general safety and well being of other students. In cases where a student's conduct jeopardizes the safety and well being of other students that student may immediately be excluded from the bus.

INVESTIGATION (Interviews & Searches)

Under Needham School Committee policy, school administrators have the authority, as deemed necessary, to interview students regarding matters that are relevant to the school environment. In addition, school administrators may search students and their personal belongings on school property when the administrator has a reasonable basis for believing that the search will produce evidence that the student has violated a school rule or a state or federal law.

Lockers, desks, and similar areas assigned to students remain the property of the school and are therefore subject to inspection by the school administration at any time.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR SERIOUS BEHAVIOR

The following behaviors may serve as grounds for suspension or other disciplinary action, including loss of student privileges.

1. Use of obscene, abusive or profane language or gestures
2. Harassment of another student especially on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, handicap, gender identity, or sexual orientation
3. Bullying, cyber-bullying or other intimidation of another student, regardless of the basis of such conduct
4. Behavior which endangers persons or property or disrupts the educational process or school activity
5. Fighting or any assault or act of violence committed against another student or school personnel

Students may be expelled under limited circumstances defined by statute (so called "Statutory Offenses") referenced in section titled: **STATUTORY OFFENSES: DUE PROCESS AND PROVISIONS OF LAW**

PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION

Please refer to section titled: **PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION & EXPULSION** of this handbook for detailed information regarding Needham Public Schools Procedures for Suspension

NEEDHAM SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES INFORMATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The school cafeteria is open every school day (except early release days), serving many choices of nutritious hot and cold lunches. The Needham Nutrition Services department is dedicated to being a leader in quality nutritious school meals and has won two Healthier US School Challenge awards. The department is directed by a Registered Dietitian, and supported by a second Registered Dietitian as Nutrition Outreach Coordinator. The Cafeteria Staff at each school are dedicated, talented, and kind people who are there because they love to care for children by preparing and serving excellent food in their "nutrition classroom", and encouraging the students to make good food choices to enhance their well-being.

Much thought and planning is put into providing a variety of entrée and other lunch menu components, which are delicious, kid-friendly, and nutritious. The menu of the day changes, but every day there are six other lunch options available (Chicken Caesar Salad, Turkey Sandwich, Wow(Soy)butter & Jelly Sandwich, Tuna Sandwich, Bagel & Yogurt or Cheese, Soft Pretzel & Yogurt or cheese). Plentiful supplies of many choices of delicious fresh fruits, cut veggie sticks and salads are always available as part of the school lunch.

A printed copy of the Needham Elementary Lunch Menu is sent home with each child at the end of each month, for the following month. The menu and nutritional information, as well as allergy and ingredient information, are available on the Nutrition Service Department page of the Needham School District website. www.needham.k12.ma.us.

Kindergarten students do not participate in the lunch program due to their short school day.
KASE students DO have the option to participate in the lunch program since they are at school for the whole day.

LUNCH PRICES

The price of Elementary lunch for the 2018-2019 school year is \$2.60.	Reduced price: \$0
Eliot has a breakfast program.	Price is \$1.25 Reduced price \$0

ELEMENTARY ITEMS FOR SALE

LUNCH Includes 5 components, per USDA: Meat (or Meat Alternate), Grain, Fruit, Vegetable & Milk. The student must take at least 3 components and must take a fruit or vegetable for it to be priced as a meal.

A la carte:	Extra Milk, 8 oz	50 cents
	Bottled Water, 8 oz	50 cents
	Flavored Yogurt, 4 oz	50 cents

FREE OR REDUCED PRICED LUNCHES

Families may apply for free or reduced lunches by completing a current school year meal application. A new application must be filled out at the beginning of each school year, or at any time the financial situation in the home changes. Meal applications are sent home at the beginning of every school year and are available in the school office or the Nutrition Service office at the Administration Building. An on-line application is also available at lunchapp.com as well as on the Nutrition Services webpage.

WHAT DO YOU GET WITH A "LUNCH" & WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

Students who qualify for free or reduced price meals are able to get one complete breakfast and lunch for free or reduced price per day.

Included in a LUNCH (free, reduced, or full price) is:

- One Entree (any choice)
 - "Entrée" is the protein item and grain item (usually together, ie: Hamburger on bun)
- Fruits & Vegetables. We don't limit (within reason) and we encourage students to take LOTS
- Milk, 8 oz. 1%, Fat-free, Fat-free Chocolate or Strawberry, Lactaid (for documented lactose intolerant students)
- Dessert - if it is written on the menu for the day (usually 1-2 x/week)

Other A la carte items are available at Elementary schools FOR SALE, which are NOT included in the LUNCH price. These items that are not included are as follows:

Water, 8 oz	50 cents
Yogurt, 4 oz	50 cents

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch can purchase a la carte items with cash, or money can be deposited into their lunch account for purchases of those items.

Students are not allowed to "go negative" in their lunch account for snacks. (only for LUNCH). Please talk with your child if you want to limit what they buy.

HOW THE AUTOMATED CAFETERIA PAYMENT SYSTEM WORKS

1. Every student has their own personal lunch account and PIN number (automatically assigned when enrolled- whether or not they ever use it).
2. Parents/Guardians deposit money into the student's account by check via the school cafeteria, on-line (credit card or electronic check), or cash (see How to prepay information below).
3. Sales are automatically deducted from the student's account. Details of account use are tracked in the system and parents can access this information (see #10 below).
4. Pre-payment into the account is strongly encouraged- as it is much faster, however paying with cash is an option.
5. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches are processed at the cash register like all other students, avoiding any potentially uncomfortable situation for the student. A la carte water, extra milk, and yogurt are not free nor available at reduced price. Only the meal. (Yogurt is included as the "Meat Alternate" part of the Bagel or Pretzel lunch, but not with other entrée choices.)
6. All students access their accounts at the cash register by entering their 4-digit PIN number on the PIN pad located at the register. Each child's unique PIN number stays the same from year to year, and should be memorized, but not shared. However, if they do not remember it, the cashier can access their account through the computer register by their name.

7. When The Lunch Account Gets Low:
 - Older students will be notified at the cash register.
 - An automated 'Low Balance Email' is sent on Monday evenings to the parent/guardian of students whose lunch account is at \$25.00 or below.
 - A second 'Low Balance Email' is sent on Thursday evenings if balance is \$15 or below.
 - If we have no email address in our lunch account system, a brightly colored "low balance notice" will be placed in the elementary child's backpack once / week if the child's account goes below \$25.00.
8. Negative Lunch Accounts:
 - When an account goes below zero, only a complete lunch can be purchased- no a la carte items.
 - Negative account balances will be allowed to go to a maximum credit limit of 10 lunches at elementary schools. If the student's account balance reaches that maximum negative credit limit, they will no longer be able to "charge" a regular lunch.
 - The automated "Low Balance Email" that is sent on Monday and Thursday evenings (see above) serve as a further request to deposit money into the lunch account.
 - If we have no email address in our lunch account system, a negative balance letter is printed out and mailed to the home, requesting deposit into the lunch account.
9. Maximum Credit Limit /Alternate Meals:
 - When the account reaches the maximum credit limit (value of 10 lunches), and there has been no response to the requests for deposit, the student may receive an "alternate" meal consisting of a cheese sandwich, a serving of canned fruit, and a low fat white milk. There is no charge to the account for this alternate meal. The cheese sandwich lunch is meant to provide basic nourishment so the child won't be hungry, but to get attention to replenish the lunch account.
 - Nutrition Services personnel usually attempt to make phone calls about the negative accounts, if they believe there may be a problem with account communications previously made, and before they get to the cheese sandwich stage.
10. Tracking Lunch Accounts:
 - Parents can look at student lunch account activity. Instructions for doing this are on NPS Nutrition Service website: "MyLunchAccount instructions". You will need the students Powerschool student ID number for this (get from school secretary).

Please make sure the school secretary has your correct email address in Powerschool , as our lunch software system uploads the information from Powerschool.

HOW TO PREPAY

1. Deposit funds via on-line via PayForIt.net. (<https://www.payforit.net/Login.aspx> The link is on the NPS website home page, as well as on the Nutrition Services page under Lunch Payment System. You will need to know the student's PayForIt ID number specifically assigned for this on-line payment service, through DBS. You can get that number and instructions for setting up account in Powerschool or from your school secretary.
2. Bring/send a check (payable to "Needham School Nutrition Services") to your school, in an envelope marked "Cafeteria". Deposits are made at the school cafeteria register. Please record on the memo line of the check: Student's full name, and 4-digit PIN number.

WEBSITE

Needham.k12.ma.us

DEPARTMENTS

Nutrition Services

There is lots of information on the Nutrition Services website, as well as pictures of the cafeterias and meals. Check it out!

CALL NUTRITION SERVICES

Feel free to call the Nutrition Services Office with any questions or comments: 781-455-0400, x...

x219 for Mirella Santucci, Nutrition Services Bookkeeper/Secretary

x216 for Ruth Griffin, Nutrition Services Director

x237 for Jen Tuttelman, Nutrition Outreach Coordinator

HEALTH SERVICE POLICIES

The Needham Public Schools, in accordance with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, requires the following health information before a student enters school.

HEALTH HISTORY

The Health History Form, which provides important health and developmental history about your child, must be completed by the parent/guardian and submitted to the school nurse prior to school entry for all students.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Regulation 105 CMR 220 requires students to be immunized before admission to school. An immunization certificate/record that includes the month, day, and year the immunizations were administered needs to be submitted to, and reviewed by, the school nurse before the student begins school. State regulations also require each child to meet grade entry immunization requirements

EXEMPTION

Only documentation of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements is acceptable by the law in Massachusetts. If there are medical reasons why your child has not been immunized, a certificate must be obtained from your physician annually and forwarded to the school nurse. For religious exemption, please write a note to the school nurse.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Regulation 105 CMR 200 requires a physical examination for all new students that was completed within 12 months prior to the entrance to school, or within 30 days after school entry, and at intervals of three or four years after school entrance. Per these regulations, documentation of a current physical examination is required for students entering into preschool, kindergarten, grades 4, 7, and 10. If a student is participating in competitive athletics, an annual physical exam is required.

A student transferring from another school system shall be examined as an entering student. Health records transferred from the student's previous school may be used to determine compliance with this requirement.

LEAD POISONING SCREENING AND VISION SCREENING (KINDERGARTEN ENTRY REQUIREMENT)

Each child must present documentation of lead poisoning screening, tested at ages 2- 5 years, upon entry to kindergarten. Vision screening must be completed by the student's primary care provider upon entry to kindergarten (within the previous 12 months), or within 30 days of the start of the school year; certification that kindergarteners have passed acuity and stereopsis screenings is required.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TESTING

Documentation of either:

- Screening for student's low risk of tuberculosis exposure
- Testing for tuberculosis of students at high risk of exposure to tuberculosis

THE CONFIDENTIAL NURSE EMERGENCY CARD

Must be completed **annually** by the parent/guardian and returned to the school nurse with updated information and authorization including: emergency contact information, student medical history, consent for student to receive emergency medical treatment, communication of pertinent medical information, and administration of select over the counter medication by the school nurse, per the NPS Medical Protocols.

MEDICATION POLICY

The Needham Public Schools Medication Policy complies with state and federal laws and Massachusetts Department of Public Health Regulation 105 CMR 210. The following statements highlight the main points of the policy:

- The Health Services policy encourages that medication be administered before and after school hours, if possible.
- All medication, prescription or over-the-counter, requires an order from a health care provider who is a licensed

prescriber as well as a completed parental permission form. Medication will not be administered until all required documents are completed and received by the School Nurse. These required forms are available in the health offices or may be downloaded from the Needham Public Schools Department of Health Services website.

- After consultation with the school nurse and the development of a medication administration plan, students who fall into the following exceptions may self-administer medication:
- Students with asthma or other respiratory diseases may possess and administer prescription inhalers
- Students with life-threatening allergies may possess and administer epinephrine via an auto-injector
- Students with cystic fibrosis may possess and administer prescription enzyme supplements
- Students with diabetes may possess and administer a glucose monitoring test and insulin delivery system
- Medications must be delivered to the School Nurse in a correctly labeled pharmacy or manufacturer's medication container by the parent, guardian or responsible adult. (Medications are not accepted in containers such as plastic bags.) Students are not permitted to bring medication to school.
- All medication orders expire at the end of each school year. New medication orders are required at the start of the school year.
- All medications must be picked up by a parent/guardian before the close of the school year. Any medications that are not picked up by the close of school will be destroyed.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

If your child has asthma, allergies, diabetes, seizures, attention deficit disorder, or any other medical or mental health condition requiring special health services in the school and/or is assisted with medical technology, it is vital that the parent meet with the school nurse and develop an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) prior to school entry.

CONCUSSIONS

Concussion or Traumatic Head Injury can occur whenever there is a blow or jolt to the head that causes complicated chemical changes in the brain that take several days to resolve. Many concussions occur during organized (especially contact) sports, but are also common as a result of skiing, snowboarding, skateboarding, gymnastics or ballet falls, etc. Many concussions can go undetected initially because there has been NO loss of consciousness and the person is able to resume activity following the initial blow to the head or whiplash. Concussions may be life-altering or life-threatening if not treated correctly or aggressively. The Needham Public Schools (NPS) seeks to prevent concussions and provide a safe return to activity for all students after injury, particularly after a head injury. Although every concussed student is different, the care and management of all students who have sustained concussions requires education, supervision, and close collaboration between students, parents/guardians, school nurses, coaches, athletic trainers, athletic director, administrators, guidance counselors, school physician, teachers, neuropsychologists, and the students' primary care providers and medical specialists. In accordance with the Needham Public School (NPS) Policy on Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities 2012, protocols and procedures that are implemented are compliant with Massachusetts General Law c. 111, §222, An Act Relative to Safety Regulations for School Athletic programs, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations 105 CMR 201.000, Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations 105 CMR 200.000, Physical Examination of School Children.

THE NPS PROTOCOL POST STUDENT HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSIONS- RE-ENTRY TO ACADEMICS AND RETURN TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ATHLETICS

- Student sustains head injury during school, extracurricular athletics or activities, or other setting
- Student is removed from "play" from sports, physical education, or other physical activity until medically evaluated
- Student is assessed by school nurse during school day and certified athletic trainer during NHS sports, as available
- Coach, certified athletic trainer, or school nurse completes head injury report
- Parent/Guardian is notified and student is dismissed from school or athletic activity and referred for medical evaluation
- Medical provider evaluates student and documents diagnosis of traumatic brain injury or concussion
- Parent provides school nurse with documentation of head injury from medical provider and plan of care including orders for brain and physical rest

- School nurse notifies guidance department and teachers/coaching staff of injury and initiates a re-entry meeting with teachers, guidance, special education liaison, parent/guardian, and student (as applicable)
- A graduated academic re-entry plan and accommodations are implemented per protocol unless severity of head injury or prolonged recovery necessitate development of a 504 plan or amendment to IEP
- Nurse will review symptoms with student each day to assess recovery, update return to academics check list, and advise guidance and teachers of student's readiness to progress with return to academics plan
- Teachers, students, parents will maintain an open dialogue regarding work expectations and progress
- Medical provider provides updated documentation about student's medical recovery and clearance for progression to full academic program including physical activity and physical education
- School Nurse notifies guidance and teachers of progression to full academic program without accommodations due to head injury
- School Nurse notifies certified athletic trainer to initiate graduated return to athletics per protocol
- Certified athletic trainer consults with medical provider for authorization to clear student to return to full athletics.

SYMPTOMS TO LOOK FOR FOLLOWING A BLOW TO THE HEAD

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Headache or "pressure in head" | • Forgets sports plays |
| • Nausea or vomiting | • Unsure of game, score, or opponent |
| • Loss of consciousness (even briefly) or groggy | • Moves clumsily |
| • Sensitive to noise and/or light | • Shows behavior or personality changes |
| • Blurred or double visions | • Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy |
| • Appears dazed or stunned | • Concentration or memory problems changes |
| • Is confused about assignment | • Balance problems or dizziness |
| • Confusion: Cannot recall events prior to hit or fall | • Cannot recall events after hit or fall |
| • Answers questions slowly | |

Some of these symptoms will appear immediately after the blow. Some may quickly disappear while other symptoms can increase or develop hours or even days after the injury.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR SON/DAUGHTER HAS HAD A CONCUSSION

1. **Seek medical consultation.** If there has been loss of consciousness (even briefly) person should be taken immediately to the hospital or MD office for evaluation. For concussions not involving loss of consciousness, report symptoms to primary care provider (PCP) right away for advice about how to proceed.
2. **Brain and Physical Rest** is the main treatment for a concussion. Doing as little as possible will allow symptoms to begin clearing and a graduated return to school and sports will be planned.
3. **Proper evaluation.** Make sure to get written clearance from PCP or specialist who understands current concussion management protocols before resuming activities. Progression is very individualized and is determined on a case-by-case basis. Factors affecting progression include: duration and type of symptoms, previous history of concussion, and type of sport/activity participation.
4. **Inform your child's school nurse** if he/she has experienced a concussion and to discuss the procedures and plans for your child's return to academics, physical activity, and athletics.

LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGY

The Needham Public Schools (NPS) recognizes the increasing prevalence of student food allergies and the life-threatening nature of allergies for many students. The implementation of the Policy for Life-Threatening Food Allergy aims to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose a threat to students, to assist students with assuming more individual responsibility for their health and safety as they grow older, and to ensure full participation in their educational programs and school sponsored activities. The management of students with food allergies requires the awareness, support, and response of the entire school community.

- **If your child has a life-threatening allergy, please make sure he/she has access to emergency medication (Epinephrine) at all times and be sure that the school nurse has the necessary medical information about your child’s emergency allergy action plan.**

KEY POINTS OF THE POLICY FOR LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- NPS recognizes the increasing prevalence of student food allergies and the life- threatening nature of allergies for many students.
- An individualized health care plan including accommodations for prevention, management and emergency response is developed for each student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening food allergy.
- The school programs are not declared as “allergen free” and foods with known allergens (peanuts, tree nuts, milk, eggs, shell fish, fin fish, soy, wheat) are not banned
- Communication, planning, and education with faculty/staff, parents/guardians, and students will aim to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose a threat to students.
- Non-curriculum related classroom-based celebrations and parties are food free
- Use of food as a reward or incentive during the school day is prohibited unless approved as part of an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Inclusion of food for curriculum instruction and related activities or special school events, requires strict adherence to the management protocol
- Sales of competitive foods and beverages (including bake sales/fundraisers) will not be permitted district wide during the school day and beyond school hours at the preschool-elementary level. Beyond the school day sales of competitive foods are permitted in grades six- twelve.
- NPS Staff employed by the NPS, to supervise and/or coach students participating as members of school-sponsored athletic teams, clubs, and other extracurricular activities beyond the school day, are responsible for implementing the applicable portions of the Food Allergy Policy and related protocols and procedures for the management of students with LTA
- NPS staff are not responsible for implementing the Food Allergy Policy and related protocols and procedures during (1) school sponsored events beyond the school day that are open to the public (e.g. school athletic contests, plays, or ceremonies) or (2) programs or events on NPS property that are sponsored by various parent, community, and private groups.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

Students and his/her parent/guardian are required to sign and submit an acknowledgement that they together have reviewed the Responsible Use of Digital Resources Policy and agree that the student will comply with its terms.

STUDENT EMAIL

Needham Public Schools may provide students with an email account. Email can be a powerful communication tool for students to increase communication and collaboration. Email is intended to be used for school and educational purposes only. Teachers may send email to middle and high school students to communicate reminders, course content, pose questions related to class work, or for other reasons. Students may send email to their teachers with questions or comments regarding class. Students may send email to other students to collaborate on group projects and assist with school classes.

STUDENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Our network systems provide access to educational resources. The destruction, vandalism, hacking, or damaging of data, networks, hardware, software, and backend systems, or disruption of this or other resources used by NPS are prohibited.

- Resources must be used in a manner consistent with the mission of NPS
- Network and account security is the responsibility of all members of the NPS community. Any security risks should be reported to a teacher or network administrator
- Students will not use the internet or any technology resource to perform any act that can be construed as illegal or unethical

- Students will immediately report any suspicious or unusual activity to the supervising teacher or other appropriate staff member
- Computers not owned and managed by NPS must use the public guest NPS network
- Devices, including student owned devices, that disrupt the educational process or operation of the NPS are prohibited and will be removed. Such devices may be held and searched.
- Students will not deliberately damage any of the District's systems or cause the loss of other users' work
- Students will not override or encourage others to override any firewalls, desktop management or security measures established on the network.

RESPECT AND PROTECT THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF OTHERS

- Users must respect others' privacy and intellectual property. Any traffic from this network that traverses another network is also subject to that networks' acceptable use policy (AUP)
- Students are responsible for citing sources and giving credit to authors during the research process. All communication and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property
- Users have a right to be informed about personal information that is being, or has been, collected about them, and to review this information.

SAFETY AND PRIVACY OF SELF AND OTHERS

All users are expected to adhere to principles of safety and privacy.

- Students will not share passwords
- Students will login to their own accounts, not accounts belonging to someone else
- Students will not view, use, or copy passwords, data, or access networks to which they are not authorized
- Students will not capture, record, or distribute audio, video, or pictures of any school activity without permission from the staff and students involved.
- Students will not distribute private information (e.g. address, phone number, etc.) about themselves or other s without permission, and only as necessary and specifically related to the educational process.
- Students will not pretend to be someone else online.
- Students will not agree to meet with someone they have met online without the approval or participation of a parent or guardian or teacher

RESPECT AND PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

Students are expected to be courteous and to use appropriate language and will communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful.

- Students will report threatening or discomfoting materials to a teacher or trusted adult
- Students will not access, transmit, copy, or create material that violates the school's code of conduct (such as messages that violate the prohibitions against bullying and harassment, including sexual harassment).
- Students will not access, transmit, copy, or create material that is illegal (such as obscenity, pornography, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works).
- Students will not use NPS resources to further other acts that are criminal or violate the school's code of conduct.
- Students will not send spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings
- Students will not buy, sell, advertise, or otherwise conduct business unless approved as a school project.

Violation of any portion of the Student Responsible Use of Digital Resources policy may result in not only revocation of the privilege of using IT, but also in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school. In addition, legal action may be taken for conduct that is unlawful.

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ACCESS TO DIGITAL TOOLS

There will be a number of digital resources that teachers may use as educational tools with students. This is our notice to you that your child may have access to digital tools such as apps and web sites. These tools will be vetted regarding educational value, age appropriate content, and student data privacy. If such tools require student accounts, then students will be guided through the process to use a school-appropriate user name and password. Examples of such tools are the following:

Khan Academy

Khan Academy is a free online resource that allows students to learn anytime, anywhere, with material that is uniquely appropriate for them. Students can explore new topics and practice their skills by using interactive practice and tutorials. Teachers will use this app when they feel appropriate; not all teachers will use this app. When used in class teachers will assist with log-in.

Website: www.khanacademy.org

Terms of Service: www.khanacademy.org/about/tos

Privacy Policy: www.khanacademy.org/about/privacy-policy

Quizlet

Quizlet is a free website providing learning tools for students, including flashcards, study, and game modes. Quizlets can be made by teachers and shared or made by students as a study tool. Teachers will use this app when as appropriate, though not all teachers will use it. When used in class teachers will assist with log-in.

Website: <https://quizlet.com/>

Terms of Service: <https://quizlet.com/tos>

Privacy Policy: <https://quizlet.com/privacy>

Newsela

Newsela is a resource that provides teachers, parents, and students with over 1,000 current event articles scaled at five different reading comprehension levels. Newsela uses leveled articles and real-time assessments to build comprehension. Articles are aligned to curriculum standards and often include lesson plan components such as writing prompts and quizzes.

Website: <https://newsela.com/>

Terms of Service: <https://newsela.com/pages/terms-of-use/>

Privacy Policy: <https://newsela.com/pages/privacy-policy/>

Please see School Committee Policy IJNDB-2 for full statement on the district's policy regarding Student Responsible Use of Digital Resources

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION & EXPULSION

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING SUSPENSION

Any student who is suspended from school will be given the opportunity to make up school work as needed to make academic progress. If the student is excluded from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days the student will have an opportunity to receive education services in order to make academic progress through the school-wide education service plan.

Except in the case of Statutory Offenses described later in this handbook, students may not be suspended more than 90 days in a school year and school staff will avoid suspensions of more than 10 days until alternatives such as positive behavioral interventions and supports have been tried as appropriate.

If student in preschool or in grades K through 3 is to be suspended, the principal will provide written notice to the superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the suspension takes effect.

DUE PROCESS: PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION FOR CONDUCT OTHER THAN STATUTORY OFFENSES (M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H3/4)

A. In-School Suspension For Less Than 10 Cumulative Days During A School Year

An in-school suspension is a removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises. The procedure for an in-school suspension of no more than (10) school days (consecutive or cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year) will be as follows:

1. The administrator will inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged, the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to respond. If the administrator determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the administrator will inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which may not exceed 10 days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.
2. On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the administrator will make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The administrator will also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting will be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the administrator is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least (2) attempts to do so, such attempts will constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.
3. The administrator will send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the administrator to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement and possible response to the behavior. Such meeting will be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the administrator is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.
4. The administrator will send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the principal for the purpose set forth above, if such meeting has not already occurred. The administrator will deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the administrator and the parent.

An in-school suspension of more than 10 cumulative days in a school year will be subject to the procedures for long-term suspension (see section C).

B. Procedures For Short-Term, Out-Of-School Suspensions (10 Cumulative Days Or Less In A School Year)

Except in the case of an Emergency Removal (see section D) prior to imposing a short-term out-of-school suspension (**10 days or less in a school year**) an administrator will provide the student and his/her parent oral and written notice and an opportunity to participate in an informal hearing.

1. **Notice:** The written notice to the student and the parent will be in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate and will include the following:
 - a. The disciplinary offense;
 - b. The basis for the charge;
 - c. The potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
 - d. The opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the administrator concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent to attend the hearing;
 - e. The date, time, and location of the hearing;
 - f. The right of the student and the student's parent to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;

Written notice to the parent may be made by hand delivery, first-class mail, certified mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the school and parent.

2. **Efforts to Involve Parent:** The administrator will make reasonable efforts to include the parent in the hearing. To conduct a hearing without the parent present, the administrator must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent. The administrator is presumed to have made reasonable efforts if the administrator has sent written notice and has documented at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification.
3. **Format of Hearing:** The administrator will discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student also will have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the administrator should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate. The administrator will provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the administrator should consider in determining consequences for the student.
4. **Decision:** The administrator will provide written notice to the student and parent of his/her determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal. The notice of determination may be in the form of an update to the original written notice of hearing.

If the student is in preschool or grade K-3, the administrator will send a copy of the written determination to the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension before the short-term suspension takes effect.

C. Procedures For Long -Term Suspension

Except in the case of an Emergency Removal (see Section D) prior to imposing a long-term suspension (**more than 10 days of suspension, whether in-school or out-of-school, whether consecutive or cumulative for multiple offenses during a school year**), **an administrator will follow the procedures for short-term suspension plus additional** procedures as follows:

1. **Notice:** The notice will include all of the components for a short-term suspension in Section B above, plus the following:
 - a. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the administrator may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
 - b. The right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense;
 - c. The right to produce witnesses on his or her behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so;
 - d. The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
 - e. The right to request that the hearing be recorded by the administrator, and a copy of the audio recording provided to the student or parent upon request; and
 - f. The right to appeal administrator's decision to impose long-term suspension to the superintendent.
2. **Format of Hearing:** The Hearing will afford the rights set forth in the notice above. The administrator will also provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the administrator should consider in determining consequences for the student.
3. **Decision:** Based on the evidence, the administrator will determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to long-term suspension, what remedy or consequence will be imposed, in place of or in addition to a long-term suspension. The administrator will send the written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the school and the parent. If the administrator decides to suspend the student on a long-term basis, the written determination will:
 1. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
 2. Set out the key facts and conclusions reached;
 3. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
 4. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school (if more than 10 cumulative days);
 5. Inform the student of the right to appeal the administrator's decision to the superintendent or designee.

Notice of the right of appeal will be in English and the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate, and will include the following information stated in plain language:

- a. The process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the superintendent within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five (5) calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven (7) additional calendar days; and that
- b. The long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the superintendent decides to reverse the administrator's determination on appeal.

No long-term suspension will last more than 90 school days in a school year nor extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension is imposed.

D. Exception For Emergency Removal

Notwithstanding the provisions for short or long-term suspension set forth above, a student who is charged with a disciplinary offense may be removed temporarily from school if the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the administrator's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption.

The administrator will immediately notify the superintendent in writing of the removal and the reason for it, and describe the danger [or disruption] by the student.

The temporary removal will not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal, during which time the administrator will provide the following, as applicable to the length of suspension:

- Make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal, and other applicable matters;
- Provide written notice to the student and parent as provided in Section B & C above, as applicable;
- Provide the student an opportunity for a hearing with the administrator, as applicable, and the parent an opportunity to attend the hearing, before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the administrator, student, and parent.
- Render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day.

An administrator may not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation.

E. Appeal To The Superintendent

If a decision by an administrator, following the parent meeting, results in suspension of a student for more than 10 cumulative school days for the school year, the student may appeal the decision to the superintendent. In order to do so the student or parent must file a notice of appeal with the superintendent within five (5) calendar days with a seven (7) day postponement option. The superintendent must hold the hearing within three (3) school days of the student's request, unless the student or parent requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days. If the appeal is not filed within this time frame, the superintendent may deny the appeal, or may allow the appeal in his or her discretion, for good cause.

The following apply:

- The superintendent will make a good faith effort to include the parent in the hearing. The superintendent will be presumed to have made a good faith effort if he or she has made efforts to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and superintendent to participate. The superintendent will send written notice to the parent of the date, time, and location of the hearing.
- The superintendent will conduct a hearing to determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, what the consequence will be. The superintendent will arrange for an audio recording of the hearing, a copy of which will be provided to the student or parent upon request. The superintendent will inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made of the hearing and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.
- The student will have all the rights afforded the student at the administrator's hearing for long-term suspension as described in Section C above.
- The superintendent will issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing which meets the requirements for a long-term suspension as described in Section C above. If the superintendent determines that the

student committed the disciplinary offense, the superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the administrator, but will not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the administrator's decision.

The decision of the superintendent constitutes the final decision of the school district.

CONDUCT WHICH MAY LEAD TO EXPULSION (STATUTORY OFFENSES)

Students are subject to suspension/expulsion by the Principal for the conduct listed below, subject to the procedures set forth in M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H.

- Possession of a dangerous weapon*
- Possession of a controlled substance (such as marijuana, cocaine, or prescription drugs not authorized by the school nurse)
- Assault on teachers, administrative staff or other educational personnel
- This includes not only knives and guns, explosive devices and realistic replicas of such weapons/devices, but also other objects used to assault another person or to otherwise create a dangerous situation, such as a baseball bat, a pair of scissors, matches or a lighter. While such objects would not always constitute "dangerous weapons", administrators and educational professionals will review the circumstances of each case and make a reasonable determination about whether a particular object in a student's possession constitutes a dangerous weapon in the school setting. Any illegal weapon will be turned over to the Police Department. Any student who brings a firearm to school must be expelled for a minimum of one school year, with exceptions granted only by the superintendent. (The definition of a firearm includes but is not limited to guns (including a starter gun), bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles, mines and similar devices.

Students are also subject to long term suspension/expulsion by the Principal when charged/convicted of a felony based upon the standards and procedures set forth in M.G.L. c.71, §37H1/2 (see below).

GUN FREE POLICY

In accordance with the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school or to a school related event will be excluded from Needham Public Schools for a period of not less than one year except as determine by the Superintendent on a case by case basis. The definition of a firearm includes but is not limited to guns (including a starter gun, bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles, mines and similar devices). 20 U.S.C. S8921

STATUTORY OFFENSES: DUE PROCESS AND PROVISIONS OF LAW

When considering the exclusion of a student from school for possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance (such as marijuana, cocaine, or prescription drugs not authorized by the school nurse), or assault on teachers, an administrator may place a student on short term suspension (ten days or less) based upon an informal hearing, to be followed by a formal hearing before the Principal within that period of suspension to determine whether to take additional disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school.

1. The informal hearing will be in the form of a conference between the student and the principal or designee. At this conference, the student (1) shall be informed of the reason for the conference, (2) shall be given the opportunity to present his or her side of the story, and (3) shall be given a decision on the suspension. If the administrator deems delay of the hearing necessary to avoid danger or substantial disruption, this process may occur immediately after, rather than before, the suspension.
2. Prior to putting a suspension into effect, the principal or designee shall make a reasonable effort to telephone and inform the student's parent or guardian of the impending suspension; this shall include attempts to contact the parents or guardian at home and at work. Parents may contact the school for additional information regarding the suspension.
3. A letter will be mailed to the parent/guardian of the suspended student stating:
 - a. The reason for the suspension
 - b. A statement of the effective date and duration of the suspension
 - c. A statement regarding whether or not the Principal will schedule a formal hearing to consider further discipline, up to and including expulsion from school in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §37H

When considering a suspension/expulsion of a student charged with/convicted of felony, the Principal will use the standards and procedures set forth in M.G.L. c.71, §37H1/2. In addition, prior to initiating such procedures, the Principal may meet informally with the student and/or his parents to review the charge and the applicable standards if the Principal deems appropriate.

STATUTE: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, DANGEROUS WEAPONS & ASSAULTS ON EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL (MASS. GEN. LAWS, CHAPTER 71 SECTION 37H)

- a. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in chapter 94 C, including but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.
- b. Any student who assaults a principal, assistant principal, teacher, teacher's aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.
- c. Any student who is charged with a violation of either paragraph a or b shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing; provided, however, that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at said hearing before the Principal. After said hearing, a Principal may, in his/her discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the Principal to have violated either paragraph a or b.
- d. Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have 10 days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of his appeal. The student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this section.
- e. Any school district that suspends or expels a student under this section shall continue to provide educational services to the student during the period of suspension or expulsion under section 21 of chapter 76. If the student moves to another district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to the school or provide educational services to the student in an education service plan, under section 21 of chapter 76.

STATUTE: FELONY COMPLAINTS & FELONY CONVICTIONS (MASS GEN. LAWS, CHAPTER 71 SECTION 37H1/2)

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 84 and sections 16 and 17 on chapter 76;1.

1. Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal of a school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by said Principal if said Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and the reasons for such suspension prior to such suspension taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his/her right to appeal and the process for appealing such suspension; provided, however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent. The student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the Superintendent. The student shall notify the Superintendent in writing of his/her request for an appeal no later than 5 calendar days following the effective date of the suspension. The Superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parents/guardians within 3 calendar days of the student's request for an appeal. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his/her behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within 5 calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the suspension.
2. Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency, the Principal of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if such Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his/her right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion; provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent. The student shall have the right to appeal the expulsion to the Superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent, in writing, of his/her request for an appeal no later than 5 calendar days following the effective date of the expulsion. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parents/guardians within 3 calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his/her behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within 5 calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the expulsion.

Any school district that suspends or expels a student under this section shall continue to provide educational services to the

student during the period of suspension or expulsion under section 21 of chapter 76. If the student moves to another district during the period the new district of residence shall either admit the student to the school or provide educational services to the student in an education service plan, under section 21 of chapter 76.

DISCIPLINE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act at 20 U.S.C., §1400, et. seq. and related regulations and 34 C.F.R., §300 et.seq., (“IDEA”) provide eligible students (“students”) with certain procedural rights and protections in the context of student discipline, as set forth below. These rights are in addition to the due process rights applicable to all students as described above.

Short Term Removals. Students who violate school rules are subject to removal from their current placement for up to ten (10) consecutive school days to the extent that such a removal would be applied to students without disabilities, without a prior determination of whether the conduct is a manifestation of the student’s disability. Students may be removed for additional periods of up to ten (10) consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct without a manifestation determination, so long as the removal does not constitute a “change of placement” as described below. However, during such additional removals the district must provide the student with services to the extent necessary for progress in the general curriculum and the student’s IEP goals, as determined by the Principal in consultation with at least one teacher. In addition, if appropriate, the district must conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop or revise an existing behavioral plan for the student.

Change of Placement. A suspension of longer than 10 consecutive days or a series of shorter term suspensions that constitute a pattern are considered to represent a “change in placement.” Prior to a suspension that constitutes a change in placement, the student’s Team, including the student’s parents, must convene to determine whether the behavior is a manifestation of the student’s disability. In making this determination, the Team must review all relevant information in the student’s file, including the IEP, teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents, to determine if the conduct was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student’s disability, or was the direct result of any failure by the school to implement the IEP.

Results of the Manifestation Determination. If the Team determines that the behavior is not a manifestation of the disability, then the school may suspend or expel the student consistent with the policies applied to students without disabilities, except that the district must still provide an appropriate educational program to the student, as determined by the Team, which program may be in a different setting. If the Team determines that the behavior is a manifestation of a disability, the Team must conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop a behavioral intervention plan or where a behavioral intervention plan was previously developed, must review the plan and, if necessary, modify it to address the behavior. Except in circumstances involving drugs, weapons, or serious bodily injury as described below, the student will be returned to the placement from which the student was removed unless the placement is changed by agreement or through the Team process.

Exception for Drugs, Weapons and Serious Injury. Regardless of the Team’s decisions regarding the manifestation determination, school personnel may order a change in the placement of a student to an interim alternative educational setting, such setting to be determined by the Team, for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the student (1) carries a weapon to school or to a school function; (2) knowingly possesses, uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person at school, on school premises, or at a school function. Additionally, a Massachusetts Department of Education Hearing Officer, under certain circumstances, may order a change in the placement of a student with a disability to an interim alternative education setting for up to forty-five (45) days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or others.

When a parent(s)/guardian(s) disagrees with the Team’s decision on the “manifestation determination” or with a decision regarding placement, the parent(s)/guardian(s) has a right to request an expedited due process hearing from the Bureau of Special Education Appeals.

Additional information regarding the procedural protections for special education students eligible for services under laws providing for services for students with disabilities can be obtained from the Director of Student Support Services, who can be reached at 781-455-0400 x 213.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WHOSE ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION IS SUSPECTED

The IDEA protections summarized above also apply to a child who has not yet been found eligible for services under the statute if the district is “deemed to have knowledge” that the child was eligible for such services before the conduct that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. The IDEA provides that a school district is “deemed to have knowledge” if: (1) the child’s parent had expressed concern in writing to district supervisory or administrative personnel or the child’s teacher that the child needs special education and related services; (2) the child’s parent had requested an evaluation of the child to determine eligibility for special education services; or (3) the teacher of the child or other school district personnel had expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior by the child directly to the district’s director of special education or to other supervisory personnel. However, a school district is not “deemed to have knowledge” if the district evaluated the student and determined that the child was not eligible for special education services or the child’s parent refused an evaluation of the child or IDEA services.

If the school district has no knowledge that a student is an eligible student under the IDEA before taking disciplinary measures against the student, the student may be disciplined just as any other student may be. If, however, a request is made for an evaluation to determine eligibility while the student is subject to disciplinary measures, the district must conduct the evaluation in an expedited manner. Pending the results of the evaluation, the student must remain in the educational placement determined by school authorities, which may include suspension or expulsion without services. If the student is determined eligible for an IEP as a result of the evaluation, the school district must provide the student with special education and related services in accordance with the IDEA.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") provides students with disabilities certain procedural rights and protections in the context of student discipline. Prior to imposing a "significant change in placement" for disciplinary reasons, the district must determine whether the conduct is a manifestation of the student's disability. A significant change of placement results not only from an exclusion for more than 10 consecutive school days, but also from a pattern of shorter suspensions accumulating to 10 school days during a school year. Whether a pattern exists must be decided on a case-by-case basis, considering such factors as the length of each suspension, the nature of the alleged conduct, the proximity of the suspensions to one another, and the total amount of time the student is excluded from school.

Prior to any significant change in placement for disciplinary reasons, a group of individuals knowledgeable of the student, the evaluation data, and the school program must determine whether the conduct at issue is related to the student's disability. If the conduct is directly related to the disability, the district will not impose the discipline and will develop an individual behavior management plan if the behavior significantly interferes with the student's ability to benefit from his education. If the conduct is not directly related to the student's disability, the district may discipline the student as it does general education students.

DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The Needham Public Schools does not discriminate against students, parents, employees, or the general public based on race, color, sex, homeless status, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or age. Discrimination or harassment by administrators, teachers, certified and support personnel, students, vendors and other individuals at school or at school-sponsored events is unlawful and is strictly prohibited. The Needham Public Schools requires all employees and students to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner with respect to their fellow employees, students and all members of the school community.

This Grievance Procedure is adopted to assist school staff in responding to claims of discrimination and/or harassment based on race, color, sex, homeless status, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or age, including those claims brought under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, M.G.L. c. 76, § 5; M.G.L. c. 151B and 151C; and 603 C.M.R. § 26.00 and the Age Act. This policy applies to all students, and staff, as well as members of the general public.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this procedure:

- A. A "Complaint" is defined as an allegation that a student, employee or other individual has been discriminated against or harassed on the basis of race, color, sex, homeless status, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or age.
- B. "Discrimination" means discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, homeless status, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or age by which an individual is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the school.
- C. "Harassment" means unwelcome conduct on the basis of race, color, sex, homeless status, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or age that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive to create a hostile environment for the individual at school. Harassment may include insults, name-calling, off color jokes, threats, comments, innuendoes, notes, display of pictures or symbols, gestures, or other conduct which rises to the level of a hostile environment.
- D. "Sexual Harassment" means unwelcome, sexually offensive or gender-based conduct which is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive to create a hostile environment for the individual at school. Additionally, under M.G.L. c. 151C, § 1, the term "sexual harassment" may also include, but is not limited to, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (i) submission to or rejection of such advances, requests or conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the provision of the benefits, privileges or placement services or as a basis for the evaluation of academic achievement; or (ii) such advances, requests or conduct have the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's education by creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or sexually offensive educational environment. Under M.G.L. c. 151B, § 1, the term "sexual harassment" shall mean sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of

a sexual nature when: (i) submission to or rejection of such advances, requests or conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or as a basis for employment decisions; or (ii) such advances, requests or conduct have the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or sexually offensive work environment.

When determining whether an environment is hostile, the school district examines the context, nature, frequency, and location of the sexual or gender-based incidents, as well as the identity, number and relationships of the persons involved. The school district must consider whether the alleged harassment was sufficient to have created such an environment for a reasonable person of the same age, gender, and experience as the alleged victim, and under similar circumstances.

HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION PROHIBITED

Harassment in any form or for any reason is absolutely forbidden. This includes harassment by administrators, certified and support personnel, students, vendors and other individuals in school or at school related events. Retaliation against any individual who has brought harassment or other inappropriate behavior to the attention of school officials or who has cooperated in an investigation of a complaint under this policy is unlawful and will not be tolerated by the Needham Public Schools.

Persons who engage in harassment or retaliation may be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to reprimand, suspension, termination/expulsion or other sanctions as determined by the school administration and/or School Committee, subject to applicable procedural requirements.

HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

- A. Any student, employee or other individual who believes that he/she has been discriminated against or harassed should report their concern promptly to the school principal listed below, or to the District's Civil Rights Coordinator. If the school principal receives the report, he or she will notify the Civil Rights Coordinator of the Complaint. Students, employees or other individuals who are unsure whether discrimination or harassment has occurred are encouraged to discuss the situation with the school principal.

The District's Civil Rights Coordinator is:

For employees: Alex McNeil
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Alexandra_mcneil@needham.k12.ma.us
781-455-0400 x208

For students and families: Mary Lammi
Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services
781-455-0400 x213

- B. District staff is expected to report incidents of discrimination or harassment of students and fellow employees. Parents and other adults are also encouraged to report any concerns about possible discrimination or harassment of students, employees or other individuals which have allegedly occurred on school grounds, at school related events, or actions which occurred outside of school but possibly create a hostile environment for a student or employee while he/she is at school.
- C. Students, employees and other individuals are encouraged to utilize the District's Complaint Procedure. However, individuals are hereby notified that they also have the right to report complaints to: The United States Department of Education; Office for Civil Rights, 5 Post Office Square, 8th Floor; Boston, Massachusetts 02110-1491, Telephone: (617) 289-0111, Fax: 617-289-0150, TDD: 877-521-2172; or Program Quality Assurance Services, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148-4906, Telephone: 781-338-3700, TTY: N.E.T. Relay: 1-800-439-2370, FAX: 781-338-3710. Employees also have the right to seek a remedy at any time at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), John F. Kennedy Federal Building, 475 Government Center, Boston, MA 02203-0506; 1-800-669-4000 or 1-800-669-6820 (TTY) and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) at One Ashburton Place, Suite 601, Boston, MA 02018; 617-994-6000 or 617-994-6196 (TTY).

COMPLAINT HANDLING AND INVESTIGATION

- A. The school principal or designee shall promptly inform the relevant Civil Rights Coordinator and the person(s) who is the subject of the Complaint that a Complaint has been received.
- B. After notifying the appropriate Civil Rights Coordinator, the school principal or designee may pursue an informal

resolution of the Complaint with the agreement of the parties involved. Informal resolution is optional, and the Complainant may elect to proceed according to the formal resolution procedure at any time prior to the completion of the informal resolution.

- C. Under the formal resolution procedure, the Complaint will be investigated by the school principal or other individual designated by the school principal or Civil Rights Coordinator. Any Complaint about an employee who holds a supervisory position shall be investigated by a person who is not subject to that supervisor's authority. Any Complaint about the Superintendent should be submitted to the School Committee Chair, who will consult with legal counsel concerning handling the investigation of the Complaint.
1. The Complainant shall have the opportunity to identify witnesses and other relevant evidence to the investigator.
 2. The person who is the subject of the Complaint will be provided with an opportunity to be heard as part of the investigation including the opportunity to provide relevant information and identify witnesses for the investigator's consideration.
 3. The privacy rights of all parties to the Complaint shall be maintained in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.
 4. The investigator will keep a written record of the investigation process.
 5. The investigator may take interim remedial measures to reduce the risk of further discrimination or harassment while the investigation is pending.
 6. The investigation shall be completed within fifteen (15) school days of the date of the receipt of the Complaint.
 7. The investigator may extend the investigation period beyond fifteen (15) school days because of extenuating circumstances, including but not limited to availability and cooperation of witnesses, complexity of the investigation, school vacation periods, and the involvement of law enforcement and other outside agency investigations. If the investigator extends the investigation, he or she will notify the Complainant of the extension.
 8. If a complaint or report of discrimination or harassment is received after June 1 of a given school year, the investigator will attempt to complete the investigation by the end of the school year. In the event that the investigation extends beyond the last day of school, the District will make reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within the above-referenced time frame, but may extend the investigation period to account for the availability of witnesses during the summer vacation period. If the investigator extends the investigation, he or she will notify the Complainant of the extension and make reasonable efforts to interview the witnesses during the summer vacation period.
 9. Nothing in this procedure will preclude the investigator, in his or her discretion, from completing the investigation sooner than the fifteen (15) school days described above.
- D. If the investigator determines that discrimination or harassment has occurred, he/she shall take steps to eliminate the discriminatory hostile environment, which may include but is not limited to:
1. Determining what disciplinary action should be taken against the person(s) who engaged in discrimination or harassment, if any;
 2. Determining what steps are necessary to prevent recurrence of any discriminatory behavior, including but not limited to harassment, and to correct its discriminatory effects if appropriate; and
 3. Informing the Complainant and the person(s) who was the subject of the Complaint of the results of the investigation (in accordance with applicable state and federal privacy laws) within twenty (20) school days of receipt of the Complaint, unless the investigation is extended under the provision described above.
- E. If the Complainant or the accused, in the case of a student, the student's parents/legal guardians, is dissatisfied with the results of the investigation, an appeal may be made to the appropriate Civil Rights Coordinator within ten (10) school days after receiving notice of the outcome of the investigation. In the appeal, the appellant should identify any specific alleged factual or legal errors and explain why the errors should result in a different conclusion. The Civil Rights Coordinator shall review the investigation and may conduct further investigation if deemed appropriate. Within seven (7) school days of receipt of any such appeal, the Civil Rights Coordinator shall decide whether or not to reopen the investigation, uphold the principal or designee's determination, or reverse the principal or designee's determination. The Civil Rights Coordinator shall provide written notification of that determination to both the Complainant and the accused. The Civil Rights Coordinator's decision shall be final, subject to further appeal to the Superintendent. Please note that if the accused is subject to long-term suspension as a result of the investigation under these procedures, the appeal process set forth here and in the ensuing paragraph shall not apply, and his or her appeal rights shall be solely through the disciplinary due process provisions set forth in M.G.L. c.71, Sections 37H, 37H ½ and/or 37H ¾, as applicable to the individual circumstances.

- F. If the Complainant or, in the case of a student, the student's parents/legal guardians, are dissatisfied with the decision of the Civil Rights Coordinator, an appeal may be submitted to the Superintendent within seven (7) calendar days after receiving notice of the Civil Rights Coordinator's decision. The Superintendent will consider the appeal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

DISTRICT MEETINGS, PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES

The Public Schools, recognizing that some areas in its school department buildings are inaccessible to individuals with disabilities, adopts the following policy:

- All meetings, conferences, programs, and activities in school department buildings are available, without discrimination, to individuals with disabilities as defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or Title II of the American with Disabilities Act.
- Whenever an individual with a disability(ies) wishes to attend or participate in a meeting, conference, program, or activity which is inaccessible, that meeting, conference, program or activity will be relocated to an accessible area. Forty-eight hour notice of the need for relocation should be made by the person with a disability(ies) to the Superintendent's Office:

Needham Public Schools
1330 Highland Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
(781) 455-0400 x 203

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing this policy by relocating meetings, conferences, programs, or activities. Whenever an individual with impaired vision seeks to obtain information under this procedure, the information will be communicated as follows:

- A Braille copy of the posting; a tape recording of the notice; and the use of a reader, where necessary, will be provide upon request.

Whenever an individual who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing seeks to obtain information under this procedure, the district will seek to provide access to that person as follows:

- A communication option will be offered that reflects the individual's preference: interpretation by a sign language interpreter or oral interpreter; live transcription services; or another method, which could include written notes. This assistance will be arranged through the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Please contact the Director of Student Support Services for more information: (781) 455-0400 x 213.

This policy will be posted in prominent and, where possible, accessible places in all School Department buildings, Town Hall, and the Public Library.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Special Education services provide specialized instruction to students who have been identified through testing, as having an educational disability that prevents them from making effective progress in their classroom. Parents/guardians play a key role in this process by offering their insight and information that helps the TEAM to understand their children. If determined to be eligible for special education services, a TEAM meeting, including parents and teachers, develops an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the student. This Program is designed to support the student's access to the general education curriculum. Special Education evaluation and services can only be provided with a parent's permission. If you would like more information or believe your child may have a disability, please contact your child's teacher or your school's principal.

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The **McKinney-Vento Act** is designed to remove barriers to enrollment and retention in school of homeless children and youth. A homeless child is defined broadly as "any child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate residence." These students include those who are "doubled up" with friends or relatives (sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship), runaways, unaccompanied youths, as well as others. Homeless students have the right to continue to attend the same school they attended when permanently housed (or the school in which they were last enrolled) (i.e. school of origin) and to receive round-trip transportation between their temporary

housing and their school of origin. In the alternative, the student may choose to attend school where they are temporarily residing. School placement determinations must be made based on the best interest of the homeless student. School districts must presume that keeping the student in the school of origin until the end of the school year in which the student obtains permanent housing is in the student's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth. Homeless students must be enrolled immediately in school even if they do not have the documents usually required for enrollment such as school records or proof of immunizations. The District's Homeless Education Coordinator will contact the previously attended school district to request copies of any required records that are missing.

Any questions about the programming available to homeless students and their families should be directed to the Director of Student Support Services (Responsible for Homeless Education Coordination) who can be reached at (781)-455-0400 x213.

BULLYING POLICY

BULLYING DEFINITIONS AND RESPONSES

Bullying (and cyber-bullying) will not be tolerated in our schools, on buses or anywhere on school grounds. **Bullying** is conduct that is repeated by one or more students or by a member of the school staff and targets another student, causing one or more of the following:

- Physical or emotional harm to the targeted student or damage to his/her property;
- Placement of the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself or of damage to his/her property;
- A hostile environment at school for the targeted student;
- Infringement on the rights of the targeted student at school; or
- Material and substantial disruption to the educational process or the orderly operation of the school.

Cyber-bullying is bullying through use of cell phones, computers or other technology and may include conduct such as sending mean or threatening email messages, instant messages, or text messages; creating websites that make fun of, humiliate, or intimidate others; and posting or sending embarrassing pictures of others.

Preventing and reducing bullying will be addressed in the following ways:

- By establishing a school-wide culture where bullying is not acceptable and where students recognize that helping students who are bullied is the right thing to do
- By training staff in identification of bullying, prevention and intervention techniques for bullying
- By providing time in classrooms/morning meetings for teachers to focus on bullying prevention so that they can provide tools for students
- By establishing and enforcing school rules and policies related to bullying

While Needham Elementary Schools are committed to maintaining a school environment where all students are free from bullying, we also recognize that students may be more vulnerable to bullying based upon actual or perceived differences. These may be related to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, socio-economic status, homelessness, academic status, gender identity or expression, physical appearance, pregnant or parenting status, sexual orientation, mental, physical developmental or sensory disability or by associations with other people who have one or more of these characteristics. Needham Schools will provide support to students whose vulnerability is brought to the attention of a teacher, guidance counselor or administrator through observation or direct report from a student, staff member or parent/guardian. This support may be in the form of counseling, education to support both the student's ability to report bullying and his/her skills, knowledge and strategies to respond to bullying or harassment.

HOW TO REPORT BULLYING

Students who believe they are targets of bullying or retaliation, or who know about bullying conduct should report the conduct to an assistant principal, a teacher, guidance counselor or other school staff member. All school personnel are mandated to report any incidents of bullying that they witness to an appropriate administrator. In addition, parents/guardians are encouraged to report any incidents that may involve bullying. All members of the school community are responsible for keeping students safe. We expect that the community will set a positive example and not tolerate students who might create unsafe situations for other students.

Please see School Committee Policy JCFB Bullying for full statement on the district's policy regarding bullying and cyber-bullying.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS & TIME-OUT PROCEDURE

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

School staff may physically restrain students only when needed to protect a student and/or a member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm and as a last resort when other alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate. In all cases, staff will be mindful of the importance of preventing or minimizing any harm to the student that could result from physical restraint.

Physical restraint means direct physical contact that prevents or significantly restricts a student's freedom of movement. It does not include: brief physical contact to promote student safety, providing physical guidance or prompting when teaching a skill, redirecting attention, providing comfort, or a physical escort. While use of physical restraint is generally restricted to personnel who have received appropriate training, this training requirement does not preclude personnel from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm. During a restraint, at least one adult who does not participate in the restraint will be present whenever possible.

A staff member who administers a restraint must verbally inform the principal or designee of the restraint as soon as possible and submit a written report no later than the next school working day. The principal or his/her designee will make reasonable efforts to verbally inform the student's parent of the restraint within 24 hours and will provide written notice within three school working days by email address provided by the parent (or by regular mail to the parent postmarked within three school working days of the restraint.)

TIME-OUT

Time-out is a behavioral support strategy in which a student temporarily separates from the learning activity or the classroom, either by choice or by direction from staff, for the purpose of calming. During time-out, a student must be continuously observed by a staff member, and a staff member must be with the student or immediately available to the student at all times. Time-out must cease as soon as the student has calmed.

Complaints and investigations regarding restraint practices are covered by School Policy JKAA.

Additional information, including a copy of applicable state regulations, can be obtained from Mary Lammi, Director of Student Support Services, who can be reached at 781-455-0400 x213

STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Massachusetts Student Records Regulations ("Regulations") together provide parents and eligible students (those who have reached the age of 14 or who have entered ninth grade) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. A general overview of those rights is provided below. Parents and students may obtain a complete copy of their rights under the Massachusetts Student Record Regulations by contacting the school's principal.

- a. The **right to access** the student's education records. Parents or eligible students should submit their request for access to the building principal. Access is generally provided within ten days of a request. However, Massachusetts General Laws c. 71, §34H ("Section 37H") law provides specific procedures that must be followed prior to release of records to a parent who does not have physical custody of a child. These procedures include submitting a written request and other documentation to the principal on an annual basis. Information about these procedures can be obtained from the building principal.
- b. The **right to request amendment** of the student's education records. Parents or eligible students should direct their request to the principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they wish to have amended, and why.
- c. © The **right to consent to disclosures** of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and the Massachusetts regulations authorize disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests in the records. Such school officials include professional, administrative and clerical staff who are employed by or under agreement with the Needham Public Schools and who need access to a record in order to fulfill their duties. The Needham Public Schools also discloses student records without parent/eligible student consent to officials of other elementary or secondary schools in which a student enrolls, or seeks, intends, or is instructed to enroll upon receipt of a request from such school officials.
- d. As required by law, the Needham Public Schools routinely releases (1) the name, address and telephone listing of secondary school students to military recruiters and to institutions of higher learning upon request, (2) the name and address of students to third party mail service that has been approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education upon the request of a Charter School and (3) directory information, without consent. Directory information consists of the following: the student's name, parents' names, address, parent's email address, telephone

listing, date of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of athletic teams, class, participation in recognized activities and sports, honors and awards, and post- high school plans. In the event a parent or eligible student objects to the release of any of the above information, the parent or eligible student may state that objection in writing to the Director of Student Support Services no later than October 1 of each school year. Absent receipt of a written objection for the parent or eligible student by that date, this information will be released without further notice or consent.

- e. The **right to file a complaint** concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the regulations and laws governing student records. Complaints may be filed at the Massachusetts Department of Education, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148. In addition, complaints relative to federal statutes and regulations governing student records may be filed with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington DC.
- f. **Destruction of Records:** Regulations require that certain parts of the student record, such as the temporary record, be destroyed a certain period of time after the student leaves the school system. School authorities are also allowed to destroy misleading, outdated, or irrelevant information in the record from time to time while the student is enrolled in the school system. Before any such information is destroyed, the parent must be notified and have an opportunity to receive a copy of any of the information.
- g. **Temporary Records** consist of all the information not kept on the transcript. This information includes the student's standardized test scores and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other staff members. Said record shall include, but not be limited to, any incidents involving suspension or violation of criminal laws or any incident reports in which the student was charged with any suspendable act. In accordance with Department of Education regulations, a student's temporary record will be destroyed up to 7 years after leaving school provided prior notice is given to the student.

