



# 2025-26 Scholar Handbook

CCS of Los Angeles | CCS of San Diego | CCS of Yolo

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## Acknowledgment of Scholar Handbook

Scholars and Learning Coaches:

1. Please **read** the scholar handbook, which will include expectations, policies, procedures, annual notifications, and information crucial to a successful Compass Charter Schools experience. Feel free to direct any questions to your supervising teacher, or appropriate Compass staff member.
  2. When you **sign** the **Master Agreement and Acknowledgement of Responsibilities**, you will be **agreeing** that:
    - a. I, the scholar, read, understand, and agree to comply with the Scholar Handbook.
    - b. I, the parent/guardian/caregiver, read, understand, and agree to comply with the Scholar Handbook and acknowledge receipt of the annual notifications provided therein.
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## Letter from the Superintendent & CEO

Dear Scholars and Learning Coaches:

We are happy you have chosen to make Compass Charter Schools (further referenced in this handbook as CCS, Compass, School, or Charter School) your school of choice. I am proud to be the Superintendent & CEO of Compass, and I am looking forward to working with our staff to provide a quality personalized learning program for every scholar we serve. Everyone here at Compass is committed to creating a nurturing environment as we work with you to meet the learning needs of your scholar(s).

At Compass, we work diligently to provide a high quality of support to both our scholars and their families. To that end, we are proud of the extremely positive feedback we receive from parents and scholars. As a public charter school, it is important that we all work together for the future of our scholars. Compass Charter Schools of Los Angeles, Compass Charter Schools of San Diego, and Compass Charter Schools of Yolo are proud to be building excellence with our district partners, Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District, Mountain Empire Unified School District, and Winters Joint Unified School District.

I encourage you to visit our website, under About Us -> Meet Our Team, to learn more about our terrific STs, along with our great support staff who are here to help guide your educational experience at Compass Charter Schools!

Thank you again for choosing Compass. We look forward to being part of you and your scholar's educational journey this year!

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Brenner  
Superintendent & CEO

## CCS Vocabulary

Like any school, Compass has its own unique culture, systems, and terms. Please familiarize yourself with these terms to better understand and navigate Compass.

**ARTIC Values:** These are the values that Compass staff, families, learning coaches, and scholars are expected to adhere to. ARTIC is an acronym for achievement, respect, teamwork, integrity, and communication.

**Board Policy Manual:** A written document which includes all of the Charter School's board approved policies. A link to the Board Policy can be found on our website at [www.compasscharters.org/about-us/board-of-directors](http://www.compasscharters.org/about-us/board-of-directors).

**Charter:** A written document, much like a contract, outlining the rights and obligations of a non-profit organization, company or school. For charter schools, it is often a school district which approves the charter (in compliance with state laws). The charter allows a charter school to operate with some freedoms that district schools do not have, however strong academic results and commitments made in the charter must be met as part of that contract.

**Educational Support Funds:** The funds allocated for educational materials and services that have been approved by the School for scholar use.

**Education Specialist:** A credentialed special education teacher who is assigned to provide specialized academic instruction to scholars who have special education services in their IEP.

**Family Order Agreement (FOA):** An agreement which includes the terms and conditions in which orders may be requested. It is a requirement that this form be signed before any order may be placed.

**Learning Coach (LC):** Parents and guardians are known as the “Learning Coach” for their children, and they are an integral part of their children’s success at Compass. Since we are a personalized learning public charter school, much of the learning is facilitated by the learning coach in collaboration with a supervising teacher.

**Learning Management System (LMS):** A computer program used to deliver education courses from the teacher to the scholar. It helps keep the learning organized and allows the teacher to create, adjust, and assign lessons and grades to the scholar.

**Learning Period (LP):** The span of time between which a supervising teacher and scholar connect to review the learning for that time period when work assignments begin and when they are given to the supervising teacher for evaluation.

**Materials Community Provider:** This is a business that sells books, curriculum, and other educational items.

**OCLC:** Orange County Learning Center. A facility operated by Compass in Santa Ana where Options scholars within close proximity can attend two days a week.

**Online Purchasing System (OPS):** The online accounting-procurement system used by our Supervising Teachers, Community Providers Department, and Finance Department to facilitate orders and to manage the Educational Support Funds, orders, invoices, purchase orders, and inventory.

**Order Request:** This request is made by the LC and lists materials or services that they would like to use the Educational Support Funds for. The supervising teacher reviews and approves the list and then places the order into the OPS system for the Community Provider Department to order.

**Scholar:** At Compass, we choose to refer to each student as a scholar. Scholar is defined as a person who is highly educated or has an aptitude for study; a distinguished academic. We refer to students as scholars because we want to emphasize our commitment to helping every individual be academically successful.

**Service Community Provider:** This is a business that markets lessons, services, or courses to the scholars at our School.

**Student Information System (SIS):** The system that Compass uses to manage the data of each scholar such as attendance, grades, courses, enrollment information, etc. The system used by Compass is called School Pathways.

**Supervising Teacher (ST):** All scholars are assigned a credentialed ST to support and guide each scholar on their educational journey.

**Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC):** A committee of educators from within the region who evaluate and approve schools for accreditation based on the organization's criterion. One of their purposes is to ensure educational best practices. University of California schools has a policy that requires all schools to be accredited in order to establish and maintain an A-G course list.

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire and develop innovative, creative, self-directed learners, one scholar at a time.

## Vision Statement

Our vision is to create an innovative, collaborative, learning environment that supports the diverse needs and goals of each scholar, nurtures a love of learning, and prepares them for future success.

## Core Values

Achievement | Respect | Teamwork | Integrity | Communication

## Scholar Profile

The Compass Scholar Profile defines the aspirational, whole-learner outcomes, centered on attending to the social, emotional, cognitive, and mental health needs of all scholars.

- **Community Leader:** I understand that I am a member of a global society and feel a sense of responsibility to make a contribution both at the local level and in the wider world.
- **Effective Collaborator:** I participate in collaborative forums, to build understanding of concepts and to complete authentic tasks; communicating effectively (using active listening, striving to understand others, and seeking to be understood), thereby creating a safe environment in which everyone feels valued and inspired to achieve a common goal.
- **Confident Learner:** I strive to be my best self and recognize my purpose and value both in and outside of school; thinking critically and skillfully to evaluate data and information as a guide to my beliefs and actions.
- **Innovator:** I seek to create something new and better in service of achieving my goals; synthesizing information and exploring multiple perspectives to find creative and realistic solutions.

## Pledge of Excellence

Compass signed onto the Independent Study Pledge of Excellence in 2016. Its purpose is to establish a consistent, transparent approach to responsible charter school management across all of the member schools. The Code of Conduct is a pledge to employees, families and the public that member charter schools will conduct business in an honest, legal and ethical manner.

All member schools adhere to the pledge's provisions, committing to ethical professional conduct. The Code is intended to serve as a basis for ethical decisions in operating these charter schools. The Pledge reads:

"Independent study in the state of California is defined as non-classroom based instruction. Non-classroom based instruction includes, but is not limited to, independent study, home study, work study, distance, and computer-based education.

We the undersigned pledge to the following in the operation and management of our charter schools offering independent study:

1. As operators of high-quality public charter schools offering independent study, we stand united behind the elements of integrity, trust, quality, and value in the operation of our schools. We know that offering personalized learning options meets the scholar where they are, aligns with what they individually need, while creating an academic program that is relevant, rigorous, and aligned to 21st Century learning.
2. As operators of high-quality public charter schools offering independent study, we stand united in managing schools that are fiscally responsible in the use of public tax dollars in our care. We value the use of independent auditors that review our financial and operational activities annually and showcase reports that are exception-free. This speaks to the commitment that we hold on financial accountability and operational integrity.
3. As operators of high-quality public charter schools offering independent study, we stand united in our efforts to operate schools that model strong integrity, value and utilize solid business practices, and abide by all rules and regulations placed upon us by school districts, regional Offices of Education, and the California Department of Education.
4. As operators of high-quality public charter schools offering independent study, we stand united believing that the actions of a few rogue charter school operators do not reflect, align, or mirror anything about our programs. Having individuals or the media drawing comparisons speaks to either the fact that they don't know what we do or they are acting on rumor and innuendo in these conversations.
5. As operators of high-quality public charter schools offering independent study, we stand united in stating clearly that we are here for one purpose: educating scholars. Our resource centers, school sites, and classrooms are solely for the purpose of academic programming for the benefit of scholars in our care. Our commitment to scholars does not center on money, influence, or politics.
6. As operators of high-quality public charter schools offering independent study, we stand united in offering high

quality programs that exist to offer innovative and tested methods of instruction and self-paced learning. We have proof by our results that we are helping scholars to think, communicate, and achieve.

7. As operators of high-quality public charter schools offering independent study, we stand united in following the state law in the operation of resource centers and school sites.

Our commitment to excellence is unwavering and our focus on scholars is what motivates us to create, manage, and grow public charter schools within the space of independent study.”

## Description of Program

Compass is one of California's leading public charter schools serving scholars throughout the state in transitional kindergarten (TK), kindergarten (K), and grades one through twelve. We are a primarily virtual, personalized learning program. We recognize that, in education, one size does not fit all, and we have two great programs to serve scholars: the Online Learning Program and the Options Learning Program. Compass is designed and organized to serve scholars and families who have chosen a unique educational setting that can meet an individual scholar’s needs.

A prospectus, including a description of the curriculum, along with titles, descriptions, and instructional aims of every course offered by Compass, is available for review upon request. Please note that, pursuant to law, the Charter School may charge for the prospectus in an amount not to exceed the cost of duplication.

Compass is an academic program, and we are proud of the rich, rigorous, standards-based program we provide. Because we are a primarily virtual public charter school, we utilize many digital tools and platforms. For example, parent workshops, clubs, and communication are conducted virtually. These digital tools allow us to enhance our scholars’ learning, as well as the relationships and communication we have with them and each other. While a virtual community is important to us, we also seek to build in-person communities with a variety of events, workshops, and field trips.

## Enrollment Requirements

### General Requirements

- A scholar must be five years of age on or before September 1st in order to be admitted to kindergarten at any time during that school year. For those young scholars who will turn five between September 2 and April 2, they can enroll in Transitional Kindergarten. A scholar’s age cannot exceed 19 years for initial enrollment unless the scholar has been continuously enrolled in school and making satisfactory progress toward graduation; if a scholar was not attending school at any time after their 19th birthday, they may not enroll with CCS.
- A scholar must have completed the CCS enrollment process, submitted the applicable compliance documents, and signed a Master Agreement prior to starting courses.
- A scholar may only be enrolled in CCS and not concurrently enrolled in another school, public or private (unless prior permission is given for a community college).

### Immunization Requirements

Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations, children must provide proof of having received required immunizations (shots) before they can attend school unless they meet the requirements for an exemption. Immunization records are required for all incoming scholars. Verification of immunizations will be completed with written medical records from the child’s doctor or immunization clinic. To ensure a safe learning environment for all scholars, the Charter School follows and abides by the health standards set forth by the state of California. The immunization status of all scholars will be reviewed periodically. Those scholars who are not in compliance with the State guidelines must be excluded from classroom-based instruction until the requirements are met unless otherwise exempt. Scholars who have been exposed to a communicable disease for which they have not been immunized may be excluded from classroom-based instruction at the discretion of the Charter School.

These required immunizations include:

Child's Grade	List of shots required to attend school
<p><b>TK/K-12 Admission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP) - Five doses</li> <li>● Polio - Four doses</li> <li>● Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) - Two doses</li> <li>● Hepatitis B (Hep B) - Three doses</li> <li>● Varicella (chickenpox) – Two doses</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Four doses of DTaP are allowed if one was given on or after the fourth birthday. Three doses of DTaP meet the requirement if at least one dose of Tdap, DTaP, or DTP vaccine was given on or after the seventh birthday (also meets the 7th-12th grade Tdap requirement.) One or two doses of Td vaccine given on or after the seventh birthday count towards the requirement for DTaP. Three doses of Polio are allowed if one was given on or after the fourth birthday. MMR doses must be given on or after the first birthday. Two doses of measles, two doses of mumps, and one dose of rubella vaccine meet the requirement, separately or combined. Combination vaccines (e.g., MMRV) meet the requirements for individual component vaccines.</p>
<p><b>Entering 7th Grade</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tetanus, reduced Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis (Tdap) - One dose</li> <li>● Varicella (chickenpox) - Two doses</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> In order to begin 7th grade, scholars who had a valid personal belief exemption on file with a public or private elementary or secondary school in California before January 1, 2016 must meet all requirements listed for grades K-12 as well as requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> grade advancement (i.e., polio, MMR, chickenpox and primary series for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis). At least one dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is required on or after the 7th birthday.</p>

Learning coaches are asked to provide proof of immunizations for scholars upon registration in order to maintain updated records. All scholars must be fully immunized in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations with the following exceptions:

1. Scholars who show proof of a medical exemption by a physician licensed to practice medicine in California pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 120370.
  - o Commencing January 1, 2021, the California Department of Public Health standardized medical exemption form shall be the only documentation of a medical exemption that the School shall accept.
  - o On and after July 1, 2021, the School shall not unconditionally admit or readmit, or admit or advance any scholar to 7th grade, unless the scholar has been fully immunized or files a California Department of Public Health standardized medical exemption form as required by law.
  - o Medical exemptions issued before January 1, 2020 will continue to remain valid until the child enrolls in the next grade span, defined below.
2. Scholars who are enrolled in a home-based private school or independent study program and do not receive any classroom-based instruction.
  - o A scholar who has not received all of the required immunizations will not be eligible to attend classes at a Charter School resource center unless the scholar is otherwise exempt under #1.

If there is good cause to believe that a child has been exposed to a disease listed in subdivision (b) of Section 120335 and documentary proof of immunization status does not show proof of immunization against that disease, that child may be temporarily excluded from classroom-based instruction until the local health officer is satisfied that the child is no longer at risk of developing or transmitting the disease.

CCS shall immediately admit a foster child, as defined in Education Code § 48853.5(a), and a homeless child, as defined in Section 11434a(2) of Title 42 of the United States Code, regardless of whether the foster or homeless child's immunization records are not available or are missing. However, this does not alter CCS's obligation to obtain

immunization records for foster and homeless scholars or to ensure the full immunization of foster and homeless scholars as required by law.

This Policy does not prohibit a pupil who qualifies for an individualized education program (IEP), pursuant to federal law and Education Code Section 56026, from accessing any special education and related services required by the scholar's individualized education program.

Any scholar leaving the United States for a visit to any country considered by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to have an increased risk of TB exposure MUST call the County Tuberculosis Clinic for a TB Screening upon return.

A copy of the complete Immunization Policy is available upon request at the Central Office and on the School's website within the Board Policy Manual (Section 20).

### Oral Health Exam Requirements

California law states scholars must have an oral health assessment by May 31 of their kindergarten year or, if the scholar was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, their first grade year. A California licensed dental professional operating within their scope of practice must perform the check-up and fill out our oral health assessment form. If your scholar had a dental check-up in the 12 months before they started school, ask your dentist to fill out the oral health assessment form required for enrollment. If you are unable to get a dental check-up for your scholar, a waiver is available upon request.

### Residency Requirements

- In accordance with Education Code Section 51747.3, a scholar must reside within the county in which the specific CCS school of anticipated enrollment is authorized, or a contiguous county to the county in which the specific CCS school of anticipated enrollment is authorized.
- In accordance with local board policy number 22, parents must provide two current proof of residency documents before the scholar is unconditionally enrolled.
- Any change of address information must be updated with the Records Department within five business days. The learning coach must complete the Change of Contact Information Form, which is located on CCS' website.
- A scholar on approved extended vacation status, will not be deemed to have lost California residency. Parents, guardians, or adult foster care caregivers must submit an extended vacation form which is located on the CCS' website. This form must be submitted prior to the absence. This policy covers extended travel, including vacations, participation in competitions, or activities relating to the scholar's obligations outside of school.

## Diabetes

### Type 1

The Charter School will provide an information sheet regarding type 1 diabetes to the parent or guardian of a scholar when the scholar is first enrolled in elementary school, pursuant to Education Code Section 49452.6. The information sheet shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

- A description of type 1 diabetes.
- A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 1 diabetes.
- A recommendation that parents or guardians of scholars displaying warning signs associated with type 1 diabetes should immediately consult with the scholar's primary care provider to determine if immediate screening for type 1 diabetes is appropriate.
- A description of the screening process for type 1 diabetes and the implications of test results.
- A recommendation that, following a type 1 diagnosis, parents or guardians should consult with the scholar's primary care provider to develop an appropriate treatment plan, which may include consultation with and examination by a specialty care provider, including, but not limited to, a properly qualified endocrinologist.

A copy of the information sheet regarding type 1 diabetes is available at: [www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type1diabetes.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type1diabetes.asp). Please contact the Central Office if you have questions about, or need a copy of, this information sheet.

## Type 2

The Charter School will provide an information sheet regarding type 2 diabetes to the parent or guardian of incoming 7th grade scholars, pursuant to Education Code Section 49452.7. The information sheet shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

- A description of type 2 diabetes.
- A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes.
- A recommendation that scholars displaying or possibly suffering from risk factors or warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes should be screened for type 2 diabetes.
- A description of treatments and prevention of methods of type 2 diabetes.
- A description of the different types of diabetes screening tests available.

A copy of the information sheet regarding type 2 diabetes is available at: [cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type2diabetes.asp](http://cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type2diabetes.asp). Please contact the Central Office if you have questions about, or need a copy of, this information sheet.

## Physical Examinations and Right to Refuse

All pupils must complete a health screening examination on or before the 90th day after the pupil's entrance into first grade or such pupils must have obtained a waiver pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 124040 and 124085. This examination can be obtained from your family physician or possibly through the services provided by your County Health Department. Information and forms are distributed to scholars enrolled in kindergarten or a California public school for the first time. If your child's medical status changes, please provide the supervising teacher with a physician's written verification of the medical issue, especially if it impacts in any way your child's ability to perform schoolwork.

A parent/guardian having control or charge of any child enrolled in CCS may file annually with the Superintendent & CEO a written and signed statement stating that the parent/guardian will not consent to a physical examination of the child. Thereupon the child shall be exempt from any physical examination, but whenever there is a good reason to believe that the child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the child shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return for classroom-based instruction until the school authorities are satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

## Mental Health Services

CCS recognizes that unidentified and unaddressed mental health challenges can lead to poor academic performance, increased likelihood of suspension and expulsion, chronic absenteeism, scholar attrition, homelessness, incarceration, and/or violence. Access to mental health services at CCS and in our community is not only critical to improving the physical and emotional safety of scholars, but it also helps address barriers to learning and provides support so that all scholars can achieve success in school and life. The following resources are available to your scholar:

Available through CCS:

- **School-based counseling services:** Your scholar is encouraged to directly connect with their school counselor. Our team of school counselors are trained and qualified to provide education, prevention, intervention and referral services to scholars and their families. Each counselor works directly with scholars in various capacities to foster positive growth while also offering support to learning coaches with managing emotions, coping with crises, overcoming barriers to learning, as well as, providing relevant academic, college and career readiness, and social emotional development. Although our school counselors do not provide long-term mental health therapy, we do provide a comprehensive school counseling program designed to meet the equitable needs of all scholars.

- Care Solace: Care Solace is a care coordination service to help scholars, staff, and families find mental health and substance use treatment matched to their needs. Care Solace’s multilingual and culturally sensitive Care Companion™ team is available 24/7/365 to quickly connect individuals to community providers regardless of need.
  - How Students, Staff & Families Can Access Care Solace Services:
    - Care Solace is available by calling (888) 515-0595 or at <https://www.caresolace.com/ccs>. A dedicated Care Companion™ will help research treatment options matched to their needs, secure appointments, and follow up to ensure satisfaction with the provider and treatment.

Contact your school counselor and they can support you with a warm hand-off referral to a Care Companion. Available in the Community:

- **Community resources** are listed on the school website under [Counseling Services](#) and can be located on the [Counseling Virtual Office page](#).

Available Nationally:

- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** This organization provides confidential support for adults and youth in distress, including prevention and crisis resources. Call, text or chat 988. Services are available 24 hours.
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741- Crisis Text Line fields messages about suicidal thoughts, abuse, sexual assault, depression, anxiety, bullying and more.
- **The Trevor Project:** This organization provides suicide prevention and crisis intervention for LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13 and 24. Available at (866) 488-7386 or visit [thetrevorproject.org](http://thetrevorproject.org).
- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America:** This organization is a community- based mentorship program. Community-specific program information can be found online at [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org) or by calling (813) 720-8778.

## Human Trafficking Prevention

California has the highest number of incidents of human trafficking in the U.S. and all scholars may be vulnerable. CCS believes it is a priority to inform our scholars about (1) the prevalence, nature of and strategies to reduce the risk of human trafficking, techniques to set healthy boundaries, and how to safely seek assistance, and (2) how social media and mobile device applications are used for human trafficking.

In accordance with the California Healthy Youth Act, CCS will provide age-appropriate instruction on the prevention of human trafficking, including sexual abuse, assault, and harassment. You have the right to excuse your child from all or part of the instruction on the prevention of human trafficking. If you choose to opt out your child from all or part of the instruction, send an email to your scholar’s supervising teacher stating so. Your consent for this instruction is NOT required. If we do not receive a written request to excuse your child, your child will be included in the instruction.

Information and materials for parents/guardians about the curriculum and resources on prevention of human trafficking and abuse, including sexual abuse, assault, and harassment are available on CCS’s website for your review.

## Synthetic Drugs/Fentanyl Dangers

AB 889 added Education Code section 48985.5 requires a charter school to annually inform parents or guardians of the dangers associated with using synthetic drugs at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular term.

According to the California Department of Public Health: Brightly-colored fentanyl (referred to as rainbow fentanyl) has been identified as a new trend according to the United States (U.S.) Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) [1].

Rainbow fentanyl can be found in many forms, including pills, powder, and blocks that can resemble sidewalk chalk or candy. Any pill (regardless of its color, shape, or size) that does not come from a health care provider or pharmacist can contain fentanyl and can be deadly. Fentanyl is 80-100 times more potent than morphine and 40-50 times more potent than heroin and, as a result, is a major cause of overdose for unsuspecting individuals [2].

Drug traffickers have turned smartphones into a one-stop shop to market, sell, buy, and deliver deadly, fake prescription pills and other dangerous drugs. Drug traffickers advertise on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter and YouTube, usually in disappearing, 24-hour stories and in posts, which are promptly posted and removed. Posts and stories, often accompanied by known code words and emojis designed to evade detection by law enforcement and preset algorithms, are used to market and sell illicit and deadly drugs including fentanyl on social media. Using direct messaging or by commenting on a post, drug traffickers and potential buyers often move to an encrypted communications app like WhatsApp, Signal, and Telegram to arrange drug deals with prospective buyers, and then payment is made with a one-click app like Venmo, Zelle, Cash App, or Remitly. [4] People who do illegal drugs in this manner, especially fentanyl have an highly increased risk of death.

What you can do:

- Stay vigilant and aware of the drug trafficking threats on smartphone apps.
- Know the dangers of counterfeit pills: their accessibility, availability and increasing lethality.
- Share the message that One Pill Can Kill.
- Visit [DEA.Gov/onepill](https://www.dea.gov/onepill) to learn more. [4]

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard [3]:

- Emergency department visits related to non-fatal opioid overdoses in California's youth ages 10-19 years more than tripled from 2018 (379 total) to 2020 (1,222 total).
- Opioid-related overdose deaths in California's youth ages 10-19 years increased from 2018 (54 total) to 2020 (274 total), marking a 407 percent increase over two years, largely driven by fentanyl.
- Fentanyl-related overdose deaths in California's youth ages 10-19 years increased from 2018 (36 total) to 2020 (261 total), a 625 percent increase.

For more information, reach out to your counselor or explore these resources:

- [California Department of Public Health Overdose Prevention Initiative](#)
- [What every parent and caregiver needs to know about fake pills](#)
- [One Pill Can Kill](#)

Cited:

[1] Drug Enforcement Agency. DEA Warns of Brightly-Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans. DEA Warns of Brightly-Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans (Last Updated: August 2022)

[2] CDPH. What is Fentanyl? <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPPH/sapb/Pages/Fentanyl.aspx> (Last Updated: August 2022)

[3] CDPH. California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard <https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/> (Last Updated: July 2022)

[4] [www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/20220208-DEA\\_Social%20Media%20Drug%20Trafficking%20Threat%20Overview.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/20220208-DEA_Social%20Media%20Drug%20Trafficking%20Threat%20Overview.pdf)

## Tobacco-Free Schools

Ample research has demonstrated the health hazards associated with the use of tobacco products, including smoking and the breathing of secondhand smoke. The Charter School provides instructional programs designed to discourage scholars from using tobacco products. The Charter School's Governing Board recognizes that smoking and other uses of tobacco and nicotine products constitute a serious public health hazard and are inconsistent with the goals of CCS to provide a healthy environment for scholars and staff.

In the best interest of scholars, employees, and the general public, the Board therefore prohibits the use of tobacco products at all times on Charter School property and in Charter School vehicles. This prohibition applies to all employees,

scholars, visitors, and other persons at school or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. It applies to any meeting on any property owned, leased, or rented by or from CCS.

Smoking or use of any tobacco-related product or disposal of any tobacco-related waste is prohibited within 25 feet of any playground, except on a public sidewalk located within 25 feet of the playground. Smoking or use of any tobacco-related product is also prohibited within 250 feet of the youth sports event in the same park or facility where a youth sports event is taking place. In addition, any form of intimidation, threat, or retaliation against a person for attempting to enforce this policy is prohibited.

The Superintendent & CEO or designee shall inform scholars, parents/guardians, employees, and the public about this policy. All individuals on Charter School premises share in the responsibility of adhering to this policy. Additionally, CCS will post signs stating "Tobacco use is prohibited" prominently at all entrances to school property. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the Central Office and on the School's website within the Board Policy Manual.

## **Surveys About Personal Beliefs**

Unless you, the parent or guardian, give written permission, your child will not be given any test, questionnaire, survey, or examination containing any questions about your child's, or their parents' or guardians' personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, or religion.

## **Free and Reduced-Price Meals**

Pursuant to California Law, CCS shall provide two nutritionally adequate meals to each scholar who requests a meal without consideration of the scholar's eligibility for federally funded free or reduced-price meals with a maximum of one free meal per meal service (breakfast and lunch) each school day on which the scholar is scheduled for two or more hours of educational activities at a school site, resource center, meeting space or other satellite facility operated by CCS. Alternative income forms (family income survey) are included during the enrollment through the School Pathways Parent Portal. All families are encouraged to complete the application form, to include as many eligible scholars as possible.

The Charter School also maintains a School Wellness Policy pursuant to state and federal requirements. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office and on the school website in the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## **Income and Household Size Survey**

Public schools may qualify for several federal and state grants based on annual population demographics. By completing this annual survey, families can help the Charter School obtain additional resources necessary to serve all scholars. Generally, schools with families that have eligible incomes based on the free and reduced lunch qualifiers may support these additional grants. Please note, funding determinations are based upon the total number of scholars that qualify. The information submitted in this survey is a confidential educational record and therefore protected by all relevant federal and state privacy laws that pertain to educational records including, without limitation, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended (20 U.S.C. A§ 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99); Title 2, Division 4, Part 27, Chapter 6.5 of the California Education Code, beginning at Section 49060 et seq.; the California Information Practices Act (California Civil Code Section 1798 et seq.) and Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution.

## **School Safety Plan**

The Charter School has established a Comprehensive School Safety Plan. The Plan is available upon request at the Central Office and on the school website within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## Pregnant and Parenting Scholars

The Charter School recognizes that pregnant and parenting scholars are entitled to accommodations that provide them with the opportunity to succeed academically while protecting their health and the health of their children. A pregnant or parenting pupil is entitled to eight (8) weeks of parental leave, or more if deemed medically necessary by the scholar's physician, which the scholar may take before the birth of the scholar's infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction, in order to protect the health of the scholar who gives or expects to give birth and the infant, and to allow the pregnant or parenting scholar to care for and bond with the infant. The Charter School will ensure that absences from the scholar's regular school program are excused until the scholar is able to return to the regular school program or an alternative school program.

Upon return to school after taking parental leave, a pregnant or parenting scholar will be able to make up work missed during their leave, including, but not limited to, makeup work plans and re-enrollment in courses. Notwithstanding any other law, a pregnant or parenting scholar may remain enrolled for a fifth year of instruction in the Charter School if it is necessary in order for the scholar to be able to complete any graduation requirements, unless the Charter School determines that the scholar is reasonably able to complete the graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the scholar's fourth year of high school.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pregnant or parenting scholars may be filed under the Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") of the Charter School. The complaint may be filed in writing with the compliance officer:

Elizabeth Brenner | Superintendent & CEO

850 Hampshire Road, Suite R | Thousand Oaks, California 91361 | (818) 824-6233 | [ebrenner@compasscharters.org](mailto:ebrenner@compasscharters.org)

A copy of the UCP is available upon request at the Central Office and on the school website within the CCS Board Policy Manual. For further information on any part of the complaint procedures, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the complaint procedures, please contact the Superintendent & CEO.

## Master Agreement

To attend CCS, each scholar, learning coach (parent/legal guardian), special education case manager (if applicable), and supervising teacher shall sign a Master Agreement (MA) prior to the first day of courses each school year. This is a legal document and must be signed, dated, and returned to CCS. No scholar or learning coach will have access to the curriculum until the MA is signed and returned. Failure to sign and return an MA within the first three days of the scholar start date will result in involuntary withdrawal. The signed MA is the agreement that the scholar and learning coach sign to demonstrate their intention to continue enrollment in CCS. All scholars enrolled in CCS must sign a new Master Agreement each school year.

An addendum must be submitted if changes are made in courses, supervising teacher, special education case manager or grade level during the school year. This document also requires that each scholar, Parent/Legal Guardian, special education case manager (if applicable), and supervising teacher sign, thus approving the changes. An updated MA must be submitted if changes occur to the scholar's physical address that results in an interdistrict school transfer.

**The Master Agreement and Acknowledgment of Responsibilities must be signed by all parties as written. Conditions, exemptions, markings, notes, and additions are not permitted.**

## Teacher Qualification Information

As the Charter School receives Title I federal funds through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized and amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), all parents or guardians may request information regarding the professional qualifications of supervising teachers and/or paraprofessionals, including at a minimum:

1. Whether the scholar's teacher:
  - a. Has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
  - b. Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - c. Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Upon request, the Charter School will provide the information to the parents/guardians in a timely manner. Contact the Superintendent & CEO at (855) 937-4227 or [info@compasscharters.org](mailto:info@compasscharters.org) to obtain this information.

## Internet Service

Participation in CCS requires an Internet connection. The nature of the CCS program's communication methods requires that scholars and learning coaches have Internet access to access resources, as well as to log attendance and submit assignments. Families struggling to secure internet services should contact the IT team to learn about their options and resources available to them. Learning coaches who wish to request Internet service reimbursement will need to fill out the appropriate forms and email them to our IT Department. Alternatively, a learning coach may opt to independently purchase an Internet connection.

## Internet Safety Policy

It is the policy of CCS to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)]. The CCS Internet Safety Policy is available on the school website or at the Central Office within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep scholars safe online and to enforce our Residency Policy, the CCS IT team manages and oversees the use of scholar accounts and associated internet activity. However, no management system is 100% effective. If you come across any suspicious behavior, emails, media, or other communications while using any of your school issued accounts, please alert your teacher and/or the CCS IT team immediately: [itteam@compasscharters.org](mailto:itteam@compasscharters.org). Please read the Scholar Use of Technology Policy (Section 37) of the Acceptable Use Policy for scholars and families for more information.

## Incoming Scholar Grade Level Placement Policy

A scholar's grade level is determined upon initial enrollment and is written on the Master Agreement.

### TK - 8th Grade

- Incoming scholars will be placed at their age-appropriate grade level, not below or above grade level, unless the previous school has officially approved a retention or promotion (official documentation from the school is required).
- For incoming scholars, if the grade level placement the learning coach desires differs from that indicated in the prospective assignment, the situation must be discussed with the Program Director prior to making the change on the Master Agreement. The Director will make a recommendation for the Superintendent & CEO or designee who shall make the final decision.
- Per California Education Code sections 46300 and 48011, a scholar of kindergarten age who is enrolling in TK must complete the Kindergarten Continuance form. Per our incoming grade-level placement policy, this parent/guardian request would need approval from the Program director.

### **Middle School (6th-8th Grade)**

An incoming 6-8th grade scholar must provide the most recent report card and current progress report, if enrolling during the school year, in order to determine appropriate placement. Failure to do so does not delay enrollment, but will delay the appropriate placement of the scholar into courses. If a scholar has not attended school for an entire academic year or more, appropriate placement will be reviewed by the Program Director and Director of Counseling Services. Scholars may be required to take assessments to determine appropriate placement.

### **High School (9th-12th Grade)**

An incoming 9-12th grade scholar must provide official transcripts, the most recent report card, and current progress report, if enrolling during the school year, in order to determine appropriate placement. Failure to do so does not delay enrollment, but will delay the appropriate placement of the scholar into courses.

Upon enrollment, high school scholars will be placed into courses according to the credits the scholar has earned at previous schools and takes into account appropriate course level sequencing in order to meet graduation requirements.

## **Policy on Promotion and Retention**

Promotion to the next grade level upon completion of the school year is dependent upon the grades earned. Scholars must pass a minimal number of core curriculum courses (i.e. mathematics, science, social science, and language arts) and successfully complete any prescribed school year academic instructional support programs. Scholars who are at risk of retention will be provided with programs of supplemental instruction during the school year. Scholars who do not make satisfactory progress each year are at risk of being retained.

If a parent/guardian is initiating a request for a retention consultation, or a promotion to “skip” a grade level, such a request must be made in writing to the scholar’s supervising teacher and program Director. This request may result in a Promotion/Retention Team meeting to review this request and implement a plan to determine viable next steps for a decision to be made regarding the request for promotion or retention. Compass Charter Schools is not obligated to accept a request for retention or promotion and holds the right to make the best decision based on evidence and data captured through this process.

The complete CCS scholar Promotion and Retention Policy is available at the Central Office or on the school website within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

For scholars qualified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team must meet to determine if retention or promotion will provide the scholar with a Free Appropriate Public Education, prior to any decisions being made.

## **Benchmark Testing**

All scholars will be required to take a benchmark assessment in math and reading in order to determine a baseline of proficiency levels at the beginning of the school year. They will be assessed again in December, prior to winter break, and at the end of the school year. Pursuant to CCS’s Independent Study Board Policy, scholars are required to participate in benchmark assessments, as detailed in the Master Agreement, in order to determine satisfactory educational progress. If a scholar fails to or declines to participate in benchmark assessments, this will trigger CCS to conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the best interests of the scholar to remain in independent study. If the scholar has not attended school for an entire academic year or more, appropriate placement will be reviewed by the Director of Counseling Services, Program Coordinator, and Program Director. Scholars may be required to take additional assessments to determine appropriate placement. Scholars will complete the initial benchmark assessment within three weeks of enrollment.

## Scholar Expectations

- Attend live, monthly Connection Meetings with your ST.
- Attend live, real-time virtual classroom synchronous sessions as assigned.
- Attend all applicable support sessions if applicable (e.g. designated English Language Development tutoring for English learners, MTSS intervention tutoring, or counseling sessions, and Special Education services).
- Scholars taking high school courses that qualify for “a-g” requirements will engage in at least one hour per week per high school subject of interactive instruction and/or academic tutoring/advising.
- Upload a body of work and assignments to the appropriate platform for teacher evaluation.
- At a minimum, work approximately one (1) hour per subject or up to six (6) hours per day. The amount of time a scholar spends per subject will vary based on individual scholar strengths.
- Complete the assignments according to the assignment work record and reach out to your teacher(s) with questions to ensure success.
- Do your own work. Do not plagiarize. Do not claim work generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) as your own. All scholars are required to follow and be aware of the Academic Dishonesty Plagiarism Policy.
- Be an active and engaged learner. Create a daily schedule to ensure all assigned work is completed. Complete work every school day and adhere to the attendance policy.
- Proactively communicate with teachers, counselors, and administration as needed. Respond to all communication within 24 hours.
- If technical difficulties arise with CCS-issued computers, contact the IT Department immediately to resolve the issue.
- When a scholar participates in extracurricular activities, the scholar is expected to maintain coursework and submit assignments on time.
- Notify the Records Department within five business days if there is a change of address, phone or email.
- Be respectful and follow the CCS ARTIC values in all interactions with fellow scholars, learning coaches, faculty, and staff.
- Participate in the required internal benchmark assessments, social-emotional learning (SEL) screener, K-2 Reading Difficulties Risk Screener, and all state testing, e.g. CAASPP, and the Physical Fitness Test (PFT), if applicable.
- California Education Code (CEC) § 51225.7 requires each 12th grade scholar’s completion and submission of a FAFSA or CADAA unless the scholar is determined to be exempt or an opt-out form is completed by a legally emancipated scholar, a scholar who is 18 years or older, a legal guardian, or parent, or a local educational agency on a scholar’s behalf. Notify the College Career Readiness Counselor to request an opt-out form.

## Learning Coach Responsibilities

- Attend monthly Connection Meetings with your scholar’s ST.
- Communicate regularly with all school staff, including your scholar’s supervising teacher.
- Be respectful and follow the CCS ARTIC values in all interactions with other learning coaches, CCS staff, and our providers; ensure your scholar is respectful and follows CCS ARTIC values in all interactions with other scholars, CCS staff, and providers
- Complete and sign Activity Logs daily and sign at the end of the learning period.
- Check email and phone messages daily (including any automated messages about scholar attendance and/or progress) for all CCS communication, including Monday Morning Updates, Parent Square messages, and the quarterly newsletters; respond promptly if a response is required.
- Maintain reliable contact information on record at the school. Inform the Records Department within five business days of any changes to contact information, including phone, email, or address.
- Monitor scholar progress and initiate conversations about progress before there is an issue.
- Ensure that all assigned scholar work is submitted each learning period for teacher evaluation.
- Notify your ST of any extended family travel, except during normal school vacations and holidays, at least two weeks prior to leaving.
- Create a home environment that is conducive to learning. This includes a regular schedule, eliminating distractions, and being a guiding presence in your scholar’s daily school life by preparing for learning. Encourage and help the scholar to be actively involved in the learning process.

- Ensure the scholar works daily, Monday through Friday, for sufficient time to ensure success. Establish daily and weekly goals by creating a consistent schedule. Setting, reaching, and then celebrating those goals can motivate scholars toward success.
- Support your scholar to attend synchronous learning sessions, all support sessions, special education services, and open office hours as requested by CCS staff. Become familiar with the CCS grading system and grade level standards expectations, making sure to provide a sufficient body of work to the ST to determine progress and final grades.
- Work in partnership with the ST and counselor to support the scholar.
- Ensure school property is treated with respect and used for appropriate educational purposes.
- Support the scholar's participation in benchmark assessments, our SEL screener, K-2 Reading Difficulties Risk Screener, and state testing.

## Virtual Classroom and Session Expectations

CCS will follow discipline procedures, including suspension and expulsion procedures, in accordance with the CCS charter and the Charter School policy as it pertains to violations to any of the following expectations. Virtual classroom and session expectation include:

- Login using CCS-issued email address for virtual sessions held via Zoom.
- Respect opinions and privacy of others during web-based discussions.
- Refrain from posting anonymous messages unless authorized by the teacher.
- Use only your own username and password, and do not share these with anyone.
- Do not post personal information including: Phone number, YouTube, Facebook, etc.
- Do not download, transmit, or post material that is intended for personal gain or profit.
- Do not post material that is obscene or defamatory or which is intended to annoy, harass, or intimidate another person. This includes distributing "spam" mail, chain email, viruses, or other intentionally destructive content.
- Do not distract other scholars via chat, web, or drawing features.
- Do not upload or post any software on CCS instructional computing resources that are not specifically required for your assignments and approved by your teacher.
- Do not post any audio, video, or other non-instructional files to any CCS server.
- Avoid using sarcasm, jargon, slang, and never use derogatory or foul language. Cyberbullying of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Limit use of communications expressed in all capital letters, as this can be considered yelling.
- Do not broadcast online discussions, and never reveal other people's email addresses.

A copy of the Compass full Suspension and Expulsion Policy is available on the school website or at the Central Office, as well as within this handbook.

## Attendance

Attendance is important for the success of a scholar. If a scholar does not attend school, then a scholar cannot succeed in their courses. Attendance at an independent study school looks very different than that at a brick and mortar school.

Independent Study attendance credit is based upon the scholar's daily engagement in instructional activities required by the school (assignments) on days that school is in session (Monday through Friday, non-holidays) and further determined based upon the time value of the scholar's body of work, judged at the discretion of the supervising credentialed teacher. A copy of the Charter School's full Independent Study Policy is available on the School website within the CCS Board Policy Manual or at the Central Office.

### Activity Logs

The learning coach and scholar must ensure that activity logs are accurate, marking activity each day in the relevant subject areas. Activities may include virtual courses, outside courses, courses at learning centers, lessons at home, field trips, etc. This log is a mandatory requirement and must be updated daily and signed by the Learning Coach or

authorized contact each Learning Period. Connection meetings also validate activity logs. Blanks on the activity log from lack of educational activity for the day or from lack of connections with the ST are considered absences. All absences are unexcused.

### Assigned Work Requirements

In order for attendance credit to be given and to monitor scholar academic progress, scholars must complete and submit all work assigned during the learning period and within the timeline/due date indicated on this assigned work. Work is assigned at the beginning of each learning period by the supervising teacher. In Online Accelerate Education courses, this assigned work is outlined within the course activities.

If the ST requires further or alternate assignments as part of the body of work to determine attendance or grades, those must be provided within three days of the request.

Teachers will give scholars due dates, the quantity, and descriptions of the body of work that should be submitted in accordance with the Independent Study Board Policy.

It is essential that the body of work is submitted on time. Failure to do so can result in academic or disciplinary sanctions, including truancy.

### Connection Meetings

Learning coaches and scholars will attend scheduled connection meetings each month with the ST. During connection meetings, scholar work and progress will be reviewed. Scholars will showcase their learning during the connection meeting through presenting assignments that highlight academic progress. Goals that ensure scholar success will also be created and reviewed during connection meetings. Further, the ST will review and assign work to be completed during the following learning period.

Although connections can certainly be made more often and by other means as needed, scholars and learning coaches (parents) must connect with the ST by a live video connection (e.g. Zoom) no less than once per every twenty-seven school days. The learning coach (parent(s)), scholar, and ST should decide on and set the connection meeting dates for the year and keep that schedule.

The following are key components of learning period connections and constitute “assignments”:

- Live communication/required meetings
- Body of work scholar showcase
- Daily Activity Logs completed and signed at the end of each learning period

Teachers are available to meet with learning coaches and scholars in addition to these formal connection meetings by request.

### Homeroom Instruction

Opportunities for synchronous instruction and daily live interaction shall be made available to scholars in accordance with the Independent Study Board Policy. Supervising teachers will be providing homeroom instruction for their roster scholars to participate in grouped, synchronous instruction daily for TK-3rd grades and weekly for grades 4-12. In addition, scholars in the Online Learning Program will attend learning labs to provide direct instruction that coincides with scholar asynchronous learning and scholar need.

### Missed Assignments/Truancy

If the ST determines that satisfactory educational progress is not being made, the ST shall notify the scholar and learning coach and conduct an evaluation pursuant to the Independent Study Policy to determine whether it is in the best interest of the scholar to remain in the program.

For scholars in all grade levels and programs offered by the Charter School, the maximum length of time that may elapse

between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the pupil must complete the assigned work shall be twenty-seven school days.

In order for attendance credit to be given, at the start of each learning period, the teacher will assign to the scholar work to be completed. The assigning and completion of these assignments will be indicated on the Assignment Work Record and the ST will evaluate the time value and work submitted in order to give attendance credit at the end of the LP.

## State Standardized Testing

Per the CDE, "Charter schools are required to participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), and scholars in applicable grades will participate therein, unless exempted as provided by law."

As attendees of a public charter school, our scholars participate in the following state standardized tests:

- Grades 5, 8, 10, or 11: California Science Test (CAST).  
Grade 12 scholars will take the CAST if they have not previously taken it.
- Grades 3-8, and 11: SBAC (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress [CAASPP]) in ELA & math.
- Grade 5, 7, 9 - Physical Fitness Test (PFT)
- English Language Learners: English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)

These examinations provide CCS with information for evaluation and future planning. These exams also indicate CCS' effectiveness in carrying out its educational mission. Participation rates are critical to the success of our school. According to recent changes promulgated by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in December 2015, a public school is required to achieve a participation rate of 95% on any state testing. If a school has less than 95% of its scholars participate in any assessment, the school receives a serious penalty by the state of California or federal government. The state of California has changed how it calculates the academic indicator for schools on the California Dashboard. California is now required to apply a penalty to the calculation of the Academic Indicator for any school that does not reach that 95% requirement. The state will assign the Lowest Obtainable Scale Score (LOSS) to each scholar needed to bring the participation rate of the school, district, and/or student group to 95%. This is akin to assigning a score of zero to each scholar who doesn't take the CAASPP. Please note, though, that scholars who did not test will NOT receive a LOSS on their individual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) student score reports - this impacts the school as a whole, not the individual scholar or the CAASPP Student Score Data File. Our state test scores are shared with our authorizing school districts that, under recent legislation, have the ability to deny the renewal of a charter school without further intervention. If a charter school's state test participation rate is low, the authorizer may be more likely to decline charter renewal.

CCS administers all state standardized tests at sites geographically placed among our scholar locations or remotely, California Department of Education (CDE) permitting. A testing schedule will be provided to our learning coaches. Individual scholar performance results on statewide assessments will be distributed to both learning coaches and STs and on the California Department of Education's (CDE) web page at [www.cde.ca.gov/ta](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta). Notwithstanding any other provision of law a learning coach's written request to CCS officials to excuse their scholar from any or all parts of the CAASPP assessments, including CAST, shall be granted.

## Tests Proctored by Agencies Other Than CCS

### Advanced Placement (AP)

Advance Placement (AP) is a program offering college-level curricula and examinations to high school scholars. American colleges and universities often grant placement and course credit to scholars who obtain high scores (typically scores of 3 or better) on the examinations. The AP curriculum for each of the various subjects is created for the College Board by a panel of experts and college-level educators in that field of study. For questions on AP testing, registration and locations, please speak with the AP Coordinator.

## Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

The PSAT/NMSQT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The test is usually taken in the junior year as practice for the SAT and is used to qualify scholars for the National Merit Scholarship. The PSAT is offered nationally every year in October. For questions on PSAT testing, registration, fee waiver and locations, please contact the College & Career Readiness Counselor.

## Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

A nationwide test used by some institutions to help determine college and university admission eligibility. However, please be advised that The California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) no longer utilizes the SAT in determining admission eligibility for their campuses. The SAT is offered and administered by the College Board. It is the scholar's responsibility to register and pay for this test. The test may be taken more than once. There are several different test dates between August and June. Scholars are encouraged to take the SAT as early as May or June of their junior year. Apply online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). For questions on SAT testing, registration, fee waivers and locations, please contact the College & Career Readiness Counselor.

## American College Test (ACT)

A nationwide test used by some institutions to help determine college and university admission eligibility. However, please be advised that The California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) no longer utilizes the ACT in determining admission eligibility for their campuses. The ACT test content consists of English, math, reading, and science. There is also a writing portion available which many colleges require. There are several dates between September and July (different dates than the SAT). Scholars may take the test more than once. Apply online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). For questions on ACT testing, registration, fee waivers and locations, please contact the College Career Readiness Counselor.

## California Proficiency Program (CPP)

A test for scholars who need to verify high school level skills to earn the legal equivalent of a high school diploma. Scholars eligible to take the CPP must have at least one academic year of enrollment in the 10th grade at the end of the semester during which the CPP administration will be conducted. Prior to registering for the exam, please contact your counselor. For more information, visit [cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/cp.as](http://cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/cp.as).

## College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

A credit by examination program that allows participants to demonstrate college level mastery of introductory courses and possibly earn college credit (note: high school credit is not awarded). Policies for accepting CLEP college credits vary from college to college, so please check with the targeted college first.

## General Educational Development Test (GED)

A test which may be taken by scholars 18 years of age or older and no longer enrolled in high school for the purpose of earning a California High School Equivalency Certificate. Prior to registering for the exam, contact your counselor. For more information, visit [ged.com](http://ged.com).

## High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)

Must be a California resident or a member of the Armed Forces to take this exam. A scholar must meet state eligibility requirements. Please view the link for details. Prior to registering for the exam, contact your counselor. For more information, visit [hiset.ets.org/requirements/ca](http://hiset.ets.org/requirements/ca).

## Contact Information & Communication Procedures

### Methods of Communication

Reliable contact information is required for all learning coaches and for scholars.

### Email Expectations

- **For the protection and safety of our staff and scholars, all scholars must use their school-issued CCS scholar**

**email for all communication, access to live sessions via Zoom, CCS online platforms, such as Google Classroom, virtual workshops, engagement events, and more.**

- The CCS issued email address is to be the primary email for all scholar communications (including 6-12). Learning coaches will need to use their own email addresses for email communication and cannot use the scholar's email address to communicate.
- All scholars are expected to communicate respectfully with school staff and peers through all methods of communication by using appropriate language. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- Scholars are expected to reply to communication from school personnel within 24 hours.
- All scholars should include their name and grade when they are emailing school staff.

## Notification Regarding Change of Contact Information

As stated in the Master Agreement Acknowledgement of Responsibilities, it is the responsibility of parents, guardians or adult foster care caregiver to inform the school of any change of address, telephone number or emergency information. Parents must provide a manner to receive both written (U.S. Mail) and oral communication (telephone, cell, email) regarding their child(ren). For the protection of the scholar's health and welfare, and to facilitate immediate communication with the parent/legal guardian or caregiver, CCS, in accordance with Education Code Section 49408, requires the parent/legal guardian to provide current emergency information in the online enrollment application at the time of enrollment. Every parent/legal guardian or caregiver must complete an online enrollment application for each scholar at the time of enrollment. Emergency information should include, but is not limited to the following:

- Home address and current telephone, including cell phone
- Employment/business addresses and phone numbers
- Relative/Friend's name, address, and telephone numbers authorized to pick up and care for the scholar in an emergency situation, if the parent/legal guardian cannot be reached.

This information must be updated with the Records Department within five business days to ensure timely communication with CCS staff. In order to request a change of contact information, the learning coach must complete the Change of Contact Information Form which is located on the Schools' website.

Parents of scholars with disabilities should also have the name of any other designated adult who can receive their child in case of an emergency. Scholars will only be released to a person listed on the emergency card unless the parent/legal guardian has provided written authorization on a case-by-case basis during testing and/or other engagement or enrichment events. Parents are required to update this information at least twice per school year. The emergency phone number for the parents and relatives/friends and all other information, such as name or address can be changed through the [Change of Information Form](#) found on our website.

## Proof of Residency

Learning Coaches must notify the Records Department to provide a proof of new residence. A form to submit these changes can be found on the School's website under Parent/Scholar Resources. Learning Coaches must complete the [Change of Contact Form](#) to update their address and provide an updated proof of residence attached or emailed to [records@compasscharters.org](mailto:records@compasscharters.org).

## Academic Program

### AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), is a college readiness system for elementary-aged scholars through higher education that is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. The AVID College Readiness System (ACRS) accelerates scholar learning, uses research-based methods of effective instruction, provides meaningful and motivational professional learning, and acts as a catalyst for systemic reform and change. While typically found in brick-and-mortar schools, Compass is proud to be one of a select few who are offering this program online.

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, is driven by the Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading (WICOR) method. AVID curriculum is used in AVID elective courses and in content-area courses (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) in AVID schools. Our teachers use AVID strategies in all of their instructional practices and encourage learning coaches to put these strategies into practice at home. High school scholars can enroll in the AVID elective courses.

### Scholar Recognition

- Core Values (ARTIC) Awards are designed to celebrate scholars who exemplify CCS' ARTIC Values. These are awarded by teacher recommendation two times per year, once per semester.
- Finding Your Compass, A Counseling Award - This recognition will be awarded to scholars that have consistently committed to their personal growth, academic development, school community, and college-career readiness through their participation in a minimum of five direct counseling services during the school year; such as learning labs and small group sessions. This will be awarded at the end of the school year.
- Firebird of the Year is awarded by teacher recommendation based on demonstration of CCS' ARTIC values and being a scholar of the month recipient.
- Golden State Seal Merit Diploma (12th) - The Golden State Seal Merit Diploma is an award given to recognize public school graduates who have demonstrated their mastery of the high school curriculum in at least six subject matter areas, four of which are English language arts, mathematics, science, and U.S History, with the remaining two subject matter areas selected by the scholar. The Golden State Seal Merit Diploma insignia is affixed to the diploma and transcript of each qualifying scholar. Seal should continue to be awarded to qualifying scholars per California Education Code Section 51454.
- Honor Roll recognition is awarded each semester to scholars who have earned a minimum 3.5 rubric average (TK-5) or a minimum 3.5 GPA (6-12).
- NHS Lifetime members must be inducted into CCS NHS Chapter and stay compliant with service hours as well as meeting attendance for 3+ Semesters.
- Perfect Attendance award is given to scholars who attend 100% of the days during the award period.
- Presidential Award for Educational Achievement (Silver Seal) (8th, 12th) recognizes scholars who show outstanding education growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subject, but who do not meet the criteria for the President's Award for Educational Excellence. Teacher and Coordinator recommendation required.
- Presidential Award for Educational Excellence (Gold Seal) (8th, 12th) recognizes academic success by either grade point average of 90 on 100 scale, A- on letter scale, or 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, plus high achievement on state or nationally normed reading or mathematics examinations (or) recommendations of a teacher plus one other staff member).
- RFEP Award (12th) - Given to scholars at 12th grade graduation for achieving the distinction of RFEP during their educational career.
- Samaritan Award recipients must complete fifty hours of community service and apply for the award in order to be considered for this achievement.
- Scholar of the Month is awarded by teacher recommendation based on demonstration of CCS' ARTIC values.
- State Seal of Biliteracy (12th) - The State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given in recognition of scholars who have attained a high level of proficiency in two or more languages. The State Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of a gold seal that appears on the transcript or diploma of the graduating senior, and is a statement of accomplishment for college admissions and future employers. Seal will be awarded to qualifying scholars per California Education Code sections 51460–51464.
- State Seal of Civic Engagement (11-12th) - The State Seal of Civic Engagement is an award given in recognition of scholars who demonstrate excellence in civics education and participation, and an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government. The State Seal of Civic Engagement takes the form of a seal that appears on either the scholar's transcript or diploma and is a statement of accomplishment for college admissions and future employers. The State Seal of Civic Engagement will be awarded to qualifying scholars per Education Code sections 51470–51474.

- Teacher (ST) recognition awards will be determined based on recommendations and will highlight additional scholar success.

Additional information about our recognition program can be found on our website. For the most up to date list of our scholar awards, please visit the Parent & Scholars section of our website.

## Educational Support Materials

The materials provided by Compass Charters School are the property of the school. purchased with state Educational Support Funds are the property of Compass Charter Schools. The materials are loaned to the scholar while they are enrolled in the Charter School and are for their use for educational purposes. Once the scholar withdraws, the non-consumable materials must be paid for or returned within one (1) week; otherwise, the family will be billed for the cost of the materials. If any item purchased by the Charter School for instructional use is lost or broken by a scholar, the scholar must pay to replace the item.

## Options Learning Program

### Demonstration of Learning

Scholars must regularly share their educational experiences with their ST in the SIS. The assignments submitted should be a collection of experiences and work that is a source of pride for the scholar aligned to the assigned standard, should be at the scholar's grade level and be a representation of the scholar's true level of learning. This will help guide the learning coach, scholar, and ST discussions on the scholar's progress and will help the ST determine final grades, as well as indicate if there is a need for additional support. It also provides insight regarding a scholar's interest or passion so that the ST can provide additional resources or support in those areas, when applicable.

Acceptable Assignments:

- Written assignment
- Slides or Powerpoint presentation
- Written work, essay, or test
- Completed project with a brief summary of learning
- Video\* of lessons or activities that demonstrate learning
- Summary of educational field trip or excursion
- Photo and explanation of a science experiment
- Video\* or audio of the scholar reading aloud or to a sibling or parent
- Video\* of a scholar giving a speech
- Video\* or audio of the scholar explaining a recently learned concept

\*For video or audio submissions, please include a brief description of the topic covered and the activity.

### Assignment Guidelines

All grades: Scholars must submit work in accordance to the standard(s) assigned by the ST. Submitted assignment amounts may vary. The LC may be required to submit additional assignments at the ST's discretion. Assignment criteria may include but are not limited to:

- Be from curriculum at the scholar's grade level/Master Agreement courses
- Be representative of the scholar's own work and abilities
- Be neat and legible
- Include the scholar's name on the page
- Not contain any religious teaching or references
- (For Math) Show problems worked out or explained in detail by the scholar
- NOT be multiple choice worksheets
- Be scored and/or have written evaluative comments by the learning coach (parent)
- For photos or Videos:

- a. Be clear with sufficient light
- b. Include the scholar with the project or work
- c. Demonstrate the learning
- d. Have a clearly written summary of the learning. (Use several photos if needed.)

## Educational Support Funds (Options Learning)

Each scholar is allocated Educational Support Funds for materials, and/or services. Educational Support Funds are to be used for the scholar's educational needs and shall be aligned with standards appropriate for their grade level. Learning coaches, STs, and scholars work together to make purchasing decisions based on academic goals, learning styles, grade-level standards, and academic progress. Families can choose from a wide range of school-approved providers offering educational products and services.

Scholars have access to funds through Compass to obtain core content curriculum and educational materials and services needed to help the scholar reach grade-level standard mastery. In collaboration with the Supervising Teacher, a plan shall be developed and implemented to allow funds to obtain materials and services that are appropriate for the scholar, courses taken, time of the year, enrollment date, attendance, school year and semester pacing, and other factors. Due to Compass processing needs, freezes on purchases around holiday breaks and ordering deadlines should be considered when planning, so learning coaches should plan and schedule accordingly.

The Master Agreement and Family Order Agreement (FOA) must be completed, signed and on file with Compass before any order can be placed. Further, orders will not be placed for scholars in violation of the Master Agreement (missing required or requested items from the body of work, missing logs, and/or unable to contact).

The FOA addresses responsibility when placing order requests as stated below.

For service providers learning coach are responsible for:

- Paying any provider fees NOT pre-approved by CCS on the purchase order
- Paying any provider fees that exceed amounts on purchase orders
- Reading and following the [Educational Support Funds Guidelines](#)
- Paying any fees after scholar withdraws from the Charter School
- Confirming provider's prices & payment schedule on emails and on purchase orders

For material providers, learning coaches are responsible for:

- Receiving orders that arrive checking materials that arrive by initialing it on the packing list
- Comparing the shipment contents with the materials ordered, and noting missing items on the packing slip
- Signing and dating the packing slip, then scanning/photographing that slip and sending it to your ST within two days of receiving the order
- Returning (or paying for) any items the ST considers to be non-consumable upon withdrawal from Compass

**Contact your ST immediately if you are unable to do this for any reason (e.g. no packing slip included).**

If a family fails to correctly check off and scan a copy of signed packing slips to the ST, the privilege of having materials sent directly to the scholar's home will be revoked. The family will then have to make arrangements to pick up future ordered materials from the closest ST.

## Requesting Services and Materials

Order requests may only be made for products and services from approved providers, and a signed MA and FOA must be on file in order for material orders to be placed. Furthermore, there are guidelines to determine what materials and services are approved from these approved providers. CCS expects learning coaches to use Educational Support Funds in a reasonable manner. The learning coach submits an order request to the ST who reviews it and, if approved, submits it to the Community Providers Department for processing. When the appropriateness of requested materials or services is in doubt, the ST and their Supervisor will evaluate using their best professional judgment. A decision made at this level is final.

Material order totals must include approximately 20-25% to cover any shipping, taxes, and/or handling fees required by the provider. Once invoices are reconciled, any overages will return to the balance allocated for the scholar. In March/April, the allotment of funds will need to be finalized, as orders will close then.

Learning coaches should instruct their scholars on how to care for and respect any materials purchased by the Charter School for scholar use. LCs shall monitor their scholar's use of the loaned materials, including computers, to ensure appropriate use for educational purposes. Be advised that computers and tablets remain school property, with no reasonable expectation of privacy.

### Guidelines for Using Educational Support Funds

**Approved providers list:** Orders may only be placed with providers on our list of approved providers, available on our website. Additional limitations may apply for some providers. Ask your ST for details.

**Our payment:** Compass Charter Schools only pays for services when an approved purchase order (PO) has been generated and only for the dollar amount stated on the purchase order. (For example, if a scholar has taken classes in September and October, but the purchase order only states October, then the school will NOT be responsible for paying for those September activities).

**Core curriculum:** Verify with your ST that you have your core curriculum (ELA, math, science, social studies, or any other course being taken for A-G credit) in place from our board approved curriculum list. Orders for extracurricular activities and materials will not be placed if core curriculum is not sufficient for the scholar's needs.

**Registration of outside courses:** Contact the service provider directly to discuss the fees and their registration process. You must register your scholar(s) for the courses and sort out the details, including dates and prices, directly with the provider. As part of that discussion with the provider, you must determine if the provider wants to be paid monthly (recommended) or in a lump sum at the end of the semester/session. Discuss the fees with them so it is very clear how much they will charge your scholar(s) for courses. Make sure they agree to the prices on any cost breakdown. This part is very important. Again, we STRONGLY recommend you get all information on fees in writing for your records.

**First day of outside courses:** If you plan to use allocated funds to pay for courses, be sure your scholar does not attend the course or lesson unless you have received an approved PO from your ST. We do not reimburse for materials or services ordered on your own without a PO. You are responsible for any payments before a PO is finalized, so please plan ahead.

**Reimbursement:** A learning coach (parent) cannot be reimbursed using state dollars for any out-of-pocket expenses that have already been paid at any time for any reason.

**Quality materials:** Materials ordered must be scholar-grade quality, which is the quality public schools are required to order.

**Amazon Ordering:** For convenience and expediency, Compass has partnered with Amazon Parent Solutions to provide grade level storefronts (portals) where pre-approved materials and supplies can be purchased. Parents agree to only order from their scholar's grade level material list on the appropriate storefront, unless reviewed and approved by the supervising teacher. Compass may override any teacher's approval of materials if deemed inappropriate or not consistent with Compass ordering guidelines. To access the Amazon Parent Solutions Portal, families must use the scholars Compass email address.

**Faith-based:** No religious services or materials of any type are allowed, including but not limited to: books, publications, online subscriptions, CD/DVDs, videos, posters, programs, activities, curriculum, etc. Compass Charter Schools' assessment on whether services or materials fall under this category is final.

**Ethical use of Funds:** Families are expected to use educational funds wisely and ethically to meet the education, service and program needs of their scholars. Needs may vary between scholars and families. It is at the ST's discretion

to reject or modify the order as deemed appropriate. Compass Charter Schools determines final approval of all orders and reserves the right to cancel any issued services deemed excessive or inappropriate.

The list below is not an all-inclusive list, but rather is provided to give some guidelines to help with your orders. More details are provided in the Educational Support Funds Guidelines that are shared with each family. The ST and/or Compass may deny an item not listed here if they feel it puts the school's compliance into question with the state or authorizing district.

#### **Acceptable:**

- Appropriate, non-sectarian educational curriculum appropriate to the scholar's course of study and grade level
- Courses/materials for core courses as assigned on the master agreement must be in place before enrichment materials can be ordered. Core includes math, language arts, science, and social studies. The ST reserves the right to verify core materials or services.
- Music and art lessons
- PE classes offered through an insured instructor
- Academic tutoring and small group instruction
- Using only 25% of funds toward core subjects is allowed only when the ST has verified that the family has the scholar's core curriculum already on hand

#### **Not Acceptable:**

- Using over 75% of funds toward a non-core service or product
- Sectarian (faith-based) materials
- Materials not educational in nature or to be used for something not related to the scholar's course of study
- Materials that are not applicable to the scholar's grade level or learning needs
- Quantities that are not within reason, as determined by the ST, their program coordinator and/or Compass (e.g., more than one computer for a scholar)
- Materials not approved by the ST as deemed by the Compass Charter Schools ordering guidelines

As a reminder, more specific information on the appropriate use of funds is provided in the Educational Support Funds Guidelines which are provided to each family and available upon request from your ST.

If a scholar withdraws from Compass, any active Purchase Orders will be canceled, and no payments will be made to the Provider for services scheduled after the withdrawal date. The family will be responsible for any outstanding fees associated with the services after the withdrawal date.

### **Requesting New Providers**

If there is a service or materials provider that you would like added to our Approved Providers List, we will do our best to accommodate. Please ask the potential provider to complete the [Pre-Application for Interested Businesses form](#). This link can also be found on our website. We recommend that families send the link directly to their provider of choice via email. Please double check that the potential provider is not already an approved provider.

When you request that a business offering a high risk activity become an approved provider, do know the process will be longer than usual because of additional insurance requirements. In addition, the following are banned services/activities thus CCS will not approve any orders for: 5-day a week multi-subject all-inclusive programs, kickboxing, outdoor rock climbing, boxing, aerial sports, tightrope walking, welding, and/or any similar high-risk activities.

### **Progress Monitoring**

Progress monitoring can be viewed in the SIS, specifically within the parent/scholar portal. Once assigned, a grade shall be final unless it comes to light that the scholar engaged in fraud, cheating, academic dishonesty, or if a mistake was made by the teacher assigning the grade. If the scholar or learning coach wants to challenge a grade, they may follow the

process outlined within the School's Educational Records and Scholar Information Policy which is located within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## Multi-Tiered System of Support

A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), including Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS), is a systematic multi-tiered model which targets behavioral, social, emotional, and academic support for scholars. MTSS establishes a process for providing increasing levels of instructional time and intensity whereby the needs of all learners are identified, and supported early and effectively.

MTSS provides high quality standards-based core instruction and the use of data to identify scholars for appropriate acceleration and intervention. The MTSS model advances academic and behavioral achievement through frequent progress monitoring, ongoing data collection and analyses as well as providing immediate, evidence-based intervention.

In order to best support our scholars and ensure they are achieving academically and socially/emotionally, scholars receive support from different tiers throughout the framework.

The five components within the CCS MTSS framework are:

- Informal and Formal Assessments
- Internal Benchmark Assessments
- CAASPP State Testing
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Screening
- K-2 Reading Difficulties Risk Screener

### High-Quality, Evidence-Based Instruction

- Tier 1 - Core Instruction (80%--universal interventions)
- Tier 2 - Supplemental Instruction (15%--targeted group interventions)
- Tier 3 - Intensive Instruction (5%--intensive individual interventions)

### Data-Based Decision Making

- Leadership meets regularly to assure outcomes are achieved.
- Academic support sessions, social emotional learning, and behavioral groupings are provided on a regular-basis and supported by our Scholar Success Coordinator, and our Counseling Services Department through daily workshops and check-ins. Scholars invited to these support sessions are expected to attend.

## Scholar Study Team Meetings (SST)

An SST Meeting is a group of educators, specialists, and the Learning Coach, brought together to consider the general education interventions and supports that would best benefit the needs of the scholar. Scholars who are continually not making progress with their Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions in place should be referred to an SST. The data from the previously used interventions, current academic progress, scholar history, and test scores (State and Benchmarks) will be used to develop an action plan to support the scholar. Data monitoring will be completed weekly to determine the success of the action plan and then reviewed by the team at the follow up meeting. Before a referral for assessment to determine if a scholar has special needs, general education interventions should be provided under our MTSS framework. Scholars suspected of having a disability and potentially needing a special education or 504 referral should first be referred to the SST team to develop interventions.

## Grades

The grade, in any given course, represents the degree to which the scholar has met the standards and achieved the goals of the course. Grades reflect the quality of the scholar's work and the scholar's degree of mastery of academic standards. The semester grade reflects the cumulative achievement for the entire semester. Attendance and participation are contributing factors in meeting the standards and earning a grade.

STs are responsible for setting objective standards for grading assignments and shall make these standards known to the Learning Coaches and scholars. Teachers are responsible for assigning grades to the scholars in their courses. Once

assigned, a grade shall be final unless it comes to light that the scholar engaged in fraud or cheating, or if a mistake was made by the teacher assigning the grade. If the scholar or learning coach wants to challenge a grade, they may follow the process outlined within the School's Educational Records and Scholar Information Policy which is located within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## TK-5 Grading Policy

TK-5th grade scholars' final semester grades will be reported according to the following scale:

- Level 4 = Exemplary - Scholar consistently demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the grade-level standards, concepts, and skills taught during this reporting period.
- Level 3 = Proficient/Met - Scholar consistently demonstrates an understanding of the grade-level standards, concepts, and skills taught during this reporting period.
- Level 2 = Approaching Proficiency - Scholar is approaching an understanding of the standards, concepts, and skills taught during this reporting period.
- Level 1 = Non-Proficient/Below - Scholar does not yet demonstrate an understanding of the standards, concepts, and skills taught during this reporting period.

## 6-8 Grading Policy

### Middle School Course Placement

All middle school scholars are required to enroll in four (4) academic courses (English, mathematics, science, social science), physical education and one elective course each semester of the academic school year.

### Middle School Course Scheduling

Our middle school academic program utilizes semester scheduling. No extensions are provided and all end dates are final.

### Middle School Grading Scale

A standard percentage scale is used school-wide to determine grades. This ensures a standard of excellence toward which each scholar may strive to achieve. CCS does not use a plus/minus grading scale.

**A** 90-100

**B** 80-89

**C** 70-79

**D** 60-69

**F** BELOW 60

**W** Withdrawn: Assigned when a scholar withdraws from CCS prior to completing 100% of the coursework.

## Middle School Subject Requirements

An updated course list can be found on the School's website.

## 9-12 Grading Policy

High School Graduation Requirements Effective 2025/2026	Total Credits
English (4 Years Required)	40

Science (2 Years Required: Life & Physical Science)	<b>20</b>
Mathematics (3 Years Required; minimum Geometry)	<b>30</b>
History/Social Science (3 Years Required)	<b>30</b>
Foreign Language (1 Year Required)	<b>10</b>
Visual and Performing Arts (1 Year Required)	<b>10</b>
Physical Education (2 Years Required)	<b>20</b>
Ethnic Studies* (1 Semester Required)	<b>5</b>
Health (1 Semester Required)	<b>5</b>
Electives	<b>50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>

### Ethnic studies Requirement Information

\*Ethnic Studies, as of 25/26 SY, is now included in the minimum graduation requirements, requiring scholars to complete at least one semester of ethnic studies coursework to graduate

- **Relevant code section:** California Education Code Section 51225.3
- **Bill that added the requirement:** Assembly Bill 101 (AB-101)
- **Course length:** One semester
- **Implementation date for scholar graduation requirement:** 2029-30 school year
- **Implementation date for schools to offer the course:** 2025-26 school year

<b>High School Graduation Requirements Prior to 2025/2026</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>
English (4 Years Required)	<b>40</b>
Science (2 Years Required: Life & Physical Science)	<b>20</b>
Mathematics (3 Years Required; minimum Geometry)	<b>30</b>
History/Social Science (3 Years Required)	<b>30</b>
Foreign Language (1 Year Required)	<b>10</b>
Visual and Performing Arts (1 Year Required)	<b>10</b>
Physical Education (2 Years Required)	<b>20</b>
Health (1 Semester Required)	<b>5</b>
Electives	<b>55</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>

## Alternative Diploma:

Scholars with disabilities are entitled to a course of study that provides them with a Free Appropriate Public Education. A scholar with a disability receiving special education who has entered high school as a ninth grader in the 2022/23 school year and later may be exempt from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board (Education code 51225.31).

If the scholar is eligible to take the alternative assessment, CAA and the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in 5122.31.

Alternative Diploma Subject Requirements Effective 2025/2026	Total Credits
English (3 Years Required)	3
Science (2 Years Required: Life & Physical Science)	20
Mathematics (2 Years Required; including one year of Algebra I)	20
History/Social Science (3 ½ Years Required)	35
Foreign Language or Visual and Performing Arts (1 Year Required)	10
Physical Education (2 Years Required)	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>

Scholars who received the Alternative diploma will be eligible to participate in all graduation ceremonies and school activities. Scholars who receive an alternative diploma may continue to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education after graduation (Education Code 5122.31).

Alternative Diploma Subject Requirements Prior to 2025/2026	Total Credits
English (3 Years Required)	3
Science (2 Years Required: Life & Physical Science)	20
Mathematics (2 Years Required; including one year of Algebra I)	20
History/Social Science (3 Years Required)	30
Foreign Language or Visual and Performing Arts (1 Year Required)	10
Physical Education (2 Years Required)	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>

Note: California Education Code Section 51225.3, which was amended by Assembly Bill 101 (AB-101), ethnic studies is now included in the minimum graduation requirements, requiring students to complete at least one semester of ethnic studies coursework to graduate, starting with the 2029-30 school year; local educational agencies must offer this course starting in the 2025-26 school year.

For information on the statewide course requirements, please visit the CDE Graduation Requirement web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gc/hs/hsgmin.asp>.

## Certificate of Education Completion

A student with a disability may be awarded a certificate of completed if the student has met one of the following requirements (Education Code 56390):

1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the board of the district in which the student attended school or the district with jurisdiction over the student as identified in the student's IEP. Compass requires a minimum of 130 credits or courses attended and completed.
2. Satisfactorily met the student's IEP goals and objectives during high school as determined by the IEP team.
3. Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in the student's IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.

- A student with a disability who meets any of the criteria specified above shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a graduating student of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate (Education Code 56391).

### High School Course Scheduling

When selecting courses each year, remember that course selection is a collaborative process that involves the scholar, Learning Coach, and counselor to ensure proper placement. Options Program High school scholars are eligible to enroll in up to four Accelerate Education Online course(s) as well as the AVID elective with the use of educational support funds.

### High School Grading Scale

Credit is earned for cumulative grades of A through D in all courses. Each semester course receives 5 credits for each course passed. Honors and Advanced Placement courses are weighted on a 5.0 scale. CCS does not use a plus/minus grading scale.

Letter Grade Unweighted GPA	Percentage Weighted GPA	College Prep	Honors/AP
A	90-100	4	5
B	80-89	3	4
C	70-79	2	3
D	60-69	1	1
F	Below 60	0	0

**Withdrawn (W):** This grade is assigned when a scholar withdraws from CCS prior to completing 100% of coursework.

**Incomplete (I):** This grade will be granted only under extenuating circumstances and must be brought by the ST to the Program Director and the Director of Counseling Services who shall make the final decision.

### Final Exam Policy

All scholars in grades 6-12 are required to take semester final examinations or complete a culminating/final project in all courses, as appropriate. Scholars may not “test out” of courses by only taking a final examination.

### Repeat Policy

Scholars may repeat a course to improve their GPA only once unless the grade earned was an F. Once a course has been repeated, the grade earned in the original course will remain on the transcript, but will display with the CCS repeat code, as well as “0.00” credits earned. The original course will not be included in the computation of the GPA. The course taken to remediate the original course will be displayed with the grade and credits earned. For a course to be accepted by the UC/CSU system, scholars may repeat the course only once regardless of grade earned.

### High School Course Placement Guidelines

Course placement is based upon counselors' review of scholar's assessments, transcripts, and teacher recommendations. All scholars must meet specific course prerequisites for all subject areas.

### Course Placement

TK- 5th grade scholars are required to enroll in four (4) academic courses (language arts, mathematics, science, social science), and one (1) physical education course each semester of the academic school year.

Middle school scholars (6-8) are required to enroll in four (4) academic courses (language arts, mathematics, science, social science), one (1) physical education, and one (1) elective course each semester of the academic school year. High school (9-12) course placement is based upon counselors' review of scholar's assessments and transcripts. All scholars must meet specific course prerequisites for all subject areas. High school scholars will be placed into courses according to the credits the scholar has earned at his/her previous school(s) and takes into account the courses needed in order to meet graduation requirements. Selecting courses at Compass each year is a *team process* that involves the scholar, learning coach, and counselor to ensure proper placement.

For all grade levels, the academic program utilizes a semester scheduling model.

### Math Placement Guidelines for Middle/High School

CCS recognizes that scholar achievement in math is important for preparing scholars for success. The purpose of this process is to create a fair, objective, and transparent procedure for placement in math courses for scholars.

In determining the mathematics course placement for scholars, Compass Charter Schools systematically takes multiple objective academic measures of the scholar's performance into consideration, including:

- Statewide mathematics assessments, including interim and summative assessments through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress ("CAASPP")
- Internal assessments that are aligned to state-adopted content standards in mathematics
- Classroom assignment and grades
- Final grade in mathematics on the scholar's official, end of the year report card and/or transcript

#### **Note: Concurrent Enrollment Math Courses**

The California Community College Chancellor's office is interpreting the bill AB 705 to effectively ban all pretransfer level math courses from being offered at California Community Colleges beginning Fall 2022. Proposed legislation, AB 1705 (Irwin), directly bans pretransfer level math and English classes at all California Community Colleges. Beginning Fall 2022, community colleges will not be allowed to offer Beginning Algebra (Algebra 1), Intermediate Algebra (Algebra 2), Math for Associate Degrees, Geometry, and Pre-statistics.

**Based on college course availability, scholars would not be able to take Algebra 1, Geometry, and/or Algebra 2 equivalent courses through concurrent enrollment.**

### 9th Grade Mathematics Placement Policy

CCS recognizes that scholar achievement in math is important for preparing scholars for success after high school. The purpose of this policy is to create a fair, objective, and transparent procedure for placement in math courses for scholars entering 9th grade, in order to ensure the success of every scholar and to meet the Legislative intent of the California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015. CCS' complete policy is located within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

In determining the mathematics course placement for entering 9th grade scholars, Compass Charter Schools systematically takes multiple objective academic measures of the scholar's performance into consideration, including:

- Statewide mathematics assessments, including interim and summative assessments through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress ("CAASPP")
- Internal assessments that are aligned to state-adopted content standards in mathematics
- Classroom assignment and grades
- Final grade in mathematics on the scholar's official, end of the year 8th grade report card
- Results from all placement checkpoints, including at least one (1) placement checkpoint within the first month of the school year

The Superintendent & CEO or designee shall examine aggregate scholar placement data annually to ensure that scholars who are qualified to progress in mathematics courses based on their performance on objective academic measures included in this policy are not held back in a disproportionate manner on the basis of their race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background. Compass Charter Schools shall annually report the aggregate results of this examination to the Board of Directors.

### High School Course Sequencing

All scholars must adhere to the established course sequencing for all subjects, including English, Math, History, Science, and Foreign Language. Course sequencing ensures scholars progress through a structured academic pathway that aligns with graduation requirements, maintains instructional integrity, and upholds equity and academic standards in compliance with our charter.

CCS course sequencing is designed to scaffold learning from freshman to senior year, ensuring scholars develop foundational knowledge and essential skills necessary for college and career readiness. All course placements must align with curriculum frameworks set by the California Department of Education (CDE) and comply with our authorizer, NCAA, and AG requirements.

### Course Schedule Changes

Scholars need to plan their schedule carefully since schedule changes can only be processed within the first ten (10) calendar days from the start date of the course. Any additional schedule changes after this time frame will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Director of Counseling Services.

Acceptable reasons for course schedule changes:

- Improper course placement
- Credit previously earned for the course
- Course prerequisites not met

### ACOP – Accelerated Course Options Learning Program

This program allows scholars to accelerate and advance academically or recover unearned credits in their high school courses by adding additional credits to their schedule per semester. A scholar may add an additional course to their schedule no later than four weeks prior to the end of a semester. Eligibility is dependent upon 75% completion in all other courses with good academic standing.

A scholar may add two additional courses to their schedule no later than eight (8) weeks prior to the end of semester. Eligibility is dependent upon 50% completion in all other courses with good academic standing.

Counselor approval is required to participate in the program.

Counselors may approve a special circumstance request when a scholar may be eligible for additional course(s).

### Community College Courses

In some cases, it is possible for high school scholars to enroll concurrently at a community college. Please see the school's complete Concurrent Enrollment Policy for additional information about taking community college courses. The complete policy can be found on the school's website in the Board Policy Manual. Reach out directly to your College Career Readiness Counselor for more information.

### A-G Requirements

The University of California ("UC") must approve courses to meet A-G subject requirements that appear on the institution's A-G course list. UC schools and California State Universities ("CSU") check if freshmen applicants have taken courses from the A-G course list to meet admission requirements. Fifteen (15) year-long courses must be completed with a C or better and 11 courses must be completed before the senior year. (Note: Scholars will only be awarded A-G credit for courses and providers included in the [Compass Charter Schools A-G Course Lists](#)).

## California College Admission Information

### University of California and California State University "A-G" Admission Requirements

<b>U.S. History/Social Science</b> 1 Year of World History 1 Year of U.S. History OR 1 Semester of U.S. History & 1 Semester of Civics or 1 Semester of American Government	2 Years
<b>English</b>	4 Years
<b>Math</b> Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, etc.	3 Years (4 Years Recommended)
<b>Laboratory Science</b> (1 year of life science, 1 year of physical science) Biology, Chemistry, Physics	2 Years (3 Years Recommended)
<b>Visual and Performing Arts</b>	1 Year
<b>Foreign Language</b>	2 years of same language (3 years recommended)
<b>College Preparatory Electives</b> (Yearlong Courses) Visual and Performing Arts, History, English, Social Science, Advanced Math, Lab Science, Languages other than English	1 Year
Courses descriptions can be found on the UCOP website: <a href="https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist">hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist</a> .	
All courses must be on the College Preparatory, Honors, or AP level with a grade of "C" or better. Honors-level courses are specialized, advanced courses designed for 10th-, 11th- or 12th-graders only who have already completed foundation work in the subject area. High school courses offered at the grade 9 level that schools might locally designate as "honors" are not eligible for the UC honors designation.	

### Eligibility in the Local Context

The Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) program is a program that identifies top-performing high school scholars in California for admission to the University of California (UC). Compass is a participating high school in the UC's ELC program and is responsible for ensuring the submission of qualified scholars' contact and transcript data for rising seniors after final junior year grades are confirmed. To qualify, a scholar must be in the top 9% of their high school class, have a minimum GPA of 3.0, meet the A-G course requirements and provide parent/guardian authorization for submission. The Director of Counseling Services oversees the submission of qualified scholars to the University of California. Please reach out to your College Career Readiness Counselor for more ELC program information.

### Cal Grant Program for College

A Cal Grant is money for college that does not have to be paid back. To qualify, a scholar must meet the eligibility and financial requirements as well as any minimum grade point average ("GPA") requirements. Cal Grants can be used at any University of California, California State University, or California Community College. Some independent and career colleges or technical schools in California also take Cal Grants.

In order to assist scholars applying for financial aid, all 12th grade scholars are automatically considered a Cal Grant applicant and each 12th grade scholar's GPA will be submitted to the California Student Aid Commission ("CASC") electronically by a school. A scholar, or the parent/guardian of a scholar under 18 years of age, may complete a form to indicate that they do not wish for the school to electronically send CASC the scholar's GPA. Until a scholar turns 18 years of age, only the parent/guardian may opt out for the scholar. Once a scholar turns 18 years of age, only the scholar may opt out themselves, unless the parent/guardian remains their educational rights holder. The scholar can also opt in if the parent/guardian had previously decided to opt them out. All 12th grade scholars' GPA will be sent to CASC by October 1 of each year. Scholars currently in eleventh (11th) grade will be deemed a Cal Grant applicant, unless the scholar (or parent, if the scholar is under 18) has opted out by or before February 1.

### California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI)

The CCGI is written into California Education Code (EC) Section 60900.5 as an authorized provider of an institutional service to all California School Districts and as part of the state's efforts to make college-going a more streamlined experience for scholars (EC Section 60900.5(a)). One service that the CCGI will provide is a set of college and career planning tools, including the CaliforniaColleges.edu tool, designed to help scholars plan for and apply to California public colleges and universities. The CCGI currently receives enrollment data for all public-school scholars enrolled in grades six through twelve from the California Department of Education (CDE)

The California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) is a statewide effort to enhance the college and career planning process for scholars in grades 6–12. Through the [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://www.californiacolleges.edu) platform, scholars can access essential resources for post-secondary planning, while educators receive data-driven tools to support scholar success.

All scholars in grades 6–12 will have access to CCGI's college and career planning tools, including:

- Career assessments to explore interests, personality traits, and learning styles.
- College, major, and career search tools.
- Curated guidance content for post-secondary planning.
- A digital portfolio for tracking academic progress and financial aid plans.
- Tools to launch the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

### Information Regarding Financial Aid

The Charter School shall ensure that each of its scholars receives information on how to properly complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application, as appropriate, at least once before the scholar enters 12th grade. The FAFSA form and information regarding the FAFSA is available at [studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) and the California Dream Act Application and information regarding the California Dream Act is available at [csac.ca.gov/post/resources-california-dream-act-application](https://csac.ca.gov/post/resources-california-dream-act-application).

Each 12th grade scholar is required to complete and submit a FAFSA or CADAA application per ed code 51225.7, enacted in 2021, unless the scholar is determined to be exempt or an opt-out form is completed by a legally emancipated scholar, a scholar who is 18 years or older, a legal guardian, or parent, or a local educational agency on a scholar's behalf.

### CCS CEEB Codes

A CEEB code is a standardized ID number that is assigned to a high school, college or university. These codes are used to identify the high school a scholar attends. The CEEB code is needed for college entrance exams such as the SAT or ACT.

CCS School Name	CEEB Code
Compass Charter Schools of Los Angeles	054907

Compass Charter Schools of San Diego 054738

Compass Charter Schools of Yolo 053634

## NCAA – The National Collegiate Athletic Association

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (“NCAA”) is an athletic association that consists of three (3) divisions (division I, II, and III) and oversees 23 college sports. For current NCAA academic requirements, visit [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org). CCS scholars are eligible for scholarships to play sports at the collegiate level.

## Enrollment, Credits, and Records

### TK-12 Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment in another public or private TK-12 school is prohibited at CCS. If a scholar is found to be enrolled in two (2) schools, they will be withdrawn from CCS using the involuntary removal process outlined within this Handbook.

### Transfer Credits

Transfer credits are awarded based upon official transcripts from previous schools. Transcript analysis may require CCS to perform research and contact previous schools to determine eligibility of transfer credits.

### Homeschool Credit Transfer

All scholars from non-accredited/independent homeschool learning environments must provide records which include a transcript (showing courses completed), a description of the curriculum, a copy of the Private School Affidavit, and a body of work for review by CCS administration.

### International Records

International records may require translation and/or evaluation prior to being considered for transfer credits. International transcripts and supporting documentation will be reviewed in order to grant appropriate credit for subjects studied in other countries. The transcripts must show that subjects were studied at the secondary level. Credits will be granted for subjects equivalent to the courses listed in the course catalog in meeting graduation requirements.

### Transcripts/Records

To request transcripts and/or records, please submit a completed request form located on our website. Transcript requests are processed within ten (10) business days and records within five (5) business days. Outstanding CCS fees and/or materials may delay processing of requests.

Transcripts reflect both a weighted and unweighted grade point average (GPA):

- Traditionally, GPA is calculated on an unweighted scale. Unweighted GPA is measured on a scale of 0 to 4.0. It doesn't take the difficulty of a scholar's coursework into account. An unweighted GPA represents a 4.0 whether it was earned in an honors course or a standard level course.
- Weighted GPA takes into account course difficulty rather than providing the same letter grade to GPA conversion for every scholar. Weighted GPA is measured on a scale of 0 to 5.0 and is only provided for Advanced Placement and Honors level courses.

Note: CCS policy is to not rank scholars by GPA.

## Work Permits

Scholars under the age of 18 must obtain a work permit from CCS after securing an opportunity for employment. Please visit [Work Permits for Students](#) or [Application for Entertainment Work Permit for Minor](#) for more information. You can also see the School's complete Work and Entertainment Permit Policy for additional information about obtaining a work permit. The complete policy can be found on the school's website in the Board Policy Manual. Reach out directly to your College Career Readiness Counselor for more information.

## Emergent Multilingual Scholars (EMS) Support and Services

Compass Charter Schools has adopted the terminology Emergent Multilingual Scholar (EMS) for our English Learner (EL) scholars as an asset-based alternative. The shift to **EMS** highlights that scholars are building proficiency in more than one language which is a strength.

Compass will meet all applicable legal requirements for EMS as they pertain to annual notification to parents, scholar identification, placement, program options, ELD and core content instruction, teacher qualifications and training, reclassification to fluent English proficient status, monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness, and standardized testing requirements. Compass will implement policies to assure proper placement, evaluation, and communication regarding EMS and the rights of scholars and parents.

In California, any scholar whose primary language is other than English, as determined by the home language survey, and who has not previously been identified as an EMS by a California public school or for whom there is no record of results from an administration of an English language proficiency test, must be assessed for English language proficiency with the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). The initial ELPAC identifies scholars as either EMS or initial fluent English proficient (IFEP). The Summative ELPAC is taken annually and is required for all EMS.

### Language Acquisition Program

Compass Charter Schools offers a **Structured English Immersion (SEI)** program (EC Section 305[a][2]) for our EMS/ELs. Our SEI program is tailored to meet the diverse needs of our scholars, whether they are EMS or seeking to enhance their English proficiency. Through engaging activities, interactive lessons, and supportive guidance, scholars in our SEI program gain the language skills and confidence needed to succeed academically and thrive in an English-speaking environment. We are committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where all scholars have the opportunity to excel.

**Per the CDE, Structured English Immersion Program is a language acquisition program for English learners in which nearly all classroom instruction is provided in English, but with curriculum and a presentation designed for scholars who are learning English.**

### English Language Development (ELD) Curriculum

Support will be offered via integrated and designated English Language Development (ELD). Integrated ELD will be supported within the academic instruction provided by the Content/Supervising Teachers.

Designated ELD is provided via the ELD course that uses Lexia online curriculum and live instruction by EL tutors for English language acquisition and development to support the ELPAC. The ELD Course is offered to all TK-12 EMS/ELs as a Pass/Fail course. EMS/ELs in grades 9-12 earn 5 credits toward electives with a Pass. EMS/ELs are expected to make progress in Lexia and attend all live sessions with their EL tutor.

## EMS/EL Reclassification (RFEP)

Reclassification is the process whereby a scholar is reclassified from Emergent Multilingual Scholar (EMS) or English Learner (EL) status to Fluent English Proficient (RFEP). California Education Code Section 313[f] and Title 5 California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) section 11303 identify four required criteria for reclassification, but allow other measures to be included. The four required criteria are:

Criteria	Area/Subtest/Subject
1. ELPAC: Assessment of English language proficiency	Overall score of Level 4 (established as the statewide standardized ELP criterion)
2. Teacher Evaluation a. Curriculum Mastery b. ELD Curriculum Mastery c. If applicable, IEP Team evaluation	Teacher evaluation of scholar curriculum mastery a. English grade (75%/C/3) b. Lexia grade of Pass (P) c. IEP evaluation and determination
3. Parent/Learning Coach Opinion and Consultation	Consultation (Y or N)
4. Comparison of Basic Skills in ELA	CAASPP (Standard Nearly Met or Above) Local Benchmark (Tier 1- At/Above or On-Watch)

## English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)

A committee of parents, staff, and community members designated to advise district officials on EMS programs and services. Each California public school with 21 or more EMS scholars must form an ELAC. The ELAC will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Advise school administrators and staff in the development of a site plan for EMS
- Assist in developing a school wide needs assessment
- Be a way for learning coaches/parents to become aware of the importance of school attendance

ELAC members will receive training to assist them in carrying out their advisory duties. Training is planned in full consultation with committee members. If you want to learn more about the ELAC at CCS, contact our English Learner Coordinator.

## Adult Scholars (18 Years of Age and Older)

Scholars who are 18 years of age or older have many legal rights and responsibilities, such as the ability to sign legal documents, including but not limited to medical releases and IEPs. However, adult scholars must continue to follow policies in place for all scholars at CCS, including attendance and discipline policies.

In order for CCS to release any information related to the adult scholar's academics to their designated learning coach and/or parent(s)/guardian(s), we must first receive permission from the adult scholar to do so. This release form can be found on our parent/scholar portal or by contacting the Records Department.

## California Healthy Youth Act

The California Healthy Youth Act requires that comprehensive sexual health education and human immunodeficiency virus (“HIV”) prevention education be taught to scholars at least once in middle school and once in high school, beginning no later than grade seven. Instruction and materials must be medically accurate, objective, age-appropriate and inclusive of all scholars, as defined by law. The law requires that instruction and materials must encourage scholars to communicate with parents, guardians or other trusted adults about human sexuality. Learning coaches can preview the School Health course syllabus and scope and sequence by request.

A parent/learning coach of a scholar has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education through a passive consent (“opt-out”) process. The Charter School does not require active parental consent (“opt-in”) for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education. Parents and guardians may:

- Inspect written and audiovisual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.
- Excuse their child from participation in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education in writing to the Charter School.
- Be informed whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by Charter School personnel or outside consultants. When the Charter School chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education, be informed of:
  - a. The date of the instruction
  - b. The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker
  - c. Request a copy of Education Code sections 51930 through 51939.

Anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure scholars’ health behaviors and risks (including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age-appropriate questions about the scholar’s attitudes concerning or practices relating to sex) may be administered to scholars in grades 7-12. A parent or guardian has the right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey through a passive consent (“opt-out”) process. Parents or guardians shall be notified in writing that this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered, given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey if they wish, notified of their right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey, and informed that in order to excuse their child they must state their request in writing to the Charter School.

A scholar may not attend any course in comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education, or participate in any anonymous, voluntary, and confidential test, questionnaire, or survey on scholar health behaviors and risks, if the Charter School has received a written request from the scholar’s parent or guardian excusing the scholar from participation. An alternative educational activity shall be made available to scholars whose parents or guardians have requested that they not receive the instruction or participate in the test, questionnaire, or survey.

For our CCS scholars, the CHYA content is provided for integration into the science course for 7th graders and the Health course for 9th graders.

## Scholars with Special Needs

CCS is dedicated to the belief that all scholars can learn and must be guaranteed equal opportunity to become contributing members of the academic environment and society. CCS provides special education instruction and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Improvement Act (“IDEA”), California Education Code requirements, and applicable policies and procedures of the El Dorado County Charter SELPA. These services are available for special education scholars enrolled at CCS. We offer high quality educational programs and services for all of our scholars in accordance with the assessed needs of each scholar. CCS collaborates with learning coaches, scholars, teachers, and other agencies, as may be indicated, in order to appropriately serve the educational needs of each scholar.

Compass operates in accordance with CA Education code 51745 (c) which states "An individual with exceptional needs, as defined in Section 56026, may participate in independent study, if the pupil's individualized education program developed pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 56340) of Chapter 4 of Part 30 specifically provides for that participation. If a parent or guardian of an individual with exceptional needs requests independent study pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (a), the pupil's individualized education program team shall make an individualized determination as to whether the pupil can receive a free appropriate public education in an independent study placement. A pupil's inability to work independently, the pupil's need for adult support, or the pupil's need for special education or related services shall not preclude the individualized education program team from determining that the pupil can receive a free appropriate education in an independent study placement.

CCS recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that no qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of the School. Any scholar who has an objectively identified disability which substantially limits a major life activity, including, but not limited to, learning is eligible for accommodations by CCS. The learning coach of any scholar suspected of needing or qualifying for accommodations under Section 504 may make a referral for an evaluation in writing to the scholar's Teacher, Counselor, or directly to the Scholar Support Coordinator.

Pursuant to the IDEA and relevant state law, CCS is responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating children enrolled at CCS with known or suspected disabilities to determine whether a need for special education and related services exists. This includes children with disabilities who are homeless or foster youth. The Charter School shall not deny nor discourage any scholar from enrollment solely due to a disability. If you believe your child may be eligible for special education services, please contact the Director of Special Education at 855-937-4227.

A copy of the School's Section 504 Policies and Procedures and the School's Special Education Policy is available upon request at the Central Office and on the School's website within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## Education of Homeless Scholars

The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes children and youths who (42 U.S.C. § 11434a):

1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
3. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition of "homeless."

Homeless status is determined collaboratively with the learning coach and confirmed by the school liaison. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by the School Liaison.

### School Liaison

The Superintendent & CEO designates the following staff person as the School Liaison for homeless scholars (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)):

Karla Gonzalez | Scholar Community Advocate  
850 Hampshire Road, Suite R | Thousand Oaks, CA 91361 | 805-372-0620 | [kgonzalez@compasscharters.org](mailto:kgonzalez@compasscharters.org)

The School Liaison shall ensure that (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)):

- Homeless scholars are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies, and through the annual housing questionnaire administered by the Charter School.

- Homeless scholars enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed at CCS.
- Homeless scholars and families receive educational services for which they are eligible including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act, early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any other preschool programs administered by CCS, if any, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.
- Learning coaches are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their scholars and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their scholars.
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places where children receive services, such as schools, shelters, and soup kitchens and in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless youth and unaccompanied youth.
- Enrollment/admissions disputes are mediated in accordance with law, the CCS charter, and Board policy.
- Learning coaches and any unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, as applicable.
- School personnel providing services receive professional development and other support.
- The School Liaison collaborates with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.
- Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school, have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth, and are informed of their status as independent scholars under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the School Liaison to receive verification of such status for the purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of the Act.

The California Department of Education publishes a list of the contact information for the Homeless Education Liaisons in the state, which is available at [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs).

**Housing Questionnaire:** Charter School shall administer a housing questionnaire for purposes of confirming residency and identifying homeless children and youth. Charter School shall ensure that the housing questionnaire is based on the best practices developed by the CDE. Charter School shall annually provide the housing questionnaire to all parents/guardians of scholars and to all unaccompanied youths at Charter School. The housing questionnaire shall include an explanation of the rights and protections a scholar has as a homeless child or youth or as an unaccompanied youth. The housing questionnaire shall be available in paper form. The housing questionnaire shall be available in English, and if fifteen (15) percent or more of the scholars enrolled at Charter School speak a single primary language other than English, it shall also be written in the primary language. The questionnaire shall be translated into other languages upon request of a scholar's parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth. Charter School shall collect the completed housing questionnaires and annually report to the CDE the number of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths enrolled.

**High School Graduation Requirements:** Homeless scholars who transfer to the Charter School any time after the completion of their second year of high school shall be exempt from any of the Charter School's graduation requirements that are in excess of the California minimum graduation requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 ("additional graduation requirements") unless the Charter School makes a finding that the scholar is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements by the end of the scholar's fourth year of high school.

To determine whether a homeless scholar is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the scholar has earned to the date of transfer or the length of the scholar's school enrollment may be used, whichever will qualify the scholar for the exemption.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date that a scholar who may qualify for exemption under the above requirements transfers into the Charter School, the Charter School shall notify the scholar, the scholar's educational rights holder, and the School Liaison of the availability of the exemption and whether the scholar qualifies for an exemption.

The Charter School shall notify scholars who are exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements and the scholar's educational rights holder of how many of the requirements that are waived will affect the scholar's

ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

The Charter School shall not require any scholar who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School to accept the exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements or deny the scholar enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the scholar is otherwise eligible. The Charter School shall not revoke an exemption and shall grant an eligible scholar's request for the exemption at any time if the scholar qualifies, regardless of whether the scholar previously declined the exemption. An eligible scholar's exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements will continue to apply while the scholar is enrolled in the Charter School or if the scholar transfers to another school even after the scholar no longer meets the definition of a homeless child.

The Charter School shall not require or request that a scholar transfer schools in order to qualify the scholar for the exemption. Nor shall a scholar, a scholar's parent/guardian or educational rights holder, or a scholar's social worker or probation officer request a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

If a scholar who is exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements completes the California minimum coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 before the end of the scholar's fourth year of high school and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School, the Charter School shall not require or request that the scholar graduate before the end of the scholar's fourth year of high school.

If the Charter School determines the scholar is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements by the end of the scholar's fifth year of high school, the Charter School shall do the following:

- Inform the scholar of the scholar's option to remain at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements.
- Inform the scholar, and the educational rights holder for the scholar, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements will affect the scholar's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
- Provide information to the scholar about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
- Permit the scholar to stay at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements upon agreement with the scholar, if the scholar is 18 years of age or older, or, if the scholar is under 18 years of age, upon agreement with the educational rights holder for the scholar.

**Acceptance of Course Work:** The Charter School will accept any coursework satisfactorily completed at any public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency by a homeless scholar.

The Charter School will provide homeless scholar credit for the partial completion of courses taken while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. If the scholar did not complete the entire course, the Charter School shall not require the scholar to retake the portion of the course the scholar completed unless the Charter School, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the scholar, finds that the scholar is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the homeless scholar shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the scholar may continue and complete the entire course. These scholars shall not be prevented from taking or retaking a course to meet California State University or the University of California admission eligibility requirements.

## Education of Foster and Mobile Youth

**Definitions:** For the purposes of this annual notice the terms are defined as follows:

1. "Foster youth" refers to any of the following:

- a. A child who is the subject of a petition filed has been removed from their home pursuant Welfare and Institutions Code (“WIC”) section 309 (whether or not the child has been removed from the child’s home by juvenile.
  - b. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to WIC section 602, has been removed from the child’s home by the juvenile court, and/or is in foster care.
  - c. A nonminor the subject of a petition filed under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as described in WIC section 450, who satisfies all of the following criteria:
    - i. The nonminor has attained 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement by the juvenile court.
    - ii. The nonminor is in foster care under the placement Welfare and care responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation department, Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, Institutions Code section 300 or tribal organization.
    - iii. The nonminor is participating in a transitional independent living case plan.
  - d. A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization 602. This includes children who are the subject of a petition filed in the tribal cases in dependency court and juvenile justice court.[1]
  - e. A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, as defined in WIC section 11400.
2. “Former juvenile court school pupils” refers to a scholar who, upon completion of the scholar ’s second year of high school, transfers from a juvenile court school to the Charter School.
  3. “Child of a military family” refers to a scholar who resides in the household of an active duty military member.
  4. “Currently Migratory Child” refers to a child who, within the last 12-months, has moved with a parent, guardian, or other person having custody to the Charter School from another Local Educational Agency (“LEA”), either within California or from another state, in order that the child or a member of the child’s immediate family might secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, and whose parents or guardians have been informed of the child’s eligibility for migrant education services. This includes a child who, without the parent/guardian, has continued to migrate annually to secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.
  5. “Pupil participating in a newcomer program” means a pupil who is participating in a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant pupils that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency.

Within this notice, foster youth, former juvenile court school pupils, a child of a military family, a currently migratory child, and a pupil participating in the newcomer program will be collectively referred to as “Foster and Mobile Youth.” Within this notice, a parent, guardian, or other person holding the educational rights for a Foster and Mobile Youth will be referred to as a “parent.”

**Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison:** The Superintendent & CEO or designee designates the following staff person as the Liaison for Foster and Mobile Youth:

Karla Gonzalez | Scholar Community Advocate  
850 Hampshire Road, Suite R | Thousand Oaks, CA 91361 | 805-372-0620 | [kgonzalez@compasscharters.org](mailto:kgonzalez@compasscharters.org)

The Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison’s responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Ensuring and facilitating the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children.
- Assisting foster children when transferring from one school to another school in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records and grades.

**School Stability:** The Charter School will work with foster youth and their parent/guardian to ensure that each pupil is placed in the least restrictive educational programs, and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils, including, but not necessarily limited to, interscholastic sports. All decisions regarding a foster youth’s education and placement will be based on the best interest

of the child and shall consider, among other factors, educational stability and the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress.

Foster youth, currently migratory children and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin if it is in their best interest. The Charter School will immediately enroll a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking re-enrollment in the Charter School as the scholar's school of origin (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy). If a dispute arises regarding a foster youth's request to remain in the Charter School as the school of origin, the foster youth has the right to remain in the Charter School pending the resolution of the dispute. The Charter School will also immediately enroll any foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking to transfer to the Charter School (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy) regardless of the scholar's ability to meet normal enrollment documentation or uniform requirements (e.g. producing medical records or academic records from a previous school).

Foster youth, currently migratory children, and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin following the termination of the child's status as a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family, as follows:

- For scholars in Kindergarten through eighth grade, inclusive, the scholar will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through the duration of the academic year in which the scholar's status changed.
- For scholars enrolled in high school, the scholar will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through graduation.

**Graduation Requirements:** Foster and Mobile Youth who transfer to the Charter School any time after the completion of their second year of high school, and pupils participating in a newcomer program who are in their third or fourth year of high school, shall be exempt from any of the Charter School's graduation requirements that are in excess of the California minimum graduation requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 ("additional graduation requirements") unless the Charter School makes a finding that the scholar is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements by the end of the scholar's fourth year of high school.

To determine whether a Foster and Mobile Youth is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the scholar has earned to the date of transfer or the length of the scholar's school enrollment may be used, whichever will qualify the scholar for the exemption. In the case of a pupil participating in a newcomer program, enrollment in grade 11 or 12 may be used to determine whether the scholar is in their third or fourth year of high school.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date that a scholar who may qualify for exemption under the above requirements transfers into the Charter School, the Charter School shall notify the scholar, the parent/guardian, and where applicable, the scholar's social worker or probation officer, of the availability of the exemption and whether the scholar qualifies for an exemption.

The Charter School shall notify scholars who are exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements and the scholar's parent/guardian how any of the requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

The Charter School shall not require any scholar who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School to accept the exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements or deny the scholar enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the scholar is otherwise eligible. The Charter School shall not revoke an exemption and shall grant an eligible scholar's request for the exemption at any time if the scholar qualifies, regardless of whether the scholar previously declined the exemption. An eligible scholar's exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements will continue to apply while the scholar is enrolled in the Charter School or if the scholar transfers to another school even after the court's jurisdiction terminates or the scholar no longer meets the definition of a child of military family, a currently migratory child or a pupil participating in a newcomer program.

The Charter School shall not require or request that a scholar transfer schools in order to qualify the scholar for the exemption. Nor shall a scholar, a scholar's parent/guardian or educational rights holder, or a scholar's social worker or probation officer request a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

If a scholar who is exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements completes the California minimum coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 before the end of the scholar's fourth year of high school and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School, the Charter School shall not require or request that the scholar graduate before the end of the scholar's fourth year of high school.

If the Charter School determines the scholar is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements by the end of the scholar's fifth year of high school, the Charter School shall do the following:

- Inform the scholar of the scholar's option to remain at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements.
- Inform the scholar, and the educational rights holder for the scholar, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements will affect the scholar's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
- Provide information to the scholar about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
- Permit the scholar to stay at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements upon agreement with the scholar, if the scholar is 18 years of age or older, or, if the scholar is under 18 years of age, upon agreement with the educational rights holder for the scholar.

**Acceptance of Course Work:** The Charter School will accept any coursework satisfactorily completed at any public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency by a Foster and Mobile Youth.

The Charter School will provide Foster and Mobile Youth credit for the partial completion of courses taken while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. If the scholar did not complete the entire course, the Charter School shall not require the scholar to retake the portion of the course the scholar completed unless the Charter School, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the scholar, finds that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the Foster and Mobile Youth shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the scholar may continue and complete the entire course. These scholars shall not be prevented from taking or retaking a course to meet California State University or the University of California admission eligibility requirements.

**Scholar Records:** When the Charter School receives a transfer request and/or scholar records request for the educational information and records of a foster youth from a new local educational agency ("LEA"), the Charter School shall provide these scholar records within two (2) business days. The Charter School shall compile the complete educational record of the pupil, including but not limited to a determination of seat time, full or partial credits earned, current classes and grades, immunization and other records, and, if applicable, a copy of the pupil's special education records including assessments, IEPs, and/or 504 plans. All requests for scholar records will be shared with the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison, who shall be aware of the specific educational record keeping needs of Foster and Mobile Youth.

The Charter School shall not lower a foster youth's grades as a result of the scholar's absence due to a verified court appearance, related court ordered activity, or a change in the placement of the scholar made by a county or placing agency. If a foster youth is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of the scholar made by a county or placing agency, the grades and credits of the pupil will be calculated as of the date the scholar left the Charter School.

In accordance with the Charter School's Educational Records and Scholarly Information Policy, under limited circumstances, the Charter School may disclose scholar records or personally identifiable information contained in those records to certain requesting parties including but not limited to a foster family agency and state and local authorities

within a juvenile justice system, without parent/guardian consent. Scholars who are 16 years of age or older or have finished 10th grade may access their own school records.

**Discipline Determinations:** If the Charter School intends to extend the suspension of any foster/ youth pending a recommendation for expulsion, the Charter School will invite the scholar's attorney and an appropriate representative from the relevant county agency to participate in the meeting at which the extension of the suspension will be discussed.

If the Charter School intends to suspend for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or expel a scholar with a disability who is also a foster youth due to an act for which the recommendation for expulsion is discretionary, the Charter School will invite the scholar's attorney and an appropriate representative from the relevant county agency to participate in the Manifestation Determination Review meeting.

**Complaints of Noncompliance:** A complaint of noncompliance with any of the requirements outlined above may be filed through the Charter School's Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures. A copy of the Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures is available upon request at the Central Office and on the school website within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism and any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means. CCS takes academic dishonesty in any form seriously, and it will not be tolerated.

Some examples include:

- Using or turning in another person's work and claim as your own;
- Copying from text, a website, or other course material;
- Claiming work generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) as your own;
- Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials or information in any academic exercise;
- Hiring someone to write a paper;
- Buying a paper or project;
- Sharing files;
- Copying from another person's work;
- Letting a friend or learning coach do the work for you.

### What is Plagiarism?

Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines plagiarism as "the act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person: the act of plagiarizing something."

To plagiarize means:

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own;
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source;
- to commit literary theft or fraud; or
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from another source.

See <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism> for more information.

### How to Avoid Plagiarism

Scholars must give credit to the source for any information that is not either the result of original research or common knowledge. For example, it would be necessary to give credit to an author who provided an argument about the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation in the American Civil War. Conversely, major historical facts, such as the dates of the American Civil War, are considered common knowledge and do not require that credit be given to a particular author. If a scholar borrows the exact words of another author, the scholar must cite the source. If scholars are unsure whether or not they should cite, they should ask their teachers for guidance. Teachers will dictate which citation format should be used and what the guidelines are for their course.

Find more information about plagiarism and how to avoid it at [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/).

## Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

Failure to abide by CCS standards of academic dishonesty by violating academic integrity will result in the following consequences:

In each of the offenses, the work that is deemed as plagiarized will not be accepted.

### 1st Offense - Warning

- If a scholar violates academic integrity, the teacher will notify the learning coach and Coordinator.
- The scholar will receive a written warning from the teacher in the form of a behavior contract, which will require both the learning coach and scholar signatures to be returned to the teacher. This will be sent via email with a read receipt.
- The scholar will be permitted to re-submit the work.

### 2nd Offense

- If a scholar is caught violating academic integrity a second time, with any teacher, the teacher will notify the learning coach and Coordinator.
- The scholar will receive a "0" on the assignment that was plagiarized and a 2nd behavior contract will be sent to be signed by both the learning coach and the scholar, and returned to the teacher. Notification will be sent via certified mail and email with a read receipt.
- The Coordinator will schedule a meeting with the teacher, the scholar and the learning coach.

### 3rd Offense

- If a scholar is caught violating academic integrity a third time the teacher will notify the learning coach, Coordinator and Program Director.
- The scholar will receive a "0" on the assignment that was plagiarized and the scholar will be placed on Academic Probation. The scholar will receive a notification of this to be signed by both the Learning Coach and scholar's Notification will be sent via certified mail and email.
- A meeting will be held with the Program Director, Coordinator, teacher, Learning Coach and scholar.

### 4th Offense

- If a scholar is caught violating academic integrity a fourth time the teacher will notify the learning coach, Coordinator and Program Director.
- The course is locked until a recommendation is made by the Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC). The scholar will receive a behavior contract notifying them of this via certified mail.
- The scholar goes before the DAC to determine whether further discipline will be recommended, using the processes outlined in the CCS charter document, available on the CCS website and at the Central Office.

## Academic Probation

Any scholar failing to meet minimum academic standards in his/her courses, or participating in academic dishonesty, as determined by the Program Director, may be placed on academic probation. Scholars on academic probation will be expected to participate in academic interventions as determined by their teacher or director. Scholars on academic probation may not be permitted to attend field trips or participate in scholar clubs until off academic probation.

## Field Trips

### Participation

Scholars enrolled in CCS (and their legal guardians, extended family members, and siblings based on age and capacity) may attend School field trips. Legal guardians, extended family members, and siblings must cover their own costs to attend. Educational Support Funds cannot be used to pay for field trips. Once CCS has made payments to the field trip venue, no refunds for those additional costs will be processed.

All guests attending field trips are expected to follow the established requirements, rules, and guidelines shared by the Engagement Department for the event to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. This includes examples such as arriving on time, following instructions, and demonstrating respectful behavior throughout the event.

Guests who do not follow these requirements, rules, and guidelines may be subject to appropriate actions, such as being asked to leave an activity, early dismissal, or adjustments to future participation. Continued or serious violations may impact eligibility for future field trips. By joining the trip, guests acknowledge and agree to uphold these expectations, contributing to a successful and enriching experience for all.

### Permission Slips

No scholar will be permitted to go on a field trip or excursion without a permission slip signed by the scholar's legal guardian. A new permission slip must be submitted for every scholar for each field trip. One (1) copy of the permission slip shall be filed with the Engagement Department, and one (1) copy shall be given to the staff member(s) going on the field trip.

### Supervision

The sponsoring staff member(s) must be present to supervise the field trip or excursion. The emergency contact for each scholar will be designated on the event permission slip.

Scholars are under the jurisdiction of the School at all times during the field trip and school rules are to be adhered to at all times.

### Transferring Tickets

No person attending the field trip can independently transfer a ticket purchased for a field trip event to other individuals. Please inform the Engagement Department if you are unable to attend a field trip. The Engagement Department will then determine how to transfer tickets, if possible.

### Role of Volunteer Learning Coaches on Field Trips

Volunteers are needed to participate in all field trips and excursions to assist with supervision of scholar(s). The CCS group and those assisting in supervising scholars shall receive clear information regarding their responsibilities from the Engagement Department or sponsoring staff member. Prior to the field trip or excursion, the Engagement Department or sponsoring teacher may hold a required meeting for these volunteer learning coaches/approved adults scheduled to accompany CCS group as supervisors to discuss, among other things, safety and the importance of safety-related rules for the field trip or excursion, how to keep a group together and what to do if an emergency occurs.

In any situation, volunteer learning coaches and/or approved adults shall not consume alcohol or use controlled substances (except for medications taken under a physician's orders) while accompanying and/or supervising scholars on a field trip or excursion.

## Scholar Organizations and Clubs

### Scholar Leadership Council

To ensure compliance with Board requirements and other applicable lawful regulations, the Scholar Leadership Council will be advised by the Superintendent & CEO. The Superintendent & CEO, as advisor, will establish a fair process for the

nomination and election of officers for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The body shall generally determine all other rules for its operation and activities consistent with the established school rules.

### Scholar Clubs

Scholars may establish organizations or clubs, so long as approval is obtained by the Engagement Department. Scholars can sign themselves up to participate in scholar clubs and/or learning coaches can sign scholars up to participate in scholar clubs. Learning coaches should have a conversation with their scholar(s) about which club(s) they would like to join and support their scholars' club registration(s) as needed.

### Approval

A scholar organization's constitution and by-laws may be prepared through the cooperative work of the scholars and staff. A copy of the constitution and by-laws must be submitted to the Engagement Department, for initial review to ensure consistency with school rules.

### Fundraising

The Board shall provide for the supervision of all funds raised by any student body or scholar organization using CCS' name. CCS shall also be responsible to periodically audit the funds of the organization. All fundraising must receive prior approval of the Superintendent & CEO. Further, fundraising activities shall not be conducted during instructional time.

### Revocation of Privileges

A scholar organization may have its privilege to meet on school property or at a school sponsored event revoked if they engage in conduct which is in violation of this policy, disruptive to the educational process, damages school property or is in violation of any law. Scholar organizations or their members shall not engage in any activity which coerces, pressures, embarrasses or unduly influences other scholars to participate in any meeting.

## Nondiscrimination Statement

CCS does not discriminate against any scholar or employee on the basis of actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, immigration status, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes in the California Penal Code.

CCS adheres to all provisions of federal law related to scholars with disabilities, including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA).

CCS does not discourage scholars from enrolling or seeking to enroll in the Charter School for any reason, including, but not limited to, academic performance, disability, neglect or delinquency, English proficiency, for being homeless or a foster/mobile youth, economic disadvantage, nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. CCS shall not encourage a scholar currently attending CCS to disenroll or transfer to another school based on any of the aforementioned reasons except in cases of expulsion and suspension or involuntary removal in accordance with the Charter School's charter and relevant policies.

CCS does not request nor require scholar records prior to a scholar's enrollment.

CCS shall provide a copy of the California Department of Education Complaint Notice and Form to any parent, guardian, or scholar over the age of 18 at the following times: (1) when a parent, guardian, or scholar over of the age of 18 inquires about enrollment; (2) before conducting an enrollment lottery; and (3) before disenrollment of a scholar.

CCS is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Titles VI, VI, and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, or national origin), The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the IDEA, and Section 504 and Title II of the ADA (mental or physical disability). The School also prohibits sexual harassment, including cyber sexual bullying, and harassment based upon

pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, religious affiliation, creed, color, immigration status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. CCS does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including discrimination, intimidation, or bullying, including cyber sexual bullying by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which CCS does business, or any other individual, scholar, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, scholars, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender. CCS will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted. Inquiries, complaints, or grievances regarding harassment as described in this section, above, should be directed to the Charter School Uniform Complaint Procedures (“UCP”) Compliance Officer:

Elizabeth Brenner | Superintendent & CEO

850 Hampshire Road, Suite R | Thousand Oaks, California 91361 | (818) 824-6233 | ebrenner@compasscharters.org

A copy of the complete policy shall be available free of charge at CCS’ Central Office and on the School’s website within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in Charter School’s programs or activities. Charter School prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint or who participates or refuses to participate in a complaint investigation. A copy of the complete non-discrimination statement shall be available free of charge at CCS’ Central Office and on the School’s website within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## Scholar Grievances

Compass Charter School has three (3) complaint policies: General Complaint Policy, the Uniform Complaint Policy, and the Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy. A copy of the complete policies shall be available free of charge at CCS’ Central Office and on the School’s website within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## General Complaint Policy

CCS has adopted a General Complaint Policy to address concerns about the Charter School generally or regarding specific employees. For complaints regarding harassment or perceived violations of state or federal laws, please refer to the Charter School’s Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy and/or the Charter School’s Uniform Complaint Procedures. For all other complaints, the General Complaint form and accompanying procedures will be available at its Central Office and on the CCS website within the CCS Board Policy Manual (Section 40).

## Uniform Complaint Procedure (Annual Notice)

CCS is the local agency primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations governing educational programs.

CCS shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints using policies and procedures known as the Uniform Complaint Procedure (“UCP”) adopted by our Board of Directors. The UCP shall be used to resolve the following types of complaints:

1. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected group on the basis of actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, mental disability, physical disability, ethnic group identification, immigration status, citizenship, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, nationality, national origin, race or ethnicity, religion, medical condition, marital status, sex, or sexual orientation, or on the basis of a person’s association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any CCS program or activity.
2. Complaints alleging a violation of state or federal law or regulation governing the following programs:
  - a. Accommodations for Pregnant, Parenting, or Lactating Scholars;
  - b. Adult Education;
  - c. Career Technical and Technical Education;

- d. Career Technical and Technical Training;
  - e. Child Care and Development Programs;
  - f. Consolidated Categorical Aid;
  - g. Education of Scholars in Foster Care, Scholars who are Homeless, former Juvenile Court Scholars now enrolled in a public school;
  - h. Every Student Succeeds Act;
  - i. Migrant Education Programs;
  - j. Regional Occupational Centers and Programs;
  - k. School Safety Plans; and/or
  - l. State Preschool Programs.
3. Complaints alleging noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees. A pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity. A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
- a. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or courses, or as a condition for participation in a course or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
  - b. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, course apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
  - c. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees may be filed with the Superintendent & CEO.

- 4. Complaints alleging noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula (“LCFF”) or Local Control and Accountability Plans (“LCAP”) under Education Code sections 47606.5 and 47607.3, as applicable. If Charter School adopts a School Plan for Student Achievement (“SPSA”) in addition to its LCAP, complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of the SPSA under Education Code sections 64000, 64001, 65000, and 65001 shall also fall under the UCP.
- 5. Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding child nutrition programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 49490-49590 are governed by Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (“C.F.R.”) sections 210.19(a)(4), 215.1(a), 220.13(c), 225.11(b), 226.6(n), and 250.15(d) and Title 5, California Code of Regulations (“C.C.R.”) sections 15580 - 15584.
- 6. Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding special education programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 56000-56865 and 59000-59300 are governed by the procedures set forth in 5 C.C.R. sections 3200-3205 and 34 C.F.R. sections 300.151-300.153.

Complaints other than complaints relating to pupil fees must be filed in writing with the following compliance officer:

Elizabeth Brenner | Superintendent & CEO

850 Hampshire Road, Suite R | Thousand Oaks, California 91361 | (818) 824-6233 | [ebrenner@compasscharters.org](mailto:ebrenner@compasscharters.org)

Only complaints regarding pupil fees or LCAP compliance may be filed anonymously and only if the anonymous complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees or LCAP.

Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, must be filed within six (6) months from the date the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, occurred or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. All other complaints under the UCP shall be filed not later than one (1) year from the date the alleged violation occurred. For complaints relating to the LCAP, the date of the alleged violation is the date on which Charter School’s Board of Directors approved the LCAP or the annual update was adopted by Charter School.

The Compliance Officer responsible for investigating the complaint shall conduct and complete the investigation in accordance with California regulations and the Charter School’s UCP Policy. The Compliance Office shall provide the

complainant with the final written investigation report within sixty (60) calendar days from the Charter School's receipt of the complaint. This sixty (60) calendar day time period may be extended by written agreement of the complainant.

The complainant has a right to appeal CCS's Decision to the California Department of Education ("CDE") by filing a written appeal within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of Charter School's written Decision, except if Charter School has used its UCP to address a complaint that is not subject to the UCP requirements. The appeal must include a copy of the complaint filed with the Charter School, a copy of Charter School's decision, and the complainant must specify and explain the basis for the appeal of the decision, including at least one of the following:

1. Charter School failed to follow its complaint procedures.
2. Relative to the allegations of the complaint, Charter School's decision lacks material findings of fact necessary to reach a conclusion of law.
3. The material findings of fact in Charter School's decision are not supported by substantial evidence.
4. The legal conclusion in Charter School's decision is inconsistent with the law.
5. In a case in which Charter School's decision found noncompliance, the corrective actions fail to provide a proper remedy.

A complainant who appeals Charter School's decision on a UCP complaint to the CDE shall receive a written appeal decision within sixty (60) calendar days of the CDE's receipt of the appeal, unless extended by written agreement with the complainant or the CDE documents exceptional circumstances and informs the complainant.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the CDE's appeal decision pursuant to 5 C.C.R. section 4633(f)(2) or (3), either party may request reconsideration by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction ("SSPI") or the SSPI's designee. The request for reconsideration shall specify and explain the reason(s) for contesting the findings of fact, conclusions of law, or corrective actions in the CDE's appeal decision.

If a UCP complaint is filed directly with the CDE and the CDE determines that it merits direct intervention, the CDE shall complete an investigation and provide a written decision to the complainant within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, unless the parties have agreed to extend the timeline or the CDE documents exceptional circumstances and informs the complainant.

If Charter School finds merit in a UCP complaint, or the CDE finds merit in an appeal, Charter School shall take corrective actions consistent with the requirements of existing law that will provide a remedy to the affected scholar and/or parent/guardian as applicable.

A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the Charter School's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders. For unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints arising under state law, however, a complainant must wait until sixty (60) calendar days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if the Charter School has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of the Complainant's right to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR 4622.

A copy of the UCP shall be available upon request free of charge at CCS's Central Office and on the School's website within the CCS Board Policy Manual. For further information on any part of the complaint procedures, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the UCP, please contact the Superintendent & CEO.

## Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination & Bullying Policy

Board Policy #:37

Adopted/Ratified: October 3, 2019

Revision Date: N/A

Discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are all disruptive behaviors, which interfere with scholars' ability to learn and negatively affect scholar engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. As such, Compass Charter Schools prohibits any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying altogether. This policy is inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means.

As used in this policy, discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are described as the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication or cyber-bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, pregnancy, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, ancestry, race or ethnicity, immigration and citizenship status, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, age, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. In addition, bullying encompasses any conduct described in the definitions set forth in this Policy. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as "misconduct prohibited by this Policy."

To the extent possible, CCS will make reasonable efforts to prevent scholars from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond, address and report on such behaviors in a timely manner. CCS school staff that witness acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.

Moreover, CCS will not condone or tolerate misconduct prohibited by this Policy by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which CCS does business, or any other individual, scholar, or volunteer. This Policy applies to all employees, scholars, or volunteer actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. CCS will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of such misconduct prohibited by this Policy and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

### **Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Bullying Coordinator ("Coordinator"):**

Elizabeth Brenner | Superintendent & CEO

850 Hampshire Road, Suite R | Thousand Oaks, California 91361 | (818) 824-6233 | ebrenner@compasscharters.org

## Definitions

### Prohibited Unlawful Harassment

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs.
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with school because of sex, race or any other protected basis.
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment.
- Deferential or preferential treatment based on any of the protected classes above.

## Prohibited Unlawful Harassment under Title IX

Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et. seq*; 34 C.F.R. § 106.1 *et. seq*) and California state law prohibit harassment on the basis of sex. In accordance with these existing laws, discrimination on the basis of sex in education institutions is prohibited. All persons, regardless of sex, are afforded equal rights and opportunities and freedom from unlawful discrimination in education programs or activities conducted by CCS.

CCS is committed to providing an educational environment free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action.

Sexual harassment consists of sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (a) Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual's employment, education, academic status, or progress; (b) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of employment, educational or academic decisions affecting the individual; (c) the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment; and/or (d) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an individual who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against themselves or against another individual.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
  - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults.
  - Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body.
- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
  - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
  - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an individual for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any individual to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
  - Subjecting or threats of subjecting a scholar to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making the scholar's academic performance more difficult because of the scholar's sex.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the educational environment, such as:
  - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing or possessing any such material to read, display or view in the educational environment.
  - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the educational environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic.
  - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an individual by sex in an area of the educational environment (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this Policy.

## Prohibited Bullying

**Bullying** is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act. Bullying includes one or more acts committed by a scholar or group of scholars that may constitute as sexual harassment, hate violence, or creates an intimidating and/or hostile educational environment, directed toward one or more scholars that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable scholar\* or scholars in fear of harm to that scholar's or those scholars' person or property.
2. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
3. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
4. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by CCS.

\* "Reasonable scholar" is defined as a scholar, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs scholar, who exercises care, skill and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with his or her exceptional needs.

**Cyberbullying** is an electronic act that includes the transmission of harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

**Electronic act** means the creation and/or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
2. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
  - a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in the definition of "bullying," above.
  - b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual scholar for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a scholar for the purpose of bullying the scholar and such that another scholar would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the scholar was or is the scholar who was impersonated.
  - c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious scholar or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual scholar other than the scholar who created the false profile.
3. An act of "Cyber sexual bullying" including, but not limited to:
  - a. The dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a scholar to another scholar or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in definition of "bullying," above. A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
  - b. "Cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

4. Notwithstanding the definitions of “bullying” and “electronic act” above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

## Grievance Procedures

### 1. Reporting

All staff are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of misconduct prohibited by this Policy, to intervene as soon as it is safe to do so, call for assistance, and report such incidents. The Board requires staff to follow the procedures in this policy for reporting alleged acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy.

Any scholar who believes they have been subject to misconduct prohibited by this Policy or has witnessed such prohibited misconduct is encouraged to immediately report such misconduct to the Coordinator:

Elizabeth Brenner | Superintendent & CEO

850 Hampshire Road, Suite R | Thousand Oaks, California 91361 | (818) 824-6233 | ebrenner@compasscharters.org

Complaints regarding such misconduct may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

While submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to submit a written report to the Coordinator. Oral reports shall also be considered official reports. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on an anonymous report.

Scholars are expected to report all incidents of misconduct prohibited by this Policy or other verbal, or physical abuses. Any scholar who feels she/he is a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, the Superintendent/CEO, the Coordinator, a staff person or a family member so that she/he can get assistance in resolving the issue in a manner that is consistent with this Policy.

CCS acknowledges and respects every individual’s right to privacy. All reports shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. This includes keeping the identity of the reporter confidential, as appropriate, except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation and/or to resolve the issue, as determined by the Coordinator or administrative designee on a case-by-case basis.

CCS prohibits any form of retaliation against any reporter in the reporting process, including but not limited to a reporter’s filing of a complaint or the reporting of instances of misconduct prohibited by this Policy. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the reporter.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six (6) months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. All staff will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment as required by law.

### 2. Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of misconduct prohibited by this Policy from a scholar, staff member, parent, volunteer, visitor or affiliate of CCS, the Coordinator or administrative designee will promptly initiate an investigation. In most cases, a thorough investigation will take no more than seven school days. If the Coordinator, or administrative designee determines that an investigation will take longer than seven school days, he or she will inform the complainant and any other relevant parties and provide an approximate date when the investigation will be complete.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Coordinator or administrative designee will meet with the complainant and, to the extent possible with respect to confidentiality laws, provide the complainant with information about the investigation, including any actions necessary to resolve the incident/situation. However, in no case may the Coordinator or administrative designee reveal confidential information related to other scholars or employees, including the type and extent of discipline issued against such scholars or employees.

All records related to any investigation of complaints under this Policy are maintained in a secure location.

### **3. Consequences**

Scholars or employees who engage in misconduct prohibited by this Policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **4. Uniform Complaint Procedures**

When harassment or bullying is based upon one of the protected characteristics set forth in this Policy, a complainant may also fill out a Uniform Complaint Procedures complaint form at any time during the process.

### **5. Right of Appeal**

Should the reporting individual find the Coordinator's resolution unsatisfactory, he/she may follow the Dispute Resolution Process found in UCP.

## **Scholar Records, including Records Challenges and Directory Information (Annual Notice)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") affords Learning Coaches and scholars who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible scholars") certain rights with respect to the scholar's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the scholar's education records within five (5) business days after the day CCS receives a request for access. Learning Coaches or eligible scholars should submit to the CCS Superintendent & CEO or designee a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The CCS official will make arrangements for access and notify the Learning Coach or eligible scholar of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request an amendment of the scholar's education records that the Learning Coach or eligible scholar believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the scholar's privacy rights under FERPA.

Learning Coaches or eligible scholars who wish to ask CCS to amend a record should write to the CCS Superintendent & CEO or designee, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If CCS decides not to amend the record as requested by the Learning Coach or eligible scholar, CCS will notify the Learning Coach or eligible scholar of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the Learning Coach or eligible scholar when notified of the right to a hearing. If the Charter School decides to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible scholar, the Superintendent & CEO must order the correction or the removal and destruction of the information and inform the parent or eligible scholar of the amendment in writing.

3. The right to provide written consent before CCS discloses personally identifiable information ("PII") from the scholar's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to CCS officials with legitimate educational interests. A CCS official is a person employed by CCS as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the Board of Directors. A CCS official also may include a volunteer, consultant, vendor, or contractor outside of

CCS who performs an institutional service or function for which CCS would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of CCS with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or contracted provider of digital educational platforms and/or services; a parent or scholar volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, scholar, or other volunteer assisting CCS official in performing an institutional service or function. A CCS official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility.

Upon request, CCS discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a scholar seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the scholar's enrollment or transfer.

Note that CCS will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:  
Student Privacy Policy Office | U.S. Department of Education | 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202
5. The right to request that the Charter School not release scholar names, addresses and telephone listings to military recruiters or institutions of higher education without prior written parental consent.

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from scholar's education records, without consent of the Learning Coach or eligible scholar, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to CCS officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the Learning Coach or eligible scholar, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires CCS to record the disclosure. Learning Coaches and eligible scholars have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. CCS may disclose PII from the education records of a scholar without obtaining prior written consent of the Learning Coach or the eligible scholar to the following parties:

1. Charter School officials who have a legitimate educational interest as defined by 34 C.F.R. Part 99;
2. Other schools to which a scholar seeks or intends to enroll so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the scholar's enrollment or transfer. When a scholar transfers schools, the Charter School will mail the original or a copy of a scholar's cumulative file to the receiving district or private school within ten (10) school days following the date the request is received from the public school or private school where the scholar intends to enroll. The Charter School will make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible scholar of the request for records at the parent's or eligible scholar's last known address, unless the disclosure is initiated by the parent or eligible scholar. Additionally, Charter School will give the parent or eligible scholar, upon request, a copy of the record that was disclosed and give the parent or eligible scholar, upon request, an opportunity for hearing;
3. Certain government officials listed in 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1) in order to carry out lawful functions;
4. Appropriate parties in connection with a scholar's application for, or receipt of, financial aid if it is necessary to determine eligibility, amount of aid, conditions for aid or enforcing the terms and conditions of the aid;
5. Organizations conducting certain studies for the Charter School in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(F);
6. Accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions;
7. Parents of a dependent scholar as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
8. Individuals or entities, in compliance with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. Subject to the exceptions found in 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(9)(i), reasonable effort must be made to notify the parent or eligible scholar of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, so that the parent or eligible scholar may seek a protective order;
9. Persons who need to know in cases of health and safety emergencies;
10. State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law;
11. A foster family agency with jurisdiction over a currently enrolled or former scholar, a short-term residential treatment program staff responsible for the education or case management of a scholar, and a caregiver

(regardless of whether the caregiver has been appointed as the scholar's educational rights holder) who has direct responsibility for the care of the scholar, including a certified or licensed foster parent, an approved relative or unrelated extended family member, or a resource family, may access the current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, and online communication on platforms established by Charter School for scholar and parents, and any individualized education program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan that may have been developed or maintained by Charter School; and/or

12. A victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceedings conducted by Charter School with respect to that alleged crime or offense. Charter School disclose the final results of the disciplinary proceeding, regardless of whether Charter School concluded a violation was committed.

"Directory Information" is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. CCS may disclose the personally identifiable information that it has designated as directory information without a parent's or eligible scholar's prior written consent. CCS has designated the following information as directory information:

1. Scholar's name
2. Scholar's address
3. Learning Coach's address
4. Telephone listing
5. Scholar's electronic mail address
6. Learning Coach's electronic mail address
7. Photograph/video
8. Date and place of birth
9. Dates of attendance
10. Grade level
11. Degrees, honors, and awards received
12. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
13. The most recent educational agency or institution attended
14. Scholar ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A scholar's social security number, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

If you do not want CCS to disclose directory information from your scholar's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the School in writing at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment. Please notify the Superintendent & CEO at [ebrenner@compasscharters.org](mailto:ebrenner@compasscharters.org). A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the Central Office and on the School's website within the CCS Board Policy Manual.

## Withdrawal from CCS

1. If a scholar decides to withdraw, the scholar's learning coach communicates the decision through their ST and/or counselor.
2. The teacher notifies the Registrar who sends the learning coach an email and form to confirm the withdrawal.
3. Once the withdrawal is completed the Attendance Coordinator will email the Learning Coach a letter showing the scholar has been withdrawn that can be given to the scholar's new school.
4. If a scholar willfully damages CCS' property or the personal property of a CCS employee, or fails to return a textbook, library book, computer/tablet or other CCS property that has been loaned to the scholar, the scholar's parents/guardians are liable for all damages caused by the scholar's misconduct not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), adjusted annually for inflation. After notifying the scholar's parent or guardian in writing of the scholar's alleged misconduct and affording the scholar due process, CCS may withhold the scholar's grades, transcripts, and diploma until the damages have been paid. If the scholar and the scholar's parent/guardian are unable to pay for the damages or to return the property, CCS will provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. Upon completion of the voluntary work, the scholar's grades and diploma will be released.

5. If a scholar and/or a learning coach makes the decision to withdraw from CCS prior to the end of the semester, they are automatically forfeiting their right to a letter grade for any courses still in progress, and will receive a withdrawn (W) on their transcript. Any coursework completed for courses still in progress during a withdrawal will be lost, and cannot be transferred to a new academic institution. If the course has been 100% completed and letter grade provided by the instructor, the scholar will be awarded the credits earned. Please contact your counselor before you choose to withdraw from CCS.

## Involuntary Removal Process

No scholar shall be involuntarily removed by the Charter School for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the scholar has been provided written notice of intent to remove the scholar no less than five (5) schooldays before the effective date of the action (“Involuntary Removal Notice”). The written notice shall be in the native language of the scholar or the scholar’s parent or guardian or, if the scholar is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the scholar’s educational rights holder. The Involuntary Removal Notice shall include the charges against the scholar and an explanation of the scholar’s basic rights including the right to request a hearing before the effective date of the action. The hearing shall be consistent with the Charter School’s expulsion procedures. If the scholar’s parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the scholar shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the Charter School issues a final decision. As used herein, “involuntarily removed” includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions or expulsions pursuant to the Charter School’s suspension and expulsion policy.

Upon parent/guardian request for a hearing, the Charter School will provide notice of hearing consistent with its expulsion hearing process, through which the scholar has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the scholar has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate. The notice of hearing shall be in the native language of the scholar or the scholar’s parent or guardian or, if the scholar is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the scholar’s educational rights holder and shall include a copy of the Charter School’s expulsion hearing process.

If the parent/guardian is nonresponsive to the Involuntary Removal Notice, the scholar will be disenrolled as of the effective date set forth in the Involuntary Removal Notice. If parent/guardian requests a hearing and does not attend on the date scheduled for the hearing the scholar will be disenrolled effective the date of the hearing.

If as a result of the hearing the scholar is disenrolled, notice will be sent to the scholar’s last known district of residence within thirty (30) days.

A hearing decision not to disenroll the scholar does not prevent the Charter School from making a similar recommendation in the future should scholar truancy continue or reoccur.

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Charter School aims to provide all scholars in our school significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps while abiding by guidelines within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (“ESEA”). The Charter School staff recognizes a partnership with families is essential to meet this goal. Our Parent and Family Engagement Policy leverages and promotes active involvement of all families as partners with schools to ensure scholar success. A copy of the Charter School’s complete Policy is available upon request in the Central Office and on the school website within the Board Policy Manual.

## Employee Interactions with Scholars

CCS recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing scholar and employee behavior to bring about the safest and most learning conducive environment possible.

### Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any scholar. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a scholar.

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, scholars, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to property.

For clarification purposes, the following examples are **offered for direction and guidance of School personnel:**

1. Examples of PERMITTED actions (NOT corporal punishment)
  - a. Stopping a scholar from fighting with another scholar;
  - b. Preventing a scholar from committing an act of vandalism;
  - c. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a scholar;
  - d. Forcing a scholar to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
  - e. Requiring an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
  - f. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.
2. Examples of PROHIBITED actions (corporal punishment)
  - a. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a scholar as a means of control;
  - b. Making unruly scholars do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
  - c. Paddling, swatting, slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

### Acceptable and Unacceptable Staff/Scholar Behavior

This policy is intended to guide all School faculty and staff in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees and to specify the boundaries between scholars and staff.

Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member's obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, scholars, colleagues, or administrators. One viable standard that can be quickly applied, when you are unsure if certain conduct is acceptable, is to ask yourself, "Would I be engaged in this conduct if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

For the purposes of this policy, the term "boundaries" is defined as acceptable professional behavior by staff members while interacting with a scholar. Trespassing the boundaries of a scholar/teacher relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a scholar or parent point of view. The objective of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and scholars, but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff must understand their own responsibility for ensuring that they do not cross the boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established boundaries will be considered irrelevant for disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is crucial that all employees learn this policy thoroughly and apply the lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors to their daily activities. Although sincere, competent interaction with scholars certainly fosters learning, scholar/staff interactions must have boundaries surrounding potential activities, locations and intentions.

### ***Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct***

When any employee reasonably suspects or believes that another staff member may have crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must immediately report the matter to a school administrator. All reports shall be as confidential as possible under the circumstances. It is the duty of the Administrator to investigate and thoroughly report the situation. Employees must also report to the Administration any awareness or concern of scholar behavior that crosses boundaries or where a scholar appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

### ***Examples of Specific Behaviors***

The following examples are not an exhaustive list:

#### **Unacceptable Staff/Scholar Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)**

- Giving gifts to an individual scholar that are of a personal and intimate nature
- Kissing of any kind
- Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a scholar in a private situation
- Intentionally being alone with a scholar away from the school
- Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments
- Sexual jokes
- Seeking emotional involvement with a scholar for your benefit
- Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented
- Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a scholar in an attempt to gain their support and understanding
- Becoming involved with a scholar so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior
- Driving scholars (see policy herein)
- Discussing personal, religious, and/or political beliefs with scholars

#### **Unacceptable Staff/Scholar Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission**

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has parent and Supervisor permission.)

- Giving scholars a ride to/from school or school activities.
- Being alone in a room with a scholar at school with the door closed.
- Allowing scholars in your home.

#### **Cautionary Staff/Scholar Behaviors**

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a reasonable and prudent person, acting as an educator, is prevented from using a better practice or behavior. Staff members should inform their supervisor of the circumstance and occurrence prior to or immediately after the occurrence.)

- Being alone in a room with a scholar at school with the door closed. The only exception to this rule is if it is required for special educational purposes, related to a scholar's Individual Education Plan (IEP). The School Psychologist or employee working in the Special Education Department must have written permission from the scholar's guardian.
- Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone.
- Excessive attention toward a particular scholar.
- Sending emails, text messages or letters to scholars if the content is not about school activities.

#### **Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Scholar Behaviors**

- Getting parents' written consent for any after-school activity.
- Obtaining formal approval to take scholars off school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- E-mails, text, phone and instant messages to scholars must be very professional and pertaining to school activities or courses (Communication should be limited to school technology.)
- Keeping the door open when alone with a scholar.
- Keeping reasonable space between you and your scholars.
- Stopping and correcting scholars if they cross your own personal boundaries.
- Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a scholar.
- Keeping after-course discussions with a scholar professional and brief.

- Asking for advice from fellow staff or Administrators if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
- Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the scholar.
- Informing your supervisor or the Superintendent & CEO about situations that have the potential to become more severe.
- Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of scholars or coworkers.
- Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any type of special needs scholar.
- Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a scholar after regular school hours.
- Giving scholars praise and recognition without touching them.
- Pats on the back, high fives and handshakes are acceptable.
- Keeping your professional conduct a high priority.
- Asking yourself if your actions are worth your job and career.

## Suspension and Expulsion Policy (Full Board Policy)

Board Policy #: 25

Adopted/Ratified: October 3, 2019

Revision Date: N/A

This Scholar Suspension and Expulsion Policy and Procedures have been established in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all scholars at CCS. In creating this policy, CCS has reviewed Education Code Section 48900 et seq. which describes the offenses for which scholars at non-charter schools' may be suspended or expelled and the procedures governing those suspensions and expulsions in order to establish its list of offenses and procedures for suspensions, expulsions, and involuntary removal. The language that follows is largely consistent with the language of Education Code Section 48900 et seq. CCS is committed to annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions, expulsions, and involuntary removals, and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which scholars are subject to suspension, expulsion or involuntary removal.

Consistent with this Policy, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a scholar from CCS. This shall serve as CCS' policy and procedures for scholar suspension, expulsion, and involuntary removal, and it may be amended from time to time without the need to seek a material revision of the charter so long as the amendments comply with legal requirements.

Charter School staff shall enforce disciplinary policies and procedures fairly and consistently among all scholars. This Policy and its Procedures will be printed and distributed annually as part of the Scholar Handbook which will clearly describe discipline expectations.

Discipline includes but is not limited to advising and counseling scholars. Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any scholar. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a scholar. For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, scholars, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.

CCS administration shall ensure that scholars and their parents/guardians are notified in writing upon enrollment of all discipline and involuntarily removal policies and procedures. The notice shall state that this Policy and its Procedures are available upon request at the Superintendent/CEO's office..

Suspended or expelled scholars shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension or expulsion.

A scholar identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom CCS has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEA") or who qualifies under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion and is accorded the same due process procedures applicable to regular education scholars except when federal and state law requires additional or different procedures. CCS will follow all applicable federal and state laws, including, but not limited to, the IDEA, Section 504, the applicable provisions of the Education Code, and their implementing regulations, when imposing any form of discipline on a scholar identified as an individual with disabilities, for whom CCS has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability, or who is otherwise qualified for such services or protections in according due process to such scholars.

No scholar shall be involuntarily removed by the Charter School for any reason unless the parent/guardian of the scholar has been provided written notice of intent to remove the scholar no less than five (5) schooldays before the effective date of the action. The written notice shall be in the native language of the scholar or the scholar's parent/guardian or, if the scholar is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the scholar's educational rights holder, and shall inform the scholar, the scholar's parent/guardian, or educational rights holder of the basis for which the scholar is being involuntarily removed and the scholar's parent/guardian, or educational rights holder's right to request a hearing to challenge the involuntary removal. If a scholar's parent's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the Charter School shall utilize the same hearing procedures specified below for expulsions, before the effective date of the action to involuntarily remove the scholar. If the scholar's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the scholar shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the Charter School issues a final decision. As used herein, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not remove for misconduct which may be grounds for suspension or expulsion as enumerated below. Scholars may be involuntarily removed for reasons including, but not limited to, failure to comply with the terms of the scholar's independent study Master Agreement pursuant to Education Code Section 51747(c)(4).

## Procedures

### **A. Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Scholars**

A scholar may be suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any time including but not limited to: a) while on school grounds; b) while going to or coming from school; c) during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; d) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

### **B. Enumerated Offenses**

1. Discretionary Suspension Offenses. Scholars may be suspended when it is determined the scholar:
  - a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
  - b) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
  - c) Unlawfully possessed, used, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
  - d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
  - e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
  - f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
  - g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.

- h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a scholar.
- i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
- k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. This section shall apply to scholars in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive.
- l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- m) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- n) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a scholar who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that scholar from being a witness and/or retaliating against that scholar for being a witness.
- o) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- p) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this policy, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a scholar organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective scholar. For purposes of this policy, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- q) Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for their immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases, or the personal property of the person threatened or their immediate family.
- r) Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this policy, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This provision shall apply to scholars in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- s) Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in Education Code Section 233(e). This provision shall apply to scholars in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- t) Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated school personnel or volunteers and/or a scholar or group of scholars to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/or scholar(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This provision shall apply to scholars in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- u) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
- v) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a scholar or group of scholars which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed

toward one or more scholars that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- i. Placing a reasonable scholar (defined as a scholar, including, but is not limited to, a scholar with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of their age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or scholars in fear of harm to that scholar's or those scholars' person or property.
- ii. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience a substantially detrimental effect on their physical or mental health.
- iii. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience substantial interference with their academic performance.
- iv. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience substantial interference with their ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
  1. "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
    - i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
    - ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
      - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
      - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual scholar for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a scholar for the purpose of bullying the scholar and such that another scholar would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the scholar was or is the scholar who was impersonated.
      - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious scholar or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual scholar other than the scholar who created the false profile.
    - iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
      - (a) For purposes of this policy, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a scholar to another scholar or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
      - (b) For purposes of this policy, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
  2. Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.
- w) A scholar who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code Section 31, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a scholar who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to provisions a) and b), above.

- x) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife or other dangerous object of not reasonable use to the scholar unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the scholar had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Superintendent or designee's concurrence.
2. Non-Discretionary Suspension Offenses: Scholars must be suspended and recommended for expulsion when it is determined the scholar:
- a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other destructive device unless, in the case of possession of any device of this type, the scholar had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Superintendent or designee's concurrence.
  - b) Brandished a knife at another person
  - c) Unlawfully sold a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053, et seq.
  - d) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 or former Section 288a of the Penal Code, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.
3. Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Scholars may be recommended for expulsion when it is determined the scholar:
- a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
  - b) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
  - c) Unlawfully possessed, used or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
  - d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
  - e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
  - f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
  - g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
  - h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of the scholar's own prescription products by a scholar.
  - i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
  - j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
  - k) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
  - l) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
  - m) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a scholar who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that scholar from being a witness and/or retaliating against that scholar for being a witness.
  - n) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
  - o) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a scholar organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective

scholar. For purposes of this section, “hazing” does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

- p) Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. For purposes of this policy, “terroristic threat” shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for their own safety or for their immediate family’s safety, or for the protection of school property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
- q) Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this policy, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual’s academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This provision shall apply to scholars in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- r) Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in Education Code Section 233(e). This provision shall apply to scholars in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- s) Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated school personnel or volunteers and/or a scholar or group of scholars to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/or scholar(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This provision shall apply to scholars in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- t) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
  - i. “Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a scholar or group of scholars which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more scholars that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
    1. Placing a reasonable scholar (defined as a scholar, including, but is not limited to, a scholar with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of their age, or for a person of their age with exceptional needs) or scholars in fear of harm to that scholar’s or those scholars’ person or property.
    2. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience a substantially detrimental effect on their physical or mental health.
    3. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience substantial interference with their academic performance.
    4. Causing a reasonable scholar to experience substantial interference with their ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
  - ii. “Electronic Act” means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
    1. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
      - i. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
        - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A “burn page” means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1)

above.

(b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual scholar for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a scholar for the purpose of bullying the scholar and such that another scholar would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the scholar was or is the scholar who was impersonated.

(c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious scholar or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual scholar other than the scholar who created the false profile.

ii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.

(a) For purposes of this policy, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a scholar to another scholar or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.

(b) For purposes of this policy, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

2. Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

iii. A scholar who aids or abets, as defined in Penal Code Section 31, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a scholar who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to provisions(a)-(b), above.

iv. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the scholar unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the scholar had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Superintendent or designee's concurrence.

4) Non-Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Scholars must be recommended for expulsion when it is determined that the scholar:

- a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other destructive device unless, in the case of possession of any device of this type, the scholar had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Superintendent or designee's concurrence.
- b) Brandished a knife at another person[LAC1] .
- c) Unlawfully sold a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053, et seq.
- d) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 or former Section 288a of the Penal Code, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.

If it is determined by the Administrative Panel and/or Board of Directors that a scholar has brought a firearm or destructive device, as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, onto campus or to have possessed a firearm or destructive device on campus, the scholar shall be expelled for one year, pursuant to the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994. In such instances, the scholar shall be provided due process rights of notice and a hearing as required in this policy.

The following terms shall have the following definitions:

The term “knife” means (A) any dirk, dagger, or other weapon with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing; (B) a weapon with a blade fitted primarily for stabbing; (C) a weapon with a blade longer than 3½ inches; (D) a folding knife with a blade that locks into place; or (E) a razor with an unguarded blade.

The term “firearm” means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.

The term “destructive device” means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including but not limited to: (i) bomb, (ii) grenade, (iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (v) mine, or (vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses.

### **C. Suspension Procedure**

Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

#### **1. Conference**

Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Superintendent or designee with the scholar and his or her parent and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or Charter School employee who referred the scholar to the President & CEO or designee.

The conference may be omitted if the Superintendent or designee determines that an emergency situation exists. An “emergency situation” involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of scholars or Charter School personnel. If a scholar is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and scholar shall be notified of the scholar’s right to return to school for the purpose of a conference.

At the conference, the scholar shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him or her and shall be given the opportunity to present his or her version and evidence in his or her defense, in accordance with Education Code Section 47605(c)(5)(J)(i). This conference shall be held within two school days, unless the scholar waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization. No penalties may be imposed on a scholar for failure of the scholar’s parent or guardian to attend a conference with Charter School officials. Reinstatement of the suspended scholar shall not be contingent upon attendance by the scholar’s parent or guardian at the conference.

#### **2. Notice to Parents/Guardians**

At the time of the suspension, the Superintendent or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a scholar is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the scholar and the date and time when the scholar may return to school. If Charter School officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent/guardian respond to such requests without delay.

#### **3. Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Placement/Expulsion**

Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five (5) consecutive school days per suspension.

Upon a recommendation of expulsion by the Superintendent or designee, the scholar and the scholar’s guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the scholar should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. In such instances when the Charter School has determined a suspension period shall be extended, such extension shall be made only after a conference is held with the

scholar or the scholar's parents, unless the scholar and the scholar's parents fail to attend the conference.

This determination will be made by the Superintendent or designee upon either of the following determinations: 1) the scholar's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or 2) the scholar poses a threat or danger to others. Upon either determination, the scholar's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

#### 4. Homework Assignments During Suspension

In accordance with Education Code Section 47606.2(a), upon the request of a parent, a legal guardian or other person holding the right to make education decisions for the scholar, or the affected scholar, a teacher shall provide to a scholar in any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, who has been suspended from school for two (2) or more school days, the homework that the scholar would otherwise have been assigned.

In accordance with Education Code Section 47606.2(b), if a homework assignment that is requested pursuant to Section 47606.2(a) and turned into the teacher by the scholar either upon the scholar's return to school from suspension or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher, whichever is later, is not graded before the end of the academic term, that assignment shall not be included in the calculation of the scholar's overall grade in the class.

### D. Authority to Expel

As required by Education Code Section 47605(c)(5)(J)(ii), scholars recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer to determine whether the scholar should be expelled. The procedures herein provide for such a hearing and the notice of said hearing, as required by law.

A scholar may be expelled either by the neutral and impartial Charter School Board of Directors following a hearing before it or by the Charter School Board of Directors upon the recommendation of a neutral and impartial Administrative Panel to be assigned by the Board of Directors as needed. The Administrative Panel shall consist of at least three members who are certificated and neither a teacher of the scholar nor a member of the Charter School Board of Directors. Each entity shall be presided over by a designated neutral hearing chairperson. The Administrative Panel may recommend expulsion of any scholar found to have committed an expellable offense, and the Board of Directors shall make the final determination.

### E. Expulsion Procedures

Scholars recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing to determine whether the scholar should be expelled. Unless postponed for good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days after the Superintendent or designee determines that the scholar has committed an expellable offense and recommends the scholar for expulsion.

In the event an Administrative Panel hears the case, it will make a recommendation to the Governing Board for a final decision whether to expel. The hearing shall be held in closed session (complying with all scholar confidentiality rules under FERPA) unless the scholar makes a written request for a public hearing in open session three (3) days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the scholar and the scholar's parent/guardian at least ten (10) calendar days before the date of the hearing. Upon mailing the notice, it shall be deemed served upon the scholar. The notice shall include:

1. The date and place of the expulsion hearing
2. A statement of specific facts, charges and offenses upon which the proposed expulsion is based
3. A copy of CCS' disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation
4. Notification of the scholar's and/or parent/guardian's obligation to provide information about the scholar's status at the school to any other school district or school to which the scholar seeks enrollment

5. The opportunity for the scholar and/or the scholar's parent/guardian to appear in person or to employ and be represented by counsel or a non-attorney advisor
6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing
7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing
8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the scholar's behalf including witnesses

#### **F. Special Procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses**

CCS may, upon finding a good cause, determine that the disclosure of either the identity of the witness or the testimony of that witness at the hearing, or both, would subject the witness to an unreasonable risk of psychological or physical harm. Upon this determination, the testimony of the witness may be presented at the hearing in the form of sworn declarations which shall be examined only by the Charter School or the hearing officer. Copies of these sworn declarations, edited to delete the name and identity of the witness, shall be made available to the scholar.

1. The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of their right to (a) receive five (5) days' notice of their scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of their choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.
2. CCS must also provide the victim a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.
3. At the discretion of the entity conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which the complaining witness may leave the hearing room.
4. The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.
5. The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours the complaining witness is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.
6. Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the entity presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The entity conducting the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany the complaining witness to the witness stand.
7. If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, CCS must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to CCS. The person presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising their discretion to remove a person from the hearing whom they believes is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.
8. The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.
9. Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in the public at the request of the scholar being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have their testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are not alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing by means of closed-circuit television.
10. Evidence of specific instances of a complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is presumed inadmissible

and shall not be heard absent a determination by the entity conducting the hearing that extraordinary circumstances exist requiring the evidence be heard. Before such a determination regarding extraordinary circumstances can be made, the witness shall be provided notice and an opportunity to present opposition to the introduction of the evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of the evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of the complaining witness is not admissible for any purpose.

**G. Record of Hearing**

A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made.

**H. Presentation of Evidence**

While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. A recommendation by the Administrative Panel to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the scholar committed an expellable offense.

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay, and sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the Board or Administrative Panel determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm.

If, due to a written request by the accused scholar, the hearing is held at a public meeting, and the charge is committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in Education Code Section 48900, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his or her testimony heard in a session closed to the public.

- I.** The decision of the Administrative Panel shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation to the Board of Directors, which will make a final determination regarding the expulsion. The Board of Directors shall make the final determination regarding the expulsion within ten (10) school days following the conclusion of the hearing. The decision of the Board of Directors is final.

If the Administrative Panel decides not to recommend expulsion, or the Board of Directors ultimately decides not to expel, the scholar shall immediately be returned to their previous educational program.

**J. Written Notice to Expel**

The Superintendent or designee, following a decision of the Board of Directors to expel, shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the Board of Directors' adopted findings of fact, to the scholar or parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following: (a) Notice of the specific offense committed by the scholar; and (b) Notice of the scholar's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the scholar seeks to enroll of the scholar's status with the Charter School.

The Superintendent or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the chartering authority. This notice shall include the following: (a) The scholar's name; and (b) The specific expellable offense committed by the scholar.

**K. Disciplinary Records**

CCS shall maintain records of all scholar suspensions and expulsions at the Charter School. Such records shall be made available to the chartering authority upon request.

**L. No Right to Appeal**

The scholar shall have no right of appeal from expulsion from CCS as the CCS Board of Directors' decision to expel shall be final.

**M. Expelled scholars/Alternative Education**

Parents/guardians of scholars who are expelled shall be responsible for seeking alternative education programs including, but not limited to, programs within the County or their school district of residence. CCS shall work cooperatively with parents/guardians as requested by parents/guardians or by the school district of residence to assist with locating alternative placements during expulsion.

**N. Rehabilitation Plans**

Scholars who are expelled from CCS shall be given a rehabilitation plan upon expulsion as developed by the Board of Directors at the time of the expulsion order, which may include, but is not limited to, periodic review as well as assessment at the time of review for readmission. The rehabilitation plan should include a date not later than one year from the date of expulsion when the scholar may reapply to CCS for admission.

**O. Readmission or Admission of a Previously Expelled Scholar**

The decision to readmit a scholar after the end of the scholar's expulsion term or to admit a previously expelled scholar from another school district or charter school who has not been readmitted/admitted to another school or school district at the end of the scholar's expulsion term, shall be in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors following a meeting with the Superintendent or designee and the scholar and parent/guardian or representative to determine whether the scholar has successfully completed the rehabilitation plan and to determine whether the scholar poses a threat to others or will be disruptive to the school environment. The Superintendent or designee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors following the meeting regarding his or her determination. The Board shall then make a final decision regarding readmission during the closed session of a public meeting, reporting out any action taken during closed session consistent with the requirements of the Brown Act. The scholar's readmission is also contingent upon the CCS' capacity at the time the scholar seeks readmission or admission to the Charter School.

**P. Notice to Teachers**

The Charter School shall notify teachers of each scholar who has engaged in or is reasonably suspected to have engaged in any of the acts listed in Education Code Section 49079 and the corresponding enumerated offenses set forth above.

**Q. Involuntary Removal for Truancy**

In accordance with Education Code Section 51747 and the Charter School's Board policy on independent study, after five (5) missed assignments, an evaluation is held to determine whether it is in the best interest of the scholar to remain in independent study. If it is determined that it is not in the scholar's best interest to remain in independent study, the Charter School may involuntarily remove the scholar after the Charter School follows the requirements of the Missed Assignment Policy and only after providing notice and an opportunity for a parent, guardian, educational rights holder to request a hearing prior to any involuntary removal as forth herein. scholars who are involuntarily removed for truancy shall be given a rehabilitation plan and shall be subject to the readmission procedures set forth herein.

**R. Special Procedures for the Consideration of Suspension and Expulsion of Scholars with Disabilities**

**1. Procedural Safeguards/Manifestation Determination**

Within ten (10) school days of a recommendation for expulsion or any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of scholar conduct, CCS, the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team shall hold a manifestation determination for the purpose of reviewing all relevant information in the scholar's file, including the child's IEP/504 Plan, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine:

- a. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or

- b. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the local educational agency's failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan.

If the IEP/504 Team determines that either of the above is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP/504 Team shall:

- a. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such child, provided that the Charter School had not conducted such assessment prior to such determination before the behavior that resulted in a change in placement;
- b. If a behavioral intervention plan has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan if the child already has such a behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; and
- c. Return the child to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent/guardian and CCS agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

The Superintendent or designee may remove a scholar to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the scholar's disability in cases where a scholar:

- a. Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
- b. Knowingly possesses or 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
- c. Has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

If the IEP/504 Team determine that the behavior was not a manifestation of the scholar's disability and that the conduct in question was not a direct result of the failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan, then CCS may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to scholars without disabilities.

## **2. Interim Alternative Placement**

Any Scholar with special needs who is removed from their educational placement for more than 10 days consecutive ( suspensions) or demonstrates a pattern of removals that equals more than 10 days in or a school year shall continue to receive services so as to enable the scholar to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and progress toward their goals and objective in an interim alternative setting.

## **3. Due Process Appeals**

When an appeal relating to the placement of the scholar or the manifestation determination has been requested by either the parent/guardian or CCS, the scholar shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer in accordance with state and federal law, including 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k), until the expiration of the forty-five (45) day time period provided for in an interim alternative educational setting, unless the parent/guardian and CCS agree otherwise.

In such an appeal, a hearing officer may: (1) return a child with a disability to the placement from which the child was removed; or (2) order a change in placement of a child with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of such child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others.

## **4. Procedures for Scholars Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services**

A scholar who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has

violated CCS' disciplinary procedures may assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if CCS had knowledge that the scholar was disabled before the behavior occurred.

CCS shall be deemed to have knowledge that the scholar had a disability if one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The parent/guardian has expressed concern in writing, or orally if the parent/guardian does not know how to write or has a disability that prevents a written statement, to CCS supervisory or administrative personnel, or to one of the child's teachers, that the scholar is in need of special education or related services.
- b. The parent/guardian has requested an evaluation of the child.
- c. The child's teacher, or other CCS personnel, has expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child, directly to the director of special education or to other CCS supervisory personnel.

If CCS knew or should have known the scholar had a disability under any of the three (3) circumstances described above, the scholar may assert any of the protections available to IDEA-eligible children with disabilities, including the right to stay-put.

If CCS had no basis for knowledge of the scholar's disability, it shall proceed with the proposed discipline. CCS shall conduct an expedited evaluation if requested by the parent/guardian; however, the scholar shall remain in the education placement determined by CCS pending the results of the evaluation.

CCS shall not be deemed to have knowledge that the scholar had a disability if the parent/guardian has not allowed an evaluation, refused services, or if the scholar has been evaluated and determined to not be eligible.

## Right to Refrain from Harmful Use of Animals

Students with a moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming animals may opt out of such activities by notifying the school of their objection.

## Firearm Safety Memorandum

To: Parents and Guardians of Scholars in the Compass Charter Schools

From: Elizabeth Brenner

Subject: California Law Regarding Safe Storage of Firearms

Compass Charter Schools holds the safety of its scholars as its primary priority and responsibility. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform and to remind parents and legal guardians of all scholars in Compass Charter Schools of their responsibilities for keeping firearms out of the hands of children as required by California law. There have been many news reports of children bringing firearms to school. In many instances, the child obtained the firearm(s) from his or her home. These incidents can be easily prevented by storing firearms in a safe and secure manner, including keeping them locked up when not in use and storing them separately from ammunition.

To help everyone understand their legal responsibilities, this memorandum spells out California law regarding the storage of firearms. Please take some time to review this memorandum and evaluate your own personal practices to assure that you and your family are in compliance with California law.

California makes a person criminally liable for keeping a loaded firearm, under their custody and control, where that

person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby: (1) causes death or great bodily injury to the child or any other person; (2) carries the firearm to a public place, including to any preschool or school grades kindergarten through twelfth grade, including to any school-sponsored event, activity, or performance; or (3) brandishes a firearm to others. The criminal penalty may be greater if someone dies or suffers great bodily injury as a result of the child gaining access to the firearm.

As of 2014, California makes a person criminally liable if they negligently store or leave any loaded firearm on their premises where a child is likely to gain access to it—regardless of whether or not the child brings the gun to a public place.

A parent or guardian may also be civilly liable for damages resulting from the discharge of a firearm by that person's child or ward. These damages may be up to \$30,000 per victim.

Note: Gun owners may avoid criminal liability under California Penal Code Section 25100 by keeping their firearm in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable. 3

Thank you for helping to keep our children and schools safe. Remember that the easiest and safest way to comply with the law is to keep firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Brenner

## Technology Acceptable Use Policy

### Board Policy #37: Scholar use of Technology

Adopted/Ratified: October 3, 2019 Revision Date: June 12th, 2023

The Board of Directors of Compass Charter Schools finds that new technologies are modifying the way in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred. Those changes also alter instruction and scholar learning. The Charter School offers scholars access to technologies that may include reimbursement of Internet access, electronic mail, and equipment, such as computers, tablets, or other multimedia hardware. By its adoption of this Policy, the Board intends that technological resources provided by the Charter School be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of scholar learning.

#### **Educational Purpose**

Use of Charter School equipment and access to the Internet via Charter School equipment and resource networks is intended to serve and pursue educational goals and purposes. Scholar use of the Internet is therefore limited to only those activities that further or enhance the delivery of education. Scholars and staff have a duty to use Charter School resources only in a manner specified in the Policy.

“Educational purpose” means classroom activities, research in academic subjects, career or professional development activities, Charter School approved personal research activities, or other purposes as defined by the Charter School from time to time.

“Inappropriate use” means a use that is inconsistent with an educational purpose or that is in clear violation of this policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement.

### **Notice and Use**

The Charter School shall notify scholars and parents/guardians about authorized uses of Charter School computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities.

Before a scholar is authorized to use the Charter School's technological resources, the scholar and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. In that agreement, the scholar and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the Charter School or any Charter School staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Charter School and Charter School personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

### **Safety**

The Charter School shall ensure that all Charter School computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to websites that have no educational purpose and/or contain visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors. While the Charter School is able to exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the Charter School, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. Neither the Charter School nor its staff shall be responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes, misuse or negligence.

To reinforce these measures, the Superintendent & CEO or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict scholars' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that scholars do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities. Staff shall monitor scholars while they are using online services and may have teacher aides, scholar aides, and volunteers assist in this monitoring.

The Superintendent & CEO or designee also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of scholars and scholar information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

The Superintendent & CEO or designees shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services.

Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, maintaining the scholar's online reputation and ensuring their personal safety by keeping their personal information private, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying as defined in the Charter School's charter. Scholars are expected to follow safe practices when using Charter School technology.

Scholars shall not use the Internet to perform any illegal act or to help others perform illegal acts. Illegal acts include, but are not limited to, any activities in violation of local, state, and federal law and/or accessing information designed to

further criminal or dangerous activities. Such information includes, but is not limited to, information that if acted upon could cause damage, present a danger, or cause disruption to the Charter School, other scholars, or the community. Damaging, debilitating or disabling computers, computer networks or systems through the intentional or overuse of electronic distribution or the spreading of computer viruses or other harmful programs shall be prohibited. Any unauthorized online access to other computers by means of hacking into other computers, downloading hacker tools such as port scanners and password crackers designed to evade restrictions shall also be strictly prohibited.

Scholar use of Charter School computers to access social networking sites is not prohibited, but access is limited to educational purposes only. To the extent possible, the Superintendent & CEO or designee shall block access to such sites on Charter School computers with Internet access.

The Superintendent & CEO or designee shall oversee the maintenance of the Charter School's technological resources and may establish guidelines and limits on their use.

All employees shall receive a copy of this policy and the accompanying Acceptable Use Agreement describing expectations for appropriate use of the system and shall also be provided with information about the role of staff in supervising scholar use of technological resources. All employees shall comply with this policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement, in addition to any separate policies governing employee use of technology.

Scholar use of Charter School's computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Compliance with the Charter School's policies and rules concerning computer use is mandatory. Scholars who violate these policies and rules may have their computer privileges limited and may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion per school policy.

## ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

The Charter School believes that providing access to technology enhances the educational experience for scholars. However, scholar use of Charter School computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. To make that experience successful for everyone, scholars must abide by the following terms and conditions:

1. **Security.** Scholars shall not impair the security of Charter School technology resources. Scholars are expected to:
  - a. Use a school-approved multi-factor or two-factor authentication (MFA or 2FA) system when logging in to their school accounts in order to keep their accounts safe and secure (e.g., Clever MFA).
  - b. Login to the school-approved single sign-on (SSO) system in order to access the apps/websites they use for school (versus accessing these website URLs directly) unless the Charter School communicates otherwise (e.g., Clever SSO).
  - c. Safeguard all personal passwords. Scholars should not share passwords with others and should change passwords frequently. Scholars are expected to notify an administrator immediately if they believe their scholar account has been compromised.
  - d. Access technology only with their account or with a shared account as directed by their teacher and not to allow others to use their account or to use the accounts of others, with or without the account owner's authorization.
  
2. **Authorized Use.** Scholars may use Charter School technology resources when directed by a teacher, when technology has been designated for open scholar use (e.g., computers in the library), and for other educational

purposes.

3. **Protection Measures.** While the Charter School is able to exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the Charter School, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. Neither the Charter School nor its staff shall be responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes, misuse or negligence. The scholar and parent agree not to hold the Charter School or any Charter School staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes, misuse or negligence. They also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Charter School and Charter School personnel for any damages or costs incurred.
4. **Inappropriate Use.** Charter School technology, hardware, software and bandwidth are shared and limited resources and all users have an obligation to use those resources responsibly. Scholars are provided access to the Charter School technology primarily for educational purposes. Scholars shall not use Charter School technology or equipment for personal activities or for activities that violate Charter School policy or local law. These include but are not limited to:
  - a. Playing games or online gaming.
  - b. Downloading software, music, movies or other content in violation of licensing requirements, copyright or other intellectual property rights.
  - c. Installing software on Charter School equipment without the permission of a teacher or other authorized Charter School staff person.
  - d. Downloading, viewing or sharing inappropriate content, including pornographic, defamatory or otherwise offensive material.
  - e. Conducting any activity that is in violation of Charter School policy or local, state or federal law.
  - f. Engaging in any activity that is harmful to other scholar(s), including the use of technology to harass, intimidate, bully or otherwise disrupt the educational process.
  - g. Conducting for-profit business.
  - h. Using hacking tools on the network or intentionally introducing malicious code or viruses into the Charter School's network.
  - i. Using any software or proxy service to obscure either the scholar's IP address or the sites that the scholar visits.
  - j. Disabling, bypassing, or attempting to disable or bypass any system monitoring, filtering or other security measures.
  - k. Accessing or attempting to access material or systems on the network that the scholar is not authorized to access.
5. **No Expectation of Privacy.** Scholar acknowledges that computer equipment, Internet access networks, email accounts, and any other technology resources are owned by Charter School and provided to scholars for educational purposes. The Charter School may require staff to monitor and supervise all access to computer equipment, Internet access networks, and email accounts. To facilitate monitoring of activities, computer screens may be positioned so that they are visible to the staff member supervising the scholars. The Charter School reserves the right to access stored computer records and communications, files, and other data stored on Charter School equipment or sent over Charter School networks. Such communications, files, and data are not private and may be accessed during routine system maintenance; during inspection of Charter School equipment at the end of the school year/term or agree to use period; and review of individual files or monitoring of individual activity when there is a reasonable suspicion that the scholar is engaging in an inappropriate use.

6. **Third Party Applications.** The Charter School may partner with various third party technology and software vendors (e.g., apps) to provide scholars and families with services to support their education. As part of their scholar's enrollment, parents and guardians agree to support and help monitor their scholar's use of these technologies. As with all other technologies provided by the school, scholars and families are expected to utilize these apps for educational purposes only. Additionally, while the Charter School makes dedicated efforts to independently evaluate all third party services provided to scholars and families, the Charter School is not responsible for the failures or actions associated with such 3rd party technology service providers.

Some examples of 3rd party apps or services that scholars will have access to may include but are not limited to the following. Note that this list may be updated at any time if the Charter School deems it necessary.

- a. Google's Applied Digital Skills, CS First, and Arts & Culture curriculum.
  - b. The Chrome Web Store and Google Play Store to access school-approved extensions or apps.
  - c. Chrome Remote Desktop to receive tech support from our IT Team.
  - d. Google Translate, Bookmarks, and Books to access texts and bookmark instructional content on the web.
  - e. Google Groups and G Chat to communicate with teachers, school staff, and classmates.
  - f. Google Earth and My Maps to support topography, history, and geography lessons.
  - g. Zoom and YouTube to access instructional video content.
  - h. FigJam to support collaborative instructional tools like whiteboards and graphic organizers.
  - i. *(For Options Scholars)* Amazon Business to place orders for approved instructional materials through OPS.
7. **Disruptive Activity.** Scholars should not intentionally interfere with the performance of the Charter School's network or intentionally damage any Charter School technology resources.
8. **Unauthorized Networks.** Scholars may not create unauthorized wireless networks to access the Charter School's network. This includes establishing wireless access points, wireless routers and open networks on personal devices.
9. **Consequences of Inappropriate Use.** Scholars who violate this Agreement will be subject to discipline, which may include loss of access to Charter School technology resources and/or other appropriate disciplinary or legal action in accordance with the Charter School Policy and applicable laws.
10. **Technology Systems/Equipment Care.** Scholars are not permitted to have food or drink near computers/other technology and must keep equipment and assigned areas free of vandalism.

After reading the Scholar Use of Technology Policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement, please complete this form to indicate that you agree with the terms and conditions provided. The signature of both the scholar and parent/guardian are mandatory before access may be granted to the technologies available. This document, which incorporates the Acceptable Use Procedure, reflects the entire agreement and understanding of all parties.

As a user of Charter School technologies, I have read Scholar Use of Technology Policy and hereby agree to comply with it and the Acceptable Use Agreement.

I understand that computer use is a privilege and not a right. I understand that if I violate this policy in any way, I will be subject to a referral and possible suspension. I understand that the parent or guardian of a minor scholar shall be liable for the replacement cost for property the Charter School loaned to the scholar that the scholar fails to return or that is willfully cut, defaced or otherwise damaged, up to an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), adjusted annually for inflation. When the minor and parent are unable to pay for the damages, the Charter School will provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. A scholar over the age of majority shall be liable for the same. (Ed. Code 48904).