



# Student & Family Handbook

## Grades 9-12

2020-2021

**Brooke High School**

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## NOTICE:

Due to the unique nature of the current school year, families and students should be aware that some information in the student and family handbook below may be incorrect. We have attempted to compile an addendum of policy changes due to COVID-19 in the final addendum of this document; however, this document does not encompass all programmatic and policy changes needed to address how we must alter schooling during the current pandemic. Additional changes may also come as the school year progresses as we learn and adapt to our present circumstances. We ask for understanding and patience from families as we all work through this together. If at any time a family has a question about a Brooke policy, they should reach out to their child's school directly to seek clarity.



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Dear Brooke Families:

We are honored to welcome you to another year at Brooke. We know that our success as a school depends on the support of our parents, and we look forward to forming or continuing positive partnerships with each of you. We expect a lot from members of the Brooke community, and in turn, you can expect a lot from us.

The following pages will help you become familiar with school procedures, policies, and practices and should serve as a resource for students and parents from the first day of school through the last. While we cannot say this handbook will answer all of your questions, we do know there is a lot of valuable information in here, so please take the time to read it carefully. In fact, read it twice or even three times, and then please put it somewhere safe to refer to throughout the school year. In this handbook, you'll learn a lot of different things about Brooke Charter School. You'll learn about the structure of the school, the policies that we have in place, and our expectations of members of our school community.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to ask any teacher or staff member.

Sincerely,

The Faculty and Staff  
*Brooke Charter School*

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## THE SCHOOL

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### ***AN OVERVIEW***

Founded in 2002, Brooke Charter School is a network of three high performing K-8 public charter schools in the Boston neighborhoods of Roslindale, Mattapan and East Boston and one high school. Brooke's mission is to provide an academically rigorous public education to students from the cities of Boston and Chelsea that will ensure that they are prepared to attend and succeed in college. Named after Senator Edward W. Brooke III, the first African American popularly elected to the U.S. Senate, the School's strategy is to focus on developing excellent teaching to a detailed and rigorous set of learning standards.

In February 2016, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the consolidation of the charters of Brooke Charter School Roslindale, Brooke Charter School Mattapan and Brooke Charter School East Boston in to one charter and authorized an expansion in grade levels to include a high school with grades 9-12. Brooke's new maximum enrollment will be 2,221 beginning in July 1, 2016.

### ***OUR MISSION***

The mission of Brooke Charter School is to provide an academically rigorous public education to students from the cities of Boston and Chelsea that will ensure they are prepared to attend and succeed in college.

### ***OUR PHILOSOPHY: RESPONSIBILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY***

Brooke Charter School is based on responsibility and accountability, and we believe the cornerstone of success is the partnership between school and family. We know that the positive impact that we have on the lives of our scholars is only possible when the school and home community are working together to reflect the same values. We believe in having high expectations, both academic and behavioral, of our students, and we will work our hardest to ensure that students meet these standards. We know that you have selected Brooke because you hold these same high standards for your child and are eager to work with us to maximize your child's school success.

## **GOVERNANCE**

The schools are governed by a Board of Trustees that brings parental, community, educational, and professional perspectives to maintaining a viable and thriving school. Members of the Board of Trustees include:

<b>Mr. LaRoy Brantley, Treasurer</b>	Managing Director, Cambridge Associates
<b>Mr. Alex Finkelstein</b>	General Partner, Spark Capital
<b>Ms. Lauren Kushman</b>	Principal, New Schools Venture Fund
<b>Mr. Charles H. Ledley</b>	Analyst, Highfields Capital Management
<b>Mr. Thomas O'Rourke</b>	Principal, Bain Capital
<b>Mr. Trevor Rozier-Byrd</b>	Vice President and Counsel in the Global Markets Division, State Street Bank and Trust Company
<b>Ms. Devita McConnell</b>	Forms Manager, Office of the Chief Legal Counsel, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
<b>Mr. Scott Oran, Board Chair</b>	Founder and Managing Director, Dinosaur Capital Partners
<b>Jon Clark, <i>ex officio</i></b>	Co-Director, Brooke Charter School
<b>Kimberly Steadman, <i>ex officio</i></b>	Co-Director, Brooke Charter School



# CODE OF CONDUCT

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## ***SAFE AND ORDERLY ENVIRONMENT***

Brooke Charter School is unequivocally committed to providing a safe and orderly environment in which students can maximize their academic achievement. Students whose behavior does not meet the school community's clearly defined standards for reasonable and acceptable behavior will not be permitted to disrupt the education of others.

Without a firm and consistent discipline policy, none of what we envision for the school can happen. Students and families have a right to attend a safe and orderly school. Therefore, we cannot over-emphasize the importance of providing a firm and consistent discipline policy.

The following sections comprising the Brooke Charter School Code of Conduct will describe the student behaviors that the school considers inappropriate or unacceptable. The following provisions will also detail the procedures for determining the consequences students may face for violations of the Code of Conduct.

## ***SCHOOL-RELATED DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES***

The following sections describe school-related disciplinary offenses for which a student may be subject to consequences including, but not limited to, loss of privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion. The offenses identified in the sections below are not exhaustive, and Brooke Charter School reserves the right to determine the consequences of each violation of the Code of Conduct.

A school-related disciplinary offense refers to the violation of this code occurring:

- While the student is on school grounds;
- While the student is off of school grounds, but results in substantial disruption to the learning environment or Brooke Community;
- During a school-sponsored activity, event, or trip;
- Commuting to and from school;
- During events sufficiently linked to school; or
- While communicating harassing messages via cell phones or all forms of social media.

## ***DETENTIONS***

When students don't meet expectations for behavior at Brooke High School, they will receive between one and four demerits. As students receive a total of four demerits, they will be required to serve detention after school from 3:50-4:30pm the school day in which they earn their fourth demerit. Students who do not serve their detention that day will earn one hour of Saturday detention. Students can earn up to three hours of Saturday detention. If students accrue more than three hours of Saturday detention or fail to attend Saturday detention, they may earn an in-school for the following school day. Demerits reset back to zero at the beginning of each week but students are required to serve all detentions earned the previous week.

Infractions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Disrespecting a faculty, staff, or other member of school community;
- Disrespecting a fellow student;
- Destruction of school property;
- Disruption of class;
- Speaking out of turn;
- Inappropriate contact;
- Chewing gum, eating or drinking at inappropriate times;
- Arriving late to school or class;
- Inappropriate language;
- Being unprepared for class;
- Horse-playing in class, school, or during a school-sponsored activity;
- Lack of integrity;
- Being out of uniform;
- Other behaviors deemed inappropriate by school staff;
- Unauthorized use of staff telephones; or
- Use of headphones, cell phones, or any type of music device.

## ***SUSPENSION POLICY***

Brooke Charter School complies with the policies and procedures set forth in MGL c. 71 § 37H, 37H ½, and 37H ¾, MGL c. 76 § 21, and 603 CMR 53.00 regarding student discipline. Pursuant to 603 CMR 53.02, the Board of Trustees has affirmed that the Dean of Students may serve as designee for the Principal for purposes of implementing provisions pertaining to 603 CMR 53.00. Hereafter, the term "Principal" shall be considered interchangeable with the term "Dean of Students" when discussing policies and procedures related to student discipline under 603 CMR 53.00.

In every case of student misconduct for which suspension may be imposed, a principal shall exercise discretion in deciding the consequences for the offense; consider ways to re-engage the student in learning; and avoid using long-term suspension from school as a consequence until alternatives have been tried. Alternatives may include the use of evidence-based strategies and programs such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive interventions and supports.

Nothing in 603 CMR 53.00 or the policies below shall prevent a school administrator from conducting an investigation, including student interviews, of a school-related disciplinary incident.

### *Definitions*

#### **Expulsion**

Expulsion means the removal of a student from the school premises, regular classroom activities, and school activities for more than 90 school days, indefinitely, or permanently, as permitted under MGL c. 71, § 37H or 37H½.

#### **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

The principal may use in-school suspension as an alternative to short-term suspension for disciplinary offenses.

In-school suspension means removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for no more than ten consecutive school days, or no more than ten school days cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as removal in calculating school days. In-school suspension for ten days or less, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year, shall not be considered a short-term suspension. If a student is placed in in-school suspension for more than ten days, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year, such suspension shall be deemed a long-term suspension for due process, appeal, and reporting purposes.

### **Long-Term Suspension (LTS)**

Long-term suspension means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten consecutive school days, or for more than ten school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year. A principal may, in his or her discretion, allow a student to serve a long-term suspension in school. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as removal in calculating school days. Except for students who are charged with a disciplinary offense set forth in MGL c. 71, § 37H (a) or (b), or MGL c. 71, § 37H ½ no student may be placed on long-term suspension for one or more disciplinary offenses for more than 90 school days in a school year beginning with the first day that the student is removed from school. No long-term suspension shall extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension is imposed.

### **Short-Term Suspension (STS)**

Short-term suspension means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten consecutive school days or less. A principal may, in his or her discretion, allow a student to serve a short-term suspension in school. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as removal in calculating school days.

### **MGL Statutory Offenses**

In accordance with MGL c. 71, § 37H or 37H½, a student may be subject to suspension or expulsion for the following statutory offenses.

- a) possession of a dangerous weapon;
- b) possession of a controlled substance;
- c) assault on a member of the educational staff; or
- d) a felony charge or felony delinquency complaint or conviction, or adjudication or admission of guilt with respect to such felony, if a principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school, as provided in MGLMGL c. 71, § 37H or 37H½.

Suspension or expulsion of a student for one of the statutory offenses listed above may be imposed for period of time in excess of ninety (90) days.

### **Non-Statutory Offenses**

In accordance with MGL c. 71, § 37H<sup>¾</sup>, a student may be subject to suspension by the Principal for any other offenses not covered by MGL c. 71, § 37H or 37H<sup>½</sup>. State law prohibits schools from suspending a student for more than 90 school days (total) in one school year for offenses under MGL c. 71, § 37H<sup>¾</sup>.

#### Suspension: General Policies & Procedures

In the case of suspensions, the student will be removed from class or school and will be sent to the Main Office or another designated school location, following which, the student's parent or guardian will be notified of the incident by the school.

All decisions by the Principal regarding suspension of a student for any statutory offense under MGL c.71, §37H and MGL c.71, §37H ½, are subject to review by the Co-Director(s). Pursuant to MGL c.71 § 37H ¾, for any offense not covered by MGL c.71, §37H and MGL c.71, §37H ½, a student may be subject to suspension. However, MGL c.71 § 37H ¾ prohibits schools from suspending a student for more than 90 days (total) in one school year for non-statutory offenses. Suspension of a student for any offense under the provisions of MGL c.71 § 37H ¾ must involve both the Principal and the Co-Director(s).

Effective July 1, 2014, any school district that suspends a student pursuant to MGL c. 71 § 37H, 37H ½, or 37H ¾ shall continue to provide educational services to the student during the period of suspension, under section MGL c. 76 § 21. If the student moves to another district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student in an education service plan.

#### Due Process for Suspension

Brooke Charter School adheres to state law and regulations regarding due process for disciplinary removals and services during removals. (Chapter 222 of the Acts of 2012 and 603 CMR 53.00) Student disciplinary offenses resulting in suspension are subject to due process procedures, which may include notices, hearings, appeals, and educational services during removals. The following sections provide you with information about these rights.

Please note that students have the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense, at any and all hearings concerning student discipline. If you wish to bring an attorney to any hearing or meeting at the school, please inform Brooke Charter School immediately. If you fail to inform the school prior to bringing an attorney to a hearing, and Brooke Charter School's attorney is not present, then Brooke Charter School will exercise its right to cancel and reschedule the meeting to ensure that its attorney can attend. This rescheduling may delay the hearing or meeting, and if so, your child's disciplinary removal will be extended until a decision is rendered following the rescheduled hearing or meeting. Brooke Charter School hereby notifies you that it may have its legal counsel present at any hearings and meetings involving student discipline.

#### Student Discipline & Due Process for Statutory Offenses

This notice of student and parent/guardian rights applies to student misconduct that involves the following:

1. Weapons, drugs, or assault on school staff (MGL c. 71 § 37H).
  - a. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife, may be subject to removal from school for a period of time up to expulsion by the Principal.
  - b. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a controlled substance, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to removal from school for a period of time up to expulsion by the Principal.
  - c. Any student who assaults a principal, assistant principal, teacher, teacher's aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to removal from school for a period of time up to expulsion by the Principal.
  
2. Criminal or felony delinquency charges, findings, or admissions (MGL c. 71 § 37H ½).
  - a. Upon issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the principal may suspend said student for a period of time the principal deems appropriate (including indefinite suspension) if the principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.
  - b. Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency, the Principal may expel said student if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

### **Suspension: Misconduct Involving Weapons, Drugs, Assault**

Any student who is charged with any of the misconduct pursuant to MGL c.71 § 37H has an opportunity for a hearing before the Principal. The following standards and procedures shall apply:

1. The Principal or designee shall provide written notice to the student and the student's parent/guardian identifying the charges, the reasons for removal of the student, and evidence for the removal before the removal takes effect.
2. The Principal or designee shall provide written notice to the student and the student's parent/guardian identifying the student's right to a hearing with the principal or designee before the removal takes effect, including the date, time and location of the hearing.
3. The student's parent or guardian will be present at the hearing.
4. At the hearing, students and parents/guardians have the right to: bring counsel (at the student's expense), present evidence, witnesses, and testimony, and cross-examine witnesses presented by the school.
5. After said hearing, the Principal may, in his or her discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the Principal to have committed the misconduct detailed above.
6. In serious cases of student misconduct involving the possession or use of illegal substances or weapons, assault, vandalism, or violation of a student's civil rights, the Principal's determination whether to expel or suspend a student may depend on whether the

Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

### **Suspension: Misconduct Involving Criminal or Felony Delinquency Charge**

In accordance with MGL c. 71 § 37H ½, any student suspended by the Principal upon issuance of a criminal complaint charging said student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against said student, has a right to appeal the suspension to the Brooke Charter School Co-Director(s) – hereafter, “the Co-Director(s).” The following standards and procedures shall apply:

1. The Principal or designee shall provide written notice to the student and the student's parent/guardian identifying the charges and the reasons for such suspension prior to such suspension taking effect.
2. The Principal or designee shall provide written notice to the student and the student's parent/guardian identifying the student's right to appeal the suspension to the Co-Director(s), and the process for appealing such suspension; provided, however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Co-Director(s).
3. The student shall notify the Co-Director(s) in writing of his or her request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the suspension.
4. The Co-Director(s) shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent within three calendar days of the student's request for an appeal.
5. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his or her behalf, and shall have the right to counsel.
6. The Co-Director(s) shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student.
7. The Co-Director(s) shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing.
8. The Co-Director(s)'s decision shall be the final decision of Brooke Charter School with regard to the suspension.

### **Expulsion: Misconduct Pursuant to MGL c. 71 §37H or MGL c. 71 § 37H ½**

Pursuant to MGL c.71 § 37H, any student who is charged with any of the misconduct involving weapons, drugs, or assault on school staff may be subject to expulsion from the School by the Principal. In addition, pursuant to MGL c. 71 § 37H ½, upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such felony or felony delinquency, the Principal may expel the student if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the School.

Please see the section of this handbook titled, **Expulsion Policy**, for details on the procedures and due process for expulsion and services during expulsion.

### **Continuation of Educational Services**

Students who are suspended or expelled under MGL c. 71 §37H or MGL c. 71 § 37H ½ are entitled to receive educational services during the period of suspension or expulsion under Brooke Charter School's Education Service Plan, which is described below. If the student withdraws from the charter school and/or moves to another school district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new school/district/district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student under the new school or district's education service plan.

### Student Discipline & Due Process for Non-Statutory Offenses

The following sections address violations of the Student Code of Conduct that may warrant suspension in accordance with MGL c. 71, § 37H¾.

If a student commits one of the infractions listed below, the student may receive a suspension. Before the student is returned to class, the student, his or her parent or guardian, and the student's teacher, Dean of Students, or Principal, may meet in order to address the student's behavior and plan for improvement. Infractions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Gross disrespect of a fellow student, staff member, or school property;
- Fighting, pushing, shoving, or unwanted physical contact;
- Making verbal or physical threats, empty or otherwise;
- Damaging, destroying, or stealing personal or school property or attempting to do so;
- Using abusive, vulgar, or profane language or treatment;
- Forgery of any sort, including parental signatures;
- Cheating or plagiarism, or copying of anyone else's work;
- Committing sexual, racial, or any form of harassment or intimidation;
- Skipping school or class;
- Intentionally leaving class (or wherever the students should be) without permission;
- Using or possessing over-the-counter medication inappropriately;
- Using or possessing tobacco products, alcohol or other controlled substances;
- Setting off false alarms or calling in groundless threats;
- Gambling;
- Departing, without permission, from class, floor, building, or school-sponsored activity;
- Repeated and fundamental disregard of school policies and procedures; or
- Unauthorized use of a building elevator or accessibility device.

### **Field Trips**

The school may sometimes engage in outside learning experiences. During these activities, it is important for all students to be responsible for their behavior since the site of the activity is a temporary extension of the school grounds. A permission slip that allows students to attend each school field trip will be sent home prior to the trip and should be signed by a parent or guardian. Students who fail to return the signed slip – or who are not permitted to attend the particular trip as a result of a loss of privileges – will not be eligible to participate and will be required to remain either in another classroom or in the office during the field trip. If parents or other volunteers assist with field trips, students must afford these chaperones the same respect they would provide to teachers. Appropriate behavior must be maintained when attending school-sponsored events, and riding on school-provided or public transportation. Inappropriate behavior may result in loss of field trip privileges.

### **College Field Trips**

In the event that a student would like to take a trip to visit a prospective college, the parent should inform The Director of College Counseling and submit an agenda for the trip. Upon the completion of the trip, photo proof or additional school-sponsored documentation will be required in order to mark the absence as Excused. Students are not excused from any assignments and Brooke is not financially responsible for the trip.

### **Forgery**

Shared information and constant communication among teachers, students, and parents are crucial to the success of the school. Progress regarding academic and behavioral performance will be conveyed through a variety of means, including progress reports and report cards, to be brought home by students, signed by parents, and returned by students the next school day. Students who forge their parent or guardian's signature, or forge parental or guardian approval on any official or unofficial school communication, including community violations, may face an out-of-school suspension.

### **Notice of Student & Parent Rights Under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾**

This section governs all student offenses that may be subject to short-term, long-term, or in-school suspensions that do not involve dangerous weapons, controlled substances, assault on school staff, felony or felony delinquency charges, and/or felony delinquency findings or admissions, all of which are governed by MGL C.71 §37H and § 37H½, as detailed above.

In every case of student misconduct for which suspension may be imposed, the principal is required to exercise discretion in deciding the consequence for the offense; consider ways to re-engage the student in learning; and avoid using long-term suspension from school as a consequence until alternatives have been tried. The following outlines student and parent rights when the principal is considering and/or decides to implement a suspension as a consequence for student misconduct.

Students who are suspended under §37H¾ are entitled to receive educational services during the period of suspension under Brooke Charter School's Education Service Plan, which is described below. If the student withdraws from the charter school and/or moves to another school district during the period of suspension, the new school/district/district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student under the new school or district's education service plan.

### **Notice of Suspension and Hearing under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾**

Unless the principal determines that an emergency removal is required (*see* **Emergency Removals** section below) or decides to implement an in-school suspension of ten or fewer consecutive days (and no more than 10 cumulative days per school year) (*see* **In-School Suspension** section below), the principal may not impose a suspension as a consequence for a disciplinary offense without first providing the student and the parent with verbal and written notice, and providing the student an opportunity for a hearing on the charge and the parent an opportunity to participate in such hearing.



The principal is required to provide this verbal and written notice to the student and the parent in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice must set forth the following information:

- 1) the disciplinary offense;
- 2) the basis for the charge;
- 3) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- 4) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent to attend the hearing;
- 5) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
- 6) the right of the student and the student's parent to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;
- 7) if the student may be placed on long-term suspension following the hearing with the principal, the student's short and long term suspension hearing rights and the right to appeal the principal's decision to the Co-Director(s) (see **Hearing Rights** section below).

The principal is required to make and document reasonable efforts to notify the parent verbally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. The principal is presumed to have made reasonable efforts, and therefore may conduct a hearing without the parent present, if the principal has sent written notice (by hand delivery, first-class mail, certified mail, email, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and parent) and has documented at least two attempts to contact the parent in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification.

If it is determined by either the principal or the parent that additional meetings are needed to address the case after the initial hearing, the school will provide additional written notice to the family for each additional meeting. Expectations for such notice will follow the same guidelines as the initial hearing notice as outlined above.

### **Emergency Removal Under MGL c. 71 § 37H<sup>3/4</sup>**

A principal has the authority to remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the principal determines that the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. The principal is required to notify the Co-Director(s) immediately in writing of an emergency removal and the reason for it, and describe the danger presented by the student. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal, during which time the principal is required to:

- 1) Make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal, and the **Hearing Rights** outlined below;
- 2) Provide written notice to the student and parent, as described in the preceding section;
- 3) Provide the student an opportunity for a hearing with the principal that complies with the rights outlined below in the **Hearing Rights** section, as applicable, and the parent an opportunity to attend the hearing, before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the principal, student, and parent.

- 4) Render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day.

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

### **Hearing Rights Under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾**

#### **Principal's Hearing under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾: Short-term Suspension**

Short-term suspension means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive school days or less.

The purpose of the hearing with the principal is for the principal to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident; provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances of the alleged incident; and determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction. At a minimum, the principal is required to discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student and parent both shall have an opportunity to present and offer information, including mitigating facts, that the principal should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the principal shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, what remedy or consequence will be imposed.

The principal is required to provide written notification to the student and parent of the determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal. This written notification may be in the form of an update to the original written notice.

#### **Principal's Hearing under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾: Long-term Suspension**

Long-term suspension means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

The purpose of the long-term suspension hearing is the same as the purpose of a short-term suspension hearing. At a minimum, in addition to the rights afforded a student in a short-term suspension hearing, the student shall have the following rights during a long-term suspension hearing:

- 1) In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- 2) the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense;
- 3) the right to produce witnesses on his or her behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so;

- 4) the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district; and
- 5) the right to request that the hearing be recorded by the principal, and to receive a copy of the audio recording upon request. If the student or parent requests an audio recording, the principal shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.

The principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

Based on the evidence, the principal shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension, what remedy or consequence will be imposed, in place of or in addition to a long-term suspension. The principal shall send the written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and the parent. If the principal decides to suspend the student, the written determination shall:

- 1) Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
- 2) Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the principal;
- 3) Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
- 4) Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school;
- 5) Inform the student of the right to appeal the principal's decision to the Co-Director(s) or designee (only if the principal has imposed a long-term suspension). Notice of the right of appeal shall be in English and the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate, and shall include the following information stated in plain language:
  - a. the process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the Co-Director(s) within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five (5) calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the Co-Director(s) an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven (7) additional calendar days; and that
  - b. the long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Co-Director(s) decides to reverse the principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in grades K through 3, the principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the Co-Director(s) and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension, whether short-term or long-term, before the suspension takes effect.

#### **Co-Director(s)'s Hearing Under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾**

A student who is placed on long-term suspension following a hearing with the principal has the right to appeal the principal's decision to the Co-Director(s).

In order to appeal the principal's decision to impose a long-term suspension, the student or parent must file a notice of appeal with the Co-Director(s) within five calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension (in the alternative, within five calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension the parent may request and receive from the Co-Director(s) an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven additional calendar days). If the appeal is not timely filed, the Co-Director(s) may deny the appeal, or may allow the appeal in his or her discretion, for good cause.

The Co-Director(s) shall hold the hearing within three school days of the student's request, unless the student or parent requests an extension of up to seven additional calendar days, in which case the Co-Director(s) shall grant the extension.

The Co-Director(s) must make a good faith effort to include the parent in the hearing and will be presumed to have made a good faith effort if he or she has attempted to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and Co-Director(s) to participate. The Co-Director(s) shall send written notice to the parent of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

The Co-Director(s) will conduct a hearing to determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, what the consequence will be. An audio recording of the hearing will be made, a copy of which shall be provided to the student or parent upon request. The Co-Director shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio recording will be made and provided to the student and parent upon request.

The student and parent shall have all the rights afforded them at the principal's hearing for long-term suspension, as detailed above in the sections entitled **Principal's Hearing under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾: Short-term Suspension and Principal's Hearing under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾: Long-term Suspension**.

The Co-Director(s) shall issue a written decision within five calendar days of the hearing, which will include the same elements as required for the written determination following the Principal's Hearing for Long-Term Suspension (see preceding section). If the Co-Director(s) determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Co-Director(s) may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the principal, but shall not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the Principal's decision. The decision of the Co-Director(s) shall be the final decision of the school.

#### **In-School Suspension Under MGL c. 71 § 37H¾**

The principal may use in-school suspension as an alternative to short-term suspension for disciplinary offenses.

The principal is required to inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal must inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed 10 days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day that the principal decides to impose an in-school suspension, the principal must make reasonable efforts to verbally notify the parent of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension.

The principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of verbally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the principal, if such meeting has not already occurred. The principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and the parent.

### **Removal from Privileges and Extracurricular Activities**

The principal may remove a student from privileges, such as extracurricular activities and attendance at school-sponsored events, based on the student's misconduct. A removal from privileges and/or extracurricular activities is not subject to the procedures set forth in preceding sections.

### **Services During Removals & School-Wide Education Service Plan**

In order to promote continued academic progress for students who are removed from their classroom or school, whether pursuant to MGL §37H, §37H ½, or §37H ¾, the School has the obligation to provide each student who is suspended or expelled an opportunity to make academic progress during the suspension or expulsion. Students and parents will be notified in writing of this opportunity at the time of suspension or expulsion.

Pursuant to MGL c. 76 § 21, students who are suspended from school for 10 days or less, whether in or out of school, will have the opportunity during the period of suspension to earn credits, make academic progress, and make up, make up assignments, including, but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, papers and projects missed. The principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such a suspension is imposed.

Also pursuant to MGL c. 76 § 21, students who are expelled or suspended for more than 10 consecutive days must be provided an equitable opportunity to receive education services that are identified in a school-wide education service plan.

Brooke Charter School's Education Service Plan is subject to change, and may include, but is not limited to, tutoring, alternative placement, Saturday school, and online or distance learning.

In developing changes to the overall Education Service Plan, or changes to a specific Education Service Plan for an expelled or suspended student, Principals may seek the input of relevant health and human service, housing and nonprofit agencies, education collaboratives, and other service providers.

For each student expelled or suspended from school for more than ten consecutive days, whether in school or out of school, the Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information. Upon selection of an alternative educational service by the student and the student's parent or guardian, the School shall facilitate and verify enrollment in the service. The School shall document the student's enrollment in education services. For data reporting purposes, the School shall track and report attendance, academic progress, and such other data as directed by the Department.

Students exempt from attending school under MGL c. 76 § 1 shall not be subject to this section.

## ***EXPULSION POLICY***

### *Introduction*

Brooke Charter School complies with the policies and procedures set forth in MGL c. 71 § 37H, 37H ½, and 603 CMR 53.00 regarding student discipline. Pursuant to 603 CMR 53.02, the Board of Trustees has affirmed that the Dean of Students may serve as designee for the Principal for purposes of implementing provisions pertaining to 603 CMR 53.00. Hereafter, the terms "Principal" shall be considered interchangeable with the term "Dean of Students" when discussing policies and procedures related to student discipline under 603 CMR 53.00.

In every case of student misconduct for which expulsion may be imposed, a principal shall exercise discretion in deciding the consequences for the offense; consider ways to re-engage the student in learning; and avoid using long-term suspension from school as a consequence until alternatives have been tried. Alternatives may include the use of evidence-based strategies and programs such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive interventions and supports.

Nothing in 603 CMR 53.00 or the policies below shall prevent a school administrator from conducting an investigation, including student interviews, of a school-related disciplinary incident.

### *Expulsion – Definition*

Expulsion means the removal of a student from the school premises, regular classroom activities, and school activities for more than 90 school days, indefinitely, or permanently, as permitted under MGL. c. 71, § 37H or 37H½ for:

- e) possession of a dangerous weapon;
- f) possession of a controlled substance;
- g) assault on a member of the educational staff; or
- h) a felony charge or felony delinquency complaint or conviction, or adjudication or admission of guilt with respect to such felony, if a principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school, as provided in MGL. c. 71, § 37H or 37H½.

All decisions by the Principal regarding expulsion of a student for any offense under MGL. c.71, §37H and MGL. c.71, §37H ½, are subject to review by the Co-Director(s).

### Removal from Class or School

In the case of expulsion, the student will be removed from class or school and will be sent to the Main Office or another designated school location, following which, the student's parent or guardian will be notified of the incident by the school.

Please see the following section titled “**Due Process for Expulsion and Services During Expulsion**” for additional details regarding the processes and procedures pertaining expulsions.

### Due Process for Expulsion & Services During Expulsion

#### **Introduction**

Student disciplinary offenses resulting in expulsions are subject to due process procedures, including notices, hearings, appeals, and educational services during removals. The following sections provide you with information about these rights.

Please note that students have the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense, at any and all hearings concerning student discipline. If you wish to bring an attorney to any hearing or meeting at the school, please inform Brooke Charter School immediately. If you fail to inform the school prior to bringing an attorney to a hearing, and Brooke Charter School's attorney is not present, then Brooke Charter School will exercise its right to cancel and reschedule the meeting to ensure that its attorney can attend. This rescheduling may delay the hearing or meeting, and if so, your child's disciplinary removal will be extended until a decision is rendered following the rescheduled hearing or meeting. Brooke Charter School hereby notifies you that it may have its legal counsel present at any hearings and meetings involving student discipline.

#### **Notice of Student & Parent Rights Under MGL c. 71 § 37H and c. 71 § 37H½**

The following provisions apply to student misconduct that involves the following:

1. Weapons, drugs, or assault on school staff.
  - a. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife, may be subject to expulsion from the school by the Principal.
  - b. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a controlled substance, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school by the Principal.
  - c. Any student who assaults a principal, assistant principal, teacher, teacher's aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.
2. Student criminal or felony delinquency charges, findings, or admissions.

- a. Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency, the Principal of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

Any student who is charged with any of the misconduct detailed above has an opportunity for a hearing before the Principal. The following standards and procedures shall apply:

1. The Principal or designee shall provide written notice to the student and the student's parent/guardian identifying the charges, the reasons for the expulsion, and evidence for expulsion before the expulsion takes effect.
2. The Principal or designee shall provide written notice to the student and the student's parent/guardian identifying the student's right to a hearing with the principal or designee before the expulsion takes effect, including the date, time and location of the hearing.
3. The student's parent or guardian will be present at the hearing.
4. At the hearing, students and parents/guardians have the right to: bring counsel (at the student's expense), present evidence (through the student's own testimony or witnesses and through witness evidence) and cross-examine witnesses presented by the school.
5. After said hearing, the Principal may, in his or her discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the Principal to have committed the misconduct detailed above.
6. In serious cases of student misconduct involving the possession or use of illegal substances or weapons, assault, vandalism, or violation of a student's civil rights, the Principal's determination whether to expel or suspend a student may depend on whether the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to MGL c. 71 §37H or c. 71 §37H½ shall have the right to appeal to the Brooke Charter School Co-Director(s) – hereafter, “the Co-Director(s).” The following standards and procedures shall apply:

1. If the Principal decides to expel the student after the hearing, the Principal shall provide written notification at the hearing to the student and the student's parent/guardian of the right to appeal the decision, the process for appealing the expulsion, and the opportunity to receive educational services.
2. The expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Co-Director(s).
3. The expelled student shall have ten calendar days (if expelled pursuant to c. 71 §37H) or five calendar days (if expelled pursuant to c. 71 §37H½) from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Co-Director(s), in writing, of his or her request for an appeal.
4. Once an appeal hearing has been requested, the Co-Director(s) shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent/guardian. For expulsions pursuant to c. 71 §37H½, the Co-Director shall hold the hearing within three (3) days of receipt of an appeal request.
5. At a hearing before the Co-Director(s), the student has the right to counsel (at the student's expense), the right to present oral and written testimony, and the right to confront and cross examine witnesses presented by the school.
6. For expulsions pursuant to c. 71 §37H, the subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of section 37H.



### **Co-Director(s) Authority to Overturn Expulsion**

The Co-Director(s) shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The Co-Director(s) shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. The Co-Director(s)'s decision shall be the final decision of Brooke Charter School with regard to the expulsion.

### **Educational Services During Expulsions**

Students who are expelled under c. 71 §37H and §37H½ are entitled to receive educational services during the expulsion under Brooke Charter School's Education Service Plan, which is described below. If the student withdraws from the charter school and/or moves to another school district during the expulsion, the new school/district/district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student under the new school or district's education service plan.

Prior to expulsion, the Principal shall inform the student and parent/guardian, in writing, of the opportunity for educational services that will be made available for a student to make academic progress during the period of expulsion once it is imposed. Notice shall be provide in English and in the primary language spoke in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a specific school staff member to arrange services.

### **School-Wide Education Service Plan**

Brooke Charter School has developed a school-wide Education Service Plan for all students who are expelled from school. Principals shall ensure these students have an opportunity to make academic progress during the expulsion, to make up assignments and earn credits missed, including, but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, papers and projects missed.

Brooke Charter School's Education Service Plan is subject to change, and may include, but is not limited to, tutoring, alternative placement, Saturday school, and online or distance learning.

If Brooke Charter School expels a student, Brooke Charter School is required to provide the student and the parent or guardian of the student with a list of alternative educational services. Upon selection of an alternative educational service by the student and the student's parent or guardian, the school or school district shall facilitate and verify enrollment in the service.

### ***DISCIPLINING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS***

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and related regulations provide eligible students with certain procedural rights and protections in the context of student discipline. A brief overview of these rights is provided below. For additional information, please contact Cristie McGrath, Director of Student Support, at 617-429-5786.

Short-term suspensions: School personnel may refer a student to an alternative placement or suspension for up to 10 total school days without services. Regarding students with IEP's, for subsequent removals during the school year which constitute a change in placement:

- 1) The school must provide services to the extent necessary for progress in the general curriculum and IEP goals as determined by school personnel in consultation with at least one teacher.
- 2) If appropriate, the school must conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop a behavioral plan.

### Change of Placement

A change of placement is defined as removal for more than ten consecutive school days or for a series of shorter removals that constitute a "pattern." A "pattern" of conduct will take into consideration the length and total time removed, as well as the proximity and similarity of behavior. On the date of a decision to make a removal constituting a change of placement, parents/guardians must be notified of the decision and the procedural safeguards.

Within ten school days of a decision resulting in a change of placement, the team must conduct a manifestation determination. The meeting must include representatives of the district, parents/guardians and any other relevant members. The team must consider all relevant information in the student's file, teacher observations, and relevant information from the parents/guardians. The team must determine whether the conduct was: (1) caused by the disability; or (2) had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability; or (3) was a direct result of the district's failure to implement the IEP (or 504 Plan). If any of these criteria are met, then the conduct is a manifestation of the student's disability.

If the team determines that the conduct was a manifestation of the disability, the student must be returned to his/her placement. The parties, however, may change the IEP and placement through the team process. Also, the team must conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan or, if a behavioral plan already exists, review the plan and make any necessary modifications.

A 504 Plan may be changed as well to address the behaviors at hand.

If the team determines that the conduct was not a manifestation of the disability, the school discipline can be put into effect. The student on an IEP is entitled, however, to receive educational services to enable progression in the general curriculum and IEP goals. The team must determine which services are necessary and the setting where they will be provided. A student with a 504 Plan, however, is entitled to educational services only to the extent that non-disabled peers would be provided the same educational opportunity.

### Appeal Rights

When a parent/guardian disagrees with the Team's decision on "manifestation determination," or an alternative placement, the parents/guardians have the right to request an expedited hearing from the Bureau of Special Education Appeals. Placement pending the appeal is in the alternative setting as determined by the team for the duration of the discipline or completion of the appeal.

Exceptions for Specified Conduct: Under certain special circumstances as defined by federal law, school personnel may place the student in an interim alternative setting for 45 school days, without regard to the manifestation determination. These special circumstances include incidents where

the student possesses, uses, sells or solicits illegal drugs, carries or possesses a weapon, or inflicts serious bodily injury while on school premises or at a school function.

Otherwise, if the student's continuation in the current placement is substantially likely to cause injury to him/her or others the district may request an expedited hearing for an order to place a student in an alternative setting for a period not to exceed 45 school days. The district also has the right to seek a court injunction.

#### *Discipline for Children Who May Be Disabled But Do Not Have IEPs*

The IDEA protections summarized above also apply to students who have not yet been found to be eligible for IEPs if the district "had knowledge" the child was a child with a disability within the meaning of the IDEA before the precipitating event. The IDEA provides that the district is "deemed to have knowledge" if: (1) the parent/guardian had expressed concern in writing to the administrator or the child's teacher that the child needed special education and related services; (2) the parent/guardian had requested an evaluation; or (3) the teacher of the child or other personnel had expressed specific concern about a pattern of behavior to the Director of Special Education or other supervisory personnel in the district. However, a school district is not "deemed to have knowledge" if the district evaluated the student and determined that the child was not eligible for special education services needs or the parent/guardian refused an evaluation or services.

If the school is not "deemed to have knowledge" regarding the existence of a disability prior to the precipitating event, the student may be disciplined in accordance with the district policies. If, however, a request is made for an evaluation to determine eligibility while the student is subject to disciplinary measures, the evaluation must be done in an expedited manner. Pending the results of the evaluation, the student must remain in the placement determined by the school officials, which may include suspension or expulsion without services. If the student is determined eligible for an IEP as a result of the evaluation, the district must provide the student with special education and related services in accordance with the IDEA.

#### *Students with Disabilities under Section 504*

Students who are not eligible for services under the IDEA, but who have disabilities within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are entitled to certain procedural protections associated with Section 504. Additional information regarding the procedural protections for students with disabilities under Section 504 can be obtained from Cristie McGrath, Director of Student Support, at 617-429-5786.

### ***STUDENT SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING***

Brooke Charter School shall collect and annually report data to the Department of Education regarding in-school suspensions, short-term and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, access to education services under 603 CMR 53.13, and such other information as may be required by the Department.

The principals of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to, race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status. In reviewing the data, the principal shall assess the extent of in-school suspensions, short-term and long-term suspensions, expulsions, and emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, and the impact of such disciplinary action on selected student populations. The principal shall further determine whether it is

necessary or appropriate to modify disciplinary practices due to over-reliance on expulsion, or in-school or out-of school suspension, or emergency removals, or the impact of such suspensions, removals, and expulsions on selected student populations compared with other students.

## USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

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In accordance with state law, Brooke Charter School has determined that physical restraint on a student will only be administered when needed to protect a student and/or a member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm; and if non-physical interventions would not be effective. The use of physical restraint shall not be used as a means of punishment, or as a response to property destruction, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm. When physical restraint is required, it is the goal of school personnel to prevent or minimize any harm to the student as a result of the use of physical restraint.

Only those staff members that have received in-depth training as described within school's Physical Restraint Policy shall administer physical restraints. Brooke Charter School follows the regulations and reporting and documentation requirements of 603 CMR 46.00, which can be found in its entirety, along with the complete Physical Restraint Policy, in [Appendix "H"](#).

In compliance with Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations (603 CMR 46.00), Brooke Charter School ensures that every student attending our schools is free from the use of physical restraint that is inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00. Physical restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort, after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

## COMPLAINT PROCESS

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Both the school and the Board work in conjunction with one another to hear and resolve any complaints. If a problem arises, both the school and the Board encourage the complainant to address the problem directly with the staff member(s). If the complainant is dissatisfied with the proposed resolution by the appropriate faculty or staff member, the complaint should be delivered in writing to the Principal. The Principal will receive a written report from the appropriate faculty or staff member. After reviewing the written statements by the staff member and the complainant and undertaking any additional investigation deemed necessary by the situation, the Principal will present an appellate decision to the complainant. Co-Directors will not hear complaints that have not followed this procedure.

If the situation has still not been resolved, the complainant may appeal the decision to the Co-Director for Academics or the Co-Director for Operations. The Co-Directors can be contacted at Brooke Charter School Roslindale, 190 Cummins Highway, Boston, MA 02131, or at 617-325-7977.

If the situation has still not been resolved, the Board encourages attendance at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees. Board Meeting dates are posted on the Brooke Charter School website at <http://www.ebrooke.org/about-us/> or by contacting the school at 617-325-7977. The Board will not hear complaints that have not first followed these procedures. If this meeting does not resolve the relevant complaint, the complainant should follow the guidelines set by MGL c. 71, § 89(jj) and 603 CMR 1.10.

If an individual believes that the school has violated any provision of state or federal law or regulations, he or she may file a formal complaint with the Board of Trustees. After receiving the complaint, the Board must send a written response to the individual within 30 days. If the Board does not address the complaint to the individual's satisfaction, the individual may submit the complaint to the Commissioner of Education. A parent/guardian may file a complaint with DESE at any time if he or she believes that the school has violated any federal or state law or regulation.

## IN THE CLASSROOM: DAILY STUDENT LIFE

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### ***ATTENDANCE POLICY***

In order for our academic program to be successful, it is absolutely essential that students be present in school on a consistent basis. The attendance policy at Brooke Charter School has been formed in order to ensure that this remains the case. Therefore, any student who misses more than 15 days of school over the course of a school year will be subject to retention in his/her grade level. The school reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy in the instance of an extended absence due to medical reasons. Additionally, if a student accrues an excessive number of absences, the Director of Operations will contact a Truancy Officer to assist in resolving the situation.

Parents and guardians are expected to call the school as early as possible but no later than 8:00 A.M. if their child will not be attending school for any reason. Earlier written permission is both welcome and appreciated. Calls should be made as far in advance as possible and can be left on the school's main voice mail or on the advisor's voice mail. If a student is not in advisory and the school has not been notified that he or she will be absent, his or her parent or guardian will be called at home and/or work. In phone calls, voice mails, and notes, please indicate your child's name, your relationship to the child, and the reason for and date(s) of the child's absence.

Students will be held accountable for work missed due to suspension, vacation, or absences. Work may not always be available in advance of absences.

Students will not be allowed to attend any afterschool programming or events if they are absent for school that day. This includes, but is not limited to, participating in or attending afterschool Brooke sporting events.

According to MGL c. 76 and c. 72, § 8, all students under 16 are expected to be in school. Brooke Charter School operates in compliance with Department of Transitional Assistance requests and requirements. Depending on the frequency of tardies and/or absences, there may be consequences including, but not limited to, loss of privileges, detention, grade retention, and referral to a City of Boston Truancy Officer. Students who are absent from school cannot attend or participate in any other school-sponsored activities occurring on the day of the absence, unless advance permission has been given by the school.

All questions regarding student attendance and attendance records should be directed to the school's Director of Operations.

### *Lateness*

Students may receive consequences for tardiness including but not limited to, the issuance of demerits and loss of privileges. In addition, if students have excessive unexcused tardies, families will be required to meet with teachers, Deans of Students, and/or the Director of Operations to address the issue.

### Absence Policy

Absences may only be excused due to illness, religious holidays, or other serious circumstances. Students must present documentation for their absence to the school's Office Manager within five (5) school days for it to be excused. Providing documentation does not guarantee an absence will be excused. The decision to excuse an absence will ultimately be at the discretion of the school.

It is expected that medical, dental and other appointments be made outside of school hours. If an appointment must be scheduled during school hours, it is expected that students attend for part of the school day and give prior notice to the Main Office.

5 unexcused tardies to a particular class/period will equate to 1 unexcused absence for that class/period.

Any student with more than five (5) unexcused absences in a class for the quarter will receive a grade of "NC" (no credit) if the student otherwise earned a passing grade for that quarter. If a student has not earned a passing grade, they will receive an "F" and the numerical grade that they have earned.

Grades of "NC" may be converted back to the passing grade earned by the student under the following conditions:

- If a student has earned a passing grade, they may change the "NC" to the earned letter grade by passing the final or mid-term exam for their class at the end of the semester.
- If the class does not provide a mid-term/final exam, the student must make-up all missing assignments by the end of the quarter. If assignments are not made up, the student will receive a zero for missing assignments.

and

- If a student has earned a passing grade, they may change the "NC" to the earned letter grade by not exceeding 5 absences for the following quarter in the same academic school year. If a student has 5 or more unexcused absences in the final quarter of the school year, the student will receive an "F" for the quarter (59% if the student otherwise had a passing grade for the quarter).

If a student is absent without excuse from their enrichment class (1st period) five (5) or more times in a quarter, the student will receive an "F" for the quarter in that class. There will be no additional opportunities to change this grade for the quarter.

Students who arrive to school after the start of 2nd period unexcused, will be considered excessively late and report to lunch detention for the day.

#### Attendance Policy & Level of Parent Communication:

After 3 unexcused absences in a quarter, the student's advisor will contact a parent/guardian to inform them of the absences and explore solutions to prevent additional absences. The advisor will also conference with the student to discuss barriers to regular attendance. A letter from the school will also be mailed home to parents reminding them of our attendance policy.



After 4 unexcused absences in a quarter, the advisor will make another call informing parents of the consequences of missing additional days.

After 5 unexcused absences in a quarter, the parent/guardian will be informed by school administration that the student will receive a "NC" for classes with 5 more unexcused absences.

After 8 unexcused absences in a quarter or 10 cumulative absences in a school year, a required meeting will be arranged between the student's parent/guardian and a school administrator.

After 10 unexcused absences in a quarter, and for every 10 days missed in the school year, a Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) will be filed by the school. Additional meetings between parents/guardians and school administrators will be scheduled before the filing of each CRA. Difference between Incomplete grade (I) and No Credit grade (NC)

### Early Dismissal Policy

In order to minimize disruptions to class, we ask that notification regarding early dismissals be made as far in advance as possible, but no later than 7:45 A.M. of the day of the early dismissal. We also ask that doctor and dentist appointments be limited to non-school hours to avoid students missing class time. The school will record dismissals before 12:00 PM on full days as absences. The school will record dismissals after 12:00 PM but before 3:45 PM as present but dismissed early. In general, students must be present for at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the allotted instructional time on a given day in order to be considered present.

### Snow Closings

In the event of poor weather conditions such as heavy snow, please listen to your local television or radio stations for relevant information regarding school cancellation. Brooke Charter School follows the exact same cancellation policies as Boston Public Schools, so if Boston Public Schools is closed, so is Brooke Charter School.

### **HOMEWORK**

At Brooke High School, we strive to ensure that all of our students have the habit of fully completing all their homework each day. Students who do not complete their homework will remain after school from 3:45 – 5:00 for homework detention on the day that their homework is undone. Students may not attend any clubs or sports until all homework detentions have been served. Students who earn both detention for behavior and for incomplete homework will serve detention from 3:50-4:30 and then homework detention from 4:30-5:15.

### **STUDENT DRESS POLICY**

Students in our community are expected to follow the school dress code in order to be allowed in class. Brooke enforces a policy to show respect for our appearance, to show cohesion as a community and encompass a sense of equality and a focus on academic excellence, and to prepare students to dress properly for future endeavors such as high school, college and employment interviews and experiences.

The Brooke High dress code is strictly enforced. Students not in school uniform will remain in the Dean's office until they can get in proper dress code. The dress code is in effect anytime

students are in the school during the school day (9:40am-3:45pm on Mondays and 8am-3:45pm on Tuesdays-Fridays). During after-school events, students may be out of uniform only with the permission of a coach or teacher.

Uniform issues that can be fixed at school will be fixed as soon as possible so that students can get to class. This could include students removing undershirts, inappropriate jewelry, unacceptable socks (if wearing a skirt), or non-uniform sweaters/sweatshirts. Fixable issues will result in one demerit. BHS will sometimes have extra uniform shoes, shirts, and pants in a scholar's size; however this is not guaranteed. If extra appropriate uniform materials are available, students will be able to borrow the clothes for the day. If extra uniform materials are not available, the student will not be permitted in class until the uniform violation is corrected. Students will receive two demerits for being in school without an appropriate uniform shirt, pants/skirt and/or shoes after 9:40am on Mondays and after 8am on Tuesdays-Fridays. They will remain in silent study hall until their uniform issue is resolved.

### 1. Shirts and Outerwear

- a. Students must wear unaltered BHS school shirts each day. Regulation Brooke High school shirts are dark grey, navy blue, or burgundy, and have a visible Brooke High logo. Only Brooke High shirts may be worn; shirts from Brooke Roslindale, Brooke Mattapan, and Brooke East Boston are not permissible substitutes for Brooke High shirts. Shirts and sweatshirts for Brooke High clubs and athletics are acceptable to wear on School Spirit days and days of competition if the student is a member of that team or club.
- b. Students may wear any solid colored undershirt, provided that the undershirt is a crew neck and the sleeves of the undershirt and shirt tail are not visible at any time. If a student wears an undershirt with visible sleeves, shirt tails or turtlenecks, the undershirt must be solid black, grey, navy blue, burgundy or white. Students may not wear hooded sweatshirts under their uniform tops. Students will be required to remove undershirts that are out of uniform.
- c. Approved school sweatshirts and fleece tops bearing the Brooke High logo may only be worn over the top of the school shirt.
- d. Coats, non-school sweatshirts, or any other outerwear are not permitted to be worn in school or taken anywhere in the building at any time and must be left in the locker or backpack all day.

Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Button down tops buttoned up, collared polo-style shirts, blouses, sweaters
- b. Sport coats, suits and blazers
- c. Button down shirts with a tail must be tucked in.

Not Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. T-shirts, tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, tops with a plunging neckline, overly tight tops, shirts with graphics, sweatshirts, hoodies, casual jackets/coats
- b. See-through shirts are not allowed.
- c. Logos greater than a quarter (one inch) size.

### 2. Pants and Skirts:

- a. Students must wear dress pants/chinos or skirts. Shorts, pants with a hem above the midcalf, spandex material, and corduroys are not permitted.
- b. All pants and skirts must be khaki, black or navy blue in color. Pants must be a cotton or khaki material.

- c. No pockets, loops, or straps on pants or skirts can be below the hip level. Rubber bands are not permitted around pants.
- d. Pants must not be too baggy or too tight nor torn or frayed. Joggers are not permitted. Other clothing must not be visible under pants.
- e. Skirts must be knee length or longer and no slit may come too high. Skorts are not allowed. If a student is wearing a skirt, socks or tights that are worn must be solid black, grey, navy blue, burgundy or white.
- f. Black or brown belts are required.

Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Dress pants mid calf or longer, khakis, skirts knee-length or longer (no slits in skirts or dresses). Pants, skirts and dresses cannot be overly tight nor revealing.
- b. Students may choose to wear any type of belt.
- c. Dresses that follow similar guidelines as tops and skirts.

Not Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Shorts, jeans, corduroys, pants with a hem above the midcalf, spandex material, sweatpants and overly tight skirts or dresses.

### 3. Shoes:

- a. All black or all white shoes are required. Shoelaces, soles and all parts of the shoe must be black or white. Shoes are acceptable only if they cover more than half of the top of the foot and don't have more than a 1" heel. Visible logos must be white or black and a quarter size (one inch) or less if not the same color as the rest of the shoe.
- b. Flip-flops, stilettos, stacks, platform shoes, moccasins, slides, slippers and sandals (shoes with exposed toes and including Crocs) are not permitted.
- c. Shoes must be laced up, with tongue inside, and tied securely.
- d. The first week of school is the only time where we will temporarily tape out of uniform shoes to keep students in class. After the first week of school, students will not be able to tape up out of uniform shoes and will remain out of class until the uniform is fixed.

Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Dress shoes (open toed dress shoes are allowed), loafers and flats in any color. Up to 4" heels on dress shoes are allowed if the student can walk reasonably in the shoes. Boots must be below-the-knee.

Not Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Sneakers (unless they fall within uniform policy), flip-flops (sandals with an open heel), stilettos taller than 4", stacks, platform shoes, moccasins, slippers and slides.

### 4. Accessories and makeup:

- a. No distracting makeup is permitted.
- b. Perfume and scented lotion is not permitted out of respect for members of the community with allergies.
- c. Sweatbands or distracting wrist wear are prohibited.

Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Same as above with the addition of neckties.

Not Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Same as above.

### 5. Head Coverings:

- a. No hats or other head coverings are permitted, including scarves, hairnets, athletic sweatbands, and bandanas anywhere inside a building at any time, except where mandated by legitimate religious requirements or with a medical note.
- b. Professional looking head wraps are acceptable, but staff reserve the right to ask students to remove head-wraps that are not professional. Skull caps and durags are not permitted.
- c. Headband width should be no more than 4 inches.
- d. Logos greater than an inch are not permitted.

Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Same as above.

Not Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Same as above.

### 6. Distracting Clothing:

- a. No clothing, jewelry, or accessory that is determined by any teacher or staff member to distract from the learning process is permitted.

Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Same as above.

Not Acceptable for Junior/Senior Uniform Choice Privilege:

- a. Same as above.

## ***STUDENT SCHEDULES***

### *Student Schedules*

If we want students to learn more, we need to spend more time learning. Our longer school day and longer school year afford students this opportunity. Parents will receive written notification of student schedules.

### *School-Day Hours*

**Monday:** 9:40am-3:45pm with required after-school clubs and sports extending to 5:00pm.

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:** 8:00am – 3:45pm with required after-school clubs and sports extending to 5:00pm.

Doors open at 9:15am on Mondays and at 7:30am on Tuesdays-Fridays.

### *Late Arrival on Mondays*

Brooke students in grades 9-12 begin classes at 9:40am every Monday, in order to provide teachers with regular times to meet and conduct professional development activities. Please note breakfast and lunch are served for grades 9-12 on early release days. Doors open for arrival at 9:15am on Mondays.

### Clean School

Given the school's emphasis on responsibility, each student advisory will be responsible for cleaning their classroom at the end of the day. While the school also employs a custodial staff, it is important that everyone in the school – students and staff alike – participate in daily cleaning activities, especially in assuring shared, common spaces are kept neat and clean.

### Extra Academic Preparation

Students whose performance demonstrates a need for extra help or tutoring, especially those new to the school, may be required to start their school-day earlier and/or to stay as later in the afternoon for additional instruction. Therefore, please note that students' academic performance may determine the length of their school day. The most important thing for the school is that students are prepared to succeed in their classes.

Additionally, students may be required to attend a summer session in July in order to recover credits for courses that the student did not pass and therefore did not receive credit for.

### Sports

Age-eligible students may only participate on school-sponsored sports teams if they receive permission from their parents or guardians and have on file with the School Nurse verification that they have successfully passed a physical over the past year. Families should keep in mind that students who have not submitted evidence of a physical examination within the last calendar year will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular athletics. Students who are not passing their academic classes may not be permitted to play in games or meets.

## **PROGRESS MONITORING AND REPORT CARDS**

Report cards will be issued four times during the year. In order to receive a student's report card, a parent must meet with the student's advisor to receive the report card in person.

Parents may also monitor student academic performance through the parent access features of PowerSchool.

## **PROMOTION POLICIES**

### **1. Academics**

Students must earn 13 credits each year to be promoted and 48 credits to graduate. Each full year one-period course is 2 credits. Enrichments that meet twice weekly are all pass-fail and will count as 0.5 credits each semester. Students who fail a class due to attendance or low grades must recover the failed credit through night school, summer school or by retaking the class during the subsequent school year.

Of those credits, students must acquire the following number of credits by subject:

- 8 credits of English
- 8 credits of Math
- 6 credits of Spanish
- 6 credits of Science
- 6 credits of Computer Science
- 6 credits of History

- 2 credits of Arts

**2. After-School club participation**

Students must accumulate 30 hours of after-school club participation to be promoted each year and a total of 120 hours to graduate. After-school club hours must be approved by a faculty advisor. If a student is involved in time-intensive weeknight extra-curricular activities that are outside of school, the student is eligible to receive credit for those programs only with the explicit written permission of the Principal. Students and parents interested in that option are encouraged to meet with the Principal as soon as possible in the school year.

**3. Athletic participation**

Students must accumulate 40 hours of athletic team participation to be promoted each year and a total of 160 hours to graduate. If a student is involved in time-intensive weeknight sports activities that are outside of school, the student is eligible to receive credit for those programs only with the explicit written permission of the Principal. Students and parents interested in that option are encouraged to meet with the Principal as soon as possible in the school year.

**4. Community Service**

Students must accumulate 20 hours of community service in order to be promoted to be a senior (12<sup>th</sup> grader) and 40 total hours to graduate.

**5. Discipline**

All hours of detention must be served in order for a student to be promoted to the next grade level. This may require students to serve detention during the summer or outside of the regular school hours; in those circumstances, the Dean of Students will establish a plan for the completion of all detention hours.

In order for a student to graduate from Brooke High School, all detention hours must be served a week before graduation in order to be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Students who do not meet clubs, sports, or community service requirements will not receive their high school diploma until the requirements are met.

## **BUILDING SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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There are a number of basic procedures the school has in order to ensure the safety and security of its students and staff. Cooperation on everyone's part will go a long way in guaranteeing that the business of the school – teaching and learning – can take place.

### ***CLOSED CAMPUS***

Under no circumstances are students to leave the school building without permission. A student with permission to leave may only leave with the approval, and, in most instances, under the escort and supervision of an authorized adult.

### ***VISITOR POLICY***

All visitors are required to report to the Main Office upon entering the building. Any visitor, including parents, who does not report to the office or is found in the building without authorization will be asked to leave immediately. Parents are encouraged to visit the school; parent involvement is discussed in more detail later in this handbook.

### ***STUDENT SEARCHES***

In order to maintain the security of all its students, Brooke Charter School reserves the right to conduct searches of students and their property. If searches are conducted, the school will ensure that the privacy of the students is respected to the extent possible, and that students and their families are informed of the circumstances surrounding and results of the search.

School lockers and desks, which are assigned to students for their use, remain the property of the school and students should, therefore, have no expectation of privacy in these areas. Such areas are subject to canine searches and to random searches by school officials at any time.

### ***FIRE SAFETY PROCEDURES***

In case of an emergency – if a student or staff member sees fire or smells smoke—he or she should close the door and pull the fire alarm located at either end of the corridor. Upon hearing the alarm, school staff will assemble students in their rooms and proceed out of the building according to the fire evacuation plan posted in each room. Students should follow the direction of the staff, who will verify the safety of the stairwells and lead students outside the building to the designated locations, where school staff will line up students by class and take attendance.

During the first month of the school year, students and staff will participate in fire drills to ensure that the entire school community is familiar with the appropriate response in the event of an emergency.

## GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

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### ***BROOKE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION***

#### *Brooke Charter School - Roslindale*

190 Cummins Highway  
Roslindale, MA 02131  
Telephone: 617-325-7977  
Fax: 617-325-2260  
[www.ebrooke.org](http://www.ebrooke.org)

#### *Brooke Charter School - Mattapan*

150 American Legion Highway  
Mattapan, MA 02124  
Telephone: 617-268-1006  
Fax: 617-474-4612  
[www.ebrooke.org](http://www.ebrooke.org)

#### *Brooke Charter School – East Boston*

94 Horace Street  
East Boston, MA 02128  
Telephone: 617-409-5150  
Fax: 617-569-6417  
[www.ebrooke.org](http://www.ebrooke.org)

#### *Brooke Charter School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy*

200 American Legion Highway  
Boston, MA 02124  
Telephone: 617-874-5515  
Fax: 617-379-5401  
[www.ebrooke.org](http://www.ebrooke.org)

#### *Brooke Charter School – Brooke High School*

200 American Legion Highway  
Boston, MA 02124  
Telephone: 617-874-5515  
Fax: 617-379-5401  
[www.ebrooke.org](http://www.ebrooke.org)

### ***SCHOOL DAY***

The school building is closed at 5:00 p.m. Voice mail will be on automated attendant before 7:30 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m., though families should feel free to dial directly the appropriate extensions at any time.

### ***STUDENT PHONE USE***



The office phone is a business phone and should be used by students for emergencies only. The phones may not be used by students to arrange for delivery of any items, including signed progress reports, signed report cards, or missing homework assignments. If parents need to leave a message for their child, they should call the office, not the classroom phone, to leave a message before 3:30 p.m. Students will not be called from class to the office to speak with a parent except in case of an emergency.

Students may not use the telephones in classrooms or in the office unless granted permission by a teacher or staff member. Generally speaking, students will not have opportunities to call home during the school day. Students may not use cell phones during the school day. If student cell phones are visible during the school day, that student will be issued four demerits and their cell phone will be confiscated. Within each semester, there are escalating consequences along with the four demerits. The first offense will result in the student's cell phone being held in the dean's office until the end of that school day. The second offense and on will result in the student needing to turn in the cell phone each school day to the dean's office for escalating amounts of time.

### ***FAMILY COMMUNICATION***

It is vitally important that the school have methods of contacting parents or other family members at all times. This is of critical importance in case of emergency, illness, or behavior requiring immediate family contact. Parents are advised to notify the office of moves, changes of home or emergency telephone numbers, and/or places of employment.

In case of an emergency, parents or guardians should contact the Main Office either by phone or in person. Under no circumstances should parents or guardians contact students in their classrooms or attempt to withdraw students from the building without notifying and receiving permission from staff members in the Main Office.

### ***PARENT INVOLVEMENT***

Parental involvement in a child's educational life is critical to a child's success. We encourage parents to develop strong positive partnerships with the school.

#### *Visiting Classes*

Our school has an open door policy that allows parents to sit in on class any time. When observing in the classroom, parents are asked not to disrupt the education of their child or of other children or to attempt to conduct individual conversations with the teacher during instructional time. Parents who are disruptive to the educational process will be asked to leave. Parents need to sign in at the office before visiting a classroom and wear a visitor sticker while in the school.

#### *Initial Advisor Meeting*

Parents are asked to bring their children in to the school before the start of school to meet with their child's advisors. These meetings will last about half an hour and will be scheduled directly by the advisor. These meetings will give students and their parents a chance to meet their advisor before the first day of school and will also allow advisor to learn a little bit about the child's educational history and personality. It is critical that all parents and children attend this initial advisor meeting.

### Community Information

Community information may be sent home throughout the year. The information may be communicated via e-mail, hand-outs sent home with your scholar, mail, or any other means necessary to provide parents and guardians with critical information about upcoming school events. In addition, the school leaders will send emails to parents with information about upcoming activities and events. If you would like to receive those emails, please be sure that the school has your email address on file.

### Parent Conferences

Parent- advisor conferences are a crucial component of our educational program. Parents are expected to pick up the first three report cards of the year in person from the advisor. The dates for report card pick up events are noted on the annual school calendar.

### Parent Involvement Committee

In addition to supporting their child and learning more about the school program, parents/guardians have the opportunity to contribute to the school via the school's Parent Involvement Committee. Please see [Appendix A](#) for more on the school's Parent Involvement Policy.

## **LOST AND STOLEN PROPERTY**

We strongly encourage families to ensure that children do not bring valuable objects to school. Any items that students bring to school that may cause disruption will be confiscated at the school. We make every reasonable effort to return all personal property to the appropriate parent; however, the school is not responsible for replacing lost or stolen property or for compensating the family for the value of that property.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The school uses a combination of transportation methods to transport students to and from the school.

### Brooke High School Student Transportation

Roundtrip shuttle service will be provided for Brooke 8th Grade Academy and High School students traveling from East Boston, Revere and Chelsea communities. Shuttles will arrive at Brooke High School between 7:30 AM and 7:45 AM each morning school is in session. After dismissal each day, shuttles will leave Brooke High School at 4:15 and 5:15 PM. For an up-to-date list of shuttle pick-up locations and times, please contact the Main Office.

- If the shuttle is late, students will not be marked "tardy" if their shuttle arrives at school late. To report a late or missing shuttle, students or parents can contact Brooke High School's main office.
- The main office should also be immediately contacted regarding any safety concerns or incidents involving a pick-up or drop-off location.

Students who do not live in East Boston or Chelsea communities, or students who opt out of the shuttle service, will be provided with a MBTA M7 pass. Passes will be distributed at student orientation and the first day of school. MBTA passes that are not used within a month's time frame will be deactivated. MBTA passes are to only be used by the student it is assigned to. Selling or trading of MBTA passes are prohibited. Students who sell, duplicate, or trade their assigned MBTA pass will have their pass deactivated immediately and face disciplinary action. Lost or stolen MBTA passes should be reported to the main office immediately. Students are responsible for ensuring they arrive at school on time when relying on MBTA transportation. Students who rely on MBTA and arrive to school late will be marked tardy, with the exception of severe MBTA delays (related to the student's travel route) as notated on MBTA's website.

### Student Pick-Up

*Parents/Guardians or their designees may pick students up directly from school at dismissal time. Parents should not go to the classroom to dismiss their students before the regular dismissal time as this is very disruptive to class.*

### Student Drop-Off

Families who drive students to school in the morning are requested to drop their students off at the main entrance before 7:45 a.m. The doors to the school open at 7:30 a.m. For any questions regarding student drop-off or pick-up, please contact the administration office at your student's school.

### Crossing Busy Roads

Our school is located on a very busy road with a high volume of traffic. Students may only cross these streets at crosswalks and only in accordance with the walk signal. Students who violate this rule will face severe consequences.

We ask that when parents cross these streets with their children, that they do so only at crosswalks. Particularly at dismissal time, crossing at non-authorized areas creates a hectic and dangerous situation and sets a poor example for students.

### Transportation Accommodations

Special transportation service for students with disabilities is stated in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. Some students receive door-to-door bus service. Other students with disabilities are picked up and dropped off at a corner near home, receive an MBTA pass, or walk to school. The Student Support Coordinators can help coordinate these services with BPS. Some students with medical or physical conditions may receive door-to-door service by submitting a letter from the doctor to the principal. The School Nurse will contact the doctor to discuss the appropriate transportation services for these students and the time limits of those services.

### Denial of Transportation

We consider school buses and shuttles to be an extension of the classroom. That means that we have the same standards of behavior on the school bus. Students who violate the discipline code while on the bus may be disciplined and may be denied transportation, either for the remainder

of the year or for a temporary suspension. The student is expected to come to school on the days when he or she is not allowed on the bus, unless the student has also been suspended from school.

Please note that parents are not allowed to get on the school bus or van to confront the driver, monitor, or any student. If parents have a problem with the school bus driver, monitor, or a student, they should inform the Dean of Students of the situation. School administration will then conduct an investigation into your complaint.

## ***SCHOOL MEALS***

The school participates in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, and Afterschool Snack Program. All students at all Brooke Schools are served free breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Breakfast is served from 7:15 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. Students who arrive after 7:45 a.m. may not be served breakfast. Students are served two snacks per day. Menus for breakfast and lunch will be sent out every month.

Students are welcome to bring a lunch from home. They will not have access to a microwave to heat any lunches. Soda and candy are never permitted at school, even in lunches brought from home.

### *Food Allergies*

The school will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate students with food allergies. Parents are required to inform the school of all food allergies and their severity. A parent of a child with food allergies is responsible for providing classroom snacks and lunch for his or her own child. These snacks can be kept in the classroom in a separate snack closet. Sharing or trading of food is prohibited for all students. For students who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening food allergy, once the parent has informed the school nurse they must also provide medical documentation for the diagnosis of the life-threatening food allergy. After documentation is provided, the family and school officials (including but not limited to the school nurse and the school nutrition director) will meet to develop an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) to accommodate for the student. This plan must be developed before the student begins school or as soon as possible after the school is provided documentation of the life-threatening allergy.

### *Birthday Celebrations*

Please contact the classroom teacher to make arrangements for any birthday celebration. We cannot allow birthday celebrations to interrupt the academic day or allow birthday celebrations at lunch. Parents will be informed if there is a food allergy in the class; if such an allergy exists, we ask parents to be considerate and avoid that food product in birthday snacks. Students may not distribute invitations to parties within the school building unless every member of the class is invited. The school may require student birthday celebrations to be grouped in order to reduce the quantity of birthday celebrations (which typically contain unhealthy food options) and ensure that the school is following the network's Wellness Policy.

### *Non-Discrimination Statement*

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions

participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## ***MEDICAL RECORDS AND HEALTH SERVICES***

Massachusetts state law requires all students enrolling in a new school to have a physical examination before entering the school. Before a student can enroll in the school, the school must have on file the forms listed below. If your student is matriculating to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade from an existing Brooke K-8 school, these forms should already be included in their school file.

- **Massachusetts School Health Record.** This form contains records showing that the student has: 1) had a physical exam within the past year prior to the start of the school year; 2) up-to-date immunizations; and 3) had screening for vision, hearing, and scoliosis;
- **Authorization for Dispensing Medication in School Form.** If a child must receive medication during the school day, this form must contain the instructions and signature of the physician who ordered the medication and be signed by a parent or guardian;
- **Physician Information Release Form.** This form must be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian, so that the school may contact a student's physician in case of an emergency; and
- **Health History Form.** This form provides important information about a student's emergency contacts, health care providers, and insurance. Most importantly, it gives the school permission to initiate emergency medical treatment in the event that a parent or guardian cannot be reached. No student will be allowed to start school without having this form on file.

### Student Physicals

All students are required to have an annual physical on file. Physicals must be completed before students can participate in any sports or competitive athletics. If a student needs assistance finding a physician to secure an annual physical, students or parents/guardians should contact the main office.

### Posture, Vision and Hearing

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §57, the vision of each student must be screened once between grades 9 through 12. The vision of each student will be tested by means of the Massachusetts Vision Test or other comparable method approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The hearing of each student must also be screened once between grades 9 through 12. The hearing of each student will be tested by means of some form of discrete frequency hearing test such as the Massachusetts Hearing Test or comparable method approved by the Department of Public Health.

Tests evaluating postural defects will be provided for all students in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The posture of each student will be tested using methods and procedures approved by the Department of Public Health.

Screenings of posture, sight and hearing will be performed by teachers, physicians, optometrists, nurses or others approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for this purpose, in accordance with guidelines of the Department.

For any student who does not pass a posture, vision or hearing screening, a written plan will be developed by the school nurse, in consultation to the extent possible with a student's parent or legal guardian, for appropriate follow up of the student. With the consent of the parent or legal guardian, the student's primary care provider may be furnished with a copy of the record of screening tests performed in the school.

Student may be exempt from physical examinations or screenings on religious grounds, upon written request of the parent or legal guardian, except with respect to communicable diseases.

### Height and Weight Measurements

Weight and height will be measured for each student in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Each student's Body Mass Index (BMI) score and corresponding percentile will be calculated. The student's height, weight, BMI score and corresponding percentile will be maintained in the student's school health record.

Measurement of weight and height will be done by trained school personnel or others approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for this purpose, and in accordance with guidelines of the Department.

Parents and legal guardians may request, in writing, that their child's measurements not be taken.

### Health Services

A School Nurse may be at the school to administer medication to students who require it during the school day, and to provide counseling on health-related issues, first aid to injured students, and care to ill students. In addition, the school has access to a physician consultant who serves as an advisor to the school on selected medical matters.

If a student requires medication while in school, the school must have on file an Authorization to Dispense Medication form, filled out by the student's physician. No student is allowed to bring medication to the school without the Director of Operation's full knowledge.

Prescribed medications that are taken during the school day must be stored in the Main Office (inhalers used for asthma emergencies are excluded from this rule). Medication, in its original box/bottle, should be dropped off in the school's Main Office regularly. Each student will be assigned their own First Alert Lock Box where their medication will be stored and accessible to both the student and designated staff members.

Brooke High students will be permitted to possess and self-administer over the counter (OTC) medication for minor illnesses (i.e. headaches, common cold). Though students are able to possess and self-administer OTC medication, OTC medication cannot be supplied by the Main Office or any school representative.

While the School Nurse is responsible for supervising the school's prescription medication administration program, the school has registered with the Department of Public Health a Board-approved plan that allows the delegation of the administration of medication to unlicensed school personnel.

#### *First Aid Provision and Medical Emergencies*

Minor accidents, cuts, scrapes, and bruises will generally be treated at the school by selected teachers and administrators. The school is not equipped to handle medical services beyond basic first aid. In the event that a child requires emergency medical care, a parent or guardian will be notified as soon as possible. If a parent, guardian, or other emergency contact cannot be reached, the school may need to initiate medical treatment. Thus, it is essential that we have on file each student's Health History Form, which provides up-to-date contact information for parents and guardians, and which gives the school permission to initiate emergency medical treatment if a parent or guardian cannot be reached.

#### *Education Services in Home or Hospital*

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that any Brooke student must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the principal shall arrange for provision of educational services in the home or hospital. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue his or her educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal shall coordinate such services with the director of student support for eligible students. Such educational services shall not be considered special education unless the student has been determined eligible for such services, and the services include services on the student's IEP.

### ***AVAILABILITY OF IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS***

Concluding school is indispensable for success in life and for academic achievement. For this reason, Brooke High School guarantees that pregnant students have access to the full range of educational opportunities available to all other students. Discrimination or harassment by fellow students, teachers, school administrators, and counselors is forbidden.

BHS does not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from any educational program or activity on the basis of a student's pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from these conditions.

Pregnant students have the right to remain in their regular or current school program, including in-district special education placements, as well as all extracurricular, internal, interscholastic activities, and graduation programs. Granting the same documentation required for participation and eligibility for all students must be provided.

BHS pregnant students cannot be expelled, suspended, or otherwise excluded from any academic or extracurricular program, or be required to participate in school programs, solely on the basis of the students' pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy recovery or termination, conditions related to pregnancy, or marital or parental status.

If BHS develops a special program for pregnant students or related to pregnancy in order to educate the students, the participation in these special academic or extracurricular programs is completely voluntary on the part of the student and said programs are offered to non-pregnant students on a completely voluntary basis as well.

BHS allows pregnant students to take part in fitness classes, although the same documentation required for participation for all other students must be provided by the student who is pregnant as well. If a pregnant student is not able to participate in the regular physical education program, BHS may develop an alternative curriculum that will cater to her condition and provide, upon satisfactory completion, her with physical education credit.

BHS will always treat pregnancy as it treats other medical conditions. Services are to be provided to pregnant students in the same manner as services are provided to students with other temporary disabilities.

If a pregnant or parenting student misses school due to pregnancy or medically related conditions (including childbirth, miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, and recovery), the absences shall be considered excused absences upon a physician's note and/or certification; the same manner that is required for all students for absences due to medical conditions.

Upon returning from an excused absence, a pregnant student shall return to BHS with the same status as before the leave began, and will be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided. Upon satisfactory completion of such assignments, the student shall be given full credit.



Upon the recommendation of the student's physician, a pregnant student may be granted a leave of absence for as long as it is deemed medically necessary, during which time the student will be entitled to tutoring services comparable to tutoring services provided to students with other temporary disabilities.

## ***STUDENT RECORDS***

### *Standardized Testing*

As is required by the state, all students in grades three through ten participate in the mandated state standardized exams administered in the spring of each academic year.

From time to time, students may take other exams as well in order to measure their academic progress and may be asked to provide routine information.

### *Student Records*

#### **General**

Federal and state laws provide parents and eligible students (those who are age 14 or older) with rights of confidentiality, access, and amendment relating to student records. Copies of the Massachusetts Student Records Regulations ("Regulations"), detailing these rights, are available in the Main Office. The following is a general overview of the provisions in the Regulations.

#### **Access and Amendment**

A parent or eligible student has a right to access student records and to seek their amendment if the parent or eligible student believes them to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. In order to obtain access or to seek amendment to student records, please contact the building principal.

#### **Confidentiality**

Release of student records generally requires consent of the parent or eligible student. However, the Regulations provide certain exceptions. For example, staff employed or under contract to the school have access to records as needed to perform their duties. Brooke Charter School also releases a student's complete student record to authorized school personnel of a school to which a student seeks or intends to transfer without further notice to, or receipt of consent from, the eligible student or parent.

#### **Student & Family Directory Information**

For the purpose of maintaining efficient contact with families and publicizing student and school accomplishments, Brooke Charter School has a practice of releasing directory information, consisting of any of the following: the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, class, participation in recognized activities and sports, honors and awards, and post-graduation plans. In the event a parent or eligible student objects to the release of any of the above information, the parent/eligible student may state that objection in writing to the Principal. Absent receipt of a written objection, the directory information will be released without further notice or consent.

#### **Photographs, Video, Audio, Recorded Comments**

For the purpose of publicizing student and school accomplishments, and/or documenting and studying teacher practice, Brooke Charter School has a practice of recording student life through photography, video, audio, or otherwise recorded comments. In the event a parent or eligible student objects to the release or publication of any of the above, the parent/guardian may complete the "Photo/Video Use Opt-Out Form". Parents are given this form to complete at the time they enroll their child at Brooke. Absent receipt of this form, any of the above may be released without further notice or consent. Parents may change their preference at any time by requesting another form from their schools main office and updating their preference.

### **Access by Non-Custodial Parents**

Massachusetts General Laws c. 71, §37H ("Section 37H") governs access to student records by a parent who does not have physical custody of a student. Generally, Section 37H requires a non-custodial parent seeking access to a student record to submit a written request and other documentation to the principal on an annual basis. Parents who have questions or concerns regarding access to records by non-custodial parents are requested to contact the Principal for detailed information regarding the procedures that must be followed under Section 37H.

Parents and eligible students have a right to file a complaint concerning alleged failures by a school district to comply with the requirements of the student records laws and regulations with the Massachusetts Department of Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148. Complaints relative to federal statutes and regulations governing student records may be filed with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington DC.

### ***NONDISCRIMINATION***

Brooke Charter School does not discriminate in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its services, programs and activities, on the basis of race, color or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI); on the basis of sex, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; on the basis of disability, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); or on the basis of age, in accordance with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1974 (ADEA). In addition, no person shall be discriminated against in admission to the school or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and access to the courses of study and extracurricular activities offered by the school on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, socio-economic status, housing status or homelessness, special need, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement, as required by federal and state law, including MGL c. 71, §89(l); 603 CMR 1.06(1); MGL c. 76, § 5 and 603 CMR 26.00: Access to Equal Educational Opportunity.

### ***STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS***

Brooke Charter School will ensure that all eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 and No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110). Parents/Guardians have the right to request a Special Education evaluation if they believe that their child has a disability and requires specialized instruction and/or related special education services. Parents should contact the

Director of Student Support if they are requesting an evaluation or would like to learn more about the process. See “Parental Rights Under Special Education Laws” in [Appendix D](#).

## ***HARASSMENT***

Brooke Charter School is committed to maintaining a school environment free of harassment based on race, sex, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, socio-economic status, housing status or homelessness, special need, physical appearance, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement. Harassment by administrators, certified and support personnel, students, vendors and other individuals at school or at school-sponsored events is unlawful and is strictly prohibited. Brooke Charter School requires all employees and students to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner with respect to their fellow employees, students and all members of the school community.

### *Definition of Harassment*

#### **In General**

Harassment includes communications such as jokes, comments, innuendoes, notes, display of pictures or symbols, gestures, or other conduct that offends or shows disrespect to others based upon race, sex, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, socio-economic status, housing status or homelessness, special need, physical appearance, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement.

By law, what constitutes harassment is determined from the perspective of a reasonable person with the characteristic on which the harassment is based. What one person may consider acceptable behavior, may reasonably be viewed as harassment by another person. Therefore, individuals should consider how their words and actions might reasonably be viewed by other individuals. It is also important for individuals to make it clear to others when a particular behavior or communication is unwelcome, intimidating, hostile or offensive.

#### **Sexual Harassment**

While all types of harassment are prohibited, sexual harassment requires particular attention. Sexual harassment includes sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Acceptance of or submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or education;
2. The individual's response to such conduct is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting an employee or as a basis for educational, disciplinary, or other decisions affecting a student;
3. Such conduct interferes with an individual's job duties, education or participation in extra-curricular activities; or
4. The conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or school environment.

### Harassment and Retaliation Prohibited

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

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

### Grievance Procedure

#### **Where To File A Complaint**

Any student or employee who believes that the school has discriminated against or harassed her/him because of her/his race, sex, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, socio-economic status, housing status or homelessness, special need, physical appearance, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its schools, services, programs, activities, and extracurricular activities may file a complaint with the Director of Operations.. If the Director of Operations is the person who is alleged to have caused the discrimination or harassment, the complaint may be filed with the Principal. These individuals are listed below and are hereinafter referred to as "Grievance Administrators."

Brooke Roslindale	Brooke Mattapan	Brooke East Boston	Brooke High School & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Academy
Director of Operations	Director of Operations	Director of Operations	Director of Operations
Principal	Principal	Principal	Principal
Brooke Roslindale 190 Cummins Highway Boston, MA 02131 617-325-7977	Brooke Mattapan 150 American Legion Hwy. Boston, MA 02124 617-268-1006	Brooke East Boston 94 Horace Street Boston, MA 02128 617-409-5150	Brooke High School 200 American Legion Hwy. Boston, MA 02124 617-874-5515

#### **Complaints of harassment by peers**

In the event the complaint consists of a student's allegation that another student is harassing him/her based upon the above-referenced classifications, the student may, in the alternative, file the complaint with the school's complaint manager (hereinafter referred to as "Building Complaint Manager"), who is the school's Dean of Students.

#### **Complaints of discrimination based upon disability**

A person who alleges discrimination on the basis of disability relative to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a person, who because of a handicap need or is believed to need special instruction or related services, pursuant to Section 504 of the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Chapter 766, and/or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, must use the procedure outlined in the Massachusetts Department of Education's *Parents' Rights Brochure* rather than this Grievance Procedure.

A copy of the brochure is available from the following individual:

Cristie McGrath  
Director of Student Support  
Brooke Charter School  
190 Cummins Hwy., Boston, MA 02131  
617-429-5786

A person with a complaint involving discrimination on the basis of a disability other than that described above may either use this Grievance Procedure or file the complaint with the U.S. Department of Education at the address provided at the end of this Grievance Procedure.

### **Contents of Complaints and Timelines for Filing**

Complaints under this Grievance Procedure must be filed within 30 school days of the alleged discrimination. The complaint must be in writing. The Grievance Administrator or any person of the grievant's choosing, may assist the grievant with filing the complaint. The written complaint must include the following information:

1. The name and school (or address and telephone number if not a student or employee) of the grievant.
2. The name (and address and telephone number if not a student or employee) of the grievant's representative, if any.
3. The name of the person(s) alleged to have caused the discrimination or harassment (respondent).
4. A description, in as much detail as possible, of the alleged discrimination or harassment.
5. The date(s) of the alleged discrimination or harassment.
6. The name of all persons who have knowledge about the alleged discrimination or harassment (witnesses), as can be reasonably determined.
7. A description, in as much detail as possible, of how the grievant wants the complaint to be resolved.

### **Investigation and Resolution of the Complaint**

Respondents will be informed of the charges as soon as the Grievance Administrator deems appropriate based upon the nature of the allegations, the investigation required, and the action contemplated.

The Grievance Administrator will interview witnesses whom s/he deems necessary and appropriate to determine the facts relevant to the complaint, and will gather other relevant information. Such interviews and gathering of information will be completed within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the complaint.

Within twenty (20) school days of receiving the complaint, the Grievance Administrator will meet with the grievant and/or her/his representative to review the information gathered and, if applicable, to propose a resolution designed to stop the discrimination or harassment and to correct its effect. Within five (5) school days of the meeting with the grievant and/or representative, the Grievance Administrator will provide written disposition of the complaint to the grievant and/or representative and to the respondent(s).

Notwithstanding the above, it is understood that in the event a resolution contemplated by the school involves disciplinary action against an employee or a student, the complainant will not be informed of such disciplinary action, unless it directly involves the complainant (i.e., a directive to "stay away" from the complainant, as might occur as a result of a complaint of harassment).

Any disciplinary action imposed upon an employee or student is subject to applicable procedural requirements.

All the time lines specified above will be implemented as specified, unless the nature of the investigation or exigent circumstances prevent such implementation, in which case, the matter will be completed as quickly as practicable. If the time lines specified above are not met, the reason(s) for not meeting them must be clearly documented. In addition, it should be noted that in the event the respondent is subject to a collective bargaining agreement which sets forth a specific time line for notice and/or investigation of a complaint, such time lines will be followed.

Confidentiality of grievants/respondents and witnesses will be maintained, to the extent consistent with the school's obligations relating to investigation of complaints and the due process rights of individuals affected.

Retaliation against someone because he/she has filed a complaint under this Grievance Procedure is strictly prohibited. Acts of retaliation may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion/discharge.

## **Appeals**

If the grievant is not satisfied with a disposition by a Grievance Administrator, the grievant may appeal the disposition to the Board of Trustees, as follows:

Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
Brooke Charter School  
190 Cummins Highway  
Roslindale, MA 02131  
617-325-7977

The Board of Trustees will issue a written response on the appeal to the grievant within ten (10) school days of receiving the appeal.

Generally, a grievant may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education through the following contact information:

U.S. Department of Education  
8th Floor

5 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109-3921  
Telephone: (617) 289-0111  
Facsimile: (617) 289-0150  
Email: [OCR.Boston@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Boston@ed.gov)

1. Within 180 calendar days of alleged discrimination of harassment, or
2. Within 60 calendar days of receiving notice of the school's final disposition on a complaint filed through the school, or
3. Within 60 calendar days of receiving a final decision by the Massachusetts Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education Appeals, or
4. Instead of filing a complaint with the school.

## **HAZING**

### Massachusetts Anti-Hazing Law

*MGL c. 269, Section 17. Hazing; organizing or participating; hazing defined.*

Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action. *(Amended by 1987, 665.)*

*MGL c. 269, Section 18. Failure to report hazing.*

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars. *(Amended by 1987, 665.)*

*MGL c. 269, Section 19. Copy of secs. 17--19; issuance to students and student groups, teams and organizations; report.*

Section 19. Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization

which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen. and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post- secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post- secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report. *(Amended by 1987, 665.)*

## ***INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT): APPROPRIATE USE POLICY***

### ***IT Appropriate Use: Policy Statement***

Violations of the Appropriate Use Guidelines may result in the revocation of a student's access privileges to Information Technology (including, but not limited to, digital devices and services, computer equipment and software, and School-assigned emails) for a period of time up to one School year and other disciplinary action in accordance with the Brooke Charter School (the "School") Code of Conduct. It is expected that all students and families signing Appendix I: "Acknowledgement of Access to Handbook" are also confirming having read this Appropriate Use Policy (AUP).

Any student who utilizes the computer lab(s) or any digital equipment at the School, or provided by the School, must be aware of certain policies for use of the equipment and/or facilities. Procedures are in place for the protection of students and equipment. Students will be held accountable for any violation of the following policies in accordance with the Code of Conduct.



Students are only allowed to utilize the computers, School-assigned student emails, and the information technology (IT) network to retrieve information and run specific software applications as directed by their instructor or School administrator. Students are not permitted to explore the configuration of the computer, operating system or network, run programs not on the menu, or attempt any activity not specifically authorized by their instructor or a School administrator.

Students and families are responsible for ensuring that any CDs, memory sticks, USB flash drives, or other forms of storage media that they bring in from outside the School or use on School-provided devices are virus free and do not contain any unauthorized or inappropriate files.

If appropriate for the student's grade level, the School may make Google Apps for Education available for use. Google Apps for Education is a suite of free, web-based programs that includes document creation, shared calendars, and collaboration tools. Students in using Google Apps for Education will also have access to School-assigned student email accounts.

### The Internet

The Internet is a global network linking computers around the world. Internet use provides valuable opportunities for research, curriculum support, and career development. Brooke Charter School offers Internet access to students and staff. The primary purpose of providing access to the Internet is to support the educational mission of the school. The school expects that students and staff will use this access in a manner consistent with this purpose.

While the Internet is a tremendous resource for electronic information, it has the potential for abuse. The school makes no guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding the factual reliability of data available over the Internet. Users of the school's Internet service assume full responsibility for any costs, liabilities, or damages arising from the way they choose to use their access to the Internet.

### Appropriate Use Guidelines

Students are required to comply with the following guidelines with respect to use of the School's technology, equipment, School-assigned emails, and digital services:

1. Any on-line communication should always be at the direction and with the supervision of an instructor or School administrator.
2. Never provide last name, address, telephone number, or School name online.
3. Never respond to, and always report to the instructor, School administrator or parent, any messages that make you feel uncomfortable or that are from an unknown origin.
4. Never send a photo of yourself or anyone else.
5. Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you met on-line.
6. Never open attachments or files from unknown senders.
7. Always report to a teacher any inappropriate sites that you observe being accessed by another user or that you browse to accidentally.

Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited, to the following:

1. Accessing, sending, creating or posting materials or communications that are:
  - a. Damaging to another person's reputation
  - b. Abusive
  - c. Obscene
  - d. Sexually oriented
  - e. Threatening or demeaning to another person

- f. Contrary to the School's policy on harassment or Code of Conduct
  - g. Harassing, or Bullying
  - h. Illegal
2. Using the network for financial gain or advertising.
  3. Posting or plagiarizing work created by another person without his/her consent.
  4. Posting anonymous or forging electronic mail messages.
  5. Attempting to read, alter, delete, or copy the electronic mail messages, documents, or files of other system users.
  6. Giving out personal information such as phone numbers, addresses, driver's license or social security numbers, bankcard or checking account information.
  7. Using the School's computer hardware or network for any illegal activity such as copying or downloading copyrighted software, music or images, or violation of copyright laws.
  8. Downloading, installing, or using games, music files, public domain, shareware or any other unauthorized program on any School computer or computer system.
  9. Purposely bringing on premises or infecting any School computer or network with a Virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy or provide access to unauthorized data or information.
  10. Gaining access or attempting to access unauthorized or restricted network resources or the data and documents of another person.
  11. Using or attempting to use the password or account of another person or utilizing a computer while logged on under another user's account.
  12. Using the School's computers or network while access privileges have been suspended.
  13. Using the School's computer hardware, network, or Internet link in a manner that is inconsistent with an instructor's or administrator's directions and generally accepted network etiquette.
  14. Altering or attempting to alter the configuration of a computer, network electronics, the operating system, or any of the software.
  15. Attempting to vandalize, disconnect or disassemble any digital device, computer, network hardware, or related components.
  16. Any student who utilizes the computer lab(s) or any digital equipment at the School, or provided by the School, must be aware of certain policies for use of the equipment and/or facilities.
  17. Utilizing the computers and network to retrieve information or run software applications not assigned by an instructor or School administrator or inconsistent with School policy.
  18. Connecting to or installing any computer hardware, components, or software which is not School system property or in Brooke Charter School technology resources without prior approval of Brooke Charter School's IT Service Provider and School administrators.
  19. Bringing on premises any disk or storage device that contains a software application or utility that could be used to alter the configuration of the operating system or network equipment, scan or probe the network, or provide access to unauthorized areas or data.
  20. Downloading or accessing via e-mail or file sharing, any software or programs not specifically authorized by teacher or other authorized Brooke Charter School staff member.
  21. Bypassing or attempting to circumvent network security, virus protection, network filtering, or policies.
  22. Possessing or accessing information on School property related to "Hacking", or altering, or bypassing network security or policies.
  23. Participating on message boards without direction from an instructor or administrator.
  24. Students may use the School computer system only for legitimate educational purposes, which include class work and independent research that is similar to the subjects and content studied in School. Students shall not access entertainment sites, such as social networking sites or gaming sites, except for legitimate educational purposes under the supervision of a teacher or other professional.
  25. All student use of the School network and Internet system or personal cell phones or other digital devices used by students while on campus is subject to the provisions of the School's Code of Conduct and related policies. Students may not share or post personal information about, or images of, any other student, staff member or employee without permission from that student, staff member or employee.
  26. Students should follow the guidelines for searching that utilize safe search engines and technology.

### Safety Issues

Use of the Internet has potential dangers. Users are encouraged to read two brochures regarding Internet safety that the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office has prepared. The brochures are entitled *The Internet, Your Child and You: What Every Parent Should Know* and *Internet Safety: Advice from Kids Who Have Faced Danger Online*. Copies of these brochures are available in the on the Internet at [www.ago.state.ma.us](http://www.ago.state.ma.us) or can be provided by the school upon request.

The following are basic safety rules pertaining to all types of Internet applications.

- Never reveal *any* identifying information such as last names, ages, addresses, phone numbers, parents' names, parents' employers or work addresses, or photographs;
- Use the "back" key whenever you encounter a site that you believe is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable;
- Immediately tell a teacher if you receive a message that you believe is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable; and
- Never share your password or use another person's password. Internet passwords are provided for each user's personal use only. If you suspect that someone has discovered your password, you should change it immediately and notify a teacher.

### Privacy

Users should not have an expectation of privacy or confidentiality in the content of electronic communications or other computer files sent and received on the school computer network or stored in the user's directory or on a disk drive. The school reserves the right to examine all data stored on diskettes involved in the user's use of the school's Internet service.

Internet messages are public communication and are not private. All communications including text and images may be disclosed to law enforcement or other third parties without prior consent of the sender or the receiver. Network administrators may review communications to maintain integrity system-wide and ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

### Violations

Access to the school's Internet and technology services is a privilege not a right. The school reserves the right to deny, revoke or suspend specific user privileges and/or to take other disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion (students), or dismissal (staff) for violations of this policy. The school will advise appropriate law enforcement agencies of illegal activities conducted through the school's Internet service. The school also will cooperate fully with local, state, and/or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through the service.

### Parental/Guardian Authorization of Use

Unless a parent/guardian of a Brooke student specifies otherwise to the Principal of the School, the parent/guardian agrees to the following:

1. Allowing their child to have access to Information Technology (including, but not limited to, digital devices and services, computer equipment and software, and School-assigned

emails) the Internet, Google Apps for Education and Internet-based services through Brooke Charter School,

2. Understanding that Brooke Charter School cannot guarantee the appropriateness of information or material that their child may encounter on the Internet.
3. Shall not hold Brooke Charter School responsible for materials acquired on-line by their child, for violations of copyright restrictions, any costs incurred by their child, or negligent acts by their child while using the internet.

## APPENDICES

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The following appendices are included in the handbook to provide additional information to parents and guardians, and to satisfy Federal Title I requirements.

## **APPENDIX A: BROOKE CHARTER SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

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### ***Objective***

With the interest of student achievement in mind, the Schoolwide Plan Committee has developed the following Parent Involvement Policy. The goal of this policy is to provide parents with the information, resources, and opportunities necessary to support their students and to monitor their progress.

### ***Development and Review***

As a matter of policy, the Schoolwide Plan, this Parent Involvement Policy, and the Contract of Mutual Responsibilities will be reviewed in the Spring of each year by the Parent Involvement Committee, which will recommend revisions to the Schoolwide Plan Committee.

### ***School Policy: Parental Input***

At the beginning of each school year, the school will oversee the organization of a Parental Involvement Council. The council will be open to participation from all parents of children attending the school and will meet regularly. The council will provide parents with the opportunity to plan and participate in school-wide events as well as provide parents with the opportunity to provide input and feedback on important school policies.

### ***Keeping Parents Informed and Involved***

In order to ensure that parents have the information necessary to monitor the performance of their students, the school will take the following measures each year:

- Distribute a Student and Family Handbook to each newly enrolled family describing school policies and procedures in organized and detailed fashion, and annually providing an "Acknowledgement of Access to Handbook" form to all Brooke families to verify the availability and location of the Student and Family Handbook
- Conduct mandatory orientation sessions prior to the start of each school year for new students and their families. During these orientation sessions, a representative of the school will review the most important elements of the Student and Family Handbook with new families;
- Provide a regularly distributed progress report;
- Provide parents the opportunity to meet and confer with each of their child's teachers during parent conference sessions scheduled following the issuance of each of the report cards of the first two academic trimesters; and
- Provide parents with the telephone extensions and email addresses of each of their child's teachers and pledge that all telephone calls received by the school by the close of the school day will be returned within 24 hours.

### ***School-Parent Compact***

ALL new parents sign the Contract of Mutual Responsibilities in conjunction with a school representative. The compact will be reviewed each year in conjunction with the Parent Involvement Committee. See the enclosed contract within this Handbook for details.

### ***Parents Right To Know***

The Student and Family Handbook will include a section informing all parents that they have the right to request the following information on their child's teachers:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;

- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, including the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

## **APPENDIX B: BROOKE CHARTER SCHOOL TITLE I SCHOOLWIDE PLAN**

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### **BASIS FOR ELIGIBILITY**

#### **As of this School Year,**

- 77% of students at Brooke Charter Schools qualify as low-income.

### **PLAN REVIEW**

Following the release of MCAS and/or PARCC data for each Brooke School campus, the school's Co-Directors lead a review of the Schoolwide Plan for the schools, with attention given to adapting the plan to reflect the needs and circumstances of each of the four campuses in the Brooke Charter School network.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The mission of Brooke Charter School is to provide an academically rigorous education to students from the city of Boston which will prepare them to succeed in college. As such, the goal of the Brooke Schoolwide Plan is to help students make significant and measurable gains in academic achievement.

### **CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS**

As an independent local education agency (LEA) operating its own schoolwide plan, Brooke Charter School consolidates funds from federal entitlement grants into a schoolwide pool so that those funds can be allocated to meet the objectives of the schoolwide plan. The schoolwide pool is synonymous with the school's annual budget and draws on state tuition, federal entitlement grants, and private fundraising as its sources of income. All other revenues outlined in the budget have dictated corresponding expenditures (i.e. federal school nutrition revenues and expenditures, student fees, etc.). Brooke Charter School will allocate the full allocated FY17 grant amounts for Title I and Title IIA to the schoolwide pool.

### **COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT (Means for Measuring Outcomes)**

In order to measure gains in student achievement, we have identified two primary assessment components at Brooke School:

The first and most central assessment mechanisms are the MCAS and PARCC exams administered annually in each grade starting in third grade. As the only assessments available which are completely aligned with the state curriculum frameworks, MCAS and PARCC results serve a central function, and are therefore featured prominently in the school's accountability plan.

In addition, we rely heavily on the STEP Assessment to assess reading achievement in all grades, K-7, but particularly in the early elementary grades.

At the High School level (Grades 9-12) curriculum for core courses will be designed backward from AP and ACT benchmarks, with a particularly high bar for writing proficiency. Despite the fact that the SAT is the predominant college admission test in the Northeast, Brooke will use the ACT for two primary reasons: (1) the SAT is in flux and therefore hard to plan backwards from, and (2) the ACT has an existing and established set of interim assessments going back to 8<sup>th</sup> grade (ACT-Explore) and continuing through to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (ACT-PLAN) that can be used to determine ACT growth from year to year. Brooke will not plan backwards from MCAS or PARCC assessments.

### **ANTICIPATED MEASURABLE OUTCOMES**



The success of the implementation of the Brooke Schoolwide Plan will be measured by the extent to which each school has met the annual academic achievement goals identified in its Accountability Plan.

## **PLAN COMPONENTS**

### **A) Increased Time Devoted to Learning**

Results from the first baseline administration of the Stanford 9 exams at Brooke Roslindale demonstrated that students, on average, enter Brooke School significantly below grade level in both mathematics and reading. Bringing students up to grade level and beyond will require several measures, but all of those will depend on a commitment by students, teachers, and parents alike to work hard.

Consequently, all campuses have instituted calendars with a longer school year than required by state law and a daily schedule which includes significantly more academic instructional time.

#### **Grades K-7 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)**

Roslindale: 7:45am – 4:00am

Mattapan: 7:45am – 4:00pm

East Boston: 7:45am – 4:00pm

#### **Grades K-7 (Wednesday)**

Roslindale: 7:45am – 12:30pm

Mattapan: 7:45am – 12:30pm

East Boston: 7:45 a.m. – 12:30pm

#### **Grades 8-12 (Monday)**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy: 9:45am – 4:00pm

Brooke High: 9:45am – 3:45pm

#### **Grades 8-12 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy: 7:45 a.m. – 4:00pm

Brooke High: 8:00am – 3:45pm

Brooke students in grades K-7 are dismissed at 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday, and students in grades 8-12 have a late arrival of 9:45 a.m. every Monday, in order to provide teachers with regular times to meet and conduct professional development activities.

### **B) Focus on Data**

We rely heavily on the administration of regular internal benchmark tests, aligned with Brooke standards, Massachusetts state standards, and featuring previously released MCAS, PARCC, AP and ACT items in order to track student progress. The Principals, Assistant Principals, and Classroom Teachers meet in small teams regularly to analyze those assessment results and to create detailed tutoring plans for all students on the basis of those results.

Teachers in all grades track standards mastery through customized spreadsheets delineating the school's "power standards" in every subject at every grade level. Report cards and progress reports are in turn based on the rubric scores in these spreadsheets.

### **C) Identifying and Supporting Struggling Students**

In order to ensure that students are learning to their full potential, we believe that teachers must employ a two-front approach. The first front involves providing masterful whole class instruction by developing a standards-based course of study and thoughtful and detailed lessons which serve that course of study. The second front is the act of following up that masterful instruction with targeted individual student support, based on detailed understanding of what each student knows and does not know.

"Second front" instruction takes place during the independent work segments of class time and during designated tutoring blocks. Whether it be during class time, or in the course of working with small tutoring groups, teachers provide individualized "second front" instruction by using formative and summative assessment data to make lists of areas of weaknesses for each individual student. Those lists are in turn used to provide an outline and agenda for providing targeted one-on-one assistance to each student.

Our ability to address the diverse learning needs of our student population rests on the skill, ability, and insight of our teachers. Brooke teachers structure their lessons to allow access by students with a variety of ability levels and skills. Regular class visits and consultations from the principals throughout the school year include a focus on meeting the varied learning needs of our students.

Students who exhibit chronic difficulty completing their homework assignments in satisfactory fashion are required to attend homework sessions after school until those students are able to improve their homework performance. During this after-school time, students who are struggling the most to meet the school's homework standard are monitored closely by the supervising teacher, are instructed in how to manage their workload, are provided with tutoring as necessary, and are required to complete all assignments before being dismissed.

Students who exhibit chronic difficulty organizing materials are given organization check-in. During these brief weekly meetings, teachers provide students with assistance with organizing materials, color coding by subject, cleaning out backpacks, etc.

Students identified as homeless (either self-reporting, or through case management), will receive transportation support in cooperation with the sending district (if outside of Boston), as well as counseling support as necessary, uniform support, and/or free or reduced afterschool programming if requested by the family. Brooke staff will work cooperatively with case managers and/or social workers supporting the student and family.

### **Progress Reports**

Any student that has a grade lower than a C- in one of their courses will receive a Tri-Weekly Progress Report. This report provides a snapshot of your child's grades, any demerits earned, and their tardies and absences for this time period. You may receive the first Tri-Weekly Progress Reports starting the week of September 16th.

The purpose of these progress reports is to ensure parents are aware of any changes in academic or behavior performance before the end of a quarter or semester.

If your child is a ninth grade student and has a grade of D+ or lower in any class on any progress report, he or she will need to attend Saturday Academy for the following three weeks.

If you notice a decline in your child's grades please follow up with the individual teacher or your child's advisor. You may also contact Ms. Tiffany Fenton in the Main Office (617-874-5515) concerning any attendance errors.

As a reminder, a grade of F means that no credits were earned for that class. Failing a course this semester will require your child to attend summer school to recover the unearned credits.

Failing a course for both semesters will require your child to repeat the course the following school year to recover the unearned credits.

## **Saturday School**

At Brooke, we are committed to setting all of our students up for success in high school and college. As a result, we have decided to create a Saturday Academy for all 9th grade students who have a D or F in any class. Saturday Academy is mandatory for your child until he/she earns a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. During Saturday School, your child will have an opportunity to complete all of his/her weekend homework and complete extra credit assignments. If your child attends Saturday School every week and works hard, there is a good chance that your child will be promoted to the 10th grade. If your child does not attend Saturday School, there is a good chance that your child will need to repeat the 9th grade.

Saturday School will run from 8:00am-11:00am. During that time, students will receive instruction in reading, writing, math and science. There will also be a 60 minute study hall at the end of the morning, giving students the opportunity to complete all of their weekend homework.

Students do not need to wear the Brooke uniform to Saturday School, but our behavior code will be fully enforced. Saturday School will be run by 9th grade teachers who know the students well. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide transportation to and from Saturday School. Breakfast and snack will be provided.

Should you have any questions about Saturday School, please contact Joe Valentine-White (Assistant Principal) at [jvalentine-white@ebrooke.org](mailto:jvalentine-white@ebrooke.org) or Vicky Brito (Saturday School Director) at [vbrito@ebrooke.org](mailto:vbrito@ebrooke.org).

## **D) Challenging Advanced Students**

Because we do not track our classes on the basis of academic ability, it is important that we pay particular attention to challenging our most advanced students. In all grade levels, teachers monitor the reading level of every student and ensure that at all times, students are reading books at the appropriate reading level, and that all students are being challenged to the appropriate extent. In math classes, many teachers provide “challenge-work” to our most advanced students (work that is related to the concepts/skills being learned by the class as a whole but which further extends the relevant concept or an application.)

## **E) Attracting and Retaining High-Quality and Highly-Qualified Teachers**

In order to ensure that the school is able to attract and retain teachers of the highest possible quality, the school is currently carrying out all of the following measures:

- Teachers are provided with extensive administrative support, particularly in the area of classroom and school-wide discipline, such that teachers are able to focus more on teaching and less on managing individual classroom behavior-management systems; and
- Teachers are provided with an extensive professional development program (details below).
- The principal closely monitors student achievement results and provides ongoing coaching to ensure that all students are making adequate progress.
- Teachers are required to comply with state and federal regulations pertaining to Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure and Sheltered English Immersion endorsement.

## **F) Professional Development**

All of the professional development activities are both building-based and district-based. The schools schedule early release days on Wednesdays in order to schedule regular meetings and supplementary professional development activities.

**The schools conduct four regular professional development activities, all-school-based, and all taking place on early-release Wednesdays:**

- Video Analysis – each week teachers meet in small groups to view and discuss a teaching video of a colleague
- Lesson Study – our subject area departments engage in two cycles of Japanese “lesson study” each year, meeting to research, plan, teach, and critique a lesson on a pivotal standard within the curriculum;
- Peer Observation – our teachers conduct two cycles of peer observations and follow-up discussions in the first half of each school-year; and
- Benchmark Data Analysis and Standards Mastery Analysis – our teachers engage in a set of procedures surrounding benchmark data and standards mastery analysis and reflection (5-6 times per year).

### **G) Plan for Parent Involvement**

School policies to facilitate parental involvement and delineating parental rights and responsibilities were developed by school founders in conjunction with school administrators and teachers. These policies are made available to parents in each school's Student and Family Handbook, which is issued to all families at the beginning of each school year. The Brooke Schoolwide Plan will also be posted on the school's website.

Parents are able to make recommendations for improving these through each school's Parent Involvement Council or alternately by a direct request to the school principal. The Brooke Schoolwide Plan is presented each year for review to each school's Parent Involvement Council.

Those policies requiring the greatest contributions from parents are also delineated in each school's Contract of Mutual Responsibilities which all families are required to sign in conjunction with a representative of the school. The contract is reviewed and discussed in depth with parents at each school's summer orientation sessions which are held prior to the start of each school year. Parents are able to recommend changes to the contract through each school's Parent Involvement Council.

Among other things the contract delineates parents' responsibilities for:

- Providing a quiet place for their child to complete nightly homework assignments;
- Checking their child's homework planner nightly (where students are required to record their nightly assignments) and signing the planner to indicate that their child has completed those assignments;
- Reading with their child regularly;
- Attending parent conferences regularly;
- Maintaining regular communication with their child's teacher or advisor; and
- Signing weekly progress reports.

Parent conferences are held at the close of each of the first two marking terms and are available to all parents. Parents of students who failed one or more of their major academic classes in any given term are notified individually that their attendance is requested at the conference session.

The only objective measure of the effectiveness of parent involvement is a measure of student achievement. However, because many other factors also impact student achievement, each school conducts annual year-end surveys to parents asking them to gauge the extent an effectiveness of their own involvement over the previous year. The School Principal, in conjunction with teachers, administrators, and the Parent Involvement Council conducts a year-end review of the extent and effectiveness of current parent involvement policies.

### **H) Coordination with Other Federal Programs**

**Federal Nutrition** - Brooke Charter School provides free and reduced price lunch to students with federal support and under federal guidelines, as well as a school breakfast and afternoon snack program.

**Teacher Quality** – In addition to our other efforts to ensure teacher quality (described in Part II – Required Program Information), Brooke continues to operate a “master teacher program”, which was funded in part by federal support through the Federal Teacher Quality Entitlement Grant (Title II: Fund Code 140).

**Safe and Drug Free Schools** – Brooke does not receive funds under Safe and Drug Free Schools.

**Special Education** – Brooke Charter School provides extensive special education services, with federal support through the special education entitlement grants made available through the Massachusetts D.E.S.E.

## **APPENDIX C: TITLE I SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT POLICY**

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Federal regulations dictate that Title I funds may not take the place of—supplant—public education services that are to be provided to all students. Brooke Charter School uses Title I funds according to Schoolwide Program guidelines. Title I funds are used only to supplement and increase the level of funds that would, in the absence of Title I funds, be made available from non-Federal sources for the education of our students.

## **APPENDIX D: PARENTAL RIGHTS UNDER SPECIAL EDUCATION LAWS**

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Parents have the right to obtain printed materials on rights of parents and guardians under federal and state Special Education laws.

Parents who refuse to provide the school with access to their private insurance do not relieve the school of its responsibility to provide all required services at no cost to the parent.

## APPENDIX E: BROOKE CHARTER SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

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### Objective

Brooke Charter Schools is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is our policy that:

- All students will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis;
- Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the *U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans*;
- We will participate in available federal school meal programs (including the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program);
- We will provide health education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity; and
- Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to provide input on all of the above through the network-wide Wellness Committee.

### TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

#### I. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Brooke Charter Schools Wellness Policy will be published each year in the Student and Family Handbook and on the Brooke Charter Schools website. The Policy will be subject to review by the Brooke Charter Schools Wellness Committee.

#### II. NUTRITIONAL QUALITY OF FOODS AND BEVERAGES SOLD AND SERVED ON CAMPUS

##### School Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- Be appealing and attractive to children;
- Be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations; and
- Offer a variety of fruits and vegetables.

##### Breakfast

To ensure that all children have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn, Brooke Charter Schools will:

- Operate the School Breakfast Program;
- Arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation; and
- Notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program.

##### Free and Reduced-Priced Meals

Brooke Charter Schools will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.



## **Snacks**

Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health in accordance with snack guidelines provided via the National School Lunch Program.

## **Sale of Individual Food and Beverage Items**

Foods and beverages will not be sold individually or separately from the school lunch, breakfast, or snack programs (e.g., foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte [snack] lines, school stores, etc.) except in the instance of school-based fundraisers.

Sales of food for the purpose of fundraising at schools (e.g. a bake sale to raise money for a student trip) will be held *in moderation*, and with a focus on providing food that will both help raise money as well as be a healthy option for students. When it is known that the food being sold would not be considered a healthy option, every effort will be made to ensure the sale of this food is not done in a way that would compete with existing healthy food programs provided by the school (e.g.- breakfast, lunch, snack, etc.). The school will also make every effort to ensure that such fundraisers are appropriately spaced in terms of the school calendar to support students in making healthy choices. School-based Directors of Operations will have final approval for school-based fundraising events involving the sale of food in order to help them ensure their school complies with this Policy.

## **Food-Based Student Celebrations**

There may be instances where the presence of non-healthy food options are allowed in schools to support the building of student culture during various school-based student celebrations (e.g.- pizza for a class after end of year testing, student birthday parties, etc.). Every effort will be made to ensure healthy options are available at such celebrations (e.g.- smoothies, fruit, etc.). In the event that celebrations would include unhealthy food items, every effort will be made to ensure that these events are appropriately spaced over the calendar year to ensure moderation of unhealthy food consumption (e.g.- grouping all student birthday celebrations into one celebration at the end of each month). School-based Directors of Operations will have final approval for school-based student celebrations involving food in order to help them ensure their school complies with this Policy.

## **III. NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROMOTION AND FOOD MARKETING**

Brooke Charter Schools will teach, encourage, and support students' healthy eating by providing health education as part of the physical education and/or character education curriculum. Health education topics will include:

- Equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Promoting fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices; and
- Emphasizing caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise).

## **Food Marketing in Schools**

Brooke Charter Schools will limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually.

## **IV. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

## **Curricular Programs**

Elementary school students will:

- Engage in regular, moderate to vigorous physical activity through Physical Education and Dance classes, taught at least twice per week;
- Be provided with 20 minutes per day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors; during this time, schools will encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity, both verbally and through the provision of space and equipment;
- Learn a physical education curriculum through Physical Education classes.

Middle school students will:

- Have the opportunity to engage in regular, moderate to vigorous physical activity through Physical Education and Dance elective classes;
- Have the opportunity to learn a physical education curriculum through Physical Education classes.

## **Extracurricular Programs**

Elementary and middle school students will:

- Have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular programs involving physical activity, such as intramural athletics or physical activity clubs; and
- Have the opportunity to engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity during after-school child care and enrichment programs; during this time, schools will encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity, both verbally and through the provision of space, equipment, and activities.

High school students will:

- Engage in regular, moderate to vigorous physical activity through team sports, per the mandatory sports participation graduation requirement.

## **V. Monitoring and Policy Review**

### **Monitoring**

Brooke Charter Schools' Co-Directors or their designee will ensure compliance with established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. The Co-Directors or their designee will facilitate regular review of the Wellness Policy through the Brooke Charter Schools Wellness Committee, including evaluation.

## APPENDIX F: SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY

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### I. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The following full-length or abbreviated Non-Discrimination Statement must be included on any Brooke Charter Schools (BCS) document that references the BCS School Nutrition Program, including the School Breakfast Program, the National School Lunch Program, or the Afterschool Snack Program. The full-length statement is required for the following materials: agency publications (handbooks, newsletters); agency website; print advertisements (flyers, posters); and meal benefit applications and letters.

The statement must be used with the exact language and format shown below; and the font size must be the same as the majority of the other text in the document.

#### A. Full-Length Statement

“In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

#### B. Abbreviated Statement

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

### II. CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

All BCS School Nutrition Program participants, potential participants, and members of the public alleging discrimination have the right to file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action. Discrimination occurs when an individual or group of individuals are:

- Delayed benefits or services
- Denied benefits or services
- Treated differently than others, to their disadvantage
- Given disparate treatment

Individuals or groups of individuals will never be discouraged from filing complaints or voicing allegations of discrimination.

Complaints may be written or verbal. Complaints may be filed anonymously or by a third party. Complaints may be filed with Brooke Charter Schools; with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; or with the Federal U.S. Department of Agriculture.

#### *A. Filing a Complaint with BCS*

Complaints may be filed with Brooke Charter Schools by contacting the BCS Civil Rights Coordinator, listed below. Confidentiality will be maintained in all instances, and complaints will be handled as expeditiously as possible.

Mark Loring, Chief Operating Officer  
190 Cummins Highway  
Roslindale, MA 02131  
(617) 325-7977  
[mloring@ebrooke.org](mailto:mloring@ebrooke.org)

When receiving a complaint, the Civil Rights Coordinator will utilize the following procedure:

1. Make every effort to collect the relevant information, including:
  - a. Name, address, and telephone number or other means of contacting the complainant,
  - b. The specific location and name of the State agency, local agency, or other subrecipient delivering the service or benefit,
  - c. The nature of the incident or action that led the complainant to feel discrimination was a factor, and an example of the method of administration that is having a disparate effect on the public, potential eligible persons, applicants, or participants,
  - d. The basis on which the complainant believes discrimination exists,
  - e. The names, telephone numbers, titles, and business or personal addresses of persons who may have knowledge of the alleged discriminatory action, and
  - f. The date(s) during which the alleged discriminatory actions occurred or, if continuing, the duration of such actions.
2. In the event of a verbal complaint, document the elements of the complaint in writing on behalf of the complainant.
3. Document the complaint in the Civil Rights Complaint Log.
4. Forward the complaint to the state or federal level, as appropriate (see guidance below).
5. Initiate a district level Alternate Dispute Resolution process, as appropriate (see guidance below).

Complaints filed with BCS which cite one of the seven Federal protected bases listed in Section B below will be forwarded to the USDA. Complaints filed with BCS which cite one of the four state protected bases listed in Section C below will be forwarded to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The BCS Civil Rights Coordinator will attempt to resolve all other civil rights complaints at the district level using Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR), per USDA recommendation. ADR is the use of a neutral third party (usually a person acting as a facilitator) to resolve informally a complaint of discrimination through use of various techniques such as fact finding, mediation, peer panels, facilitation, ombudsman support, or conciliation.

If a complaint is not resolved at the district level, the Civil Rights Coordinator shall notify the complainant of the option to contact and/or forward his/her complaint to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or the Federal USDA.

#### *B. Filing a Complaint with the USDA*

All civil rights complaints that cite Federal protected bases regarding race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA must be submitted directly through the USDA Food Nutrition Services (FNS).

Please follow the instructions below:

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

All civil rights complaint forms received at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be logged and forwarded to the USDA.

#### *C. Filing a Complaint with the Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education*

All other civil rights complaints that cite Commonwealth of Massachusetts (state) protected bases regarding homelessness, gender identity, sexual orientation, and religion ([M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5](#)) can be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) through ESE's Problem Resolution System Office:

Problem Resolution System Office  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148-4906

Telephone: 781-338-3700  
TTY: N.E.T. Relay: 1-800-439-2370  
Fax: 781-338-3710  
Email: [compliance@doe.mass.edu](mailto:compliance@doe.mass.edu)

For individuals who do not write or speak English, or are not comfortable communicating in English, the Department will make appropriate arrangements.

For more information about the Department's Problem Resolution System please call 781-338-3700, 1-800-439-2370 (TTY: N.E.T. Relay), or visit the [Problem Resolution System page](#).

## **APPENDIX G: OFFER VERSUS SERVE POLICY**

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### **I. Meal Service**

#### *A. Offer Versus Serve*

The Brooke Charter Schools (BCS) School Nutrition Program shall provide meal service to students using the USDA Offer Versus Serve (OVS) provision.

#### *B. Reimbursable Meals*

Meals shall only be counted as reimbursable meals and claimed for reimbursement if they completely fulfill the OVS requirements. Brooke Charter Schools shall not serve non-reimbursable meals; i.e., if a student refuses to a) take at least three meal components and/or b) take the required ½ cup fruits/vegetables, then the meal will not be served. In accordance with USDA Offer Versus Serve Guidance, School Food Authorities have discretion in determining a policy for such situations.

### **II. Staff Training**

All BCS employees who are involved with meal service, i.e. BCS School Nutrition Directors, Managers, and Staff, shall receive training on Offer Versus Serve prior to the beginning of each school year. Training topics must include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Understanding what constitutes a reimbursable meal
- Understanding the number of required meal components/food items for a reimbursable meal for both breakfast and lunch
- Understanding the Brooke Charter Schools policy concerning student refusal of meal components (per Section I.B of the BCS Offer Versus Serve Policy)

### **III. Student Awareness**

Each Brooke Charter School campus shall post signage at the meal service line which explains Offer Versus Serve to students.

Each BCS School Nutrition Manager shall ensure that students attending his/her campus understand how to select a reimbursable meal under OVS.

# APPENDIX H: BULLYING AND PREVENTION POLICY

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## I. LEADERSHIP & PROCESS

### Priority Statement

At Brooke Charter School, students are held to the highest behavioral standards and we work to foster a positive and safe learning environment.

The school is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment that is free from bullying and cyber-bullying. This commitment is an integral part of our comprehensive efforts to promote learning, and to prevent and eliminate all forms of bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior that can impede the learning process.

We understand that members of certain student groups, such as students with disabilities, students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, and homeless students may be more vulnerable to becoming targets of bullying, harassment, or teasing. The school will take specific steps to create a safe, supportive environment for vulnerable populations in the school community, and provide all students with the skills, knowledge, and strategies to prevent or respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

We will not tolerate any unlawful or disruptive behavior, including any form of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation, in our school buildings, on school grounds, or in school-related activities. We will investigate promptly all reports and complaints of bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation, and take prompt action to end that behavior and restore the target's sense of safety.

The Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan ("Plan") is a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying and cyber-bullying, and the school is committed to working with students, staff, families, law enforcement agencies, and the community to prevent issues of violence. We have established this Plan for preventing, intervening, and responding to incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation. The principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Plan.

In June 2013, the Massachusetts anti-bullying law (MGL chapter 71, section 37O) was amended in order to extend protections to students who are bullied by a member of the school staff, who are defined to include but are not limited to an "educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional." Based on these amendments, all districts and schools, including Brooke Charter School, have updated their Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans to reflect these changes.

### Needs Assessment

In an analysis undertaken at the original Brooke School, the Dean of Students found five instances of bullying and cyber-bullying took place over the previous two years, but found that there were no identifiable patterns by grade level or gender or sexual identity on the part of target or aggressor among those instances. The Dean found further that each of those instances resulted in strong consequences for the aggressor (out-of-school suspension in all cases). In only one instance was there a repeat offense of bullying on the part of the aggressor.

Each year, the Dean of Students will file and monitor incidents of bullying (using the bullying incident report form in each case) in order to track outcomes under the plan.

At least once every four years beginning with 2015/16 school year, the school will administer survey to assess school climate and the prevalence, nature, and severity of bullying in our schools. Additionally, the school



or district will annually report bullying incident data to the Department as required. Similar tools to the student survey can be used with faculty, staff, and parents/guardians to assist in determining school climate needs.

### **Plan Development and Input**

The Principal is responsible for developing the Bullying Prevention Plan and ensuring that the Plan is updated as necessary. The draft of the Plan will be posted on the school's website, and parents will be notified via the Student and Family Handbook of the opportunity to provide input on the plan.

The Principal will be responsible for planning professional development for staff around bullying prevention, implementing the character education curriculum (including its bullying prevention components), amending student and staff handbooks, and ensuring that families are informed of the Plan and have the opportunity to provide input on the Plan.

Brooke Charter School recognizes that certain students may be more vulnerable to become targets of bullying, harassment, or teasing based on actual or perceived characteristics, including race, sex, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, socio-economic status, housing status or homelessness, special need, physical appearance, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement, or by association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics. The school will identify specific steps it will take to create a safe, supportive environment for vulnerable populations in the school community, and provide all students with the skills, knowledge, and strategies to prevent or respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

Bullying is unacceptable and hurts individuals and the community. Acts of bullying may include: teasing, name calling, taunting, making threats, spreading rumors, excluding someone from a group on purpose, physical or verbal altercations, and other consistent aggressive behaviors. If you feel like you are being bullied, make sure to bring the problem to your teacher, the Dean of Students, the Principal, or any other staff member. Know that this school is a safe place and the adult you speak to will help you solve the problem and protect you and your privacy. Bullying is serious and there are serious consequences.

## **II. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Annual Staff Training – Procedures**

Each August, during pre-service orientation, staff will be trained in the following:

- An overview of the steps the Dean of Students will follow upon receipt of a report of bullying or retaliation, and
- Overview of our bullying prevention curriculum.

The Bullying Prevention Plan will also be printed in its entirety in the Staff Handbook.

All staff hired after the beginning of the school year will receive this training as part of their induction, unless they can show they have had the training in the last two years.

### **Ongoing Professional Development**

Staff will receive ongoing professional development with a focus on the following areas:

1. Age-appropriate strategies to prevent bullying;
2. Age-appropriate strategies for immediate, effective interventions to stop bullying;

3. Information regarding the complex interaction and power differential that can take place between and amongst aggressor, target, and witness;
4. Research findings on bullying, including information about specific categories of students who have been shown to be particularly at risk for bullying at school;
5. Information on the incidence and nature of cyber-bullying;
6. Internet safety issues as they relate to cyber-bullying; and
7. Ways to prevent and respond to bullying of students with disabilities (particularly those affecting social skills, like autism).

### **III. ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

#### **Identifying resources**

The school will make the school counselor available as necessary, to either or both the target and the aggressor in reactions to incidents of bullying. In the event that students require counseling in a language other than English, the school will arrange for counseling in the child's native language. In the event that the school is incapable of providing necessary services, the school's Director of Student Support will work with families to arrange for outside services.

The most important resource we have in creating a positive and healthy school climate is the development of strong relationships between students and the adults in our school. All of our efforts to develop and sustain a positive school climate are assets in this regard, including the maintenance of small "total-student-loads" for teachers, ensuring that classroom academic teachers are responsible for no more than thirty students and therefore have the capacity to develop strong relationships with each one.

For students on the autism spectrum, the IEP team will consider and specifically address the skills needed to avoid and respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

When an evaluation indicates a disability that affects social skills development, or when the student's disability makes him/her vulnerable to bullying, harassment or teasing, the IEP will be drafted to address the skills needed to avoid and respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

### **IV. ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

#### **Specific bullying prevention approaches**

The school's general approach to preventing bullying as reflected in the Bullying and Prevention Plan is incorporated into our character education program.

The bullying prevention elements in our curriculum are informed by research, which, among other things, emphasizes the following approaches:

- Knowing what to do when students witness an act of bullying, including seeking adult assistance;
- Helping students understand the dynamics of bullying and cyber-bullying, including the underlying power imbalance;
- Emphasizing cyber-safety;
- Enhancing student skills for engaging in healthy relationships and respectful communication; and
- Creating a safe and supportive school environment that is respectful of differences.

#### **General Teaching Approaches**

The following approaches are integral to establishing a safe and supportive school environment. These activities support our bullying intervention and prevention initiatives:

- Setting clear routines and clear behavioral expectations;
- Creating safe school and classroom environments for all students;
- Creating a positive and focused school culture;
- Developing positive adult relationships with students;
- Modeling appropriate behaviors and relationships for students; and
- Using the internet safely.

## **V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO BULLYING AND RETALIATION**

### **A1. Reporting Overview**

Reports of bullying or retaliation may be made by staff, students, parents or guardians, or others, and may be oral or written. All reports should be made or related to the Dean of Students. School staff members are required to transmit any reports directly to the Dean of Students. Reports can be made anonymously.

Information on reporting procedures will be made available each year to all students, families, and staff via the Staff Handbook and the Student and Family Handbook. Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **A2. Reporting by Staff**

A staff member will report any bullying incidents immediately to the Dean of Students in addition to following all other customary disciplinary procedures.

### **A3. Reporting by Students, Parents, or Guardians, and Others**

The school expects all members of the school community who witness an incident of bullying to report it to the Dean of Students. Reports may be made anonymously, but no disciplinary action will be taken against and alleged aggressor solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

## **B. Responding to a Report of Bullying or Cyber-bullying or Retaliation**

Before investigating, the Dean of Students will take steps to ensure safety of targets and witnesses.

Upon determining that an incident of bullying has taken place, the Dean of Students will notify parents of all involved parties as well as the Principal. Notice will be consistent with 603 CMR 49.00.

If the reported incident involves students from another school, the Principal will notify by telephone the Principal or designee of the other school(s) involved in the incident so that each school may take appropriate action.

If the Principal has reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor, the Principal will notify the police. Notice will be consistent with the requirements of 603 CMR 49.00. If an incident occurs on school grounds and involves a former student under the age of 21 who is no longer enrolled in the school, the Principal shall contact the police if he/she has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor.

## **C. Investigation**

The Dean of Students will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and in doing so will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved. The Dean will remind the alleged aggressor, target, and witnesses that retaliation is strictly

prohibited and will result in disciplinary action. To the extent possible, the Dean will maintain confidentiality during the process. The Dean will make a written record of the investigation.

#### **D. Determinations and Responses to Bullying**

The Dean of Students will make a determination based upon all the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the Dean will take steps to ensure:

1. The target and/or reporter (if different from the target) is made to feel safe and is in no way restricted in participating in school or benefitting from school activities. As part of this process, the Dean will meet with the target and his/her family in order to assess the target's need and to ensure the successful restoration of the target's safety, including a possible counseling referral; and
2. The aggressor faces stiff disciplinary action and that the aggressor and the family of the aggressor are given access to additional educational resources (including possible counseling referral) and further understand that any repeated instance will meet with increasingly severe consequences.

Discipline procedures for students with disabilities are governed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). All students will be provided with protection under the law and under this policy regardless of their legal status.

Within a reasonable period of time following the determination, the Dean will contact the target and/or reporter (if different from the target) to determine whether there has been a recurrence of the prohibited conduct and whether additional supportive measures are needed. If so, the Dean will work with appropriate school staff to implement them immediately.

The principal or their designee shall inform the parent or guardian of the target and the aggressor in incidents of bullying about the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's problem resolution system and the process for accessing that system, regardless of the outcome of the bullying determination. Any parent wishing to file a claim/concern or seeking assistance outside of the school may do so with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Program Resolution System (PRS). That information can be found at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa>, emails can be sent to [compliance@doe.mass.edu](mailto:compliance@doe.mass.edu) or individuals can call 781-338-3700. Hard copies of this information will also be made available by the Principal and/or the Co-Director(s) of Brooke Charter School.

#### **VI. COLLABORATION WITH FAMILIES**

The school will post its character education standards on the school website.

Each year, the school will include its Bullying Prevention Plan in its Student and Family Handbook (in the family's languages of preference) and will post it on its website.

#### **VII. PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING AND RETALIATION**

Acts of bullying, which include cyber-bullying, are prohibited:

- (i) On school grounds and property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function, or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased, or used by a school district or school; or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased, or used by a school district or school; and

- (ii) At a location, activity, function, or program that is not school-related through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by a school district or school, if the acts create a hostile environment at school for the target or witnesses, infringe on their rights at school, or materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying is also prohibited.

As stated in MGL c. 71, § 37O, nothing in this Plan requires the school to staff any non-school related activities, functions, or programs.

## VIII. DEFINITIONS

*Several of the following definitions are copied directly from MGL c. 71, § 37O, as noted below. Schools or districts may add specific language to these definitions to clarify them, but may not alter their meaning or scope. Plans may also include additional definitions that are aligned with local policies and procedures.*

Aggressor is a student or staff member who engages in bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation.

Bullying, as defined in MGL c. 71, § 37O, is the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- i. causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- ii. places the target in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or of damage to his or her property;
- iii. creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- iv. infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- v. Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Cyber-bullying, is bullying through the use of technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, and the Internet. It includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messages, text messages, and Internet postings. See MGL c. 71, § 37O for the legal definition of cyberbullying.

Hostile environment, as defined in MGL c. 71, § 37O, is a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of a student's education.

Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

Staff includes, but is not limited to, educators, administrators, counselors, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities, support staff, or paraprofessionals.

Target is a student against whom bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation has been perpetrated.

## IX. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS

Consistent with state and federal laws, and the policies of the school or district, no person shall be discriminated against in admission to the school or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and access to the courses of study programs, activities, and extracurricular activities of the school on account of race, sex, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, socio-economic status, housing status or homelessness, special need, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement. Nothing in the Plan prevents the school or district from taking action to remediate discrimination or harassment based on a person's membership in a legally protected category under local, state, or federal law, or school or district policies.

In addition, nothing in the Plan is designed or intended to limit the authority of the school or district to take disciplinary action or other action under MGL c. 71, §§ 37H or 37H½, other applicable laws, or local school or district policies in response to violent, harmful, or disruptive behavior, regardless of whether the Plan covers the behavior.

## APPENDIX I: CONTRACT OF MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

PARENT	STUDENT	SCHOOL
<p><b>As a Brooke Charter School parent, I agree to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make the school a safe and orderly environment by supporting the school as it enforces the school's code of conduct (as spelled out in the Student and Family Handbook), including policies regarding immediate conferences and the issuance of suspension.</li> <li>2. Ensure that my child arrives at school before 7:45 A.M. and attends school regularly. I have read the attendance policy in the Student and Family Handbook and understand the school's policy regarding lateness, excused and unexcused absences, and annual absences in excess of 15 days. I understand that 3 tardy arrivals will be counted as 1 absence.</li> <li>3. Ensure that my child wears the appropriate school uniform daily, as explained in the dress code section of the Student and Family Handbook.</li> <li>4. Communicate regularly with my child's teachers regarding my child's academic and behavioral performance and attend the following events at the school: August orientation, a fall open house, a minimum of two parent conferences, and any specifically requested conferences.</li> <li>5. Check my child's homework assignments nightly. I understand that unsatisfactory or incomplete homework will result in a corresponding consequence.</li> </ol>	<p><b>As a Brooke Charter School student, I agree to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Show <u>focus</u> by always working hard to achieve my personal best.</li> <li>2. Show <u>integrity</u> by always trying to do the right thing.</li> <li>3. Show <u>respect</u> for myself, other people in our school community, the property of others, and the learning environment.</li> <li>4. Show <u>self-determination</u> by making choices about my behavior and accepting the consequences.</li> <li>5. Show <u>teamwork</u> by caring for others.</li> </ol>	<p><b>As a Brooke Charter School employee, I certify that the school agrees to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that valuable school time is utilized thoughtfully and efficiently so that the school can provide our students with an education that is academically rigorous and that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.</li> <li>2. Make the school a safe and orderly environment by enforcing school rules as consistently as possible and by doing our part to instruct our students regarding appropriate and inappropriate behavior in school.</li> <li>3. Communicate regularly with parents regarding their child's behavioral and academic performance through progress reports, report cards, parent conferences, telephone contact, and by welcoming parents to the school.</li> <li>4. Assign, collect, and evaluate nightly work assignments designed to support classroom instruction and teach responsibility, and ensure that students are held accountable for finishing those assignments on a daily basis.</li> <li>5. Constantly monitor the strengths, weaknesses, and progress of our students, both academically and behaviorally, provide extra academic and homework help to our students on a regular basis, and consistently enforce the code of conduct as a means of holding students accountable for their behavior in school.</li> </ol>

## APPENDIX J: SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION POLICY

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### Objectives

1. Educate students about the dangers of substance use and abuse
2. Deter students from engaging in substance use in and outside of school
3. Provide appropriate school response and support when substance use and/or abuse occurs among Brooke Charter Schools students

### Health and Substance Use Education

Brooke Charter Schools (BCS) has in place a health education and substance use prevention curriculum in grades 5-9 that includes a focus on ensuring that students are educated about the health dangers and risks related to substance use (9<sup>th</sup> grade is the highest currently enrolled grade at BCS). The curriculum draws materials from a variety of sources, including multiple sources listed on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices ([http://nrepp.samhsa.gov/01\\_landing.aspx](http://nrepp.samhsa.gov/01_landing.aspx)).

### Professional Services and Referrals

The Dean of Students at each BCS campus shall be the designated point person for (a) staff referrals of students who are identified as demonstrating early warning signs, and (b) support for those students.

Advisors in the high school and classroom teachers in grades 5-8 are the critical front-line staff and liaisons between students, parents, and administrators across BCS campuses. Middle school teachers and high school advisors each have total student loads of fewer than 30 students and are charged with knowing and supporting students and families. As the primary instructors of the health and substance abuse prevention curriculum, middle school teachers and high school advisors are in the best position to recognize early warning signs of substance use and/or abuse among their students and advisees.

### Professional Development for Staff

All front-line staff (teachers and advisors in grades 5-9) will engage in professional development designed to help them effectively implement the health and substance use prevention curriculum at each grade level. That professional development will include a focus on recognizing early warning signs of substance use in teens, and the process for making referrals on that basis to the school's Dean of Students.

### Substance Use Prohibition

A student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy or sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product, including vapor/E-cigarettes; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. BCS prohibits the use or consumption by students of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs on school property or at any school function. Additionally, any student who is under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages prior to, or during, attendance at school or participation in a school-sponsored activity may be subject to disciplinary action.

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a controlled substance, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to removal from school for a period of time up to expulsion by the Principal.

### Policy Communication and Revision

This Substance Use Prevention Policy will be posted on the Brooke Charter Schools website and in the Student and Family Handbook. The Brooke Charter Schools Wellness Committee will review the Policy at least every



three years to ensure ongoing alignment and the incorporation of best practices. Families will have an opportunity to participate in the Policy review process through the Wellness Committee.

Students will be informed on an annual basis of the Substance Use Prevention Policy via the Student and Family Handbook. Students will be engaged in the ongoing effort to develop and improve the Policy, via their participation on the Brooke Charter Schools Wellness Committee, including participation in the review and revision process that takes place once every three years.

All BCS staff members will be informed of the Policy via the Employee Guidelines, which staff are required to acknowledge annually.

### **Intervention, Treatment, Re-Integration, and Confidentiality**

In the event that a BCS student is identified with a problem related to substance use, substance abuse, or addiction, the Dean of Students will work with the student's family to identify options for intervention and/or treatment through an external provider (resources listed in the following section). Students who take an extended absence from BCS for treatment for substance abuse or addiction will under no circumstances forfeit their seat at BCS as a result of that absence, and school staff will make every effort to support the student and his/her family to successfully reintegrate that student at BCS upon his/her return, by providing supplementary academic and social/emotional supports. In accordance with state and federal law, school staff will maintain strict confidentiality with individual student information related to substance use.

### **Resources Available to Brooke Charter Schools Students, Families, and Employees**

- **The Massachusetts Substance Abuse Helpline**, 1-800-327-5050, [www.helpline-online.com](http://www.helpline-online.com)
- **Alcoholics Anonymous & Narcotics Anonymous**, 617-426-9444, [www.aaboston.org](http://www.aaboston.org), [www.na.org](http://www.na.org)
- **Talking to Your Kids about Marijuana, Mass Public Health Blog**, <https://blog.mass.gov/publichealth/substance-abuse-prevention-treatment-and-recovery/talking-to-your-kids-about-marijuana/>
- **Alcohol Use and Your Kids - Mass Public Health**, <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/substance-abuse/7-ways-to-protect-teen-from-alcohol-drugs.pdf>
- **National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments**, <http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov>
- **DEA Substance Use Awareness**, <http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/>
- **Adolescent Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), Boston Children's Hospital**, 617-355-2727, [www.childrenshospital.org](http://www.childrenshospital.org)
- **ALANON/ALATEEN - support group meetings available by town/community**, 1-888-425-2666, [www.alanon.org](http://www.alanon.org), [www.ma-al-anon-alateen.org](http://www.ma-al-anon-alateen.org)
- **SMART Recovery Family & Friends**, [www.smartrecovery.org/resources/family.htm](http://www.smartrecovery.org/resources/family.htm)

# APPENDIX K: PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

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## Section 1: Introduction and Purpose

In accordance with state law, Brooke Charter School has determined that physical restraint on a student will only be administered when needed to protect a student and/or a member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm; and if non-physical interventions would not be effective. The use of physical restraint shall not be used as a means of punishment, or as a response to property destruction, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm. When physical restraint is required, it is the goal of school personnel to prevent or minimize any harm to the student as a result of the use of physical restraint.

Only those staff members that have received **in-depth training** as described within this policy shall administer physical restraints. Brooke Charter School follows the regulations and reporting and documentation requirements of 603 CMR 46.00, which can be found in its entirety as an appendix to this policy document.

In compliance with Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations (603 CMR 46.00), Brooke Charter School ensures that every student attending our schools is free from the use of physical restraint that is inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00. Physical restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort, after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

## Section 2: Definitions

As used in 603 CMR 46.00, these terms shall have the following meanings:

1. **Consent** shall mean agreement by a parent or guardian who has been fully informed of all information relevant to the activity for which agreement is sought, in his or her native language or other mode of communication, that the parent understands and agrees in writing to carrying out of the activity, and understands that the agreement is voluntary and may be revoked at any time. The agreement describes the activity and lists the records (if any) which will be released and to whom. In seeking parental consent, a public education program shall not condition admission or continued enrollment upon agreement to the proposed use of any restraint.
2. **Mechanical restraint** shall mean the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student's freedom of movement. The term does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional, and are used for the specific and approved positioning or protective purposes for which such devices were designed. Examples of such devices include: adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports; vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle; restraints for medical immobilization; or orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm.
3. **Medication restraint** shall mean the administration of medication for the purpose of temporarily controlling behavior. Medication prescribed by a licensed physician and authorized by the parent for administration in the school setting in not medication restraint.

4. **Physical escort** shall mean a temporary touching or holding, without the use of force, of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back for the purpose of inducing a student who is agitated to walk to a safe location.
5. **Physical restraint** shall mean direct physical contact that prevents or significantly restricts a student's freedom of movement. Physical restraint does not include: brief physical contact to promote student safety, providing physical guidance or prompting when teaching a skill, redirecting attention, providing comfort, or a physical escort.
6. **Principal** shall mean the instructional leader of the school or his or her designee. In accordance with 603 CMR 46.02, the Brooke Charter School Board of Trustees designates the Principals of Brooke Charter School campuses as the instructional leaders of their respective schools, and the Dean of Students at each school shall serve as designee for purposes of 603 CMR 46.00.
7. **Prone restraint** shall mean a physical restraint in which a student is placed face down on the floor or another surface, and physical pressure is applied to the student's body to keep the student in the face-down position.
8. **Seclusion** shall mean the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. Seclusion does not include a time-out as defined in 603 CMR 46.02.
9. **Time-out** shall mean a behavioral support strategy developed pursuant to 603 CMR 46.04(1) in which a student temporarily separates from the learning activity or the classroom, either by choice or by direction from staff, for the purpose of calming. During time-out, a student must be continuously observed by a staff member. Staff shall be with the student or immediately available to the student at all times. The space used for time-out must be clean, safe, sanitary, and appropriate for the purpose of calming. Time-out shall cease as soon as the student has calmed.

### Section 3: Prohibited Restraints

Brooke Charter School prohibits medication restraint, mechanical restraint, and seclusion. In addition, prone restraint is prohibited unless the staff member(s) administering the restraint have received in-depth training according to the requirements of 603 CMR 46.04(3), the conditions set forth in Section 5 of this policy have been met, and, in the judgment of the trained staff member(s), such method is required to provide safety for the student or others present. Finally, any physical restraint administered in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00 is prohibited.

### Section 4: Use of Physical Restraint

Physical restraint shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to self or others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions, or such interventions are deemed to be inappropriate under the circumstances. Any physical restraint shall be limited to the use of such reasonable force as is necessary to protect a student or another member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm.

Per 603 CMR 46.01(4), nothing in 603 CMR 46.00 precludes any teacher, employee or agent of a public education program from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm.

### **Section 5: Prohibitions on Use of a Physical Restraint (including Prone Restraint)**

Physical restraint is an emergency procedure of last resort and shall not be used as a means of discipline or punishment or as a response to the destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school or public education program rule or staff directive, or verbal threats when those actions do not constitute a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm. Physical restraint shall not be used when the student cannot be safely restrained due to medical reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting. Physical restraint shall not be used as a standard response for any individual student (i.e., no written individual behavior plan or individualized education program may include use of physical restraint as a standard response to any behavior).

Prone restraint is prohibited in the school except on an individual student basis, and only under the following circumstances:

1. Staff member(s) administering the restraint have received in-depth training according to the requirements of 603 CMR 46.04(3) and, in the judgment of the trained staff member(s), such method is required to provide safety for the student or others present;
2. The student has a documented history of repeatedly causing serious self-injuries and/or injuries to other students or staff;
3. All other forms of physical restraints have failed to ensure the safety of the student and/or the safety of others;
4. There are no medical contraindications as documented by a licensed physician;
5. There is psychological or behavioral justification for the use of prone restraint and there are no psychological or behavioral contraindications, as documented by a licensed mental health professional;
6. The program has obtained consent to use prone restraint in an emergency, and such use has been approved in writing by the principal; and,
7. The program has documented the above circumstances (1-5) in advance of the use of prone restraint and maintains the documentation.

### **Section 6: Proper Administration of a Physical Restraint**

Only trained school personnel shall administer physical restraints. Trained school personnel are those individuals who have received in-depth training in accordance with the section below regarding staff training and with state law [603 CMR 46.04(2) and 603 CMR 46.04(3)].

Whenever possible, the administration of the physical restraint shall be witnessed by at least one adult who does not participate in the physical restraint. When administering a physical restraint, school personnel shall use only the amount of force necessary to protect the student or others from physical injury or harm. Additionally, school personnel administering a physical restraint shall use the safest method available and appropriate to the situation in accordance with the safety requirements detailed below.

School personnel shall discontinue the restraint as soon as the student is no longer an immediate danger to himself or others, or the student indicates that he or she cannot breathe, or if the student is observed to be in

severe distress, such as having difficulty breathing, or sustained or prolonged crying or coughing. As noted in Section 5 of this policy, floor restraints, including prone restraints, are prohibited unless the school personnel administering the restraint has received in-depth training, in the judgment of the trained staff member, such method is required to provide safety for the student or others present, and the additional conditions detailed in Section 5 have been met.

### **Section 7: Duration & Safety Requirements**

No restraints shall be administered in such a way that a student is prevented from breathing or speaking. During the administration of a restraint, school personnel shall continuously monitor the physical status of the student, including skin temperature and color, and respiration. Additionally, restraints shall be administered in such a way as to prevent or minimize physical harm.

If, at any time during a physical restraint the student expresses or demonstrates significant physical distress, including, but not limited to, difficulty breathing, the student shall be released from the restraint immediately, and school staff shall take steps to seek medical assistance.

All physical restraint must be terminated as soon as the student is no longer an immediate danger to self or others, or the student indicates that he or she cannot breathe, or if the student is observed to be in severe distress, such as having difficulty breathing, or sustained or prolonged crying or coughing. If a student is restrained for a period longer than 20 minutes, program staff shall obtain the approval of the principal or designee. The approval shall be based upon the student's continued agitation during the restraint justifying the need for continued restraint. School personnel shall review and consider any known medical or psychological limitations, known or suspected trauma history, and/or behavioral intervention plans regarding the use of physical restraint on an individual student.

### **Section 8: Follow-up Procedures**

After the release of a student from restraint, the school shall implement the follow-up procedures set forth below:

1. review the incident and restraint with the student to address the behavior that precipitated the restraint;
2. review the incident with school personnel who administered the restraint to discuss whether proper restraint procedures were followed; and
3. consider whether any follow-up is appropriate for the students who witnessed the incident.

### **Section 9: Reporting & Reviewing Requirements**

#### **A. Verbal and Written Reports: School Personnel**

School personnel shall report the use of any physical restraint. The school staff member who administers a physical restraint shall verbally inform the Dean of Students of the School of the restraint as soon as possible and no later than the close of the school day in which the restraint was administered. A written report shall be completed and provided to the Dean of Students no later than the next working day after the restraint was administered. If the Dean of Students has administered the restraint, the Dean of Students shall prepare the report and submit it to the principal of the school. If the principal has administered the restraint, the principal shall prepare the report and submit it to the Co-Director(s) of Brooke Charter School. The principal or designee of the school shall maintain an on-going record of all reported instances of physical restraint, which shall be made available for review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or the student's parent upon request.

## **B. Verbal and Written Reports: Parents/Guardians**

The principal or designee shall verbally inform the student's parents or guardians of any physical restraint within 24 hours of the event, and shall send a written report within three school working days following the use of the physical restraint. The report shall be sent to an email address provided by the parent for communications about the student or by regular mail postmarked no later than three school working days following the use of the restraint. If the school customarily provides a parent of the student with school-related information in a language other than English, the written restraint report shall be provided to the parent in that language. The principal or designee shall provide the student and the parent an opportunity to comment orally and in writing on the use of the restraint and on information in the written report.

## **C. Contents of the Reports**

The written reports referenced above shall include the following information:

1. The name of the student; the names and job titles of the staff who administered the restraint, and observers, if any; the date of the restraint; the time the restraint began and ended; and the name of the principal or designee who was verbally informed following the restraint; and, as applicable, the name of the principal or designee who approved continuation of the restraint beyond 20 minutes pursuant.
2. A description of the activity in which the restrained student and other students and staff in the same room or vicinity were engaged immediately preceding the use of physical restraint; the behavior that prompted the restraint; the efforts made to prevent escalation of behavior, including the specific de-escalation strategies used; alternatives to restraint that were attempted; and the justification for initiating physical restraint.
3. A description of the administration of the restraint including the holds used and reasons such holds were necessary; the student's behavior and reactions during the restraint; how the restraint ended; and documentation of injury to the student and/or staff, if any, during the restraint and any medical care provided.
4. Information regarding any further action(s) that the school has taken or may take, including any consequences that may be imposed on the student.
5. Information regarding opportunities for the student's parents to discuss with school officials the administration of the restraint, any consequences that may be imposed on the student, and any other related matter.

## **D. Weekly Review of Restraint Data**

The principal or designee shall conduct a weekly review of restraint data to identify students who have been restrained multiple times during the week. If such students are identified, the principal or designee shall convene one or more review teams as the principal or designee deems appropriate to assess each student's progress and needs. The assessment shall include at least the following:

1. review and discussion of the written reports submitted pursuant to the prior sections, and any comments provided by the student and parent about such reports and the use of the restraints;
2. analysis of the circumstances leading up to each restraint, including factors such as time of day, day of the week, antecedent events, and individuals involved;

3. consideration of factors that may have contributed to escalation of behaviors, consideration of alternatives to restraint, including de-escalation techniques and possible interventions, and such other strategies and decisions as appropriate, with the goal of reducing or eliminating the use of restraint in the future;
4. agreement on a written plan of action by the program.

If the principal directly participated in the restraint, a duly qualified individual designated by the Co-Director(s) of Brooke Charter School shall lead the review team's discussion. The principal or designee shall ensure that a record of each individual student review is maintained and made available for review by the Department or the parent, upon request.

#### **E. Administrative Review**

The principal or designee shall conduct a monthly review of school-wide restraint data. This review shall consider patterns of use of restraints by similarities in the time of day, day of the week, or individuals involved; the number and duration of physical restraints school-wide and for individual students; the duration of restraints; and the number and type of injuries, if any, resulting from the use of restraint. The principal or designee shall determine whether it is necessary or appropriate to modify the school's restraint prevention and management policy, conduct additional staff training on restraint reduction/prevention strategies, such as training on positive behavioral interventions and supports, or take such other action as necessary or appropriate to reduce or eliminate restraints.

#### **F. Reporting of Injuries**

All restraint-related injuries shall be reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). When a physical restraint has resulted in an injury to a student or program staff member, the program shall send a copy of the written reports required above to DESE postmarked no later than three school working days after the administration of the restraint. The program shall also send DESE a copy of the record of physical restraints maintained by the principal or designee for the 30-day period prior to the date of the reported restraint. The Department shall determine if additional action by the program is warranted and, if so, shall notify the school of any required actions within 30 calendar days of receipt of the required written report(s).

Every Brooke school shall collect and annually report data to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding the use of physical restraints. Such data shall be reported in a manner and form directed by DESE.

### **Section 10: Policies, Procedures, & Training**

#### **A. Policies and Procedures**

This document represents Brooke Charter School's written restraint prevention and behavior support policy and procedures consistent with state law (603 CMR 46.00). These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually, provided to all school staff, and made available to parents and guardians of enrolled students. This policy document will be augmented and supported through additional policies, procedures, training, and professional development regarding the following:

1. methods for preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including individual crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behavior occurring among groups of students or with an individual student;
2. methods for engaging parents and youth in discussions about restraint prevention and the use of restraint solely as an emergency procedures;
3. the school's alternatives to physical restraint and the method of physical restraint in emergency situations.

4. Procedures for the use of time-out that includes a process for obtaining principal approval of time-out for more than 30 minutes based on the individual student's continuing agitation.

## **B. Staff Training**

All staff shall receive training regarding the school's restraint prevention and behavior support policy and requirements when restraint is used. Each principal shall determine a time and method to provide all program staff with training regarding Brooke's restraint policy. Such training shall occur within the first month of each school year, and for employees hired after the school year begins, within a month of their employment.

Training shall include information on the following:

1. The role of the student, family, and staff in preventing restraint;
2. The program's restraint prevention and behavior support policy and procedures, including use of time-out as a behavior support strategy distinct from seclusion;
3. Interventions that may preclude the need for restraint, including de-escalation of problematic behaviors and other alternatives to restraint in emergency circumstances;
4. When behavior presents an emergency that requires physical restraint, the types of permitted physical restraints and related safety considerations, including information regarding the increased risk of injury to a student when any restraint is used, in particular a restraint of extended duration;
5. Administering physical restraint in accordance with medical or psychological limitations, known or suspected trauma history, and/or behavioral intervention plans applicable to an individual student; and
6. Identification of program staff who have received in-depth training in the use of physical restraint pursuant to state law (603 CMR 46.03(3)i).

At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each public education program, or his/her designee, shall identify program staff that are authorized to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. Such staff shall participate in in-depth training in the use of physical restraint, the content of which shall be in compliance with state law [603 CMR 46.04(4)]. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recommends that such training be at least sixteen (16) hours in length, with refresher training occurring annually thereafter.

## **Section 11: Complaint Procedures**

### **A. Informal Resolution of Concern About Use of Physical Restraint**

Before initiating a formal complaint procedure, a student or his/her parent/guardian who has concerns regarding a specific use of a physical restraint, may seek to resolve his/her concerns regarding a specific use of a physical restraint by raising the issue with the principal of the school. The student and/or his/her parent/guardian should direct their concerns regarding a specific use of a physical restraint to the principal within ten (10) days of the parent/guardian's receipt of the written report from the school detailed above. The principal shall attempt, within his/her authority to work with the individual to resolve the complaint fairly and expeditiously. If the student and/or his/her parent/guardian are not satisfied with the resolution, or if the student and/or his/her parent/guardian does not choose informal resolution, then the student and/or his/her parent/guardian may proceed with the formal complaint process detailed below.

### **B. Formal Resolution of Concern About Use of Physical Restraint**

A student or his/her parent/guardian, who has concerns regarding a specific use of a physical restraint, may seek to resolve his/her concerns regarding a specific use of a physical restraint by submitting a written



complaint to the Co-Directors of the Brooke Schools. The student and/or his/her parent/guardian should submit this letter within twenty (20) days of the parent/guardian's receipt of the written report from the school detailed. The written complaint shall include (a) the name of the student; (b) the name of the school where the physical restraint allegedly occurred; (c) the name of the individuals involved in the alleged physical restraint; (d) the basis of the complaint or concern; and (e) the corrective action being sought. The Brooke School Co-Directors shall conduct an investigation into the complaint promptly after receiving the complaint. In the course of its investigation they shall contact those individuals that have been referred to as having pertinent information related to the complaint. Strict timelines cannot be set for conducting the investigation because each set of circumstances is different. The Co-Directors of Brooke School will make sure that the complaint is handled as quickly as is feasible. After completing the formal investigation, the directors shall contact the individual who filed the complaint regarding the outcome of its investigation and its determination as to whether any corrective action is warranted.

# APPENDIX L: HEAD INJURIES & CONCUSSION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

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## Policy Statement

In order to effectively and consistently manage head injuries, the Brooke Charter School has established the following protocol to prevent, train, manage and take appropriate return to activity decisions for all students involved in extracurricular athletic activities.

This policy will be revised as needed and reviewed every two years by a team of school staff consisting of school nurses, school physicians, principals, physical education instructors, athletic directors, coaches, and school administrators, in consultation with the each school's health wellness advisory committee.

Brooke Charter School has been informed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) that while these policies are not subject to MDPH review, they must be in accordance with MDPH regulations. Brooke Charter School will be submitting affirmation on our school letter head to MDPH documenting that we have complied with the regulatory requirement to develop appropriate head injury policies. We will update and submit this affirmation by September 30, 2013 and every two years thereafter.

Brooke Charter School has designated its principal to oversee the implementation of these policies and protocols governing the prevention and management of sports-related head injuries. In addition the Principal will be responsible for (1) supporting and enforcing the protocols, documentation, training, and reporting outlined in the policy; (2) supervising and reviewing that all documentation is in place; (3) reviewing, updating, and implementing policy every two years and including updates in annual training and student and parent handbooks.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. c. 111, § 222 105; CMR 201.000

## General Information

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. This sudden movement can literally cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, stretching and damaging the brain cells and creating chemical changes in the brain. These chemical changes make the brain more vulnerable to further injury. During this period of vulnerability the brain is more sensitive to any increased stress or injury, until it recovers. Therefore resting after a concussion and adhering to a progressive return to play program is critical.

Signs and symptoms of concussion include headache or a feeling of pressure in the head, confusion, irritability and other personality changes, sensitivity to light and noise, sleep disturbances, changes in taste and smell, numbness or tingling, nausea or vomiting, fatigue, dizziness, blurry or double vision, bloody nose or ears. Symptoms may occur within minutes or hours later. The following are danger signs and require immediate medical attention: one pupil larger than the other, drowsiness or an inability to wake up, a headache that gets worse and does not go away, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination, repeated vomiting or nausea, slurred speech, convulsions or seizures, inability to recognize places or people, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation, unusual behavior, and loss of consciousness (even if brief).

## I: TRAINING PROGRAM (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.007)

- A. The following persons annually shall complete one of the head injury safety training programs approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health:
  1. Coaches
  2. Athletic trainers
  3. Volunteers
  4. School and team physicians

5. School nurses
6. Athletic Directors
7. Trainers
8. Parents of a student who participates in an extracurricular athletic activity
9. Students who participate in an extracurricular athletic activity

B. The required training applies to one school year and must be repeated for every subsequent year.

C. The Athletic Director and/or School Nurse shall maintain records of completion of annual training for all persons specified above through:

1. A certification of completion for any DPH department approved on-line course; or
2. A signed acknowledgement that the individual has read and understands the Department approved written materials or
3. Attendance roster from a session using DPH training

## II: PRE-PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES AND PARENTS (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.008)

- A. Documentation of a physical examination prior to a student's participation in extracurricular athletic activities will be reviewed by the school nurse for eligibility. A student athlete at Brooke Charter School cannot participate in an extracurricular sports activity if she/he has not had a physical examination within the last 13 months.
- B. Each year, Brooke Charter School shall provide current DPH approved training, written materials or a list and internet links for DPH approved on-line courses to all students who plan to participate in extracurricular athletic activities and their parents in advance of the student's participation.
- C. All students who plan to participate in extracurricular athletics activities and their parents shall satisfy the following pre-participation requirements.
  1. Each year, before the student begins practice or competition, the student and the parent shall:
    - a. Complete current DPH approved training regarding head injuries and concussions' in extracurricular athletic activities; and
    - b. Provide the school with a certificate of completion for any DPH approved on-line course or a signed acknowledgement that they have read and understand the written materials, unless they have attended a school sponsored training at which attendance is recorded.
  2. **Before the start of every sports season**, the student and the parent shall complete and submit a current Pre-Participation Form.
- D. Ongoing Requirements. If a student sustains a head injury or concussion during the season, but not while participating in an extracurricular athletic activity, the parent shall complete a Report of Head Injury During Sports Season Form, and submit it to the school nurse. The school nurse will share this information with the Athletic Director, Coach, and Athletic Trainer.

## III: DOCUMENTATION AND REVIEW OF HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSION HISTORY AND FORMS (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.009)

- A. Brooke Charter School will ensure that all forms or information from all forms that are required for participation are completed and reviewed, and shall make arrangements for:
  - a. Timely review of all Pre-participation and Report of Head Injury Forms, by coaches so as to identify students who are at greater risk of repeated head injuries.
  - b. Timely review of all Pre-participation Forms which indicate a history of head injury and report of head injury forms by:
    - i. the school nurse
    - ii. the school physician if appropriate

- c. Timely review of accurate, updated information regarding each athlete who has reported a history of head injury during the sports season by:
  - i. the teams physician if any; and
  - ii. athletic Trainer if on staff
- B. Brooke Charter School may use a student's history of head injury or concussion as a factor to determine whether to allow the student to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity or whether to allow such participation under specific conditions or modifications.

#### **IV: EXCLUSION FROM PLAY (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.010)**

- A. Any student, who during a practice or competition, sustains a head injury or suspected concussion, or exhibits any signs and symptoms of a concussion, shall be removed from the practice or competition immediately and may not return to the practice or competition that day.
- B. The student shall not return to practice or competition unless and until the student provides medical clearance and authorization by a licensed professional (physician, NP in consultation with a physician, or neuropsychologist in coordination with the physician managing the student's recovery).
- C. The coach shall communicate the nature of the injury directly to the parent in person or by phone immediately after the practice or competition in which a student has been removed from play for a head injury, suspected concussion, signs and symptoms of a concussion, or loss of consciousness. The coach also must provide this information to the parent in writing, whether paper or electronic format, by the end of the next business day.
- D. The coach or his/her designee shall communicate, by the end of the next business day with the Athletic Director and school nurse that the student has been removed from practice or competition for a head injury, suspected concussion, signs and symptoms of a concussion, or loss of consciousness.
- E. Each student who is removed from play and subsequently diagnosed with a concussion shall have a written graduated reentry plan for return to full academic and extracurricular activities.
  - a. The plan shall be developed by the student's teachers, the academic dean, and school nurse, certified athletic trainer if on staff, and neuropsychologist if on staff and involved, parent, members of the student support team as appropriate and in consultation with the student's physician.
  - b. The written plan shall include but not be limited to:
    - i. Physical and cognitive rest as appropriate;
    - ii. Graduated return to extracurricular activities and classroom studies as appropriate, including accommodations or modifications as needed;
    - iii. Estimated time intervals for resumption of activities;
    - iv. Frequency of assessments, as appropriate by the school nurse, school physician, team physician if on staff, certified athletic trainer if on staff, or neuropsychologist if available until full return to classroom activities and extracurricular activities are authorized; and
    - v. A plan for communication and coordination between and among school personnel and between the school, the parent, and the students primary care provider or the physician who made the diagnosis or who is managing the student's recovery.
  - c. The student must be completely symptom free and medically cleared in order to begin graduated reentry to extracurricular athletic activities.

#### **V: MEDICAL CLEARANCE AND AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.011)**

Each student who is removed from play for a head injury or suspected concussion, or loses consciousness, even briefly, or exhibits signs and symptoms of a concussion, shall obtain and present to the Athletic Director a DPH Post Sports-Related Head Injury Medical Clearance and Authorization Form prior to resuming the extracurricular athletic activity. This form must be completed by a physician or one of the individuals as authorized by 105 CMR 201.011(A).

The ultimate return to play decision is a medical decision that may involve a multidisciplinary approach, including consultation with parents, the school nurse and teachers as appropriate.

- a. Only the following individuals may authorize a student to return to play:
  - 1. A duly licensed physician;
  - 2. A duly licensed certified athletic trainer in consultation with a licensed physician;

3. A duly licensed nurse practitioner in consultation with a licensed physician; or
  4. A duly licensed neuropsychologist in coordination with the physician managing the student's recovery.
- b. By September 2013, physicians, nurse practitioners, certified athletic trainers, and neuropsychologists providing medical clearance for return to play shall verify that they have received Department-approved training in post-traumatic head injury assessment and management or have received equivalent training as part of their licensure or continuing education.

**VI: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACHES, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.012 105; CMR 201.013; CMR 201.014)**

Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Athletic Trainers of Brooke Charter School shall be responsible for:

- Completing annual training in the prevention and recognition of sports related head injury and the associated risks including second impact syndrome
- Participating in the review of head policy and procedures every two years
- Ensuring that the training requirements for staff, parents, volunteers, and students are met, recorded, and records maintained
- Verifying that all student athletes have a current physical examination on file prior to participating in extracurricular activities
- Ensuring that all students participating in extracurricular athletic activities have completed and submitted the required forms prior to participation each season (Pre-Participation Forms as well as Report of Head Injury Forms)
- Reviewing Pre-Participation forms and identifying athletes at greater risk for repeated head injuries
- Reinforcing that athletes are prohibited from engaging in unreasonably dangerous technique that endangers the health and safety of an athlete
- Teaching techniques to minimize sports-related head injury
- Identifying athletes with head injuries or suspected concussions that occur in practice or competition, removing them from play, and completing a *Report of Head Injury Form*
- Communicating promptly with parent of a student removed from play and with the school nurse
- Participating in graduated reentry planning and implementation for students diagnosed with a concussion
- Working in conjunction with the school nurse to prepare and submit an annual report to the MDPH indicating the number of head injury forms collected and the number of students who incur head injuries and suspected concussions during organized athletics for the school year

**VII: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL NURSE (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.015)**

The school nurse shall be responsible for:

- Completing annual training in the prevention and recognition of sports related head injury and the associated risks including second impact syndrome
- Participating in the development and biannual review of the policies and procedures required by 105 CMR 201.006 for the prevention and management of sports-related head injuries within the school
- Reviewing, or arranging for the school physician to review, completed Pre-participation forms that indicate a history of head injury and following up with parents, as needed prior to participation in extracurricular athletic activities
- Reviewing, or arranging for the school physician to review, Report of Head Injury Forms and following up with the coach and parent as needed
- Maintaining Pre-participation Forms & Report of Head Injury Forms
- Participating in the graduated reentry planning for students who have been diagnosed with a concussion to discuss any necessary accommodations or modifications with respect to academics, course requirements, homework, testing, scheduling and other aspects of school activities consistent with a graduated reentry plan for return to full academic and extracurricular athletic activities after a head injury and revising the health care plan as needed

- Monitoring recuperating students with head injuries and collaborating with teachers and student support team to ensure that the graduated reentry plan for return to full academic and extracurricular athletic activities required by 105 CMR 201.010
- Providing ongoing educational materials on head injury and concussion to teacher, staff, students and families

#### **VIII: RECORD MAINTENANCE (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.016)**

The school shall maintain the following records for three years or at a minimum until the student graduates:

- 1) Verifications of completion of annual training and receipt of materials;
- 2) Department Pre-participation Forms
- 3) Department Report of Head Injury Forms
- 4) Department Medical Clearance and Authorization Forms
- 5) Graduated reentry plans for return to full academic and extracurricular athletic activities

The school shall make these records available to the Department of Public Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon request or in connection with any inspection or program review.

#### **IX: REPORTING (REFERENCE 105 CMR 201.017)**

Starting school year 2011-2012, schools shall be responsible for maintaining and reporting annual statistics on a Department form or electronic format that at a minimum report:

- 1) The total number of Department Report of Head Injury Forms received by the school; and
- 2) The total number of students who incur head injuries and suspected concussions when engaged in any extracurricular activities.

## APPENDIX M: FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

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### Notice for Directory Information

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Brooke Charter School, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Brooke Charter School may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the Brooke Charter School to the contrary in accordance with Brooke Charter School procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Brooke Charter School to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. [Note: These laws are Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. § 7908) and 10 U.S.C. § 503(c).]

If you do not want Brooke Charter School to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the Brooke Charter School in writing by August 15<sup>th</sup> of the current school year. Brooke Charter School has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user

- A student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.



# APPENDIX N: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ACCESS TO HANDBOOK

## Brooke Charter School Student & Family Handbook: Acknowledgement of Access to Handbook

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
[Parent/Guardian Name] [Student(s) Name(s)]  
acknowledge that the Brooke Charter School Student and Family Handbook (hereafter, "the Handbook") is available in both hard copy format (upon my request) and electronic format at the following web address (<http://www.ebrooke.org/parents/parents/>). I further acknowledge that the Handbook contains important information regarding the school's policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, the student code of conduct, non-discrimination, anti-hazing, and bullying prevention policies, use of physical restraint, specialized instruction and special education services, attendance and schedule requirements, and family communication and parental involvement. I understand it is my responsibility as a parent/guardian of a Brooke Charter School student to obtain and read a copy of the Handbook, and to understand the rules, regulations, and procedures of the school contained therein. Should my child or I have any questions regarding the content of the Handbook, I can contact a member of the Brooke Charter School administration for further clarification at Brooke Roslindale: 617-325-7977 or 190 Cummins Hwy., Boston, MA 02131; Brooke Mattapan: 617-268-1006 or 150 American Legion Hwy., Boston, MA 02124; Brooke East Boston: 617-409-5150 or 94 Horace Street, Boston, MA 02128; Brooke High School & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy: 617-874-5515 or 200 American Legion Hwy, Boston, MA 02124.

Please select from **ONE** of the following options to obtain a copy of the Student and Family Handbook.

### **OPTION 1 – HARD COPY**

By signing below, I am requesting a hard-copy of the Student and Family Handbook be sent home with my child. I understand that if I do not receive a hard-copy of the handbook, it is my responsibility to obtain a copy of the Handbook at the Brooke Charter School Front Office at my child's school (Brooke Roslindale: 190 Cummins Hwy., Boston, MA 02131; Brooke Mattapan: 150 American Legion Hwy., Boston, MA 02124; Brooke East Boston: 94 Horace Street, Boston, MA 02128; Brooke High School & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy: 200 American Legion Hwy, Boston, MA 02124). If my primary language is not English, I may request that the Handbook be translated or orally interpreted into the language identified below. I again acknowledge that it is my responsibility as a parent/guardian of a Brooke Charter School student to read and understand the rules, regulations, and procedures of the school contained within the Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Language (English if left blank)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **OPTION 2 – ELECTRONIC COPY**

By signing below, I affirm that I have access to the Internet and will obtain an electronic copy of the Student and Family Handbook by visiting the following web address: (<http://www.ebrooke.org/parents/parents/>). I acknowledge that it is my responsibility as a parent/guardian of a Brooke Charter School student to obtain this electronic copy of the Handbook, and to understand the rules, regulations, and procedures of the school contained therein. Should I have any difficulty accessing the website or the electronic copy of the Handbook in my primary language, I understand it is my responsibility to visit my child's school to obtain a hard copy or seek translation or oral interpretation of the Handbook (Brooke Roslindale: 190 Cummins Hwy., Boston, MA 02131; Brooke Mattapan: 150 American Legion Hwy., Boston, MA 02124; Brooke East Boston: 94 Horace Street, Boston, MA 02128; Brooke High School & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy: 200 American Legion Hwy, Boston, MA 02124).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 2020-2021 COVID ADDENDUM

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Given current circumstances around schooling related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Brooke Charter School has instituted the following additions to the 2020-2021 Student and Family Handbook. These district-wide policies are designed to address the current health crisis as well as the realities of both hybrid and virtual learning. Where the language below conflicts with language in the 2020-2021 Student and Family Handbook, the language below supersedes the other document for this school year.

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- Online Classroom Expectations
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- Early Dismissal
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  - Entry Procedures
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  - Handwashing/Sanitizing Requirements
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  - Testing of Close Contacts
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  - Response if a Student is Symptomatic
  - Dismissal When Student Presents with Possible COVID Symptoms

### **Online Classroom Expectations**

All students are expected to be present and engaged for online learning. Being present and engaged includes but is not limited to:

- Logging into the zoom session a few minutes prior to the start of the class;
- Having your camera on;
- Ensuring that the student's accurate name is presented on the screen;
- Securing an area to zoom, as much as is possible, that is free of distractions;
- Securing an area to zoom that is a tabletop or desktop, when possible;
- Focusing on the session at hand and not engaging in additional forms of technology (texting, gaming, etc.);
- Mute screen unless it's a discussion, a question arises, or the teacher directs you not to; and
- Using the chat feature of zoom for only class related discussions and questions.
- Not eating meals during class sessions
- Sitting up and directly facing the camera

Zoom sessions are designed for the members of each class. Under no circumstance should you share a zoom link with a peer within the school or with someone outside of our community. Breaches of this expectation pose a safety risk to our community, and will be treated as such in accordance with our code of conduct.

### **Dress Policy**

Students engaged in virtual learning are encouraged to wear school apparel, but it is not mandated. Students are not allowed to wear apparel that hinders identification including but not limited to:

hats, hoods, masks, and sunglasses. In addition, students are not permitted to wear apparel with logos or wording that could be distracting or offensive. In-person dress code will be communicated on a school-by-school basis with any families that are participating in in-person learning.

### **Appropriate Virtual Technology Use**

Brooke is dedicated to providing engaging and effective remote learning opportunities for our students. Prior to engaging in these virtual opportunities, the school seeks to clarify expectations around appropriate use of virtual technologies for educational opportunities.

1. Brooke strictly prohibits screenshots, pictures, audio/video recording and distribution of any virtual educational experience in order to protect student privacy, proactively prevent potential cyberbullying, prevent the distribution of copyrighted materials and comply with Massachusetts law. Please note that in Massachusetts, it is illegal to record another person through any medium without his or her knowledge.
2. Students, and where appropriate parents/guardians, agree to engage in virtual educational experiences in a quiet, private area to the extent practicable given the circumstances, in order to minimize background noise and distractions and to protect the integrity of student engagement as well as student confidentiality.
3. Parents/guardians and other household members who normally are not privy to day-to-day classroom and group service discussions agree to respect and keep confidential any personal or private information (e.g. disability status) inadvertently discovered about other students due to proximity to virtual education.

As a reminder, Brooke's Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy applies to virtual learning, including school-issued devices and networks. The full policy can be found as a part of the appendix of the whole Student and Family Handbook, but we would like to remind you that the policy includes the following statement:

*"Any student who utilizes the computer lab(s) or any digital equipment at the School, or provided by the School, must be aware of certain policies for use of the equipment and/or facilities. Procedures are in place for the protection of students and equipment. Students will be held accountable for any violation of the following policies in accordance with the Code of Conduct".*

Please note that all school-issued devices are privy to school supervision and are actively monitored by GoGuardian, a program designed to manage and direct the online behavior of students.

### **Brooke Electronic Device Sign-Out Policy**

In order to access remote and/or hybrid learning, all Brooke students will be receiving either an iPad or a Chromebook. The school will assign the device (there is not a choice of one or the other). The devices must be well cared for and returned in a similar condition to which they were given. All devices will come with a charger, which will also need to be well cared for and returned. Devices will remain in the student's possession until the end of the year unless the school notifies families that they will need to be returned sooner. Families that lose a device or charger, or who repeatedly damage a device, can be charged for the cost of the equipment. Fees will be as follows:

- Damaged Device
  - 1st Time : No Charge
  - 2nd Time (or more) : \$120.00 for Chromebook / \$200.00 for iPad
- Lost Device
  - 1st Time (or more) : \$120.00 for Chromebook / \$200.00 for iPad
- Lost Charger
  - 1st Time (or more) : \$40.00 for Chromebook / \$40.00 for iPad

Families that may have difficulty with internet access should also reach out to their school as we may be able to provide support for this need as well.

Finally, if a student is having any technical issues with the Chromebook or iPad provided by Brooke, please reach out to your school's teacher and or the Director of Operations (exact process may differ by school). Brooke will only be able to provide technical support for the devices loaned by the school. If a student is using a personal laptop owned by their family, Brooke may not be able to provide support.

### **Student Schedules**

Student schedules will be provided to students by their school and/or teachers. Remote schedules may vary and both families and students should ensure they have clarity on their school schedule to ensure they are on time and present for classes.

### **Parent Communication - PowerSchool Parent Portal**

Last spring, prior to the outbreak of the virus, we launched an initiative to setup parents with their own access accounts on our attendance and grading platform, PowerSchool. These access accounts have become more important than ever in helping parents stay connected with their child's learning. Parents can use these accounts to view grades, attendance, and access report cards.

All returning Brooke families already have accounts. All new Brooke families will be receiving information to setup their accounts. If you are having any issues accessing your parent account, please reach out to your school's main office for support.

### **Attendance in a Remote Instructional Model**

Despite being in a remote learning environment, attendance remains a critical component of student success. It is vital that students attend every live learning opportunity required of them. Attendance and participation will be a part of student grades for all grades (K-12). Attendance will be taken each day for all students, differentiating "remote" attendance versus "in-person" attendance.

Additionally in grades K-7, students will receive a daily comment and/or score for both engagement and work completion. Teachers will post these at the end of each day. Students and families can view these comments/scores through their child's PowerSchool parent portal.

Brooke has historically provided families with calls and/or texts at the beginning of the day to inform them if a student is absent. During remote learning, we may not be able to inform parents immediately if their student is not in attendance for a live online class each day. At minimum we *will* be reaching out to families at the end of each day to notify them if their child was absent from or tardy to any classes. Teachers, students and families will work together toward timeliness and presence.

### **Visitor Policy**

In this unfortunate and temporary time, visitors will not be permitted at any Brooke campus. This is counter to our culture and our historical open door policy, but it is necessary for the safety and health of our students and staff. Family meetings are encouraged to occur over the phone, over Zoom, or in outdoor settings. Only in extenuating circumstances should meetings be held in-person in the building and they must be arranged in advance to ensure the health safety of our staff and students who are onsite.

### **Early Dismissal**

Because it is our goal to limit the coming and going from school for students attending in-person, we ask all families to schedule appointments for students at the beginning or end of the day. Once a student has been dismissed from school, they will not be allowed to return until the next school day.

### **Health and Safety Procedures for In-Person Learning**

Some students and staff will be coming into the building to access some in-person learning. Students and staff alike will be required to engage in stringent health and safety procedures to ensure that the well-being of the larger community is preserved while in-person.

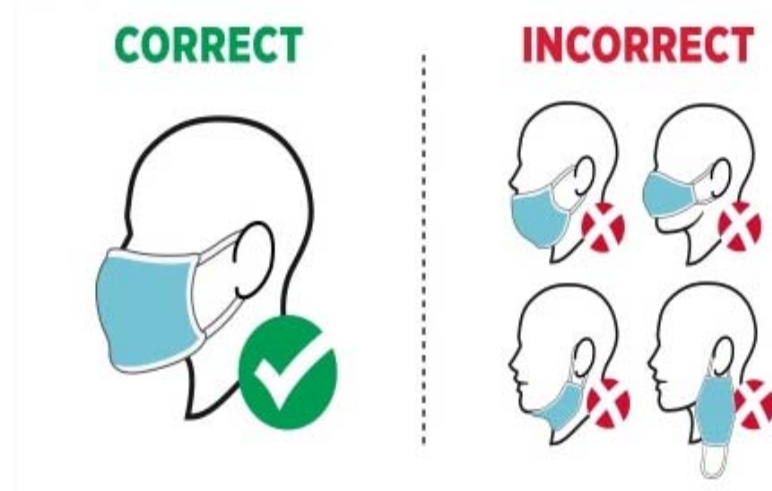
#### *Daily At-Home Health Screenings*

All students will be required to complete a health screening survey before arriving to school. The screening checklist has already been provided electronically to every family and can be provided again upon request.

Families should follow the direction of the health screening checklist about whether or not their child is fit to come to school that day.

### *Entry Procedures*

Students must wash or sanitize their hands upon entry to the school. Students must follow any designated paths for walkways and adhere to all guidance and procedures shared by the school staff to ensure social distancing and limiting contact between themselves and others. Students must have a mask on to enter the school building and must keep their mask on for the duration of the day. Masks must cover from under the chin to over the nose and must be fitted properly so that they are effective. Gaiters are not a substitute for masks.



### *Mask Wearing*

Students will be permitted to remove their masks during designated mask-breaks as well as for eating and drinking; these opportunities may only be available when a student is at least 6+ feet distanced from another member of the community.

Should a student have difficulty adhering to the health and safety procedures, including the removal of their mask or difficulty maintaining 6 feet distance from other community members, a staff member will immediately engage with the student and remind them of the expectations. Should a student continue to have difficulty adhering to the community expectations, a school leader will meet with the student and the family. Should the student and/or family be unable to commit to the in-person health and safety recommendations, the student will engage in the remote instructional model.

Exceptions to mask wearing will only be made for students with specific medical needs or due to identified disabilities. All efforts will be made to provide alternative methods of protection (such as face shields) for these students whenever possible.

### *Handwashing/Sanitizing Requirements*

Students will be required to wash or sanitize their hands upon entry to the building and before and after meals. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and shared spaces in the building.

### **Protocol Response to Potential COVID-19 Scenarios**

Testing, along with contact tracing and isolation, helps control the spread of COVID in Massachusetts. These protocols come directly from guidance from the state (based on guidance directly from the CDC) and recognize the following:

#### *Self Isolation for COVID-19 Positive Cases*

Most people who test positive and have a relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 14 days. People who test positive can resume public activities after 14 days and once they have:

- Gone for 3 days without a fever (and without taking fever-reducing medications like Tylenol); and

- Experienced improvement in other symptoms (for example, their cough has gotten much better); and
- Received clearance from public health authority contact tracers (the local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative).
- Repeat testing prior to return is not recommended.

#### *Testing of Close Contacts*

For general guidance, DPH defines close contact as:

- Being within less than 6 feet of COVID-19 case for at least 15 minutes. Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case while the case was symptomatic or within the 48 hours before symptom onset, OR
- Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.
- In school settings, close contacts include other students and staff who were within 6 feet of the student or staff for at least 15 minutes in a classroom, in other school spaces, on the bus, or at an extracurricular activity.
- At Brooke, students will be organized into cohorts with assigned seating in all classes to best reduce the spread of COVID and properly utilize contract tracing as needed (in conjunction with our local department of public health).
- Families will receive communication in all situations where your child may have been exposed (based upon the criteria listed above) to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

#### *Community Requirements to Stay Home*

These requirements have been determined per CDC and state guidance:

- Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

**If a student has any of these symptoms, they must stay home and not report to school. They must also get a test for active COVID-19 infection prior to returning to school.** MA has a list of active test sites here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ma-covid-19-testing-sites/download>.

- If a student is tested, and tests NEGATIVE, they may return to school once asymptomatic for 24 hours. Documentation of the negative test must be submitted to the school nurse prior to return to school.
- If a student is tested, and tests POSITIVE, they must remain home (except to get medical care) and follow self-isolation protocols listed prior.
- If a student is NOT TESTED, they must remain home in self-isolation for 14 days from symptom onset.

If a student has been tested for COVID-19 and their symptoms resolve, but they have not yet received the results of their COVID test, they must remain home until they receive the results.

#### *Response if a Student is Symptomatic*

- At home, they should stay home and get tested.
- On the bus or at school, they will, with adult supervision, remain masked and adhere to strict physical distancing. The student will then be met by the nurse or another designated school official at bus arrival and be taken to the nurse station for evaluation. If the nurse confirms the symptoms and identifies that the student should go home, the student's family must pick them up as soon as possible. The student will not be allowed to take the bus or public transportation to get home.
- During the day, they will be picked up from their classroom by a nurse or another designated school official and be taken to the nurse station for evaluation. If the nurse confirms the symptoms and

identifies that the student should go home, the student's family must pick them up as soon as possible. The student will not be allowed to take the bus or public transportation to get home. See *Dismissal When Student Presents with Possible COVID Symptoms* procedure.

Each campus will have a space identified for symptomatic students to wait in that is separate from the nurse's office. Students will wait there until they are picked up. Only the nurse or other staff with the appropriate PPE will be allowed into the space with the student.

If student is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual:

- And they are at home when they learn they were in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, they should stay at home and be tested 4 or 5 days after their last exposure.
- And they are at school when they learn they were in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, they will remain masked for the remainder of the time they are at school and adhere to strict physical distancing. Brooke will notify families their child has been identified as a close contact. They will not be allowed to take the school bus or public transportation home. They should stay at home and be tested 4 or 5 days after their last exposure or self-isolate for 14 days.
- If a student is tested, and tests NEGATIVE, they may return to school once asymptomatic for 24 hours. If asymptomatic the entire time, they may return immediately after negative results. Documentation of the negative test must be submitted to the school nurse prior to return to school.
- If a student is tested, and tests POSITIVE, they must remain home (except to get medical care) and follow self-isolation protocols listed prior.
- If a student is NOT TESTED, they must remain home in self-isolation for 14 days from exposure.

#### *Dismissal When Student Presents with Possible COVID Symptoms*

Students found after evaluation by the school nurse to have symptoms that may be consistent with COVID will require dismissal from school. The school nurse will contact the guardian directly in this situation. If a student takes the school bus to school, they will not be permitted to take the school bus home and must be picked up by a guardian/designated guardian as soon as possible

The school nurse needs emergency information for every child. Parents/guardians should notify the nurse and/or office of any change in telephone numbers of the person to be called in an event of such an emergency.