

**NOVA Academy  
Early College High School  
2017-2018 Student Handbook**



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# **NOVA Academy Early College High School (ECHS)**

## **MISSION**

**NOVA Academy Early College High School will inspire, educate and prepare all students to be successful in college, career and in life.**

### **Student Welcome Letter**

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your parents/guardians to what we hope will be one of the most exciting times of your life. Your high school years will live in your memory forever, and it is our goal to make these years happy, productive, and successful. The faculty, staff and Board of NOVA Academy ECHS believes that a school works best when it employs a team approach to educating its students. You, as a student of NOVA Academy ECHS are the most vital member of our team. We promise to provide you with the best possible academic education and to assist in your development into an intelligent, committed life-long learner and a productive member of our society.

None of these things can take place, however, without your commitment to do your best. You have selected an NOVA Academy ECHS because it is a college preparatory school. These will be challenging years for you, but you will rise to the challenge if you set your goals high and work diligently to attain those goals, and structure your Individual Student Plan (ISP) to use as your road map and guide for your future.

In the midst of all of the studying and hard work, take time to enjoy your high school years. We have a variety of exciting activities planned throughout the year.

This handbook provides you with information about our school and helps you to stay on the right track. Do your best in everything you do. Never settle for second best and you will be the awesome individual that you were created to be. Remember, **“DON’T BE AFRAID TO FAIL; BE AFRAID NOT TO TRY!”**

Welcome to our NOVA Academy ECHS family.

Sincerely,

Your teachers, staff and the NOVA Academy Board of Directors

## **Parent/Guardian Welcome Letter**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the NOVA Academy ECHS, we welcome you and your child to our school. NOVA Academy ECHS is founded on the belief that the education of its students takes a team effort, and you, as parents/guardians, are vital members of our team. There are numerous opportunities for you to become involved in your student's education. We welcome your input on important issues confronting our school, and your attendance at the monthly parent education meetings is strongly encouraged.

This Student Handbook has been designed to answer any general questions that you might have regarding our school and to advise you of your rights and responsibilities. Please take the time to review the information in this handbook and the supporting documents. We hope that you find it useful. When completed, please return the Parent Acknowledgement Form to our office. Should you require further explanation of any of the Education Codes and Laws cited in this handbook, you may contact the principal at your campus.

Please know that our primary goal is to provide your child with an outstanding academic education in a safe and nurturing environment. We look forward to your participation in our school events and invite you to become one of our parent volunteers. We thank you in advance and appreciate your support. We will do everything in our power to ensure that your child has a successful high school experience. Remember, we need you as a part of our educational team.

Welcome to the NOVA Academy ECHS Family.

Sincerely,

Teachers, staff and the NOVA Academy Board of Directors

# **NOVA ACADEMY ECHS**

## **SCHOOL COMMITMENT**

NOVA Academy ECHS believes that schools have the responsibility to equip their students with the basic skills necessary to be successful in life. However, educating students is a three-way responsibility shared by each individual parent/guardian, the student, and the school. Without the collaboration and cooperation of all three parties, success will be limited.

NOVA Academy ECHS is committed to providing the necessary resources for a sound secondary education program. In turn, students and parents/guardians must fulfill certain commitments if the student is to gain the maximum benefits from the school program. We believe that the school, the parent/guardian and the student commitments should be as follows:

### **OUR SCHOOL COMMITMENT IS TO:**

1. Employ a highly-qualified certificated staff who know their subject matter and who understand the sociological, physiological and psychological make-up of adolescents and young adults.
2. Provide a positive, constructive, and academically rigorous learning environment.
3. Provide the required standards-based curriculum to meet student needs.
4. Provide materials and equipment necessary for state mandated instruction.
5. Provide a safe learning environment where students can attend school without fear.
6. Establish reasonable expectations regarding student behavior.
7. Provide parents/guardians with regular reports on their student's attendance, academic progress, and school behavior.
8. Provide appropriate, varied classroom learning opportunities to encourage academic progress.
9. Provide appropriate, varied practice (homework) assignments to reinforce and enhance learning.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMITMENT**

1. Insist that your student attend school every day unless illness or a family emergency occurs.
2. Each year, parents are requested to complete at least **TEN SERVICE HOURS** per student or **TWENTY SERVICE HOURS** if you have two or more students at NOVA Academy ECHS.
3. Attend Parent Education meetings.
4. Call the school office when the student is going to be absent. Send a note when the student returns from an absence. Please refer to the **ATTENDANCE** section of the handbook for further clarification of this process.
5. See that the student gets the appropriate amount of sleep on school nights to be attentive and alert in class.
6. Ensure that the student eats breakfast each morning, as it is essential and necessary for adequate brain function.
7. Ensure that the student is dressed appropriately as per the school Dress Code.
8. Provide approximately 2-3 hours daily of uninterrupted study time and a quiet and orderly place to study and complete practice. Encourage daily reading time after school for the student.
9. Check with the student daily regarding practice assignments and monitor completion of assignments. Your student's progress and practice may be monitored through the Parent Portal on Aeries.
10. Contact teachers immediately to request a conference with the school staff if there is a question concerning student progress or lack of practice.
11. Be sure student has proper school supplies (i.e. notebooks, paper, pens, calculators, and backpack and an agenda/planner).

## **STUDENT COMMITMENT**

1. Attend assigned classes daily unless illness or a family emergency occurs.
2. Turn in completed class assignments on time and follow up with teacher for any make-up assignments due to absence(s). **This is the responsibility of the student!**
3. Be prepared with the necessary books and materials each day.
4. Ensure you are dressed appropriately, as per the school Dress Code.
5. Seek immediate assistance from the teacher when class assignments are not understood.
5. Be attentive in class and remember it takes commitment to gain the best education possible.
6. Academic excellence requires constant effort and a substantial block of time each day (minimum of 2 hours) to learn the materials taught in both your high school classes and college courses.
7. Follow all school expectations.
8. Meet with your Counselor to ensure that you are following your Individual Student Plan (ISP) for high school requirements and college courses.
9. Ask for assistance from teachers, counselors and school personnel when academic or personal problems occur which inhibit learning.

## **COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

### **Services Provided:**

- Student Enrollment and Withdrawal
- Academic Advisement and Counseling
- Graduation Requirements and Checklists
- Four Year Academic Planning
- Assistance with College and University Application Process
- Post-Secondary Academic and Career planning
- Short-term Therapeutic Counseling when Needed (NOVA Academy ECHS)
- Crisis Intervention
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Student Academic and Personal Record Guardian
- Community Referral Liaison
- Local College/University Tours
- College Fair excursions
- SAT and ACT workshops
- FAFSA Assistance
- Scholarship Information
- Assistance in Development and Monitoring of Individual Student Plan (ISP)

## **COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER**

Interested in learning more about a career? Want to search colleges? Need help finding a job? Your College and Career Counselor is here to help!

The College and Career Counselor offers the following services:

- Online interest and skill inventories
- Career information
- Career presentations (Career Day)
- College campus tours
- College admissions information
- College application assistance
- College registration assistance
- Certificate/Vocational program information
- Regional Occupation Program (ROP) information (if available)
- Armed services information
- Tutoring information
- Job search
- Transcript requests
- Financial aid information
- AB540 information
- SAT/ACT workshops
- SAT/ACT registration

## NOVA ACADEMY ECHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

		<u>Santa Ana</u>	<u>Coachella</u>
<b>Language Arts</b>	4 years including English 1-8, Honors or AP English	40 Credits	40 Credits
<b>Mathematics</b>	3 years (4 recommended) including: Algebra I/Math 1 Algebra II/Math 2 Geometry/Math 3 <u>Advanced Courses</u> Statistics Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus Calculus	10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits  10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits	10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits  10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits
<b>Social Studies</b>	3 years (30 credits) including: World History United States History Government/Economics	10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits	10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits
<b>Science</b>	2 years including (3 years recommended): Biology Chemistry <u>Recommended 3rd &amp; 4th year Courses</u> Physics Anatomy & Physiology AP Environmental Science AP Biology	10 Credits 10 Credits  10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits	10 Credits 10 Credits  10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits 10 Credits
<b>Fine Arts</b>	1 year of the same subject (Drawing, Painting, Studio Art)	10 Credits	10 Credits
<b>Foreign Language</b>	2 years of same Foreign Language <u>Recommended 3rd &amp; 4th year Courses</u> AP Spanish Language AP Spanish Literature	20 Credits  10 Credits 10 Credits	20 Credits  10 Credits 10 Credits
<b>Study Skills</b>	1 semester of Seminar (Santa Ana Campus) 2 semesters of Seminar (Coachella Campus)	5 Credits	10 Credits
<b>Physical Education</b>	2 years (20 credits); maximum of 40 semester credits applied to graduation	20 Credits	20 Credits
<b>Electives</b>	45 semester credits	45 Credits	40 Credits
<b>Minimum Required Credits for Graduation</b>		<b>220 Credits</b>	<b>220 Credits</b>

**Community Service:** 20 hours per year / 80 hours in four years

**Senior Exit Portfolio**

The NOVA Academy Early College High School Senior Exit Portfolio is an additional requirement for NOVA Academy ECHS students. Students are required to present and defend the work submitted in their portfolios to a review team made up of community leaders.

## COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

	<b>Cal State Universities</b>	<b>Universities of California</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	2 Years- World History U.S. History Government/Economics	2 Years- World History U.S. History (3 recommended)
<b>Language Arts</b>	4 years college prep	4 years college prep
<b>Mathematics</b>	3 years - Algebra /Math 1, Geometry/Math 3, Algebra 2, Math 2	3 years - Algebra 1/Math 1 Geometry/Math 3, Algebra 2/Math 2  (4 years recommended)
<b>Science</b>	2 years of lab science (Biology and Chemistry)	2 years of lab science Biology and Chemistry (3 years recommended)
<b>Language Other than English</b>	2 Years of the same foreign language	2 years of the same foreign language (3 years recommended)
<b>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</b>	1 year of fine art (art, music, drama, film, photo or humanities)	1 year of fine art (art, music, drama, film, photo or humanities)
<b>Electives</b>	1 year selected from additional English, fine arts, foreign language, lab science, math or social studies (Gov't/Econ meet this req.)	1 year selected from additional English, fine arts, foreign language, lab science, math or social studies (Gov't/Econ meet this req.)
<b>Physical Education</b>	None	None
<b>Study Skills</b>	None	None
<b>Community Service</b>	None	None
<b>Testing Requirements</b>	SAT or ACT	SAT or ACT

**All of the above courses meet UC and CSU admissions criteria.**

Community Colleges & Private and Out of State Colleges - Consult with your counselor.

\*Must complete CSU and UC requirements with a grade of C or better

## **SENIOR EXIT PORTFOLIO**

The NOVA Academy ECHS Senior Exit Portfolio is a student-selected collection of work which represents his/her reflections and achievements in academic studies, personal growth, and extracurricular activities. As the student completes his/her high school years and continues working towards future goals, this portfolio provides an authentic assessment tool for the students to evaluate their learning, for the staff to review programs/projects from the student perspective, and for the school community to witness the demonstration of the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO).

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**

NOVA Academy ECHS believes that a true component of citizenship is demonstrated when individuals make an effort to positively impact their community. By fulfilling the required hours of service, students will be able to gain insight and empathy, acquire life and job skills and build a resume toward their college and career pathways. Furthermore, service hours, student reflection of service hours, and letters of recommendation will make an impressive addition to their senior exit portfolio. Ultimately, these experiences will build lasting memories inspiring a commitment to their community which, hopefully will, one day, extend globally.

Students are required to complete a total of 20 community service hours annually and to have completed 80 community service hours before graduation. **All community service hours should be completed and submitted by the day students are back following spring break of their senior year.**

### **REQUIRED COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**

Grade incoming	Total Community service hours due
9 <sup>th</sup>	80
10 <sup>th</sup>	60
11 <sup>th</sup>	40
12 <sup>th</sup>	20

### **REPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**

Students can obtain the Community Service Verification form from the Front Office. Forms should be completed and turned in to the designated representative.

## **UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

**NOTE:** Some UC and CSU campuses are impacted, and some major areas at some campuses are highly competitive and can only accept limited numbers of students each year. For acceptance to these campuses and into these majors, students must possess academic qualifications that go well beyond the minimum admission requirements summarized in the following pages.

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)**

All UC campuses have the same undergraduate admission requirements. (Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Francisco and Santa Cruz. Some schools are more selective than others.)

**A-G Subject Requirements:** To satisfy this requirement, you must have successfully completed a specific sequence of high school courses in the subjects listed below. To be accepted by the University, they must appear on a list certified by your high school principal as "Courses to Meet Requirements for Admission to the University of California." Your counselor or principal will have a copy of this list. This list is available on the UC website at <http://www.ucop.edu>.

The grades you earn in the A-G subjects taken in the tenth and eleventh grades are the only grades the University will use to calculate your grade-point average for admission. It will take 15 units (one unit is equivalent to a one-year course) of high school work to fulfill the subject requirement. At least 7 of the 15 units must have been earned in courses taken during the last two years of high school.

- a. United States History and/or U.S. Government and World History: Two years required; three years recommended.
- b. English Composition, Literature, etc.: Four years required; maximum of one year in the 9th grade allowed.
- c. Mathematics: Three years of Mathematics – Integrated Math 1, 2 & 3 (or applicable Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra 2 course) required; four years recommended.
- d. Laboratory Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc. Two years required; three recommended.
- e. Language other than English: Two years of same foreign language required; three recommended
- f. Visual and Performing Arts. One year required.
- g. College Preparatory Elective Courses: One year required. This course must be chosen from any of the following areas: Social Science, English, Advanced Math, Laboratory Science, Foreign Language and specified advanced visual and/or performing arts courses. (See UC approved list.)

**YOU MUST ALSO HAVE COMPLETED ALL A - G SUBJECTS WITH SATISFACTORY GRADES OF "C" OR BETTER. EARN A GPA OF 3.0 OR BETTER (3.4 IF YOU'RE A NON RESIDENT) IN THOSE COURSES, WITH NO GRADE LOWER THAN A "C". ELD COURSES IN READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS DO NOT COUNT TOWARD UC/CSU (EXCEPT ELD ADV). TAKE THE ACT WITH WRITING OR THE SAT REASONING TEST BY DECEMBER OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR.**

## **CALIFORNIA STATE/POLY UNIVERSITY (CSU)**

Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monterey Bay, Maritime Academy, Pomona, Northridge, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma, and Stanislaus. **Subject Requirements**

- a. Two years of History (U.S. and/or U.S. Government and World History)
- b. Four years of college preparatory English.
- c. Three years of Mathematics. (Integrated Math 1,2 & 3 or applicable Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 courses)
- d. Two years of a laboratory Science.
- e. Two years of a language other than English.
- f. One year of visual and performing arts. (fields of art, music, drama, humanities)

- g. College Preparatory Electives – (additional year chosen from the University of California ‘A-G’ list)

**YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL 15 SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS WITH SATISFACTORY GRADES OF "C" OR BETTER!**

**Examination Requirement:** To satisfy this admission requirement, you must submit scores from the standardized tests described below:

One aptitude test, either a or b:

- a. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
- b. The American College Test (ACT)

**COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES & MILITARY ACADEMIES**

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

Any high school graduate or any adult 18 years of age or over, who can show evidence that he/she can benefit from the instruction, may be admitted to the community college.

Math and English placement tests must be taken at the college to determine proper placement in basic subject areas.

**PRIVATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES**

Private colleges vary in their entrance requirements. It is important that you check their catalogs very carefully. Discuss your situation with your counselor. You must determine whether you will meet entrance requirements; it is wise to apply to more than one college since you may not be accepted by your first choice. The counseling office has excellent resources on all independent colleges and universities in California.

**MILITARY ACADEMIES**

1. Submit an application on or before September of the year prior to high school graduation. Preferably a student should begin application for nomination procedures in March or April of junior year.
2. Be at least 17 years of age and not have passed one's 22nd birthday.
3. Be a resident of the Congressional District.
4. Be of good moral character.
5. Be unmarried or never have been married.
6. Be in the upper third of his/her class and score above 1800 on SAT.
7. Not be suffering from an obvious physical defect that is not correctable.

Nominations are based upon scholastic aptitude, counselor recommendation, a personal interview by the service academy's review board, and competitive selection by the academy.

## **COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

First time College goers will take the college course recommended to them by their NOVA counselor and will take their college course during the Fall or Spring semester.

Textbooks will be purchased for college courses sponsored by NOVA. Additional supplies and materials required by a college professor will need to be purchased by the student (e.g. art supplies, scantrons, etc.).

### **Community College**

The following criteria must be met at the second grade report and end of semester report cards prior to college enrollment.

1. Grade Report and Semester weighted GPA of 2.85 or better in Santa Ana (3.0 in Coachella). (Total GPA will not be considered.)
2. No "F" grades on grade reports and end of semester report card.
3. No N=Needs improvement or U=Unsatisfactory marks for Citizenship and Work Habits on grade reports and end of semester report card.
4. On time submission of all required paperwork as requested by college counselor (e.g. Teacher Recommendation, Student Self-Assessment, CAP forms, etc.).

Failure to meet ANY of the above criteria at each grade report and at end of semester report card will result in a lost opportunity for college enrollment the following college semester (e.g. fall, spring & summer).

### **University Online and On-Campus Program**

This program is by invitation only and space is limited. The following criteria must be met for a student to be considered for the program.

1. Must be in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade while enrolled in the program.
2. Total overall weighted GPA of 3.3 or higher.
3. Solid academic foundation and achievement shown by grades in Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) classes and college course work.
4. Must be recommended by a teacher or counselor.
5. A high level of interest in the program as evidenced by a personal statement of purpose.
6. No "F" grades on grade reports and end of semester report **card.**
7. No N=Needs improvement or U=Unsatisfactory marks for Citizenship and Work Habits on grade reports and end of semester report card.
8. No more than five unexcused tardies in all classes, including Family, combined per semester.
9. On time submission of all required paperwork as requested by college counselor (e.g. Teacher Recommendation, Student Self-Assessment, application, etc.).

Course offerings will include only courses which are transferable for unit and subject credit toward the Bachelor's Degree at all UC campuses

### ***University of California Irvine (UCI) Online Early College Program (OEC) Program Specific***

A student who meets the aforementioned criteria and who is successfully enrolled in the UCI OEC will be considered for a scholarship to cover all course expenses (enrollment fee of \$500 and book fees averaging \$150).

NOVA Academy Early College High School reserves the right to alter eligibility requirements for the college opportunities.

### **College Textbooks**

1. Student must completely fill out the College Textbook/Supplies Request form and return it to the NOVA Academy ECHS counselor.
2. Student must attach a copy of the course syllabus to the College Textbook/Supplies Request form.
3. Student will sign for textbook and supplies when issued and returned.
4. Textbook will be issued within 2 school days of having submitted the form.
5. Supplies may require more than 2 school days to provide for student.
6. If textbook is damaged or not returned, student will be responsible for the full cost of replacing the textbook.

### **COLLEGE PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

1. Student is responsible for being on time in the lobby and/or front office for transportation to and from college during the school day.
2. Call the school office regarding your absence and bring a note on the day of your return. (Please refer to the **ATTENDANCE** section for further clarification).
3. All assignments must be turned in on the required due date. In the event of an absence, **EMAIL** your assignment to your professor prior to the due date.
4. **Attendance is required** at NOVA Academy ECHS if the course is scheduled during the school day and there is no class that day (e.g., on Fridays). **Bring assignments, including reading, textbook, notes and write down questions you may have for your counselor and/or peers.**
5. If you are having difficulty with the subject matter be sure to speak with your college professor regarding your questions.
6. It is highly recommended that students work in study groups, attend tutoring, and participate in extra credit as approved by the professor to ensure success.
7. Failure to attend scheduled courses will result in the forfeiture of future enrollment in college courses.
8. Student is required to submit two progress reports per semester.
9. Any additional course purchases such as art supplies or tickets must be submitted on the Supply Request Form.

### **Unscheduled College Activities**

1. If you need to be transported to college outside of your regularly scheduled time, fill out an Unscheduled College Activities Form available in the Career Center or Counseling Office.
2. Submit form to the College Counselor for approval.
3. If a high school class is missed, the student is required to make up missed assignments.

### **DROP or Withdrawal from a Course**

1. Student is responsible for checking the college's website for the instructional calendar's important dates pertaining to Dropping and Withdrawing from a course.
2. If student chooses to DROP or Withdraw from a College Course, the student will be responsible for all College Expenses (textbooks, health fee, materials, etc.) incurred by NOVA Academy ECHS pertaining to enrollment in the College Course.
3. More than two Withdrawals from a College Course will result in at least a one semester break from college attendance.

### **Earning a grade lower than a "C"**

In the event that a student earns a grade lower than a "C" in a College Course, the student will not qualify for a college course in the subsequent semester.

## **GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

Student Leadership is the legislative and supervisory body of the Associated Student Body (ASB). It is composed of elected and appointed student officers with oversight by the Activities Director. ASB meets to plan and facilitate extracurricular activities and support all school related functions.

### **STUDENT LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS**

Election days will be announced in the daily announcements. Students running for office must meet NOVA Academy ECHS eligibility standards.

### **IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

All students will have an opportunity to purchase an Identification Card (I.D.). Replacement I.D. cards can be obtained BY ARRANGEMENT ONLY, Monday - Friday, at the office for a fee. Student I.D. cards are required for the purchase of tickets for all school sponsored events, both on and off-campus (e.g., dances and skate nights), as well as admittance to these events. I.D. cards may also be required for other school programs/events.

### **YEARBOOK**

Yearbook sales will be announced throughout the year, and will be sold during registration and at other designated times.

### **STUDENT PLANNER**

**THIS IS MANDATORY FOR ALL STUDENTS.** Student planners will be provided for students during registration.

### **STUDENT BUSINESS**

The office is open for student business before school and after school. No student business may be conducted during class hours even if the student has a non-academic class, such as aide or P.E.

## **LOST & FOUND**

NOVA Academy ECHS is not responsible for lost or damaged articles. All lost items may be claimed before or after school. At the end of the month, all clothing items remaining in Lost and Found which have not been claimed will be donated to charity.

## **DEBTS**

School debts are submitted to the office and entered into the student's account. This account then becomes "frozen" until all debt is resolved. Examples of debt include, but are not limited to: lost, damaged, non-returned school and college books, club fundraising debts, returned checks, college fees due to Dropping or Withdrawing from a course and/or not completing a college course with a grade of "C" or better, etc. To clear this debt, the item(s) and/or payment must be submitted to the office. Outstanding debt with the school may result in a delay in student services such as: student transcript transactions to another school (if transferring) or college/university (if graduating), and delay in receipt of diploma. Additionally, participation in school sponsored extracurricular activities may be prohibited until debt is resolved. If there is a discrepancy, please check with the office.

## **RETURNED CHECKS**

Please resolve any returned checks immediately. Cash or money order must be returned to the office to cover the amount of the check, plus the bank fee. Returned checks are a debt on the student's account. Failure to resolve the matter promptly may result in the student's loss of purchased items in order to recover funds from returned checks (e.g. yearbook, ASB activities, tests, etc).

## **MEDICATIONS**

1. NOVA Academy ECHS does not provide a school nurse. If a student is ill, it is the responsibility of the parent to seek medical assistance. In the event of an emergency, the school may contact an appropriate emergency professional for assistance. Only prescribed medication may be administered during class periods, if necessary.
2. ALL PRESCRIPTION and ALL NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS (aspirin, topical ointments, etc.) must be brought to school in their original packaging, left in the front office and administered by designated school personnel. A student may not take non-prescription medication by himself/herself.
3. A parent consent form with doctor's approval must be on file in the office for administering of ALL PRESCRIPTION and ALL NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.
4. The school assumes no liability for possible complications which may arise.
5. AT NO TIME is a student, or non-authorized faculty or staff member, permitted to provide or administer prescription or non-prescription medication to another student.
6. A student needing to leave the premises during the school day due to illness MUST first report to the office. Students may ONLY leave campus with an adult designated on their EMERGENCY INFORMATION/MEDICAL RELEASE form.

## **POSTERS/ADVERTISEMENTS**

Any student or group wishing to post or distribute notices or advertisements of any kind on school property must present them to the Activities Director for approval. Postings without approval will be removed and discarded.

## **SCHOOL & OFFICE HOURS**

The school office is open from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday. Parents are expected to arrange for student transportation to and from school daily. Apart from supervised school activities, students must vacate the premises after school. Students are expected to leave the campus when the school sponsored activity ends.

## **WORK PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Students interested in obtaining work-permit applications should request the necessary form from the Front Office.

## **STUDENT DRIVERS**

Students who drive to school must have proof of valid driver's license and proof of insurance on file with the office prior to driving to school. Failure to provide proof of valid driver's license and insurance will result in consequences which may include notification to authorities of this violation.

For **NOVA Academy ECHS**, Student parking is located in a designated area. NOVA Academy ECHS campuses are closed and students may not access their vehicles during the course of the school day.

NOVA Academy ECHS is not responsible for any damage, loss or theft to vehicles parked on or around the campus. Additionally, students and others (including parents/guardians/friends/relatives) who cause damage to property or other vehicles on or around campus will be held responsible to pay for those damages.

## **DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The announcements are read during the school day at NOVA ACADEMY ECHS and are posted daily as well. Announcements contain important information for students, such as test dates, activities, changes of school policy, etc. Students who represent school organizations must submit items **at least one day** prior for inclusion in the announcements, with faculty sponsor approval.

## **CLASS/COURSE PROGRAM CHANGES**

Students are encouraged to work out their class schedules with counselor, teachers and parents prior to registration, as it will be difficult to make program changes after the semester begins. The following guidelines will be observed regarding program changes.

1. Student initiated changes for schedule errors and improper class placements will be made during the **FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER.**
2. School-initiated changes related to class placements or class withdrawals will be made at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee.
3. School initiated college course Drops will have a designated a "W" (Withdrawal) on the transcript. Students are required to meet with their counselor prior to Dropping or Withdrawal from a college course. Please refer to the COLLEGE PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS section of Student Handbook.
4. Class/course changes must be academic in nature. Changes to accommodate a student because they do not like an instructor or cannot get up early are not acceptable reasons to change a class/course.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Progress reports are issued twice per semester.

Two report cards are issued annually, one at the end of each semester. The final report card, issued at the end of the semester will be recorded on the student's permanent record.

## **INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PLAN (ISP)/COLLEGE PATHWAYS**

Every student who attends a NOVA Academy ECHS is actively involved in his/her education. Therefore, it is essential that the student provides an update to his/her ISP at least once per semester. **Your ISP is your road map and resume for your college/university application.**

## **FAMILY INTERVENTIONS**

### **Weekly Check In - All students**

The Family teacher/advisor will check grades with students on a weekly basis. Students will write down their missing assignments. Family teachers can check this frequently throughout week. Family teachers will hold students accountable for completing missing assignments.

### **Monthly Check In - All students**

- A. Grades will be checked formally for placement into or removal from LINK.
- B. Gradebook summary printouts will also be sent home through the student. A parent signature is required and will be included as part of the Family grade - 10 points per returned/signed grade printout. If signed grade sheet is not returned, a scripted blackboard will be sent out. Message is to inform parents/guardians that the signature must be turned in. If signature is not turned in, grade will remain '0'.
- C. Family Intervention with Family teacher/advisor and students will take place using the Family Intervention Form. Students will participate in the interventions if they meet the below criterion:
  - A grade of F in any class
  - A grade below a 73% in any class
  - 5 missing assignments in any class
  - 10 total missing assignments in all classes

### **LINK (Mandatory\*)**

NOVA Academy ECHS is committed to **linking** teachers to students and connecting students to their peers in order to provide the greatest opportunity for high school and college success. \*LINK will only be mandatory for students who need the academic support and will be updated each month to ensure all students have access to additional support when needed.

Students will be evaluated on a regular basis to determine if they will be placed in or removed from LINK.

#### **LINK CRITERIA - evaluated on predetermined days of each month**

- A grade of F in any class
- A grade below a 73% in any class
- 5 missing assignments in any class
- 10 total missing assignments in all classes

### **ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN/ACADEMIC PROBATION**

Students who earned a semester Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or below will be on an Academic Improvement Plan (AIP) the following semester. The AIP will include:

1. Meeting with student, parent/guardian and Administration to discuss the following:
  - a. Reasons for poor academic performance
  - b. Possible solutions to correct poor academic performance
2. Weekly and Monthly grade checks by Family teacher. Please refer to FAMILY INTERVENTIONS section of Student handbook regarding Weekly Check In and Monthly Check In.
3. Possible placement into LINK. Please refer to LINK section of Student Handbook.
4. Parent/guardian will utilize the Parent Portal to monitor their student's grades at least weekly.

At the end of the semester, when the student has raised their semester GPA to or above a 2.0, they will no longer be at risk of being placed on Academic Probation.

If the student's semester GPA remains below a 2.0 at the end of the semester, the student will remain on an AIP. The student and parent/guardian will sign a contract stating that the student will adhere to the prescribed criteria agreed upon by school administrators, counselors and parent/guardian. Overall student progress will continue to be evaluated on a weekly basis through FAMILY INTERVENTION and regular meetings with an administrator. At the end of the semester, when the student has raised his/her semester AGPA to or above a 2.0, student will be removed from the AIP. If student does not raise his AGPA to a 2.0 or above after one full semester, student will be placed on Academic Probation for the next semester.

Students who are continuing to achieve below a 2.0 grade point average after being placed on AIP will be placed on Academic Probation. Students on Academic Probation are provided with weekly progress reports that provide vital information on their progress as well as giving teachers information for the planning of instructional strategies to meet their needs. Prior to excluding a student for academic underperformance, NOVA Academy will take reasonable actions to intervene and will comply with student due process rights prior to removing a student.

## **POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT PLAN**

Belief in the individual's capability for behavioral change leads NOVA Academy ECHS School administrators and teachers to a commitment of assisting the student in improving him/herself as both a student and a member of the school community. The possibility for constructive change of behavior is based on the recognition and acceptance of the principle of individual responsibility. Behavioral issues in the classroom will be handled by the teacher. If behavior does not improve, then the student will be referred to an Administrator or his/her designee. The student, his/her parent/guardian, and an Administrator will create a positive behavior support plan to best meet the needs of the individual student.

### **TIER 1: UNIVERSAL BEHAVIOR SUPPORT**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>WHO</b>
Standards-based rigorous instruction	Teacher
Firm, fair, and corrective behavior management in classroom	Teacher
Positive and proactive de-escalation in classroom	Teacher
Effective classroom management	Teacher
Positive reinforcement	Teachers & Staff
Active monitoring and supervision in and out of classroom	Teachers & Staff
Positive and negative parent phone calls	Teachers & Staff

### **TIER 2: SELECTED BEHAVIOR SUPPORT**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>WHO</b>
Weekly parent phone check in	Parent, Teacher, Admin
Work/Study/Service	Student
Weekly parent classroom observation	Parent
Peer mediation	Peer Counselors, Students, Admin
Initial behavior contract	Student, Parent, Admin, Teacher
Other support as needed	To be determined

**TIER 3: TARGETED AND INTENSIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT**

ACTION	WHO
Weekly parent phone check in	Parent, Teacher, Admin
Work/Study/Service	Student
Weekly parent classroom observation	Parent
Peer mediation	Peer Counselors, Students, Admin
Official behavior contract and/or Final behavior contract	Student, Parent, Admin, Teacher
Student Success Team	Student, Parent, Teacher, Counselor, Admin
Follow up contract meeting	Student, Parent, Admin

**BREAKFAST & LUNCH POLICY**

Food and drinks must be consumed in designated areas, with the exception of approved activities. Littering is unacceptable. **Students may not leave campus during breakfast or lunch.**

- Students are to eat only in the designated eating areas on campus. **Any food/beverages removed from designated areas will be confiscated and discarded.**
  - Eating in the lobby/front office is prohibited without prior approval.
  - Eating in a teacher’s classroom requires prior approval of said teacher.
- Students are expected to deposit trash in the receptacles provided.
- All outside food must be preapproved by and checked in at the office.
  - Outside food must not be shared with other students without prior approval from an administrator.
- Approval for large food orders for clubs, parties, and other events require at least a week’s notice to the office.

**SCHOOL CLUBS**

NOVA Academy ECHS offers opportunities for leadership, planning, and means of developing pride in one's accomplishments. New clubs must be approved by the Activities Director. All clubs must meet the following requirements:

- All clubs must be open to all members of the student body.
- All clubs must have a faculty advisor who will assume responsibility for the club. **The faculty advisor must be present during all club meetings and activities.** Club meetings and activities typically meet during the school day or immediately after school, unless special arrangements are approved by the administration.

**CLUB ELIGIBILITY**

Co-curricular or extracurricular activities generally take place outside of classroom time. If a student is placed into LINK, they may not participate in any co-curricular or extracurricular activities outside of school hours until they are no longer mandated to attend LINK. Please refer to LINK section in student handbook. Students may not miss LINK to attend any co-curricular/extracurricular activities.

Participation in clubs is a privilege, not a right. The Student Code of Conduct must be followed. The following are the general standards set by the school which must be followed in order for the student to participate in clubs.

1. A physical and a medical doctor's clearance are required before there is any participation in any form of athletics, including clubs involving physical fitness activities. All physical information including the doctor's signature and doctor's office stamp must be an original copy. No copies or faxed copies will be accepted. The physical is valid one calendar year to the day. Physicals by Chiropractors are not accepted.
2. A student must have medical and hospital insurance before participating in any sport, or club involving physical fitness activities. This is required by state law. A front and back copy of your insurance card or a copy of your policy is required.
3. A student must demonstrate and maintain satisfactory citizenship without any school debt or truanancies.
4. All students who are a member of any club or sport must complete a transportation permission form for each specific event in which the student is participating.

### **DANCES & ACTIVITIES**

Dances and activities are held for the enjoyment of NOVA Academy ECHS students. Guests 21 years of age or older and 8<sup>th</sup> grade or younger are not permitted to attend NOVA Academy ECHS dances. You must be a current NOVA Academy ECHS student to purchase event tickets. The purchaser must bring a copy of his/her guest's current I.D. card and a thoroughly completed/signed guest permission slip in order to purchase a guest ticket. Guests must have a current photo I.D. from their school or a valid government issued I.D. (i.e. driver's license, state issued I.D. card) for admission.

**Students must be present for the entire school day in order to participate in school dances and activities.**

All event attendees must dress appropriately according to the school event dress code. No alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or paraphernalia are allowed. You may be searched upon entering. Please do not bring gum, rave items, canes, pens or pencils, wallet chains, lighters, electronic cigarettes, weapons, etc. All school rules are in effect.

Procedure for event ticket purchase:

1. If bringing a guest, the NOVA Academy ECHS student must obtain a guest permission slip from the Activities Director. It must be filled out by the student, signed by the guest, and signed by that student's and guest's parent/guardian as well as the guest's school administrator (unless no longer in high school). The completed guest permission slip must be returned to the Activities Director for approval. Once approved, the student may purchase tickets.
2. Approved guest permission slip (with a copy of guest I.D.).
3. Tickets may be purchased before school, after school, and during lunch ONLY. Cash and imprinted checks are accepted.
4. Event permission slips and information will be available on the NOVA Academy ECHS websites.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The NOVA Academy ECHS Physical Education (P.E.) Department requires a dress code for all students enrolled in the regular program. P.E. attire is available for purchase during orientation or through the school. No buckles, snaps, zippers, or pockets are allowed on athletic shorts. Socks and athletic shoes must be worn. If you have any questions regarding the school's approved P.E. attire, you may contact the P.E. teacher. Students need to refer to their class syllabus for the NON-SUIT POLICY.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

NOVA Academy Board approved field trips may be a part of class activities at NOVA Academy ECHS. Permission slips will be provided and must be returned to the coordinating school staff member. School dress code and code of conduct rules are in effect for all field trips. Field trips may have attendance criteria including grades and citizenship.

## **WORK/STUDY/SERVICE**

Administrators, teachers or staff may assign Work/Study/Service to any student before school, during lunch or after school if they believe such assignment may have a positive effect on the student's behavior or achievement. An approximate twenty-four (24) hour notice will be given to students who are requested to serve either before or after school.

Work/Study/Service is assigned as a result of irresponsible and/or inappropriate behaviors including, but not limited to, truancies, tardies, dress code violations, or electronics violations.

## **VISITORS ON CAMPUS**

Visitors are not permitted on campus or at school activities without prior authorization and/or a specific purpose. All visitors (including alumni) must report to the office and sign in upon arrival. A Visitor's Badge must be worn in clear view if presence is approved by an administrator.

## **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS**

Cell phones and/or other electronic devices can be in your possession and at school under the following conditions:

1. You may use your cell phone and/or other electronic devices on campus during non-instructional time. At all other times, phones must be turned off.
2. All cell phones and/or other electronic devices and accessories (**including, but not limited to, ear buds, headphones, blue tooth devices**) **must be turned off and stored out of sight or they will be confiscated by a teacher or administrator.**
3. Cell phone/electronic use during class is not permitted unless directed by teacher or staff for instructional/educational purposes only.

## **CLOSED CAMPUS**

Students are not permitted to leave campus once they arrive, for any reason, without permission granted through the office. Students may **ONLY** leave campus with an adult designated on their EMERGENCY

INFORMATION/MEDICAL RELEASE. THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OR EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON MUST PRESENT A VALID ID TO PICK UP STUDENT.

Any person waiting in the parking lot during the day may be approached for safety reasons. Any person who brings a student an item during the day should label it and drop it off at the office. All visitors, including alumni, must report to the office immediately upon arrival to the school. Please refer to VISITORS ON CAMPUS section of the Student Handbook.

### **HALL PASSES**

Students must have a hall pass when not in a classroom during instructional time. Students who are detained for any reason should request a note to avoid being marked tardy in the following class. Students without a hall pass may be assigned to work/study.

### **GRADING POLICY**

1. Grades must consistently reflect a continuum of mastery-based achievement and mastery.
2. Learning objectives will be clearly communicated for each formal and informal assessment within each unit of study.
3. Students will have the opportunity to track and reflect on their progress of the standards.
4. Informal assessments will be weighted less than formal assessments dependent upon grade level.
5. Formal assessments are the primary factor in academic grades. Behavior, attendance and work habits are not included in academic grades but are reflected in Citizenship and Work Habits grade given for each course.
6. In order to ensure equity, departments will establish mastery-based common criteria for student work and assessments.
7. If a student has made a reasonable attempt to complete an informal assessment, as determined by teacher, the student shall be allowed to re-do or complete an alternative assignment to re-master content for a higher score.
8. Teachers shall allow students to retake formal assessments within the guidelines established by the department/teacher at the beginning of the course. Final Exams are not included in this and may not be retaken.
9. Extra credit may only be offered under the guidelines established by the teacher, and may only be given for standard mastery.
10. No single assignment or assessment shall exceed more than 15% of student's overall semester grade (including final assessment).
11. Teachers will base their grades on the following:

<b>Class Division</b>	<b>Weight of Formal Evaluation</b>	<b>Weight of Informal Evaluation</b>	<b>Final Evaluation</b>
<b>Lower</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>	
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Examples: Tests, quizzes, unit exams, science fair, projects, final essays, finals, etc.</i>	<i>Examples: Standard based practice, drafts, peer edits, observations, questioning, discussion, entrance/exit tickets, think-pair-share, class activities, etc.</i>	<i>Final Evaluations are to be given at the end of each semester and should weigh no less than 10% and no more than 15% of a student's overall Formal Evaluation grade</i>
<b>Upper</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>30%</b>	
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Examples: Tests, quizzes, unit exams, finals, science fair, projects, final essays. etc.</i>	<i>Examples: Standard based practice, drafts, peer edits, observations, questioning, discussion, entrance/exit tickets, think-pair-share, class activities, etc.</i>	<i>Final Evaluations are to be given at the end of each semester and should weigh no less than 10% and no more than 15% of a student's overall Formal Evaluation grade</i>

## GRADING SCALE

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percent Range</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Achievement Level Descriptors</b>	<b>Rubric Scores</b>
A	90% - 100%	More complex learning goal. An "A" means the student shows mastery of content above grade level rigor with in-depth inferences and applications that go beyond what is taught in class.	Exceeds	4
B	80% - 89%	Target learning goal. A "B" means the student has completed proficient work on all course objectives at grade level rigor with no major errors or omissions.	Meets	3
C	70% - 79%	Simpler learning goal. A "C" means the student has completed proficient work on the most important objectives, although not on all objectives, at below grade level rigor of what was explicitly taught in class.	Nearly Meets	2
F	1% - 69%	An "F" means the student produces minimal information even with prompting. The student has completed proficient work on fewer than half of the	Does Not Meet	1

		course objectives and cannot successfully complete the next course in the sequence.		
I	0%	An “I” means the student was unable to successfully complete a course due to strenuous circumstances or as decided by administration. The student has completed proficient work on fewer than twenty-five percent of the course objectives and cannot successfully complete the next course in the sequence.	Incomplete	0

### **ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS**

Achievement Levels were determined by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Students fall into one of four categories of performance called Achievement Levels. These categories are defined by Achievement Level Descriptors, the specifications for what knowledge and skills students display at each level (i.e., Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4). We refer to these categories as Levels, but each Smarter Balanced member state refers to them in different ways, such as “novice, developing, proficient, and advanced.” Students performing at Levels 3 and 4 are considered on track to demonstrating the knowledge and skills necessary for college and career readiness.

<b>High School Mathematics Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors</b>	<b>English Language Arts/Literacy Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors</b>
<p><b>Level 4 - Exceeds</b> The student has exceeded the achievement standard and demonstrates the knowledge and skills in mathematics needed for likely success in entry-level credit-bearing college coursework after high school.</p>	<p><b>Level 4 - Exceeds</b> The student has exceeded the achievement standard and demonstrates the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for likely success in entry-level credit bearing college coursework after high school.</p>
<p><b>Level 3 - Meets</b> The student has met the achievement standard and demonstrates progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills in mathematics needed for likely success in entry-level credit-bearing college coursework after completing high school coursework.</p>	<p><b>Level 3 - Meets</b> The student has met the achievement standard and demonstrates progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for likely success in entry-level credit bearing college coursework after completing high school coursework.</p>
<p><b>Level 2 – Nearly Meets</b> The student has nearly met the achievement standard and may require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in mathematics needed for likely success in entry-level credit-bearing college coursework after high school.</p>	<p><b>Level 2 – Nearly Meets</b> The student has nearly met the achievement standard and may require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for likely success in entry-level credit bearing college coursework after high school.</p>

<p><b>Level 1 – Has Not Met</b> The student has not met the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in mathematics needed for likely success in entry-level credit-bearing college coursework after high school.</p>	<p><b>Level 1 – Has Not Met</b> The student has not met the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for likely success in entry-level credit bearing college coursework after high school.</p>
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**WORK HABITS & CITIZENSHIP GRADES**

1. Work habits and citizenship are reported separately from academic grades.
2. Work habits are based on a student’s responsibility for completing assigned work, including completing work that is missed due to absences, suspensions, or assignments to alternative learning centers, including school suspension.
3. Citizenship is based on compliance with site expectations for student behavior.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Work Habits</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
O (Outstanding)	Completes all assignments, including standard based practice	Consistently high compliance with site and district expectations for behavior
S (Satisfactory)	Completes at least 70% of assignments, including standard based practice	Generally complies with site and district expectations for behavior
N (Needs Improvement)	Completes some assignments, including standards-based practice	Needs to improve compliance with district and site expectations for behavior
U (Unsatisfactory)	Completes few assignments, including standards-based practice	Extremely poor compliance with district and site expectations for behavior

**MASTERY-BASED PRACTICE (previously known as homework)**

Mastery-based practice shall be meaningful and be purposely aligned to the mastery of core curriculum and content standards. Mastery-based practice can be expected to be completed during class time and/or during student’s own time (at home, during office hours, link, etc.) and grades are considered informal evaluation grades. Mastery-based practice shall be prescriptive and differentiated to meet the needs of teachers’ diverse student populations. Assignments may vary with subject, but need to be designed so students may do one or more of the following:

1. Practice and reinforce fundamental skills to meet course standards, objectives and skills.
2. Aid in processing needed information to demonstrate subject matter mastery.

3. Provide an opportunity to increase their learning ability through independent experiences with resources found outside of a classroom setting.
4. Develop regular study habits, responsibility, and self-discipline, which are needed skills to budget their time effectively and work independently.
5. Engage in shared learning experiences with family members at home.
6. Enhance concepts taught in class and may reinforce real world applications.

### **GRADING MASTERY-BASED PRACTICE**

Mastery-based practice will be graded and will be part of the informal evaluation section of the overall grade along with other formative measures. Grading varies with specific assignments. For example, some assignments may receive a rubric score, letter grade, percent score, points for completion, full credit, partial credit, or no credit depending upon the accuracy and completion of work. Dependent upon the assignment, students may receive one or more of the following forms of feedback in a timely manner:

1. Direct instructional feedback when completed work practice is reviewed in class.
2. Graded work returned with relevant and meaningful written comments and feedback.
3. Peer evaluations with clearly outlined objectives and responses.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Students who miss school coursework because of excused absences shall be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Teachers shall assign such makeup work as necessary to ensure academic progress, not as a punitive measure. Teachers shall set a reasonable time frame for when missing assignments are to be completed and turned in. Students who miss school work because of unexcused absence may or may not be given the opportunity to make up work, which will be determined by the teacher.

### **LATE WORK & MISSING ASSIGNMENTS**

Students will be allowed to turn in late work. Late work can be turned in for up to 75% credit as determined by the school campus.

*For Example: If late work is only to be accepted up to two weeks (14 days) after the original due date, the late work/missing assignment window will be closed and assignments will be zeroed out in the grade book after the two week period. If an assignment is due at the end of the semester when less than two weeks are available, the student will have up until the day of their final to submit missing assignments for that time period.*

*If an assignment worth 100 points was due September 12<sup>th</sup>, students may turn this assignment in for late credit up until the end of the school day on September 26<sup>th</sup>. If a student turns in this assignment late and it is 100% accurate and perfectly completed, the highest grade they may receive is a 75% of 100/100 = 75/100 (75%). If a student turns in this assignment late and it is only 50% accurate, they will receive 75% of 50/100 = 37.5/100 (37.5%).*

Students who habitually do not turn in work should be referred for possible interventions, including tutoring, support classes, SSTs, etc. as guided by departments and site procedures. Teachers should continue to do all in their power to ensure students are completing the work. Students and parents are integral members of the education team, and need to continue to ensure that students are completing the required assignments. When students are struggling to complete the assignments, they or their parents need to contact the teacher for additional support.

### **ASSIGNING OF ZEROS**

Students who do not make a reasonable attempt to complete an assignment/assessment, as determined by the teacher, department or administration, will receive a zero. For assignments/assessments that receive a zero, students will be allowed to make-up the work or participate in the retake of an assessment, within the guidelines established by the teacher at the beginning of the course and as outlined in the “Late Work & Missing Assignments” section above.

### **PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIAN**

The valedictorian is the academic title conferred upon the highest ranked student among those in the graduating class. Selection to this title shall be governed by the procedure established below.

A student shall be considered for selection as valedictorian based upon the following:

1. The student’s total grade point average (GPA) in his/ her academic studies.
2. Recommendation of the school faculty and administration.
3. Grade point calculations at the end of the first semester of grade twelve.
4. Completion of a minimum of three semesters in local area schools.
5. Inclusion of all summer school and intersession grades.
6. The following values for marks: A=4; B=3; C=2; F=0
7. Honors/Advanced Placement classes and college courses are weighted and calculated with the addition of 1 point per class / course ( i.e. a student having a college course fulfilling the University of California IGETC requirements and receiving a grade of an A would have 5.0 points) A=5; B=4; C=3.

### **PRINCIPAL’S LIST**

Principal’s List recognition is given to students who have earned a weighted GPA of 4.00 or higher in a semester. Principal’s List certificates of achievement will be issued to each student meeting the criteria.

### **HIGH HONOR ROLL**

High Honor Roll recognition is given to students who have earned a weighted GPA of 3.50 - 3.99 in a semester. High Honor Roll certificates of achievement will be issued to each student meeting the criteria.

### **HONOR ROLL**

Honor Roll recognition is given to students who have earned a weighted GPA of 3.0 - 3.49 in a semester. Honor Roll certificates of achievement will be issued to each student meeting the criteria.

### **DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC EAGLE AWARDS**

Students are nominated by their instructors during the month in their respective subject. This award honors the most outstanding student who has demonstrated leadership, excellent grades, attendance, solid work performance and a positive attitude. Award winners are recognized monthly in an all school assembly. Award winners will receive a certificate of recognition.

## **SOARING EAGLE AWARDS**

Students are nominated by their Family advisors during the month in their respective Family class. This award is given to the most outstanding student who has consistently demonstrated the ability to soar beyond self. They have offered sincere service to others and have shown concern for social justice while exhibiting decision-making and leadership skills. Award winners are recognized monthly in an all school assembly. Award winners will receive a certificate of merit.

## **GRADUATION CEREMONY DRESS CODE AND BEHAVIOR**

Suggested appropriate dress for men is a tie, dress shirt, dress slacks, dress shoes. Suggested appropriate dress for women is a dress, skirt or slacks and blouse, and heels or flats. The gown may not be altered or decorated in any fashion. Caps may be decorated in a manner appropriate for a school ceremony as long as all décor is flat and messaging aligns with NOVA Academy's core values. Only school-issued graduation items may be worn on the gown such as medals, cords. Leis are not permitted during the ceremony.

Appropriate behavior includes marching in and out with dignity, respectful attention and applause for speakers, receiving the diploma on stage without gesturing or celebrating, and bringing into the auditorium only those items issued you by the school.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

In the event of a major earthquake, any other disaster, or a Lock-Down situation wherein students need to be picked up, all students are required to remain on campus until a parent/guardian or the emergency contact person listed on their EMERGENCY INFORMATION/MEDICAL RELEASE form picks them up. **THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OR EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON MUST PRESENT A VALID ID TO PICK UP STUDENT.**

In the event of a Lock-Down, students will not be allowed to leave campus until an all clear is given to the school by authorities.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

High School Textbooks are issued free of charge to students. However, students are responsible for the care and return of these books. Students will be charged accordingly if books are lost, stolen or damaged beyond normal wear. Every student will sign a textbook authorization form accepting full responsibility for their textbooks. Please refer to COLLEGE PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS section in Student Handbook regarding College Textbooks.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic honesty is a fundamental principle of scholarship. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to such things as cheating; inverting false information or citations, plagiarism, and helping someone else commit any such act.

Content of research papers is expected to provide a means to distinguish a student's own work from the work and ideas of others. Credit must be given to the source of the ideas or words of another. Students are expected to do their own work on tests and on independent homework assignments, giving assistance to other students is only with the permission of assigning teacher and/or peer tutors.

Students will be encouraged to learn together, for example, in study groups furthering their knowledge and understandings by interaction, cooperation and sharing. However, evidence of that learning demonstrated by

work to be assessed by the teacher will be the responsibility of the individual student and is to be arrived at independently.

NOVA Academy ECHS consider plagiarism and falsification of documents, including documents that are not academically related, a serious matter and will result in disciplinary and/or academic consequences.

Cheating is using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in an academic exercise. Plagiarism is representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in an academic exercise. Any student who helps another student fabricate, cheat, or plagiarize will be considered to have committed the same offense.

Consequences may include and are not limited to:

1. Written warning of misconduct by the teacher and/or Administration, parental contact, and a zero on the assignment.
2. Call to parent/guardian of student by teacher and/or Administration.
3. Recommendation for Disciplinary Probation, Suspension, or Removal from NOVA Academy ECHS.

**The school may impose appropriate consequences at any stage deemed necessary.**

### **COMPUTER LAB & CHROMEBOOK USE**

The purpose of computer lab and Chromebook use is for academic pursuits. Lab and Chromebook users have a right to expect a quiet, clean environment that is conducive to learning. These guidelines are intended to outline the responsibilities of lab use on the campus of NOVA Academy ECHS.

1. No food, drinks or chewing gum are permitted in the labs or in a classroom where computers/chromebooks are in use.
2. Students may only use the computer labs/Chromebooks when supervised by a staff member.
3. The use of profanity and loud conversations are not permitted in the labs, as it is a disturbance to other users. Students may not listen to music in the computer lab including mp3 players or music from the computer itself. Students engaged in loud, disruptive conversations in the labs will be asked to leave.
4. The school assumes no responsibility for any lost or stolen data including thumb drives. **Users are responsible for saving documents on their own media.**
5. Workstations are available on a first come-first served basis.
6. Downloading or installing programs on the hard drives is strictly prohibited. Any information saved or installed on the system's hard drive will be removed once the PC is rebooted. Use of lab equipment to view or download materials may require the user to demonstrate his/her educational or research purpose for such use.

### **INTERNET/TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

NOVA Academy ECHS recognizes that local and wide area network services offer a wide variety of opportunities to further goals and objectives and, therefore, provides network access to its staff and students. Access to this vast resource of information is an opportunity requiring responsible use by each individual. As such, every NOVA Academy ECHS user should act in an ethical and legal manner consistent with NOVA Academy ECHS goals and objectives and should conform to appropriate use and network etiquette that includes being polite, using appropriate language, and respecting the privacy of others.

The local and wide area networks provided by NOVA Academy ECHS include networked computers in offices, schools and other facilities, and the Internet, which gives access to computers around the world. Opportunities provided by this network may include:

- Access to information from sites around the world
- Discussion groups on a wide variety of topics consistent with NOVA Academy ECHS goals and objectives.
- Research and distance learning
- Development of curriculum-related projects for publication on the World Wide Web

Users of NOVA Academy ECHS network services should remember that the level of confidentiality of NOVA Academy ECHS computers may not be the same as that expected when using their own equipment or Internet services. E-mail files and other Internet records may be examined for educational and administrative purposes and to verify that acceptable-use guidelines are being followed.

NOVA Academy ECHS has taken reasonable steps to ensure that network use is only for activities that support NOVA Academy ECHS goals and objectives. Use of the NOVA Academy ECHS network or the Internet is a privilege which may be revoked at any time for inappropriate conduct.

### **ON-LINE CONDUCT**

Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Using the network for illegal activities, including unauthorized installation, use, storage, or distribution of copyrighted software or materials in violation of copyright laws.
- Using the network for personal financial or commercial purposes.
- Using the network for political activities.
- Accessing or distributing files that contain pornographic materials or obscene or harmful matter as defined in California Penal Code Section 313 (a).
- Unauthorized use of another individual's name or password or allowing another user access to your account or password.
- Providing another individual's e-mail address or other personal information.
- Violating privacy rights and/or accessing information of other individuals.
- Vandalizing equipment or data.
- Sending or exchanging messages that are inconsistent with NOVA Academy ECHS policies.

### **ON-LINE RESPONSIBILITY**

As a user of the NOVA Academy ECHS wide area and local area networks, I agree to:

- Report any known misuse of the network to the responsible person.
- Use my network access in an acceptable manner, following all district rules and regulations regarding network use, including being polite, using appropriate language and respecting others' privacy.
- Use on-line time and other network resources efficiently.

Students who violate the *Network/Internet Acceptable Use Agreement*, misuse electronic resources, or violate state or federal laws may be subject to disciplinary action including loss of access privileges and/or legal action. We support the parent or guardian's right to authorize or decline Internet access for their student. Access to the Internet by students requires a signed authorization from the parent/guardian.

## **ATTENDANCE INFORMATION**

### **WHEN YOU ARE ABSENT**

A WRITTEN NOTE IS REQUIRED upon the student's return (within 48 hours) to school for school records. A student MUST present written verification upon return to school following an absence. Failure to clear an absence in the allotted time will result in an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE (also considered TRUANCY). Please refer to the PRACTICE POLICY Unexcused Absence: Late or Missing Assignments/Practice section of the Student Handbook.

### **HOW TO CLEAR AN ABSENCE**

WHEN A STUDENT IS ABSENT, A **WRITTEN NOTE** IS REQUIRED upon the student's return to school. The office opens at 7:30 a.m. **STANDING IN LINE WILL NOT EXCUSE TARDINESS TO CLASS.** Absences must be cleared **within 48 hours** of the student's return to school.

### **ABSENCE CALLING SYSTEM**

To provide better communication with the parents, office staff will call home when a student is marked absent in one or more classes during the day. Parents who are aware of their student's absence SHOULD CALL THE OFFICE, and **MUST ALSO** send a note when their child returns to school.

### **WHEN YOU NEED TO LEAVE SCHOOL**

Students cannot leave campus at any time for any reason without parental consent. Leaving campus without authorization will result in work/study/service, even if a note is brought the next day.

- No student will be permitted to leave school unless parent/guardian or someone on the student's EMERGENCY INFORMATION/MEDICAL RELEASE form signs them out IN PERSON OR OVER THE PHONE.

### **WORK IN CASE OF EXTENDED ABSENCE**

Extended absences must be approved by the principal at least two weeks in advance. A great deal of time and effort is required to prepare homework assignments for students who are absent. For that reason, it is necessary that a 72 hour notice be given to teachers in order to prepare homework. Parents should contact the office to request homework for excused absences. If the duration of the illness will be lengthy (one week or more) parents should contact the principal.

## **ATTENDANCE PROGRAM**

### **UNEXCUSED TARDIES**

It is an expectation at NOVA Academy ECHS that students arrive to school and to each class period on time. This includes Family. The following consequences will be instituted for tardiness **per semester.**

**Tardy 5: Student is no longer eligible for the following semester's College Opportunity Program** if they have MORE THAN (5) FIVE UNEXCUSED TARDIES IN ALL CLASSES COMBINED, including Family, PER SEMESTER. Please refer to the COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY section of the Student Handbook.

**Tardy 10:** Parent/Student meeting with Administrator; Attendance Contract. **SARB process begins if tardies are to the first class period of the day.**

**NOTE:** A STUDENT TARDY TO ANY CLASS IN EXCESS OF THIRTY (30) MINUTES IS CONSIDERED TRUANT TO THAT CLASS.

## **ABSENCES AND TRUANCIES**

### **Excused Absences**

A student absent from school under **excused** reason enumerated under **California Education Code 48205** shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefore. The teacher of any class from which a pupil is absent shall determine the tests and assignments that will be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the student missed during the absence.

**Excused absences** are enumerated under **California Education Code 48205**, and include the following reasons:

- Due to his or her verified illness.
- Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
- For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services rendered.
- For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
- For the purpose of jury duty.
- Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent.
- For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, or when the student's absence has been requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.
- For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family, who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment in a combat zone or combat support position.

### **EXCESSIVE EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Education Code Section 60901[c][1] defines students with excessive excused absences as a **Chronic Absentee**. A Chronic Absentee is a student who is absent 10 or more days per semester (includes both excused and unexcused absences/tardies) or 10% or more total days based on total days students are enrolled in the school year.

### **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

Unexcused absences are:

- Family vacations / reunions
- Religious retreats that exceed four (4) school hours
- Theme Park excursions
- Non school-related sports events / competitions
- Cruises, trips to the river, Mexico, beach trips, etc.
- Acting, movie, or commercial shoots

- Theme camps (i.e. cheer camp, dance camp, baseball camp, etc.)
- Other activities not enumerated under California Education Code 48205 that are deemed unexcused by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

## **TRUANCIES**

Pursuant to State Law (Education Code 48200 et. Seq., Penal Code 272) all students, age 6-18 years old, are required to attend school. Parents and/or students may be prosecuted for failure to follow this law. Possible consequences for 3 or more truancies may include fines up to \$500, incarceration, restriction of driving privileges, probation, and the imposition of Community Service. **Any absence that has not been verified by a parent note within 48 hours of student's return will automatically be converted to a truancy.**

**NOTE: A STUDENT HAVING AN UNEXCUSED TARDY TO ANY CLASS IN EXCESS OF THIRTY (30) MINUTES IS TRUANT TO THAT CLASS. \*\*STUDENTS WHO ARRIVE TRUANT TO SCHOOL ARE SUBJECT TO WORK/STUDY/SERVICE AT THE DISCRETION OF ADMINISTRATION.\*\***

Education Code Section 48260 states that any pupil subject to full-time education who is absent from school without valid excuse more than **three days** or tardy in **excess of 30 minutes** on each of more than three days in one school year is a truant and shall be reported to the principal or designee.

**If a student accumulates unexcused absences as outlined above, or is considered a Chronic Absentee, the student will be subject to the following, legally mandated attendance program:**

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD PROCESS**

### **First Notification of Student Truancy**

Sent after 3rd Unexcused Absence or Tardy for 30 minutes or more, 10 Excessive Excused Absences OR Tardy (less than 30 minutes) on 10 or more days per semester or 10% or more total absences (including truancies) based on total days students are enrolled in the school year.

Upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, the school district shall notify the pupil's parent/guardian, by first-class mail or other reasonable means (including electronic mail or phone call), of the following (Education Code Section 48260.5):

1. That the pupil is truant.
2. That the parent/guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school.
3. That parents/guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction (or a misdemeanor) and subject to prosecution under Education Code Section 48293 (or Penal Code Sections 270.1 and 272).
4. That alternative educational programs are available in the district.
5. That the parent(s) or guardian(s) has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy.
6. That the pupil may be subject to prosecution under Education Code Section 48264.

7. That the student may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of his/her driving privilege pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 13202.7.
8. That it is recommended that the parent or guardian accompany the pupil to school and attend classes with the pupil for one day.

### **Second Notification of Student Truancy**

If the unexcused absences or tardies/excessive excused absences or tardies continue after the first letter has been sent, a second letter will be sent after the **sixth (6th)** Unexcused Absence or Tardy or continued Chronic Absenteeism notifying parent/guardian that a school meeting has been scheduled for the parent and pupil to discuss attendance with school officials.

### **Third Notification - Declaration of Habitual Truant-**

#### **\*\*Required Meeting with District Attorney\*\***

Sent on next (7th) Unexcused Absence or Tardy for 30 minutes or more or excessive absences or tardies.

**If Unexcused Absences/Tardies, Excessive Excused Absences and/or Tardies continue after meeting with District Attorney, student and family are referred to SARB:**

*Education Code 48262:*

- Administration schedules a SARB hearing.
- Administration issues a directive requesting the family to attend a SARB hearing.
- **SARB hearing is to determine if school is the best choice for student and/or whether case should be referred to District Attorney for further action.**
- **If parent or guardian fails to attend the SARB hearing:**
  - An attempt will made during meeting to contact parent/guardian to encourage attendance.
  - A police resource officer or other designee can provide transportation to the meeting for parent/guardian.
  - If the above fails, the SARB hearing will continue in the absence of parent/guardian.
  - A SARB contract will be prepared and will be reviewed with parent/guardian by administration either at home or school.

***IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE.***

### **STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM**

In an effort to support the positive actions of the vast majority of students, NOVA Academy ECHS School administrators and teachers are committed to assisting and working with the student(s) and parent(s) as needed to help build strategies for student success. This goal is often accomplished with the assistance of a student success team, which is a compilation of administrators, teachers, counseling department personnel, parents, and students.

#### **What is the Student Success Team (SST)?**

The Student Success Team is a group of people at the school who utilize a problem-solving approach to an attempt to help students to be more successful in school, at home, and in the community. The philosophy of SST is based on the belief that the school, home and community need to work together to assist the student with obstacles to his/her success in school. The Student Success Team is a group of people at the school who utilize a problem-solving approach in an attempt to help students to be more successful in school, at home, and in the community. The SST often includes the family, classroom teacher, school counselor and Administrator. Others

may be asked to attend if it is believed they may assist the student in moving forward with their academic or behavioral progress.

### **What Makes an SST Meeting Necessary?**

A student should be considered for an SST meeting when there are significant concerns about a student, be they related to education, emotional issues, social adjustment, retention, chronic truancy, tardies etc.

An SST meeting should also be considered when it is seen as useful to bring the significant people in the life of the student together for discussion and planning. Students can be referred directly by their parent/guardian, the counseling office, or by their classroom teachers.

The SST is also responsible to look at those students who may be referred for formal assessment and consideration for Special Education services.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT & DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

NOVA Academy ECHS establish policies, procedures and guidelines to promote an environment reflective of the school's mission, purpose, and core values. The governance of the school will provide the structure, support, and order necessary for students to develop their talents and skills to the best of their ability. Students are able to achieve more and grow when clear and consistent policies and guidelines are established. Our goal at NOVA Academy ECHS is to help each student become a productive and effective citizen in our society. We know the vast majority of students will work toward this goal by respecting the rights of others, respecting personal and school property, and by practicing acceptable patterns of behavior and courtesy.

The guidelines and expectations that are found in this handbook are in effect on school grounds, off campus during school hours, at school sponsored functions, or while traveling to or from school activities.

### **DRESS CODE (while on/off campus for school sponsored activities)**

**It is the responsibility of the parent to see that their student leaves home properly dressed for school and school sponsored activities.**

- Clothing shall conceal undergarments at all times.
- No see-through or fishnet fabrics, backless clothing, tube tops, low cut or plunging necklines, revealing tops and/or bare midriffs.
- No spaghetti straps, halter tops, strapless tops, torn or ragged tops or shirts with only the top button fastened.
- **No blankets**
- All pants or shorts must be worn at the hip or above. **Clothing must completely cover all undergarments.** Sagging is not permitted under any circumstances.
- Tights and leggings must be covered by another article of clothing (i.e. shorts, skirts, dresses, etc.).
- Shorts or skirts must be as long as your fingertips when your arms are fully extended at your side. This length requirement includes when shorts or skirts are worn over tights. Undergarments cannot be visible in any way. Revealing shorts, skirts, or dresses are also prohibited.
- No wearing of hoods on campus.
- Illegal/Obscene – Any apparel, jewelry, accessory or inscription on personal belongings which could be construed as depicting or promoting the illegal, the obscene, or are sexually suggestive are not allowed. Specifically those which depict or promote alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and/or obscenities are prohibited.

- Offensive – Apparel, jewelry, accessories, manner of grooming, and inscriptions on personal belongings, including backpacks and book covers, that are sexually suggestive, or by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, universal meaning or any other attributes, express or advocate racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice are not allowed.
- Jewelry/Accessories – Spiked jewelry, chains, and other dangerous apparel are prohibited.
- Shoes – To protect your safety, shoes must be worn at all times. No Flip Flops or slippers.
- Hats, bandanas, beanies, berets, and hairnets (except when serving food) may not be worn except as authorized by an administrator. All headwear needs to be packed away out of sight or checked in the front office before school starts. This applies to males and females.

If students come dressed inappropriately, parent/guardian will be notified of student dress code violation. Alternative clothing will be provided by NOVA Academy ECHS for the student to wear for the remainder of the day. **These borrowed clothes MUST BE RETURNED ON THE SAME DAY THEY WERE BORROWED. Non-returned clothing will result in corresponding charges. \$10 per shirt, \$10 per pair of shorts/sweatpants. Outstanding charges will result in exclusion from school activities, events, and receiving transcripts.**

The Administrative Staff will make final interpretation of the Dress Code and personal grooming. These standards apply to all students when they are on campus **or at any school-sponsored activity.**

### **DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS**

**First offense (of the school year):** Student will be given appropriate clothing to wear for the remainder of the day and parent/guardian is notified of violation. Any resultant tardy or truancy will be dealt with accordingly.

**Second offense:** Student will be given appropriate clothing to wear for the remainder of the day. Any resultant tardy or truancy will be dealt with accordingly. In addition, the student is assigned 1 hour Work/Study/Service and parents are contacted.

**Third offense:** Student will be given appropriate clothing to wear for the remainder of the day. Any resultant tardy or truancy will be dealt with accordingly. In addition, the student is assigned 2 hours Work/Study/Service and a parent conference is requested.

**Further offense(s):** Students who accumulate more than 3 Dress Code offenses in the school year will be subject to further Disciplinary action as determined by the administration.

### **CELL PHONE & ELECTRONIC DEVICE VIOLATIONS (per school year)**

**Incident 1:** Warning

**Incident 2:** Teacher confiscation, return at the end of the period.

**Incident 3:** Teacher confiscation, phone given to front office, student pick up at the end of the day..

**Incident 4:** Teacher confiscation, phone given to front office, parent pick up. Further consequences if necessary.

**NOTE:** Failure to hand over a phone/electronic device when asked by school personnel will be considered in defiance. Electronics may only be picked up before school or after school by a parent/guardian only.

### **OUT OF BOUNDS, ON CAMPUS - NOVA ACADEMY ECHS**

There are areas on the campus at NOVA ACADEMY ECHS that are deemed “OUT OF BOUNDS” during school hours.

**Incident 1:** 30 minutes Work/Study/Service, parent contact

**Incident 2:** 1 hour Work/Study/Service, parent contact

**Incident 3:** 90 minutes Work/Study/Service, parent contact

**Incident 4:** Possible out of school suspension, parent contact, Behavior Contract

**Incident 5:** Possible out of school suspension or other disciplinary action

## **SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION PROCEDURES**

*Governing Law: The procedures by which students can be suspended or expelled. California Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(J).*

This Pupil Suspension and Expulsion Policy has been established in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well being of all students at the Charter School. In creating this policy, the Charter School has reviewed Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* which describes the noncharter schools' list of offenses and procedures to establish its list of offenses and procedures for suspensions and expulsions. The language that follows closely mirrors the language of Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* The Charter School is committed to annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions and expulsions and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension or expulsion.

When the Policy is violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction. This policy shall serve as the Charter School's policy and procedures for student suspension and expulsion and it may be amended from time to time without the need to amend the charter so long as the amendments comport with legal requirements. Charter School staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students. This Policy and its Procedures will be printed and distributed as part of the Student Handbook and will clearly describe discipline expectations. Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of the Policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.

The Charter School administration shall ensure that students and their parents/guardians are notified in writing upon enrollment of all discipline policies and procedures. The notice shall state that this Policy and Procedures are available on request at the Executive Director's office.

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

A student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom the Charter School has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEIA") or who is qualified for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion and is accorded the same due process procedures applicable to general education students except when federal and state law mandates additional or different procedures. The Charter School will follow all applicable federal and state laws including but not limited to the California Education Code, when imposing any form of discipline on a student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom the Charter School has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability or who is otherwise qualified for such services or protections in according due process to such students.

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

A student may be suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the act is related to school activity or school

attendance occurring at any time including but not limited to: a) while on school grounds; b) while going to or coming from school; c) during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; d) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

## **B. Enumerated Offenses**

1. Discretionary Suspension Offenses. Students may be suspended for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:
  - a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
  - b) Willfully used force of violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
  - c) Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
  - d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
  - e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
  - f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
  - g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
  - h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a pupil.
  - i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
  - j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
  - k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
  - l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
  - m) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
  - n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.

- o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- p) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- q) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, “hazing” means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this section, “hazing” does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- r) Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. For purposes of this section, “terroristic threat” shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family’s safety, or for the protection of school property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
- s) Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual’s academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- t) Caused, attempted to cause, threaten to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- u) Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- v) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act (defined as the transmission of a communication, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image, or a post on a social network Internet Web site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager) directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel. “Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including acts one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
  2. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
  3. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
  4. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
- w) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1).
- x) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.

2. Non- Discretionary Suspension Offenses: Students must be suspended and recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:

- a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the students had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.

3. Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students may be expelled for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:

- a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
- b) Willfully used force of violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
- c) Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
- e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.

- g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a pupil.
- i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
- k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
- l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- m) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.
- o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- p) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- q) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, “hazing” means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this section, “hazing” does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- r) Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. For purposes of this section, “terroristic threat” shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family’s safety, or for the protection of school property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
- s) Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual’s academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- t) Caused, attempted to cause, threaten to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- u) Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- v) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act (defined as the transmission of a communication, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image, or a post on a social network Internet Web site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager) directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel. “Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including acts one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
  1. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student’s or those students’ person or property.
  2. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
  3. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
  4. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
- w) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1).
- x) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee’s concurrence.

4. Non -Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students must be expelled for any of the following acts when it is determined pursuant to the procedures below that the pupil:

- a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the students had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee’s concurrence.

If it is determined by the Board of Directors that a student has brought a fire arm or destructive device, as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, on to campus or to have possessed a firearm or dangerous device on campus, the student shall be expelled for one year, pursuant to the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.

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

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

### **C. Suspension Procedure**

Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

#### **1. Conference**

Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Executive Director or the Executive Director’s designee with the student and his or her parent and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or Charter School employee who referred the student to the Executive Director or designee.

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

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

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

At the time of the suspension, an administrator or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If Charter School officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent/guardian respond to such requests

without delay.

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

Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five (5) consecutive school days per suspension. Upon a recommendation of Expulsion by the Executive Director or Executive Director's designee, the pupil and the pupil's guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the pupil should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. This determination will be made by the Executive Director or designee upon either of the following: 1) the pupil's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or 2) the pupil poses a threat or danger to others. Upon either determination, the pupil's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

### **D. Authority to Expel**

A student may be expelled either by the Charter School Board following a hearing before it or by the Charter School Board upon the recommendation of an Administrative Panel to be assigned by the Board as needed. The Administrative Panel should consist of at least three members who are certificated and neither a teacher of the pupil or a Board member of the Charter School's governing board. The Administrative Panel may recommend expulsion of any student found to have committed an expellable offense.

### **E. Expulsion Procedures**

Students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. Unless postponed for good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days after the Executive Director or designee determines that the Pupil has committed an expellable offense.

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

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

- 1) The date and place of the expulsion hearing;
- 2) A statement of the specific facts, charges and offenses upon which the proposed expulsion is based;
- 3) A copy of the Charter School's disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation;
- 4) Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to provide information about the student's status at the Charter School to any other school district or school to which the student seeks enrollment;
- 5) The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or to employ and be represented by counsel or a non-attorney advisor;
- 6) The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing;
- 7) The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing;
- 8) The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on

the student's behalf including witnesses.

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

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

1. The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of his/her right to (a) receive five days notice of his/her scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of his/her choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.
2. The Charter School must also provide the victim a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.
3. At the discretion of the person or panel conducting the expulsion hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he or she may leave the hearing room.
4. The person or panel conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.
5. The person or panel conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.
6. Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the person presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The person or panel conducting the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany him or her to the witness stand.
7. If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, the Charter School must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to the Charter School. The person presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising his or her discretion

to remove a person from the hearing whom he or she believes is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.

8. The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.

9. Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in public at the request of the pupil being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by means of closed-circuit television.

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

### **G. Record of Hearing**

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

### **H. Presentation of Evidence**

While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. A recommendation by the Administrative Panel to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed an expellable offense. Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay. Sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the Board, Panel or designee determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm.

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

The decision of the Administrative Panel shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation to the Board who will make a final determination regarding the expulsion. The final decision by the Board shall be made within ten (10) school days following the conclusion of the hearing. The Decision of the

Board is final.

If the Administrative Panel decides not to recommend expulsion, the pupil shall immediately be returned to his/her educational program.

### **I. Written Notice to Expel**

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

The Executive Director or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the authorizer. This notice shall include the following: a) The student's name b) The specific expellable offense committed by the student.

### **J. Disciplinary Records**

The Charter School shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at the Charter School. Such records shall be made available to the authorizer upon request.

### **K. No Right to Appeal**

The pupil shall have no right of appeal from expulsion from the Charter School as the Charter School Board's decision to expel shall be final.

### **L. Expelled Pupils/Alternative Education**

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

### **M. Rehabilitation Plans**

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

### **N. Readmission**

The decision to readmit a pupil or to admit a previously expelled pupil from another school district or charter school shall be in the sole discretion of the Board following a meeting with the Executive Director or designee and the pupil and guardian or representative to determine whether the pupil has successfully completed the

rehabilitation plan and to determine whether the pupil poses a threat to others or will be disruptive to the school environment. The Executive Director or designee shall make a recommendation to the Board following the meeting regarding his or her determination. The pupil's readmission is also contingent upon the Charter School's capacity at the time the student seeks readmission.

## **O. Special Procedures for the Consideration of Suspension and Expulsion of Students with Disabilities**

### **1. Notification of District**

The Charter School shall immediately notify the District and coordinate the procedures in this policy with the District of the discipline of any student with a disability or student who the Charter School or District would be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability.

### **2. Services During Suspension**

Students suspended for more than ten (10) school days in a school year shall continue to receive services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP/504 Plan; and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment or functional analysis, and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. These services may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting.

### **3. Procedural Safeguards/Manifestation Determination**

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

- a) If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or
- b) If the conduct in question was the direct result of the local educational agency's failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan.

If the Charter School, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that either of the above is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability.

If the Charter School, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team make the determination that the conduct was a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP/504 Team shall:

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

Charter School agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

If the Charter School, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 team determine that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability and that the conduct in question was not a result of the failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan, then the Charter School may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to students without disabilities.

#### 4. Due Process Appeals

The parent of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or the Charter School believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, may request an expedited administrative hearing through the Special Education Unit of the Office of Administrative Hearings or by utilizing the dispute provisions of the 504 Policy and Procedures.

When an appeal relating to the placement of the student or the manifestation determination has been requested by either the parent or the Charter School, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the forty-five (45) day time period provided for in an interim alternative educational setting, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and the Charter School agree otherwise.

#### 5. Special Circumstances

Charter School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct.

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

- a) Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 USC 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
- b) Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
- c) Has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 USC 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

#### 6. Interim Alternative Educational Setting

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP/504 team.

#### 7. Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services

A student who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEIA and who has violated the Charter School's disciplinary procedures may assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if the Charter School had knowledge that the student was disabled before the behavior occurred.

The Charter School shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if one of the following conditions exists:

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

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

If the Charter School had no basis for knowledge of the student's disability, it shall proceed with the proposed discipline. The Charter School shall conduct an expedited evaluation if requested by the parents; however the student shall remain in the education placement determined by the Charter School pending the results of the evaluation.

The Charter School shall not be deemed to have knowledge of that the student had a disability if the parent has not allowed an evaluation, refused services, or if the student has been evaluated and determined to not be eligible.

## Updated Policies

### Social Media Policy

The purpose of this Social Media Policy adopted by the NOVA Academy Board of Trustees ("Board") is to comply with California Education Code Section 49073.6 regarding the consideration and adoption of a program to gather or maintain in its records any information obtained from social media of any enrolled student.

For purposes of this policy, the following terms have the following meanings:

**"Educational purposes"** means for purposes that aid in instruction in the classroom or at home, or in classroom administration.

**"Social media"** means an electronic service or account, or electronic content, including, but not limited to, videos, still photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts, instant and text messages, email, online services or accounts, or Internet Web site profiles or locations.

**"Social media"** shall not include an electronic service or account used exclusively for educational purposes or primarily to facilitate creation of school-sponsored publications, such as a yearbook or student newspaper, under the direction or control of a school, teacher, or yearbook adviser.

NOVA Academy shall do all of the following:

- a. Gather or maintain only information that pertains directly to school safety or to student safety.
- b. Provide a student with access to any information about the student gathered or maintained by NOVA Academy that was obtained from social media, and an opportunity to correct or delete such information.

- c. Destroy information gathered from social media and maintained in its records within one (1) year after a student turns 18 years of age or within one (1) year after the student is no longer enrolled in NOVA Academy, whichever occurs first.

## REMOVAL OR CORRECTION OF RECORDS

A student's parent or guardian may access their child's records for examination of the information gathered or maintained under the policy and may request the removal of information or make corrections to information by contacting the CEO, or his/her designee, at 500 West Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701.

The process for requesting removal or correction is as follows: Any request for removal or correction of a student's records must be made in writing and submitted within thirty (30) calendar days of the discovery of the error. A request to remove or correct any record does not give a parent or guardian a right to have the record removed or corrected. NOVA Academy will respond within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the request for removal or correction. NOVA Academy's response will be in writing. If NOVA Academy determines that the record is inaccurate, NOVA Academy will remove or correct the record or the inaccurate portion thereof. However, NOVA Academy will maintain records that it determines are reasonably accurate and/or reasonably related to current or future student or employee discipline matters. If the request for removal or correction is denied, NOVA Academy will set forth the reason(s) for the denial, which will include but not be limited to the potential reasons noted above. NOVA Academy will also note any objection to an adverse decision in the student's records if so requested by the parent or guardian.

NOVA Academy shall notify each parent or guardian of a student subject to the program that the student's information is being gathered from social media and that any information subject to this policy maintained in NOVA Academy's records with regard to the student shall be destroyed within one year after a student turns 18 years of age or within one year after the student is no longer enrolled in NOVA Academy, whichever occurs first.

The notification will include, but not be limited to: (i) an explanation of the process by which a student or a student's parent or guardian may access the student's records for examination of the information gathered or maintained pursuant to this policy; and (ii) an explanation of the process by which a student or a student's parent or guardian may request the removal of information or make corrections to information gathered or maintained pursuant to this policy.

Subject to future amendments of this policy by the Board, NOVA Academy will not contract with a third party to gather information from social media on an enrolled student. If the Board amends this policy to permit such a third-party contract, the policy shall require the contract to comply fully with the provisions of Education Code Section 49073.6 and any other applicable local, state, or federal law.

### **Mathematics Placement Policy**

This policy of the NOVA Academy (the "Charter School") Board of Directors ("Board") has been adopted to establish a fair, objective, and transparent protocol for placement in mathematics courses for students entering 9th grade, in order to ensure the success of every student and to meet the Legislative intent of the California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015.

1. In determining the mathematics course placement for entering 9th grade students, the Charter School systematically takes multiple objective academic measures of student performance into consideration, including:
  - a. Statewide mathematics assessments, including interim and summative assessments through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (“CAASPP”);
  - b. Placement tests that are aligned to state-adopted content standards in mathematics;
  - c. Recommendation, if available, of each student’s 8th grade mathematics teacher based on classroom assignment and grades;
  - d. Recommendation, if any, of each student’s 9th grade mathematics teacher based on classroom assignments and grades provided at the beginning of the school year;
  - e. Final grade in mathematics on the student’s official, end of the year 8th grade report card;
  - f. Results from all placement checkpoints, including at least one (1) placement checkpoint within the first month of the school year as described in Section 2, below.
2. The Charter School will provide at least one (1) placement checkpoint within the first month of the school year to ensure accurate placement and permit reevaluation of individual student progress. All mathematics teachers responsible for teaching 9th grade students will assess the mathematics placements for each 9th grade student assigned to the teacher’s mathematics class. The teacher’s assessment will take into consideration factors which may include, but are not limited to, the student’s classroom assignments, quizzes, tests, exams, and grades, classroom participation, and any comments provided by the student, the student’s parent/legal guardian, and/or the student’s other teachers regarding the student’s mathematics placement. Based on the assessment, the teacher will then recommend that the student remain in the current mathematics placement or be transferred to another mathematics placement, in which case the teacher shall specify the mathematics course or level recommended for the student.
3. The Charter School Executive Director, or his or her designee, shall examine aggregate student placement data annually to ensure that students who are qualified to progress in mathematics courses based on their performance on objective academic measures included in Section 1 of this policy are not held back in a disproportionate manner on the basis of their race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background. The Charter School shall annually report the aggregate results of this examination to the Charter School Board.
4. The Charter School offers clear and timely recourse for each student and his or her parent or legal guardian who questions the student’s placement, as follows:
  - a. A parent/legal guardian of any 9th grade student may submit a written request to the Charter School Executive Director, or his or her designee, that:
    - i. Requests information regarding how the student’s mathematics placement was determined. Within five (5) days of receipt, the Charter School Executive Director or designee shall respond in writing to the parent/legal guardian’s request by providing the information, including the objective academic measures that the Charter School relied upon in determining the student’s mathematics placement.
    - ii. Requests that the student retake the placement test, in which case the Executive Director or designee will attempt to facilitate the retest within two (2) weeks.
    - iii. Requests that the student retake the 8th grade end of course final mathematics assessment, in which case the Executive Director or designee will attempt to facilitate the retest within two (2) weeks.
    - iv. Requests reconsideration of the student’s mathematics placement based on objective academic measures. Within five (5) school days of receipt, the Charter School Executive

Director or designee shall respond in writing to the parent/legal guardian's request. The Executive Director or designee and the student's mathematics teacher must assess the objective academic measures provided by the parent in conjunction with the objective academic measures identified in Section 1 and 2 of this policy. Based on this assessment, the Executive Director or designee must determine whether the most appropriate mathematics placement for the student is the student's current placement or another placement, in which case the Executive Director shall specify the mathematics course or level recommended for the student. The Executive Director's or designee's response must provide the determination as well as the objective academic measures that the Executive Director or designee relied upon in making that determination.

- b. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Executive Director or designee requires additional time to respond to a parent/legal guardian's request, the Executive Director or designee will provide a written response indicating that additional time is needed. In no event shall the Executive Director's or designee's response time exceed one (1) month.
  - c. If, after reconsideration of the student's mathematics placement by the Executive Director or designee, the parent/legal guardian is dissatisfied with the student's mathematics placement, the parent/legal guardian may choose to sign a voluntary waiver requesting that the student be placed in another mathematics course against the professional recommendation of the Executive Director or designee, acknowledging and accepting responsibility for this placement.
5. The Charter School shall ensure that this mathematics placement policy is posted on its website.
  6. This policy is adopted pursuant to the Mathematics Placement Act of 2015, enacted as Education Code Section 51224.7.

### **Uniform Complaint Policy (Revised)**

NOVA Academy policy is to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. NOVA Academy is the local agency primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations governing educational programs. Pursuant to this policy, persons responsible for conducting investigations shall be knowledgeable about the laws and programs which they are assigned to investigate. This complaint procedure is adopted to provide a uniform system of complaint processing for the following types of complaints:

- (1) Complaints of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying against any protected group, including actual or perceived discrimination, on the basis of the actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, physical disability, mental disability, ethnic group identification, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, nationality, national origin, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any NOVA Academy program or activity; and
- (2) Complaints of violations of state or federal law and regulations governing the following programs including but not limited to: Adult Education Programs, Career Technical and Technical Education and Career Technical and Technical Training Programs, Child Care and Development Programs, Child Nutrition Programs, Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs, Foster and Homeless Youth Services, Migrant Education Programs, No Child Left Behind Act (2001) Programs (Titles I-VII; including improving academic achievement, compensatory education limited English proficiency, and migrant education, , Every Student Succeeds Act, and Special Education Programs.

- (3) A complaint may also be filed alleging that a pupil enrolled in a public school was required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity as those terms are defined below.
- a. “Educational activity” means an activity offered by a school, school district, charter school or county office of education that constitutes an integral fundamental part of elementary and secondary education, including, but not limited to, curricular and extracurricular activities.
  - b. “Pupil fee” means a fee, deposit or other charge imposed on pupils, or a pupil’s parents or guardians, in violation of Section 49011 of the Education Code and Section 5 of Article IX of the California Constitution, which require educational activities to be provided free of charge to all pupils without regard to their families’ ability or willingness to pay fees or request special waivers, as provided for in *Hartzell v. Connell* (1984) 35 Cal.3d 899. A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
    - i. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
    - ii. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, uniform or other materials or equipment.
    - iii. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms associated with an educational activity.
  - c. A pupil fees complaint may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees.
  - d. If NOVA Academy finds merit in a pupil fees complaint, NOVA Academy shall provide a remedy to all affected pupils, parents and guardians that, where applicable, includes reasonable efforts by NOVA Academy to ensure full reimbursement to all affected pupils, parents and guardians, subject to procedures established through regulations adopted by the state board.
  - e. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prohibit solicitation of voluntary donations of funds or property, voluntary participation in fundraising activities, or school districts, school, and other entities from providing pupils prizes or other recognition for voluntarily participating in fundraising activities.
- (4) Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula or Sections 47606.5 and 47607.3 of the Education Code, as applicable.
- (5) Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code Section 222 regarding the rights of lactating pupils on a school campus. If NOVA Academy finds merit in a complaint, or if the Chief Executive Officer finds merit in an appeal, NOVA Academy shall provide a remedy to the affected pupil.

NOVA Academy acknowledges and respects every individual’s rights to privacy. Unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects [to the greatest

extent reasonably possible] the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. NOVA Academy cannot guarantee anonymity of the complainant. This includes keeping the identity of the complainant confidential. However, NOVA Academy will attempt to do so as appropriate. NOVA Academy may find it necessary to disclose information regarding the complaint/complainant to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation or proceedings, as determined by the Chief Executive Officer or designee on a case-by-case basis.

NOVA Academy prohibits any form of retaliation against any complainant in the complaint process, including but not limited to a complainant's filing of a complaint or the reporting of instances of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades or work assignments of the complainant.

The Board of Directors designates the following compliance officer(s) to receive and investigate complaints and to ensure NOVA Academy's compliance with law:

Renee Lancaster  
Chief Executive Officer, NOVA Academy  
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Chief Executive Officer or designee shall ensure that employees designated to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs for which they are responsible. Designated employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Chief Executive Officer or designee.

Should a complaint be filed against the Chief Executive Officer, the compliance officer for that case shall be the President of NOVA Academy Board of Directors.

### Notifications

The Chief Executive Officer or designee shall annually provide written notification of NOVA Academy's uniform complaint procedures to employees, students, parents and/or guardians, advisory committees, private school officials and other interested parties (e.g., Adult Education).

The annual notice shall be in English, and when necessary, in the primary language, pursuant to section 48985 of the Education Code if fifteen (15) percent or more of the pupils enrolled in NOVA Academy speak a single primary language other than English.

The Chief Executive Officer or designee shall make available copies of NOVA Academy's uniform complaint procedures free of charge.

The annual notice shall include the following:

- (a) A statement that NOVA Academy is primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.
- (b) A statement that a pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.
- (c) A statement identifying the responsible staff member, position, or unit designated to receive complaints.

- (d) A statement that the complainant has a right to appeal NOVA Academy's decision to the California Department of Education by filing a written appeal within 15 days of receiving NOVA Academy's decision.
- (e) A statement advising the complainant of any civil law remedies that may be available under state or federal discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying laws, if applicable, and of the appeal pursuant to Education Code § 262.3.
- (f) A statement that copies of the local educational agency complaint procedures shall be available free of charge.

### Procedures

The following procedures shall be used to address all complaints which allege that NOVA Academy has violated federal or state laws or regulations governing educational programs. Compliance officers shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions.

All parties involved in allegations shall be notified when a complaint is filed, when a complaint meeting or hearing is scheduled, and when a decision or ruling is made.

#### Step 1: Filing of Complaint

Any individual, public agency, or organization may file a written complaint of alleged noncompliance by NOVA Academy.

A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying shall be initiated no later than six (6) months from the date when the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, or six (6) months from the date when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. A complaint may be filed by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Pupil fee complaints shall be filed not later than one (1) year from the date the alleged violation occurred.

The complaint shall be presented to the compliance officer who shall maintain a log of complaints received, providing each with a code number and date stamp.

If a complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, NOVA Academy staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint.

#### Step 2: Mediation

Within three (3) days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer may informally discuss with the complainant the possibility of using mediation. If the complainant agrees to mediation, the compliance officer shall make arrangements for this process.

Before initiating the mediation of an unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaint, the compliance officer shall ensure that all parties agree to make the mediator a party to related confidential information.

If the mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of law, the compliance officer shall proceed with his/her investigation of the complaint.

The use of mediation shall not extend NOVA Academy's timelines for investigating and resolving the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to such an extension of time.

### Step 3: Investigation of Complaint

The compliance officer is encouraged to hold an investigative meeting within five (5) days of receiving the complaint or an unsuccessful attempt to mediate the complaint. This meeting shall provide an opportunity for the complainant and/or his/her representative to repeat the complaint orally.

The complainant and/or his/her representative shall have an opportunity to present the complaint and evidence or information leading to evidence to support the allegations in the complaint.

A complainant's refusal to provide NOVA Academy's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, or his/her failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or his/her engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation, may result in the dismissal of the complaint because of a lack of evidence to support the allegation.

NOVA Academy's refusal to provide the investigator with access to records and/or other information related to the allegation in the complaint, or its failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or its engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation, may result in a finding, based on evidence collected, that a violation has occurred and may result in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant.

### Step 4: Response

Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report of NOVA Academy's investigation and decision, as described in Step #5 below, within sixty (60) days of NOVA Academy's receipt of the complaint.

### Step 5: Final Written Decision

NOVA Academy's decision shall be in writing and sent to the complainant. NOVA Academy's decision shall be written in English and in the language of the complainant whenever feasible or as required by law.

The decision shall include:

1. The findings of fact based on evidence gathered.
2. The conclusion(s) of law.
3. Disposition of the complaint.

4. Rationale for such disposition.
5. Corrective actions, if any are warranted.
6. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal NOVA Academy's decision within fifteen (15) days to the California Department of Education and procedures to be followed for initiating such an appeal.
7. For unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints arising under state law, notice that the complainant must wait until sixty (60) days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies.
8. For unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints arising under federal law such complaint may be made at any time to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

If an employee is disciplined as a result of the complaint, the decision shall simply state that effective action was taken and that the employee was informed of NOVA Academy's expectations. The report shall not give any further information as to the nature of the disciplinary action.

#### Appeals to the California Department of Education ("CDE")

If dissatisfied with NOVA Academy's decision, the complainant may appeal in writing to the CDE within fifteen (15) days of receiving NOVA Academy's decision. When appealing to the CDE, the complainant must specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and whether the facts are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the locally filed complaint and a copy of NOVA Academy's decision.

Upon notification by the CDE that the complainant has appealed NOVA Academy's decision, the Chief Executive Officer or designee shall forward the following documents to the CDE:

1. A copy of the original complaint.
2. A copy of the decision.
3. A summary of the nature and extent of the investigation conducted by NOVA Academy, if not covered by the decision.
4. A copy of the investigation file, including but not limited to all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by all parties and gathered by the investigator.
5. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint.
6. A copy of NOVA Academy's complaint procedures.
7. Other relevant information requested by the CDE.

The CDE may directly intervene in the complaint without waiting for action by NOVA Academy when one of the conditions listed in Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 4650 exists, including cases in which NOVA Academy has not taken action within sixty (60) days of the date the complaint was filed with NOVA Academy.

### Civil Law Remedies

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

### **Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination & Anti-Bullying Policy (Revised)**

The Board of Directors of NOVA Academy (“NOVA”) believes all students have the right to a safe and civil learning environment. Discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are all disruptive behaviors which interfere with students’ ability to learn, negatively affect student engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. As such, NOVA prohibits any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying related to school activity or school attendance. This policy is inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means, consistent with this policy.

As used in this policy, “discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying” describe the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication, or cyberbullying, including cyber-sexual bullying, that is based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, ancestry, race or ethnicity, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, age, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. In addition, bullying encompasses any conduct described in the definitions set forth in this policy.

To the extent possible, NOVA will make reasonable efforts to prevent students from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond, and address any reports of such behaviors in a timely manner. NOVA staff who witness acts of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying will take immediate steps to intervene, so long as it is safe to do so.

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

Dr. Andrea Brumbaugh  
Principal  
NOVA Academy Early College High School  
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd.  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
(714) 569-0948 ext. 2019

Lisa Hernandez  
Principal  
NOVA Academy Early College High School  
52780 Frederick St  
Coachella, CA 92236  
(760) 398-9806 ext. 3010

## **Prohibited Unlawful Harassment**

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

## **Prohibited Unlawful Harassment under Title IX**

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

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

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

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

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
  - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults and
  - Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body
- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
  - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience
  - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an individual for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any individual to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct
  - Subjecting or threats of subjecting an employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making performance of the employee's job more difficult because of the employee's sex
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the workplace or educational environment, such as:
  - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials,

reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing or possessing any such material to read, display or view at work or the educational environment

- Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work or educational environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic, and
- Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an individual by sex in an area of the workplace or educational environment (other than restrooms or similar rooms)

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

**“Bullying”** is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students that could be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- A. Placing a reasonable pupil (as defined below) or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil’s or those pupils’ person or property.
- B. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
- C. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
- D. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by NOVA.

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

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

- A. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
- B. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
  - a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A “burn page” means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of “bullying,” above.
  - b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of “bullying,” above. “Credible impersonation” means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
  - c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one of more of the effects listed in the definition of “bullying,” above. “False profile” means a profile of a factitious pupil or a profile

using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.

- C. An act of “Cyber sexual bullying” including, but not limited to:
- a. The dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in definition of “bullying,” above. A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
  - b. “Cyber sexual bullying” does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
- D. Notwithstanding the definitions of “bullying” and “electronic act,” above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

“**Reasonable pupil**” is defined as a pupil, including, but not limited to, a pupil with exceptional needs who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs.

### Grievance Procedures

NOVA has adopted and published these grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action which would be prohibited by Title IX.

### REPORTING

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

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

Dr. Andrea Brumbaugh  
Principal  
NOVA Academy Early College High School  
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd.  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
(714) 569-0948 ext. 2019

Lisa Hernandez  
Principal  
NOVA Academy Early College High School  
52780 Frederick St  
Coachella, CA 92236  
(760) 398-9806 ext. 3010

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

While submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to use the report form available in the Main Office. However, oral reports shall also be considered. Reports may be made

anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on anonymous information.

Students are expected to report all incidents of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, bullying, teasing, or other verbal or physical abuse. Any student who feels she/he is a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, principal, or staff person so that she/he can get assistance in resolving the issue consistent with this policy.

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

NOVA prohibits any form of retaliation against any reporter in the reporting process, including but not limited to a reporter's filing of a complaint or the reporting of violations of this policy. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades or work assignments of the reporter.

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

## INVESTIGATION

Upon receipt of a report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying from a student, staff member, parent, volunteer, visitor or affiliate of NOVA, the Chief Executive Officer or designee will promptly initiate an investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Chief Executive Officer or designee will notify the complainant of the outcome of the investigation. However, in no case may the Chief Executive Officer or designee reveal confidential student information related to other students, including the type and extent of discipline issued against such students.

Complaints shall be investigated and resolved as expeditiously as possible, but not to exceed thirty (30) school days unless circumstances reasonably require additional time.

All records related to any investigation of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying will remain in a secure location in the Main Office.

In those instances when the complaint filed under this policy also requires investigation under the Uniform Complaint Procedures, such investigation will be undertaken concurrently.

## APPEAL

Should the Complainant find the Chief Executive Officer or designee resolution unsatisfactory, he/she may within five (5) school days of the date of resolution, file an appeal with the Designated Appeals Committee. In such cases, at least three (3) certificated NOVA employees who are unfamiliar with the case and who have been previously designated and trained for this purpose shall be assembled to conduct a confidential review of the Complainant's appeal and render a final disposition.

## CONSEQUENCES

Students who engage in discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation or bullying may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, as outlined in NOVA's Student Discipline Policy.

### **Non-Discrimination Policy (Revised)**

The Governing Board affirms NOVA Academy shall not discriminate against any student or employee on the basis of actual or perceived race or ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes in the California Penal Code. NOVA Academy adheres to all provisions of federal law related to students with disabilities, including but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

NOVA Academy is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment under Title IX (sex), Title VI (race, color, or national origin), and Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. NOVA Academy prohibits sexual harassment and harassment based upon pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, creed, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. NOVA Academy does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including bullying, discrimination, or intimidation, by any employee, independent contractor, or other person with which NOVA Academy does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, student, or volunteers, and relationships, regardless of position or gender. NOVA Academy will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted, in compliance with applicable NOVA Academy policies.

Students may use facilities consistent with their gender identity. If there is a desire for increased privacy and/or safety, regardless of the underlying purpose or cause, any student will be provided access to a reasonable alternative restroom, such as a single stall "gender neutral" restroom.

When athletic teams are in place, NOVA Academy will maintain separate teams for male and female athletes. Student athletes may participate in sex-segregated athletic teams consistent with the student's gender identity.

NOVA Academy shall provide non-discrimination notices in all newsletters, annual reports, administrative reports, program information, handbooks, application forms and all promotional materials disseminated.

## **Electronic Surveillance Policy**

Nova Academy Board of Directors recognizes the value of the legal use of video systems for recording activity on school property, therefore, school buildings and grounds may be equipped with video-only cameras to assist in the security of a facility for the purposes of inhibiting, deterring, and recording vandalism, as well as other criminal activity.

Whereas Nova Academy intends to, or has, installed video cameras, the Executive Director or designee will notify students, parents, guardians, staff and visitors to the site that video recording may occur.

### **PROCEDURES**

Video recording systems may be installed and used at any time for purposes including, but not limited to, the following:

- the security of a facility
- to inhibit vandalism to a site and other misconduct on a site
- evidentiary purposes

The Executive Director, or designee, shall oversee the implementation and operation of the video recording system and will comply with the following guidelines and restrictions:

1. The video cameras will record pictures only, and will not record such areas as inside restrooms, classrooms, or counselor offices, as opposed to areas generally accepted as public, such as, but not limited to:
  - outdoor campus areas
  - parking lots
  - walkways and hallways
  - common public areas including building entrances, assembly areas, food services areas, etc.
2. The video cameras will generally not be monitored and are intended to read and store the images for future reference.
3. The video cameras may be programmed to record continually.
4. Video recordings may be erased, deleted, or destroyed after ten (10) days, unless there is an administrative decision to maintain recordings for a longer period of time.
5. Video recordings are the property of Nova Academy and may be reproduced only as permitted by law.
6. Notification of potential video recording should be given to all students, staff, parents/guardians, and visitors to the site.
  - a. This notification will be sent to all students, staff, and parents/guardians prior to the initial installation of the system, and annual notification will be included in the employee and student handbooks.
  - b. The notification will state how long the recordings are generally kept.

- c. Notification signs will notify that cameras have been installed, indicating that automatically operating video cameras might be recording conduct upon school grounds and may not be continually monitored. Signs will be posted reasonably at:
  - all main, public entrances
  - each vehicle access and entry way onto school grounds
  - campus sign-in sheets for site visitors
7. Video collection equipment will be kept in a secure room, not accessible without the permission of an administrator.
8. Video cameras will not record audio.

### **Search and Seizure Policy**

NOVA Academy (“NOVA”) recognizes and has determined that the occurrence of incidents which may include the possession of firearms, weapons, alcohol, controlled substances, or other items of contraband prohibited by law or NOVA rules and regulations, jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of students and NOVA employees.

The California Constitution requires that all students and staff of public schools have the inalienable right to attend campuses which are safe, secure, and peaceful. As such, NOVA adopts this policy outlining the search of students and their property, student use areas, and/or student lockers and the seizure of illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials in the search.

### **NOTICE**

Written notice of this policy shall be provided to students and their parents and/or guardians at the commencement of each school year and upon enrollment during the school year. A summary of this policy shall also be placed in the Student Handbook and other materials, as appropriate, to be disseminated by NOVA to students, parents and/or guardians and NOVA employees. Including a summary in a handbook or other materials shall satisfy the annual notice requirement set forth in this paragraph. In addition, NOVA shall place signs and/or other posted notifications on campus regarding this policy, as appropriate.

### **STUDENT SEARCHES**

A student’s person and/or personal effects (e.g. backpack, purse, etc.) may be searched if a school official has reasonable suspicion that the student has violated or is violating either the law or NOVA rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, possession of illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials. Illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials include those materials which are dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel, are disruptive or potentially disruptive, or which have been cited as unauthorized in school rules or regulations.

Articulable facts must support a school official’s reasonable suspicion that a search is justified. In no case shall a search be conducted if predicated on mere curiosity, rumor or hunch.

Any search of a student and/or their personal effects shall be conducted in the presence of another adult witness whenever possible. The scope of the search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the pupil and the nature of the infraction.

In no case shall a strip search be conducted by school officials, including asking a student to remove or arrange some or all of their underclothing, and/or inspecting of parts of the student's underclothing or body.

### STUDENT USE AREAS

Student use areas, including, but not limited to, instructional and recreational space, are school property and remain at all times under the control of NOVA. However, students shall assume full responsibility for the security and condition of these areas. Periodic general inspections of instructional space and other areas of the school may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time without notice.

### METAL DETECTION DEVICES

The Board believes that the presence of weapons in the schools threatens the district's ability to provide the safe and orderly learning environment to which students and staff are entitled. The Board also believes that metal detector searches offer a reasonable means to keep weapons out of the schools and mitigate the fears of students and staff.

Metal detectors, such as metal detection wands or other metal detection devices, may be used to search a student's person and/or personal effects whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of a weapon or in the context of a random search to maintain and protect the safety, security, and peace of students, NOVA employees, and NOVA.

The following procedures shall be followed when using metal detectors to conduct random searches of students:

1. Searches involving metal detectors shall be minimally intrusive and involve the use of neutral criteria for selection.
2. Before walk-through, students shall be asked to empty their pockets of metallic objects.
3. If an initial activation occurs, students shall be asked to remove other metallic objects they may be wearing (e.g., belt and jewelry) and to walk through a second time.
4. If a second activation occurs, a hand-held metal detector shall be used.
5. If the activation is not eliminated or explained, staff shall escort the student to a private area.
6. In the private area, an expanded search shall be conducted by a staff member of the same gender as the student, in the presence of another district employee.
7. The search shall be limited to the detection of weapons.

### CANINE SEARCHES

School officials, including campus security or school police/resource officers, may use trained detection dogs in inspections for illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials in school facilities and around school grounds. All dogs must be accompanied by a qualified and authorized trainer who will be responsible for the dog's actions and who can verify the reliability and accuracy in sniffing out contraband. Trained detection dogs may sniff

lockers, student use areas, and other inanimate objects throughout school property. Such inspections are not considered searches and do not require reasonable suspicion.

An indication by the dog that illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials are present on school property shall constitute reasonable suspicion, authorizing school officials to search the area or other inanimate object and closed containers and objects within, without securing the consent of the student.

### LOCKERS

Student lockers, including P.E. lockers, are school property and remain at all times under the control of NOVA. Students shall assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers. Student lockers may not be used to store illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials.

The acceptance and use of locker facilities on school campus by any student shall constitute consent by the student to the search of such locker facilities by authorized school personnel and/or law enforcement. Inspections of lockers may be conducted by school personnel and/or law enforcement through the use of trained dogs.

### SEIZURE OF ILLEGAL, UNAUTHORIZED, OR CONTRABAND MATERIALS

If a lawfully conducted search yields illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials, such materials shall be turned over to the proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

### DISCIPLINE

If illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials are discovered during a search, including but not limited to searches conducted by school officials, trained detection dogs or metal detectors, school officials may impose discipline upon the student(s) (including suspension and/or expulsion) in accordance with NOVA's discipline policies and procedures. NOVA shall notify law enforcement authorities if any search and/or seizure results in the discovery of illegal contraband.

### Suicide Prevention Policy

The Board of Directors of NOVA Academy Early College High School ("NOVA Academy") recognizes that suicide is a major cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. To attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Board of Directors has developed prevention strategies and intervention procedures.

The policy has been developed in consultation with NOVA Academy and community stakeholders, NOVA Academy -employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts and shall, at a minimum, address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

### **Prevention and Instruction**

Suicide prevention strategies may include, but not be limited to, efforts to promote a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with NOVA Academy and is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.

NOVA Academy's instructional and student support program shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social development of students including, but not limited to, the development of problem-solving skills, coping skills, and resilience.

The Principal or designee may offer parents/guardians education or information which describes the severity of the youth suicide problem, NOVA Academy's suicide prevention efforts, risk factors and warning signs of suicide, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, reducing the stigma of mental illness, and/or NOVA Academy and community resources that can help youth in crisis.

NOVA Academy's instructional curriculum may include information about suicide prevention, as appropriate or needed, taking into consideration the grade level and age of the students. If offered or included in NOVA Academy's instructional curriculum, suicide prevention instruction shall be designed to help students:

1. Identify and analyze signs of depression and self-destructive behaviors and understand how feelings of depression, loss, isolation, inadequacy, and anxiety can lead to thoughts of suicide.
2. Identify alternatives to suicide and develop coping and resiliency skills.
3. Learn to listen, be honest, share feelings, and get help when communicating with friends who show signs of suicidal intent.
4. Identify trusted adults, NOVA Academy resources, and/or community crisis intervention resources where youth, including those at high risk, such as youth bereaved by suicide; youth with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth can get help and recognize that there is no stigma associated with seeking mental health, substance abuse, gender identity, or other support services.

### **Staff Development**

Suicide prevention training for staff will be provided and be designed to help staff identify and find help for students at risk of suicide. The training may be offered under the discretion of the Principal and/or Board of Directors and/or in cooperation with one or more community mental health agencies and may include information on:

1. Research identifying risk factors, such as previous suicide attempt(s), history of depression or mental illness, substance abuse problems, family history of suicide or violence, feelings of isolation, interpersonal conflicts, a recent severe stressor or loss, family instability, and other factors.
2. Warning signs that may indicate suicidal intentions, including changes in students' appearance, personality, or behavior.
3. Research-based instructional strategies for teaching the suicide prevention curriculum and promoting mental and emotional health.
4. NOVA Academy and community resources and services for students and families in crisis and ways to access them.
5. NOVA Academy procedures for intervening when a student attempts, threatens, or discloses the desire to die by suicide.

6. Materials approved by NOVA Academy for training shall include how to identify appropriate mental health services, both at the NOVA Academy site and within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services.
7. Materials approved for training may also include programs that can be completed through self-review or suitable suicide prevention materials.

### **Intervention and Emergency Procedures**

Whenever a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, he/she shall promptly notify the Principal or designee. The Principal or designee shall then notify the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible and may also refer the student to mental health resources at NOVA Academy or in the community.

When a suicide attempt or threat is reported, the Principal or designee shall, at a minimum:

1. Ensure the student's physical safety by one of the following, as appropriate:
  - a. Securing immediate medical treatment if a suicide attempt has occurred;
  - b. Securing law enforcement and/or other emergency assistance if a suicidal act is being actively threatened;
  - c. Keeping the student under continuous adult supervision until the parent/guardian and/or appropriate support agent or agency can be contacted and has the opportunity to intervene.
2. Designate specific individuals to be promptly contacted, for example the NOVA Academy counselor, psychologist, nurse, Principal, and/or the student's parent/guardian, and, as necessary, local law enforcement or mental health agencies.
3. Document the incident in writing as soon as feasible.
4. Follow up with the parent/guardian and student in a timely manner to provide referrals to appropriate services as needed.
5. Provide access to counselors or other appropriate personnel to listen to and support students and staff who are directly or indirectly involved with the incident at NOVA Academy.
6. Provide an opportunity for all who respond to the incident to debrief, evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies used, and make recommendations for future actions.

In the event a suicide occurs or is attempted on the NOVA Academy campus, the Principal or designee shall follow the crisis intervention procedures contained in NOVA Academy safety plan. After consultation with the Principal or designee and the student's parent/guardian about facts that may be divulged in accordance with the laws governing confidentiality of student record information, the Principal or designee may provide students, parents/guardians, and staff with information, counseling, and/or referrals to community agencies as needed. NOVA Academy staff may receive assistance from NOVA Academy counselors or other mental health professionals in determining how best to discuss the suicide or attempted suicide with students.

Students shall be encouraged through the education program and in NOVA Academy activities to notify a teacher, Principal, another NOVA Academy administrator, psychologist, NOVA Academy counselor, or other

adult when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.

### **NOVA Academy Employees Acting Within Scope**

NOVA Academy shall ensure that employees act only within the authorization and scope of the employee's credential or license. Nothing in this Policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging a NOVA Academy employee to diagnose or treat mental illness unless the employee is specifically licensed and employed to do so.

### **Safe Learning Environment for all Students Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, NOVA Academy Early College High School, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation ("NOVA Academy") boasts a diverse student body;

**WHEREAS**, NOVA Academy believes that all students, regardless of their demographics or background, will learn and achieve if given the right opportunities and support, and refuses to accept anything less than an excellent college-preparatory education for its students;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court held in *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982) that no public school district has a basis to deny children access to education based on their undocumented status, if the district provides such education to others, absent showing a substantial state interest, citing that children have little control over their immigration status, the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and equal protection rights of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment;

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") states in its 2011 policy #10029.2 that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes schools unless (1) exigent circumstances exist; (2) other law enforcement actions led officers to the sensitive location; or (3) prior approval is obtained;

**WHEREAS**, immigration enforcement affects NOVA Academy families every day, and a possible shift in ICE enforcement priority has created a climate of heightened fear and anxiety for many NOVA Academy students and their families;

**WHEREAS**, ICE activities in and around schools would be a severe disruption to the learning environment and educational setting for students;

**WHEREAS**, NOVA Academy prides itself on creating a safe, welcoming, inclusive environment for all its students, regardless of race, religion, or immigration status;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Directors of NOVA Academy, (the "Board") affirms the authority of NOVA Academy staff to maintain the confidentiality of student records and personally identifiable information consistent with student record laws such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA");

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board affirms its support for every individual embracing education and that NOVA Academy campuses declare the NOVA Academy campus as a safe place for students to learn free from disruption, and such students and families can be assured that NOVA Academy will not engage in activity that can lead to unreasonable or unnecessary collection or exposure of the immigration status of students or families;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, in order to provide a public education, regardless of a child's or family's immigration status, absent any applicable federal, state, or local law, regulation, ordinance or court decision, NOVA Academy shall abide by the following conduct:

- NOVA Academy personnel shall treat all students equitably in the receipt of all school services, including but, not limited to, the free and reduced lunch program, transportation, and educational instruction;
- NOVA Academy personnel shall not inquire about a student's immigration status, including requiring any documentation of a student's legal status at registration or any time thereafter;
- If federal immigration officials request access to a school site, NOVA Academy personnel will enforce both our visitor policy and procedures regarding law enforcement agents speaking to students on campus, and NOVA Academy personnel will immediately inform the Chief Executive Officer, who will follow up with legal counsel as needed; and
- Any requests by federal immigration officials for student records shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer immediately.
- NOVA Academy personnel may provide students and their families who have questions regarding their immigration status with information regarding community-based and legal organizations that may assist.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board remains focused on teaching the academic skills, fostering the intellectual habits, and cultivating the character traits needed for all of our students to thrive in middle school, high school, college, and life.