NOVA Academy
Early College High School
2026-2027 Student Handbook

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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 a 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

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 encouraged to volunteer at least ten service hours per student or twenty service hours if you have two or more students at NOVA Academy ECHS. Parent service hours are not required for acceptance, continued enrollment, or any other privilege offered by NOVA Academy ECHS, nor will NOVA Academy ECHS discriminate against a student based on his or her parents' service hours or lack thereof.

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.

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 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

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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

Charter School does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex or gender in the operation, conduct, or administration of community youth athletics programs, or in the allocation of parks and recreation facilities and resources or school and recreation facilities and resources that support or enable these programs.

The Charter School Board of Directors ("Board") shall not refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction or any book or other resource in a school library on the basis that it includes a study of the role and contributions of Native Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, persons with disabilities, or members of other ethnic, cultural, religious, or socioeconomic status groups.

Instruction and instructional materials shall be factually accurate and align with the adopted curriculum and standards and be consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility, rather than advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship. A teacher shall not give instruction and Charter School shall not sponsor any activity that promotes a discriminatory bias on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation, or pursuant to a characteristic listed in Section 220. Discriminatory bias in instruction and school-sponsored activities does not require a showing of direct harm to members of a protected group. Members of a protected group do not need to be present while the discriminatory bias is occurring for the act to be considered discriminatory bias. The Board shall take corrective action if it finds that instruction or school-sponsored activities are discriminatory.

The Board shall not adopt or approve the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, professional development materials, or curriculum for classroom instruction if the use of such would subject a student to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Education Code section 220, or if the professional development materials or services promote, endorse, or otherwise support actions or the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or curriculum which would subject a pupil to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Section 220.

If the Board knows or has reason to know that materials were used in a classroom, that professional development materials or services were used, or that an action occurred that violated Education Code section 220, the Board shall investigate and remediate the action, which may include, but is not limited to, the implementation of restorative justice practices.

The Charter School 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 ("IDEIA").

The Charter School does not discourage students from enrolling or seeking to enroll in the Charter School for any reason, including, but not limited to, academic performance, disability, neglect or delinquency, English

proficiency, for being homeless or a foster/mobile youth, economic disadvantage, nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. The Charter School shall not encourage a student currently attending Charter School to disenroll or transfer to another school based on any of the aforementioned reasons except in cases of expulsion and suspension or involuntary removal in accordance with the Charter School's charter and relevant policies.

The Charter School does not request nor require student records prior to a student's enrollment.

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

The Charter School is committed to providing an educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex); Titles IV, VI, and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, or national origin); The Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the IDEIA; and Section 504 and Title II of the ADA (mental or physical disability). The Charter School also prohibits sexual harassment, including cyber sexual bullying, and harassment based upon pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, religious affiliation, creed, color, immigration status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation.

The Charter School does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including discrimination, intimidation, or bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which the Charter School does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, students, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender.

Pursuant to California law and the California Attorney General's guidance to K-12 schools in responding to immigration issues ("Guidance"), Charter School provides equal access to free public education, regardless of a student's or their parent's or guardian's immigration status or religious beliefs.

The Charter School will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted. Inquiries, complaints, or grievances regarding harassment as described in this section, above, should be directed to the Charter School Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") Compliance Officer:

Lisa Hernandez
Executive Director, NOVA Academy
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 569-0948

The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in the Charter School's programs or activities. The Charter School prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint or who participates or refuses to participate in a complaint investigation.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

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

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 .Over the phone permission to leave campus will be permitted, but only if given by the Parent/Guardian of the 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.

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, willfully damaged or non-returned school and college books, returned checks, 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. NOVA Academy ECHS will notify the student's parent/guardian and provide the student with due process before NOVA Academy ECHS withholds the student's grades, diploma, or transcripts. If a student and/or parent are unable to pay for the damages, or to return the property, NOVA Academy ECHS will provide a program of voluntary work for the student in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. Upon completion of the voluntary work, the grades, diploma, and transcripts of the pupil shall be released. 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 (unless it was for a voluntary donation), plus the bank fee. Returned check fees 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, AP tests, etc).

HOURS

The school office is open from 8:00 am to 4:30 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.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

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:

Class Division	Weight of Formal Evaluation	Weight of Informal Evaluation	Final Evaluation
Lower	**60%**	**40%**	

9th & 10th	*Examples:* *Tests, quizzes, unit exams, science fair, projects, final essays, finals, etc.*	*Examples:* *Standard based practice, drafts, peer edits, observations, questioning, discussion, entrance/exit tickets, think-pair-share, class activities, etc.*	*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*
Upper	**70%**	**30%**	
11th & 12th	*Examples:* *Tests, quizzes, unit exams, finals, science fair, projects, final essays. etc.*	*Examples:* *Standard based practice, drafts, peer edits, observations, questioning, discussion, entrance/exit tickets, think-pair-share, class activities, etc.*	*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*

GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Percent Range	Descriptor	Achievement Level Descriptors	Rubric Scores
A+	97% - 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
A	93% - 96%			
A-	90% - 92%			
B+	87% - 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
B	83% - 86%			
B-	80% - 82%			
C+	77% - 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
C	73% - 76%			
C-	70% - 72%			
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 course objectives and cannot successfully complete the next course in the sequence.	Does Not Meet	1

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.

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.

High School Mathematics Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors	English Language Arts/Literacy Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors
Level 4 - Exceeds 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.	**Level 4 - Exceeds** 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.
Level 3 - Meets 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.	**Level 3 - Meets** 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.
Level 2 – Nearly Meets 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.	**Level 2 – Nearly Meets** 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.
Level 1 – Has Not Met 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.	**Level 1 – Has Not Met** 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.

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.

Grade	Work Habits	Citizenship
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 12th, students may turn this assignment in for late credit up until the end of the school day on September 26th. 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.

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.

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 during school assemblies. Award winners will receive a certificate of recognition.

SOARING EAGLE AWARDS

Students are nominated by their Family advisors. 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 during school assemblies or during Family class. Award winners will receive a certificate of merit.

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.

SOAR

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. *SOAR will be provided for

all students and targeting their specific academic needs. Student's group assignments will be evaluated throughout the school year to ensure all students have access to additional support when needed.

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. 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 GPA to or above a 2.0, student will be removed from the AIP. If student does not raise his GPA 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 place 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.

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.

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION (CHSPE)

What is the CHSPE?

- The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) is a voluntary test that assesses proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills taught in public schools. The CHSPE consists of two test sections: mathematics and English-language arts (ELA). The ELA section has two subtests (reading and language). Eligible persons who pass both parts of the CHSPE are awarded a Certificate of Proficiency by the State Board of Education. The test is given in English only.

Who is eligible to take the CHSPE?

You may take the CHSPE ***only if*** on the test date, you:

- Are at least 16 years old, ***or***
- Have been enrolled in the tenth grade for one academic year or longer, ***or***
- Will complete one academic year of enrollment in the tenth grade at the end of the semester during which the next regular administration will be conducted. (Regular administrations are the fall and spring administrations each school year.)

There is at least one test administration center in most California counties; some counties have more than one test administration center. A list of the counties and test centers may be found on the Internet at http://www.chspe.net/about/locations or in the CHSPE Information Bulletin also available on this Website.

Certificate of Proficiency

California law requires that the Certificate of Proficiency be equivalent to a high school diploma. Institutions that are subject to California law and that require a high school diploma must accept a Certificate of Proficiency. A student who receives a Certificate of Proficiency may, with verified parental approval, leave high school early. The Certificate of Proficiency, however, is not equivalent to completing all course work required for regular graduation from high school. Speak to your school counselor to understand the benefits of the Certificate of Proficiency. This certificate meets the federal financial aid requirement of a high school diploma or equivalent. If you are planning to continue your studies in a college or university, contact the admissions office so that you may understand its requirements and whether or not the CHSPE certificate will be accepted.

For more information:

Additional information about the CHSPE is located on the Web at http://www.chspe.net or by calling 866-342-4773.

CLASS/COURSE PROGRAM CHANGES

Students are encouraged to work out their class schedules with a 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. Students at the Santa Ana campus have TWO WEEKS from the first day of school to request to change a class to a different class (e.g., Yearbook to Drama) or a different level (e.g., Honors Biology to Biology). After the first two weeks of school, students will NOT be able to change classes as there will be too much curriculum missed in the new course. Changes can be made on a space available basis and requests may not always be possible. Students at the Coachella campus have ONE WEEK from the first day of school to request to change a class to a different class or a different level. Teachers at Coachella have TWO WEEKS to make a change request. For honors level changes at Coachella, students need to take their request to their teacher first for approval. If approved, the teacher will bring the request to counseling to make the change.
3. School-initiated changes related to class placements or class withdrawals will be made at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee.
4. 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.

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The descriptions and instructional aims of every course offered by NOVA Academy ECHS are available upon request.

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.**

TEACHER QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

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

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

Upon request, the Charter School will provide the information to the parents/guardians in a timely manner. Parents/guardians may contact the Principal for the Santa Ana campus at (714) 569-0948 or the Principal of the Coachella campus at (760) 398-9806 to obtain this information.

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 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.

ENGLISH LEARNERS

The Charter School is committed to the success of its English Learners and support will be offered both within academic classes and in supplemental settings for students who need additional support for English language learning. The Charter School will meet all applicable legal requirements for English Learners as they pertain to annual notification to parents, student identification, placement, program options, English Learners and core content instruction, teacher qualifications and training, reclassification to fluent English proficient status, monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness, and standardized testing requirements. The Charter School will implement policies to assure proper placement, evaluation, and communication regarding English Learners and the rights of students and parents.

STATE TESTING INFORMATION

California students take several mandated statewide tests. These tests provide parents/guardians, teachers, and educators with information about how well students are learning and becoming college and career ready. The test results may be used for local, state, and federal accountability purposes.

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

- **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Assessments**
  The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) computer adaptive assessments are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics tests are administered in grades three through eight and grade eleven to measure whether students are on track to college and career readiness. In grade eleven, results from the ELA and math assessments can be used as an indicator of college readiness. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent's or guardian's written request to Charter School officials to excuse their child from any or all parts of the CAASPP shall be granted. Upon request, parents have a right to information on the level of achievement of their student on every State academic assessment administered to the student.
- **California Science Tests (CAST)**
  The new, computer-based CAST measures student acquisition of the California Next Generation Science Standards. It is administered in grades five and eight, and once in high school. The new computer-based CAST replaces the California Standards Tests (CST) for Science.
- **California Alternate Assessments (CAA)**
  The computer-based CAA for ELA and CAA for mathematics is administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades three through eight and grade eleven. Test items are aligned with the CCSS and are based on the Core Content Connectors. The instructionally embedded CAA for Science is administered in grades five and eight, and once in high school.
- **Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS) for Reading/Language Arts**
  California offers the optional STS for Reading/Language Arts, which are multiple-choice tests that allow Spanish-speaking English learners to demonstrate their knowledge of the California content standards. The California Spanish Assessment (CSA) will replace the optional STS. The CSA will be a computer-based assessment that is aligned with the California CCSS en Español.

Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments.

English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)
The ELPAC is aligned with the 2012 California English Language Development Standards. It consists of two separate English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments: one for the initial identification of students as English learners and the other for the annual summative assessment to identify students' English language proficiency level and to measure their progress in learning English.

Physical Fitness Test
The physical fitness test (PFT) for students in California schools is the FitnessGram®. The main goal of the test is to help students in starting lifelong habits of regular physical activity. Students in grades five, seven, and nine take the fitness test.

Advanced Placement (AP) Tests
Students are encouraged to take the test for every AP class for which they are enrolled. The AP exam allows students to realistically determine their level of understanding of the content. Additionally, AP exams provide students valuable experience with testing in a college environment. While the school pays a portion for tests for some economically disadvantaged students, while able to do so, the school will cover this cost as long as possible to provide students with this valuable experience. Students who register for an AP test but do not take the test will be charged the cost incurred by the school, which would be $47 or more per test.

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.

EARLY RELEASE

Seniors may qualify for Early Release and take one fewer class during senior year. Seniors on the Early Release program will leave earlier than the general release time. To qualify, seniors must maintain academic, behavioral and attendance eligibility:

1. Need no more than 30 credits for Seniors to graduate
2. Have an overall and last semester GPA of 2.50 and continue to maintain a 2.50 GPA
3. Owe no more than 20 Community Service hours going into Senior Year
4. Accrue no more than 10 tardies during 2nd semester 11th grade.

ANIMAL DISSECTIONS

Students at the Charter School may perform animal dissections as part of the science curriculum. Any student who provides their teacher with a written statement, signed by their parent/guardian, specifying the student's moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals, or any parts thereof, may be excused from such activities if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible. The alternative education project shall require a comparable time and effort investment by the student. It shall not, as a means of penalizing the student, be more arduous than the original education project. The student shall not be discriminated against based upon their moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals, or any parts thereof.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

		Santa Ana	Coachella
Language Arts	4 years including English 9-12 , Honors or AP English	40 Credits	40 Credits
Mathematics	3 years (4 recommended) including:		
	Algebra I/Math 1	10 Credits	10 Credits
	Geometry/Math 2	10 Credits	10 Credits
	Algebra II/Math 3	10 Credits	10 Credits
	Advanced Courses		

	Statistics	10 Credits		
	Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus	10 Credits		
Social Studies	3 years (30 credits) including:			
	World History		10 Credits	10 Credits
	United States History		10 Credits	10 Credits
	Government/Economics		10 Credits	10 Credits
Science	2 years including (3 years recommended):			
	Biology		10 Credits	10 Credits
	Chemistry		10 Credits	10 Credits
	Recommended 3rd & 4th year Courses			
	Physics	10 Credits		
	Anatomy & Physiology	10 Credits		
Fine Arts	1 year of the same subject (Drawing, Painting, Studio Art, Music)		10 Credits	10 Credits
Foreign Language	2 years of same Foreign Language		20 Credits	20 Credits
	Recommended 3rd & 4th year Courses			
	AP Spanish Language	10 Credits		
	AP Spanish Literature	10 Credits		
Study Skills/ Seminar	1 semester of Seminar (Santa Ana Campus) 2 semesters of Seminar (Coachella Campus)		5 Credits	10 Credits
Physical Education	2 years (20 credits); maximum of 40 semester credits applied to graduation		20 Credits	20 Credits
Electives	45 semester credits; must include 10 semester credits of College Prep Elective		45 Credits	40 Credits
Minimum Required Credits for Graduation			**220 Credits**	**220 Credits**

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. The 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).

SENIOR EXIT INTERVIEWS

All seniors are required to present their Senior Exit Portfolio at a set exit interview.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Seniors not on track to graduate and who demonstrate they are failing to meet graduation requirements will not be eligible to participate in senior class activities, including Grad Nite and the graduation ceremony.

VALEDICTORIAN SELECTION PROCEDURE

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 three consecutive semesters at NOVA Academy.
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.

GRADUATION CEREMONY DRESS CODE AND BEHAVIOR

Suggested appropriate dress (under the gown):
Bottoms: dress slacks, dress, skirt
Tops: dress shirt, blouse, dress, blazer, suit jacket, tie
Shoes: dress shoes, heels, dress 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.

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 venue only those items issued to you by the school.

GRADUATION CORDS

Students may qualify to wear a school-earned cord during graduation. Cords are awarded for GPA and college course completion, to name a few. Students may purchase cords if they qualify through the school. The pricing for cords is updated annually and will be shared with seniors.

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. Community service hours must be submitted in the same school year in which they were served. Students should perform their community service at an accepted non-profit organization (e.g., school, library). To obtain permission to receive credit for hours at a location that is NOT a non-profit requires prior approval from the school administration. **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
9th	80
10th	60
11th	40
12th	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.

COLLEGE PLANNING & ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

CAL GRANT NOTICE

NOVA Academy ECHS is required by state law to submit the GPA of all high school seniors by Oct. 1 of each year, unless the student over age 18 or parent/guardian for those under 18 opt-out. Students currently in eleventh (11th) grade will be deemed a Cal Grant applicant, unless the student (or parent, if the student is under 18) has opted out by or before February 1.

CalKIDS Program Notice

California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS) is a program established by the State of California that funds up to $1,500 in free money for eligible low-income public school students to save for college and career training. Visit CalKIDS.org for more information about your child's eligibility and to you claim your child's account.

INFORMATION REGARDING FINANCIAL AID

The Charter School shall ensure that each of its students receives information on how to properly complete and submit the 1) Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or 2) the California Dream Act Application as appropriate, at least once before the student enters 12th grade. The Charter School will provide a paper copy of the FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application upon request.

- The FAFSA form and information regarding the FAFSA are available at:
  - https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- The California Dream Act Application and information regarding the California Dream Act is available at:
  - https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/resources-california-dream-act-application

"A-G" COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS (UC AND CSU)

	Cal State Universities	Universities of California
Social Studies	2 Years- World History U.S. History Government/Economics	2 Years- World History U.S. History (3 recommended)
Language Arts	4 years college prep	4 years college prep
Mathematics	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)
Science	2 years of lab science (Biology and Chemistry)	2 years of lab science Biology and Chemistry (3 years recommended)
Language Other than English	2 Years of the same foreign language	2 years of the same foreign language (3 years recommended)

Visual & Performing Arts	1 year of fine art (art, music, drama, film, photo or humanities)	1 year of fine art (art, music, drama, film, photo or humanities)
Electives	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.)
Physical Education	None	None
Study Skills	None	None
Community Service	None	None

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

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.

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.

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

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

Textbooks will be purchased by NOVA for college courses.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NOVA Academy Early College High School (Santa Ana) will offer two avenues for participation in dual enrollment programming: 1) University-Transfer Pathways and 2) Career Education Pathways.

1. *University-Transfer Pathways* will permit students with a GPA of 2.7 or higher to enroll in a wider selection of academic courses, identified for their UC/CSU transferability and compatibility with four-year degree programs.

2. *Career Education Pathways* will allow students with a GPA of 2.0 or higher to enroll in a curated selection of college classes, approved by NOVA Academy as part of an existing sequence of Santa Ana College courses leading to a vocational certificate or career-based degree.

NOVA Academy-Coachella will offer early college programming to students meeting the minimum program entry requirements and enrolling in courses approved by the administration.

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

1. For Santa Ana students enrolling in only approved Career Education college courses, a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required.
2. For Santa Ana students enrolling in any college courses other than the approved Career Education classes, a minimum GPA of 2.7 is required.
3. For Coachella students enrolling in any early college courses, a minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.
4. No "F" grades on grade reports and end of semester report card.
5. No N=Needs improvement or U=Unsatisfactory marks for Citizenship and Work Habits on grade reports and end of semester report card.
6. On time submission of all required paperwork as requested by college counselor (e.g. Teacher Recommendation, Student Self-Assessment, Career Advanced Placement 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).

COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY FOR SANTA ANA

Students who are close to qualifying for college but fall short of the eligibility requirements at the progress report may request to be put on NOVA's sponsorship list if they meet all criteria by the end of the semester. Prior to enrolling in a college course, students must contact the school counselor to request that NOVA sponsor the costs associated with the college course and complete all required paperwork. Those who do not qualify at the end of the semester may choose to take a course at SAC at their own expense.

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 11th or 12th 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.

F.L.E.D.G.E. Program (Final Leap for Eagles Daring to Gain Education)

Seniors in their Fall semester will be invited to participate in the F.L.E.D.G.E. Program. Students will have the opportunity to enroll in a college course provided on campus to assist them in preparing for their transition after high school. Course name and availability may vary.

University of California Irvine (UCI) Online Early College Program (OECP) Program Specific
A student who meets the aforementioned criteria and who is successfully enrolled in the UCI OECP 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, as long as they are available at the college bookstore.
5. If textbook is damaged or not returned, student will be responsible for the full cost of replacing the textbook.

COLLEGE PROGRAM 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.

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 from your counselor.
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. 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.

STUDENT SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

UNIVERSAL MEALS AND STUDENT WELLNESS

NOVA Academy ECHS participates in the National School Lunch Program. Pursuant to California law, the Charter School shall make available a nutritionally adequate breakfast and a nutritionally adequate lunch free of charge and with adequate time to eat, during each school day to any student who requests a meal without consideration of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal, with a maximum of one (1) free meal per meal service (breakfast and lunch) each school day. This shall apply to all pupils in kindergarten through grade twelve (12). Applications for school meals are included in the first day packets to all families and can also be obtained on the NOVA Academy ECHS website and in the main office. All families are encouraged to complete the application form.

Based on a parent/guardian's annual earnings, a parent/guardian may be eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit from the Federal Government (Federal EITC). The Federal EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. The Federal EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits. In most cases, Federal EITC payments will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, food stamps, low-income housing, or most Temporary Assistance For Needy Families payments. Even if you a parent/guardian does not owe federal taxes, they must file a federal tax return to receive the Federal EITC. Be sure to fill out the Federal EITC form in the Federal Income Tax Return Booklet. For information regarding your eligibility to receive the Federal EITC, including information on how to obtain the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Notice 797 or any other necessary forms and instructions, contact the IRS by calling 1-800-829-3676 or through its website at www.irs.gov.

A parent/guardian may also be eligible to receive the California Earned Income Tax Credit (California EITC) starting with the calendar year 2015 tax year. The California EITC is a refundable state income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. The California EITC is treated in the same manner as the Federal EITC and generally will not be used to determine eligibility for welfare benefits under California law. To claim the California EITC, even if you do not owe California taxes, you must file a California income tax return and complete and attach the California EITC Form (FTB 3514). For information on the availability of the credit eligibility requirements and how to obtain the necessary California forms and get help filing, contact the Franchise Tax Board at 1-800-852-5711 or through its website at www.ftb.ca.gov.

Charter School shall allow students, teachers, and staff to bring and carry water bottles. Water bottles may be excluded from libraries, computer labs, science labs, and other places where it is deemed dangerous to have drinking water. Charter School may develop additional policies regarding the types of water bottles that may be carried.

Charter School adheres to all applicable requirements regarding placement and maintenance of water bottle refilling stations on campus.

Charter school shall encourage water consumption through promotional and educational activities and signage that focus on the benefits of drinking water and highlight any water bottle filling stations that are located on campus.

A copy of the complete Policy is available on the school's website. The Charter School also maintains a School Wellness Policy pursuant to state and federal requirements.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, Charter School is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

Charter School is an equal opportunity provider.

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 site administration.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

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

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 5 business days after the day the NOVA Academy ECHS receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the NOVA Academy ECHS Executive Director or designee a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Charter School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask NOVA Academy ECHS to amend a record should write NOVA Academy ECHS Executive Director or designee, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If NOVA Academy ECHS decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, NOVA Academy ECHS will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing. If the Charter School decides to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the Executive Director must order the correction or the removal and destruction of the information and inform the parent or eligible student of the amendment in writing.

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

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to Charter School officials with legitimate educational interests. A Charter School official is a person employed by NOVA Academy ECHS as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the NOVA Academy ECHS Board of Directors. A Charter School official also may include a volunteer, consultant, vendor, or contractor outside of NOVA Academy ECHS who performs an institutional service or function for which NOVA Academy ECHS would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or contracted provider of digital educational platforms and/or services; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another Charter School official in performing their tasks. A Charter School official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility.

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

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

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by NOVA Academy ECHS to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Student Privacy Policy Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

5. The right to request that the Charter School not release student names, addresses and telephone listings to military recruiters or institutions of higher education without prior written parental consent.

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from a student's education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to Charter School officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires NOVA Academy ECHS to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. NOVA Academy ECHS may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student to the following parties:

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

parent, an approved relative or nonrelated extended family member, or a resource family, may access the current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, and online communication on platforms established by the Charter School for students and parents, and any individualized education program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan that may have been developed or maintained by the Charter School; and/or

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

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

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

If you do not want NOVA Academy ECHS to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify NOVA Academy ECHS in writing at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment. Please notify the Executive Director at:

Lisa Hernandez
Executive Director, NOVA Academy
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 569-0948

A copy of the complete Policy is available on the school's website.

Charter School shall not release directory information regarding a student identified as a homeless child or youth under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act in the absence of parent, guardian, or eligible student's written consent, except as follows:

a. When the directory information is released for the purposes of facilitating the student's access to an oral assessment or eye examination required by Charter School, unless the parent/guardian opts out of the examination.

Please note that data collected and reported by Charter School to the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CalPADS[1]) pursuant to state law, will be shared with the California College Guidance Initiative ("CCGI"[2]) and will:

1) Be used to provide pupils and families with direct access to online tools and resources.
2) Enable a pupil to transmit information shared with the CCGI to both of the following:
   a. Postsecondary educational institutions for purposes of admissions and academic placement.
   b. The Student Aid Commission for purposes of determining eligibility for, and increasing uptake of, student financial aid.

USE OF STUDENT INFORMATION LEARNED FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

The Charter School complies with all federal, state, and local guidelines regarding the gathering and/or maintenance of information about any enrolled student obtained from social media in the student's educational record. The Charter School gathers student information from social media. Such information shall be maintained in the Charter School's records with regard to the student and shall be destroyed 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 the Charter School, whichever occurs first. A non-minor student or a student's parent or guardian may access the student's records for examination of the information, request the removal of information or corrections made to information gathered or maintained by the Charter School by contacting the Principal/Head of School.

CHROMEBOOK AND COMPUTER USE

The purpose of Chromebook and computer use is for academic pursuits. Users have a right to expect a quiet, clean environment that is conducive to learning. These guidelines are intended to outline the responsibilities of Chromebook and computer use.

- No food or drinks are permitted where Chromebooks or computers are in use.
- Students may only use Chromebooks or computers when supervised by a staff member.
- NOVA Academy ECHS assumes no responsibility for any lost or stolen data including thumb drives.
- Downloading or installing programs on Chromebooks or computers is strictly prohibited. Any information saved or installed will be removed once the system is rebooted.
- **Users are responsible for saving documents on their own media.**
- Use of equipment to view or download materials may require the user to demonstrate the educational or research purpose for such use.

[1] CALPADS is a database maintained by the CDE which consists of pupil data from elementary and secondary schools relating to, among other things, demographic, program participation, enrollment, and statewide assessments data.

[2] CCGI an authorized provider of an institutional service to all California local educational agencies and as part of the state's efforts to make college-going a more streamlined experience for students. The CCGI currently receives enrollment data for all public-school students enrolled in grades six through twelve from the California Department of Education (CDE).

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

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.

ONLINE 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, debilitating, or disabling equipment or data.
- Sending or exchanging messages that are inconsistent with NOVA Academy ECHS policies.

ONLINE 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 online 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.

EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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

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

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent or guardian. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by the Charter School Liaison.

School Liaison: The Executive Director or designee designates the following staff person as the School Liaison for homeless students (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)):

Melissa Meir
Director of Counseling & Student Services
500 W Santa Ana Blvd
Santa Ana CA, 92701
714-569-0948
Melissa-Meir@nova-academy.org

Sonia Felix
Assistant Principal
52780 Frederick Street
Coachella, CA 92236
760-398-9806
Sonia-Felix@nova-academy.org

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

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

2. Homeless students enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed at the Charter School.

3. Homeless students and families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act, early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any other preschool programs administered by the Charter School, if any, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.

4. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places frequented by parents or guardians of such youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, and in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless youth and unaccompanied youth.

6. Enrollment/admissions disputes are mediated in accordance with law, the Charter School's charter, and Board policy.

7. Parents/guardians and any unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, as applicable.

8. Charter School personnel providing services receive professional development and other support.

9. The Charter School Liaison collaborates with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.

10. Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school; have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth; and are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the Charter School Liaison to receive verification of such status for the purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of the Act.

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

Housing Questionnaire: Charter School shall administer a housing questionnaire for purposes of identifying homeless children and youth. Charter School shall ensure that the housing questionnaire is based on the best practices developed by the CDE. Charter School shall annually provide the housing questionnaire to all parents/guardians of students and to all unaccompanied youths at Charter School. The housing questionnaire shall include an explanation of the rights and protections a student has as a homeless child or youth or as an unaccompanied youth. The housing questionnaire shall be available in paper form. The housing questionnaire shall be available in English, and if fifteen (15) percent or more of the students enrolled at Charter School speak a single primary language other than English, it shall also be written in the primary language. The questionnaire shall be translated into other languages upon request of a student's parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth. Charter School shall collect the completed housing questionnaires and annually report to the CDE the number of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths enrolled. (Education Code Section 48851.)

School Stability: The Charter School will work with homeless students and their parent/guardian to ensure that each student is placed in the least restrictive educational programs, and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all students, including, but not necessarily limited to, interscholastic sports. All decisions regarding a homeless student's education and placement will be based on the best interest of the child and shall consider, among other factors, educational stability and the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress.

Homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin if it is in their best interest. The Charter School will immediately enroll a homeless student seeking reenrollment in the Charter School as the student's school of origin (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy). The Charter School will also immediately enroll any homeless student seeking to transfer to the Charter School (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy) regardless of the student's ability to meet normal enrollment documentation or uniform requirements (e.g., producing medical records or academic records from a previous school).

Homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin following the termination of the child's status as a homeless student as follows:

1. For students in Kindergarten through eighth grade, inclusive, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through the duration of the academic year in which the student's status changed.

2. For students enrolled in high school, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through graduation.

If the Charter School operates an intersession program, Charter School shall grant priority access to homeless students. Notwithstanding any other law, if the homeless student will be moving during an intersession period, the pupil's parent, guardian, educational rights holder, Indian custodian[3] in the case of an Indian child, or, if none of the preceding are applicable, an accompanied homeless student themselves shall determine which school the pupil attends for the intersession period, if applicable. "Intersession program" means an expanded learning program offered by the Charter School on nonschooldays, including, but not limited to, summer school. "Indian custodian" is as the term is defined in Section 1903 of Title 25 of the United States Code.

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

To determine whether a homeless student is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the student has earned to the date of transfer, the length of the student's school enrollment, or, for pupils with significant gaps in school attendance, the pupil's age as compared to the average age of pupils in the third or fourth year of high school may be used, whichever will qualify the student for the exemption.

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

The Charter School shall notify and consult with students who are exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements and the student's ERH. The consultation shall include all of the following:

[3] "Indian custodian" means any Indian person who has legal custody of an Indian child under tribal law or custom or under State law or to whom temporary physical care, custody, and control has been transferred by the parent of such child. *Section 1903 of Title 25 of the United States Code*

1. Discussion regarding how any of the requirements that are waived may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
2. Discussion and information about other options available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
3. Consideration of the pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption.

The Charter School shall not require any student who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School to accept the exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements or deny the student enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible. The Charter School shall not revoke an exemption and shall grant an eligible student's request for the exemption at any time if the student qualifies, regardless of whether the student previously declined the exemption.

If a homeless student who was eligible for an exemption and 1) was not properly notified of the availability of the exemption, or 2) previously declined the exemption pursuant to this Policy, the Charter School shall exempt the student within thirty (30) days of the exemption request, if an exemption is requested by the student or the student's ERH and the student at one time qualified for the exemption, even if the student is no longer homeless.

An eligible student's exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements will continue to apply while the student is enrolled in the Charter School or if the student transfers to another school even after the student no longer meets the definition of a homeless child.

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

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

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

1. Consult with the student and the student's ERH regarding the student's option to remain at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements, consistent with the laws regarding continuous enrollment and satisfactory progress for Charter School students over age 19.

2. Consult with the student, and the ERH for the student, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.

3. Consult with and provide information to the student and the student's ERH about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

4. Permit the student to stay at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or, if the student is under 18 years of age, upon agreement with the student's ERH.

5. Consult with the student, and the student's ERH, regarding the student's option to remain in the school of origin.

Through January 1, 2028, upon making a finding that a homeless student **is not reasonably able to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements but is reasonably able to complete state coursework requirements specified in Education Code Section 51225.3** within the student's fifth year of high school, the Executive Director or designee shall exempt the pupil from Charter School's graduation requirements and provide pupil the option of remaining in school for a fifth (5^{th}) year to complete the statewide coursework requirements. Charter School shall consult with the homeless student and the student's ERH regarding all of the following:

1. The pupil's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.

2. How waiving the local educational requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a institution of higher education.

3. Whether any other options are available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

4. The pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.

If a homeless student is **not** eligible for an exemption in the year in which the pupil transfers between schools, because Charter School makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, then Charter School shall do the following:

1. Within the first 30 calendar days of the ***following*** academic year, Charter School shall reevaluate eligibility;

2. Provide written notice to the pupil, the ERH, and the pupil's social worker or probation officer, if applicable, whether the pupil qualifies for an exemption upon reevaluation , based on the course completion status of the pupil at the time of reevaluation, to determine if the pupil continues to be reasonably able to complete Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school.

3. If, given their course completion status at that time the reevaluation is conducted, the pupil is not reasonably able to complete Charter School additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, the Charter School shall provide written notice to the pupil and the ERH of the pupil's options to:

i. Receive an exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board body of Charter School that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified in Section 51225.3, **or**
ii. Upon agreement with the ERH, stay in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

The pupil (if not a minor) or the ERH shall have sole discretion whether to accept the exemption, based on the pupil's best educational interests.

Reporting Requirements: Charter School shall report to the California Department of Education ("CDE") annually on the number of pupils who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from the Charter School's graduation requirements that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements. This data shall be reported for pupils graduating in the fourth year and fifth year cohorts, and shall be disaggregated by cohort, pupil category, race, and disability status. The CDE shall make this data publicly available on an annual basis aligned with other reporting timelines for the California dashboard graduation data.

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

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

For any homeless student who enrolls at the Charter School, a copy of the Charter School's complete policy shall be provided at the time of enrollment. A copy of the complete Policy is available on the school's website.

EDUCATION OF FOSTER AND MOBILE YOUTH

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

- *"Foster youth"* means any of the following:

1. A child who has been removed from their home pursuant to Section 309 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code ("WIC").
2. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to WIC section 300 or 602 (whether or not the child has been removed from the child's home by juvenile court).
3. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to WIC section 602, has been removed from the child's home by the juvenile court, and is in foster care.
4. A nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as described in WIC section 450, who satisfies all of the following criteria:

a. The nonminor has attained 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement by the juvenile court.
b. The nonminor is in foster care under the placement and care responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation department, Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization.
c. The nonminor is participating in a transitional independent living case plan.

5. A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization who is the subject of a petition filed in the tribal court.[4]
6. A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, as defined in WIC section 11400.

- "*Former juvenile court school student*" means a student who, upon completion of the student's second year of high school, transfers from a juvenile court school to the Charter School.

- *"Child of a military family"* refers to a student who resides in the household of an active duty military member.

- *"Currently Migratory Child"* refers to a child who, within the last 12-months, has moved with a parent, guardian, or other person having custody to the Charter School from another Local Educational Agency ("LEA"), either within California or from another state, so that the child or a member of the child's immediate family might secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, and whose parents or guardians have been informed of the child's eligibility for migrant education services. This includes a child who, without the parent/guardian, has continued to migrate annually to secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.

- "Newcomer pupil" is a person aged 3 to 21 years, who was not born in any of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and has not been attending one or more schools in any one or more of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, for more than three (3) full academic years. This also includes a "pupil participating in a newcomer program," as defined in Education Code section 51225.2, as that section read on January 1, 2023, who was enrolled in the Charter School before January 1, 2024. The Charter School may, in its discretion, also extend the rights in Education Code sections 51225.1 and 51225.2 to a "pupil participating in a newcomer program," as defined in Education Code section 51225.2, as that section read on January 1, 2023.

- "Educational Rights Holder" ("ERH") means a parent, guardian, or responsible adult appointed by a court to make educational decisions for a minor pursuant to WIC sections 319, 361 or 726, or a person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student pursuant to Education Code section 56055.

- "School of origin" means the school that the foster youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the foster youth was last enrolled. If the school the foster youth attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which the student was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that the foster youth attended within the immediately preceding 15 months, the Charter School liaison for foster youth, in consultation with and with the agreement of the foster youth and the ERH for the youth, shall determine, in the best interests of the foster youth, the school that shall be deemed the school of origin. For a foster youth who is an individual with exceptional needs as defined in Education Code

[4] The Charter School shall not require an Indian tribe or tribal court representative to certify that any student is a dependent of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization.

section 56026, "school" as used in the definition of "school of origin" includes a placement in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school as defined in Education Code section 56034, subject to the requirements of Education Code section 56325.

- "Best interests" means that, in making educational and school placement decisions for a foster youth, consideration is given to, among other factors, the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational program and the foster youth's access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all Charter School students.

- "Partial coursework satisfactorily completed" includes any portion of an individual course, even if the student did not complete the entire course.

Within this notice, foster youth, former juvenile court school students, a child of a military family, a currently migratory child, and a newcomer student will be collectively referred to as "Foster and Mobile Youth." Within this notice, a parent, guardian, or other person holding the educational rights for a Foster and Mobile Youth will be referred to as a "parent/guardian" or "ERH."

Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison: The Executive Director or designee designates the following staff person as the Liaison for Foster and Mobile Youth:

Santa Ana Campus	Coachella Campus
Kimberly Beckstrom	Scott Winter
Principal	Principal
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd.	52780 Frederick St
Santa Ana, CA 92701	Coachella, CA 92236
(714) 569-0948	(760) 398-9806
Kimberly-Beckstrom@nova-academy.org	Scott-Winter@nova-academy.org

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

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

School Stability: The Charter School will work with foster youth and their parent/guardian to ensure that each pupil is placed in the least restrictive educational programs, and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils, including, but not necessarily limited to, interscholastic sports. All decisions regarding a foster youth's education and placement will be based on the best interest of the child and shall consider, among other factors, educational stability and the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress.

Foster youth, currently migratory children and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin if it is in their best interest. The Charter School will immediately enroll a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking reenrollment in the Charter School as the student's school of origin (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy). If a dispute arises regarding a foster youth's request to remain in the Charter School as the school of origin, the foster youth has the right to remain in the Charter School pending the resolution of the dispute. The Charter School will also immediately enroll any foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking to transfer to the Charter School (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to

the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy) regardless of the student's ability to meet normal enrollment documentation or uniform requirements (e.g., producing medical records or academic records from a previous school).

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

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

If the Charter School operates an intersession program, Charter School shall grant priority access to foster youths. Notwithstanding any other law, if the foster youth will be moving during an intersession period, the pupil's educational rights holder, or Indian custodian in the case of an Indian child, shall determine which school the pupil attends for the intersession period, if applicable. "Intersession program" means an expanded learning program offered by the Charter School on nonschooldays, including, but not limited to, summer school. "Indian custodian" is as the term is defined in Section 1903 of Title 25 of the United States Code.

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

To determine whether a Foster and Mobile Youth is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the student has earned to the date of transfer, the length of the student's school enrollment, or, for students with significant gaps in school attendance, the student's age as compared to the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school, may be used, whichever will qualify the student for the exemption. For a newcomer pupil, enrollment in grade 11 or 12, based on the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school, may be used to determine whether the student is in their third or fourth year of high school.

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

The Charter School shall notify and consult with students who are exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements and the student's ERH. The consultation shall include all of the following:

1. Discussion regarding how any of the requirements that are waived may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
2. Discussion and information about other options available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
3. Consideration of the pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption.

The Charter School shall not require any student who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School to accept the exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements or deny the student enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible. The Charter School shall not revoke an exemption and shall grant an eligible student's request for the exemption at any time if the student qualifies, regardless of whether the student previously declined the exemption.

If a Foster and Mobile Youth who was eligible for an exemption and 1) was not properly notified of the availability of the exemption, or 2) previously declined the exemption pursuant to this Policy, the Charter School shall exempt the student within thirty (30) days of the exemption request, if an exemption is requested by the student or the student's ERH and the student at one time qualified for the exemption, even if the student is no longer a Foster and Mobile Youth or the court's jurisdiction of the pupil has terminated.

An eligible student's exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements will continue to apply while the student is enrolled in the Charter School or if the student transfers to another school even after the court's jurisdiction terminates or the student no longer meets the definition of a Foster and Mobile Youth.

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

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

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

1. Consult with the student and the student's ERH regarding the student's option to remain at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements, consistent with the laws regarding continuous enrollment and satisfactory progress for Charter School students over age 19.
2. Consult with the student, and the ERH for the student, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
3. Consult with and provide information to the student and the student's ERH about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. Permit the student to stay at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or, if the student is under 18 years of age, upon agreement with the student's ERH.
5. For a student identified as a foster youth, consult with the student, and the student's ERH, regarding the student's option to remain in the school of origin.

Through January 1, 2028, upon making a finding that a Foster and Mobile Youth **is not reasonably able to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements but is reasonably able to complete state**

coursework requirements specified in Education Code Section 51225.3 within the student's fifth year of high school, the Executive Director or designee shall exempt the pupil from Charter School's graduation requirements and provide pupil the option of remaining in school for a fifth (5^{th}) year to complete the statewide coursework requirements. Charter School shall consult with the Foster and Mobile Youth and their ERH regarding all of the following:

1. The pupil's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.
2. How waiving the local educational requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education.
3. Whether any other options are available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. The pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.

If a Foster and Mobile Youth is not eligible for an exemption in the year in which the pupil transfers between schools, or for a newcomer pupil, is not eligible for an exemption in the student's third year of high school, because Charter School makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, then Charter School shall do the following:

1. Within the first 30 calendar days of the ***following*** academic year, Charter School shall reevaluate eligibility;

2. Provide written notice to the pupil, the pupil's ERH, and the pupil's social worker or probation officer, if applicable, whether the pupil qualifies for an exemption upon reevaluation, based on the course completion status of the pupil at the time of reevaluation, to determine if the pupil continues to be reasonably able to complete Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school.
3. If, given their course completion status at that time the reevaluation is conducted, the pupil is not reasonably able to complete Charter School additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, the Charter School shall provide written notice to the pupil and the pupil's ERH of the pupil's options to:
    iii. Receive an exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board body of Charter School that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified in Section 51225.3, **or**
    iv. Upon agreement with the pupil's ERH, stay in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

The pupil (if not a minor) or the pupil's ERH shall have sole discretion whether to accept the exemption, based on the pupil's best educational interests.

Reporting Requirements: Charter School shall report to the California Department of Education ("CDE") annually on the number of pupils who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from the Charter School's graduation requirements that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements. This data shall be reported for pupils graduating in the fourth year and fifth year cohorts, and shall be disaggregated by cohort, pupil category, race, and disability status. The CDE shall make this data publicly available on an annual basis aligned with other reporting timelines for the California dashboard graduation data. For purposes of this notice, "pupil category" means the categories of pupils identified in the "Definitions" section of this Policy, above.

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

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

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

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

In accordance with the Charter School's Educational Records and Student Information Policy, under limited circumstances, the Charter School may disclose student records or personally identifiable information contained in those records to certain requesting parties including but not limited to a foster family agency and state and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, without parent/guardian consent. Students who are 16 years of age or older or have finished 10th grade may access their own school records.

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

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

Complaints of Noncompliance: A complaint of noncompliance with any of the requirements outlined above may be filed through the Charter School's Uniform Complaint Procedures. A copy of the Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures is available on the school's website.

Complaints of Noncompliance: A complaint of noncompliance with any of the requirements outlined above may be filed through the Charter School's Uniform Complaint Procedures. A copy of the Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures is available upon request at the main office.

Availability of Complete Policy: For any Foster and Mobile Youth who enrolls at the Charter School, a copy of the Charter School's complete foster youth policy shall be provided at the time of enrollment. A copy of the complete Policy is available on the school's website.

SECTION 504

The Charter School recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that no qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of the Charter School. Any student who has an objectively identified disability which substantially limits a major life activity, including, but not limited to learning, is eligible for accommodations by the Charter School. The parent of any student suspected of needing or qualifying for accommodations under Section 504 may make a referral for an evaluation to the Executive Director. A copy of the Charter School's Section 504 policies and procedures is available on the school's website.

SPECIAL EDUCATION /STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

We are dedicated to the belief that all students can learn and must be guaranteed equal opportunity to become contributing members of the academic environment and society. The Charter School provides special education instruction and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Improvement Act ("IDEA"), Education Code requirements, and applicable policies and procedures of the El Dorado Charter SELPA and authorizers Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) for the Santa Ana campus and Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) for the Coachella campus. These services are available for special education students enrolled at the Charter School. We offer high quality educational programs and services for all our students in accordance with the assessed needs of each student. The Charter School collaborates with parents, the student, teachers, and other agencies, as may be indicated, in order to appropriately serve the educational needs of each student.

Pursuant to the IDEA and relevant state law, the Charter School is responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating children enrolled at the Charter School with known or suspected disabilities to determine whether a need for special education and related services exists. This includes children with disabilities who are homeless or foster youth. The Charter School shall not deny nor discourage any student from enrollment solely due to a disability. If you believe your child may be eligible for special education services, please contact Roland Diaz , Principal, at (760) 398-9806 for the Coachella campus, or Kimberly Beckstrom, Principal, at (714) 569-0948 for the Santa Ana campus.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURE ("UCP") POLICY

NOVA Academy complies 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 compliance and/or conducting investigations shall be knowledgeable about the laws and programs, which they are assigned to investigate.

Scope

This complaint procedure is adopted to provide a uniform system of complaint processing ("UCP") for the following types of complaints:

1. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying against any protected group on the basis of the actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, mental disability, physical disability, ethnic group identification, immigration status, citizenship, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, nationality, national origin, race or ethnicity, religion, medical condition, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or any combination of those characteristics, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any combination of those characteristics in any NOVA Academy program or activity.[5] Unlawful discrimination includes, but is not limited to, noncompliance with Education Code sections 243(a) or 244.
2. Complaints alleging a violation of state or federal law or regulation governing the following programs:
   - Accommodations for Pregnant, Parenting or Lactating Students;
   - Adult Education Programs;
   - Career Technical and Technical Education and Training Programs;
   - Child Care and Development Programs;
   - Migrant Child Education Programs;
   - Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs;
   - Every Student Succeeds Act;
   - Education or graduation of Students in Foster Care, Students who are Homeless, former Juvenile Court Students now enrolled in a public school, Migratory Children and Children of Military Families;
   - Regional Occupational Centers and Programs; and/or
   - School Safety Plans.

3. Complaints alleging that a student 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 NOVA 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 students, or a student's parents/guardians, in violation of Education Code section 49011 and Section 5 of Article IX of the California Constitution, which require educational activities to be provided free of charge to all students without regard to their families' ability or willingness to pay fees or request special waivers. Pupil fees include:

      i. A fee charged to a student 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.

[5] In accordance with 5 C.C.R. 4611, employment discrimination complaints are not subject to the UCP.

ii. A security deposit, or other payment, that a student 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 student is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or uniforms associated with an educational activity.

c. Complaints regarding pupil fees, local control and accountability plans ("LCAP"), or noncompliance with Education Code sections 243 or 244 only, may be filed anonymously (without an identifying signature) if the complaint provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance with the respective applicable laws.

d. If NOVA Academy finds merit in a pupil fees complaint, or the California Department of Education ("CDE") finds merit in an appeal, 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 students and parents/guardians, subject to procedures established through regulations adopted by the state board.

e. Nothing in this Policy shall be interpreted to prohibit solicitation of voluntary donations of funds or property, voluntary participation in fundraising activities, or NOVA and other entities from providing student prizes or other recognition for voluntarily participating in fundraising activities.

4. Complaints alleging noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula ("LCFF") or LCAP under Education Code sections 47606.5 and 47607.3, as applicable are subject to the UCP. If NOVA adopts a School Plan for Student Achievement in addition to its LCAP, complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of the School Plan for Student Achievement under Education Code sections 64000, 64001, 65000, and 65001 shall also fall under this Policy.

Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding child nutrition programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 49490-49590 no longer fall under the UCP . Instead, they are governed by Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") sections 210.19(a)(4), 215.1(a), 220.13(c), 225.11(b), 226.6(n), and 250.15(d) and Title 5, California Code of Regulations ("C.C.R.") sections 15580 - 15584.

Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding special education programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 56000-56865 and 59000-59300 no longer fall under the UCP. Instead, they are governed by the procedures set forth in 5 C.C.R. sections 3200-3205 and 34 C.F.R. sections 300.151-300.153.

NOVA Academy acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. Unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects (to the greatest extent practicable and as permitted by law) confidentiality of the parties, including but not limited to the identity of the complainant, and maintains the integrity of the process. NOVA Academy cannot assure anonymity or confidentiality of the complainant's identity NOVA Academy may find it necessary to disclose information regarding the complaint/complainant to the extent required by law or necessary to carry out the investigation or proceedings, as determined by the Executive Director or designee on a case-by-case basis. NOVA Academy shall take reasonable steps to protect complainants from retaliation.

Compliance Officer

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

Lisa Hernandez
NOVA Academy
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the compliance officer(s) designated to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs for which they are responsible. The compliance officer may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Executive Director or designee.

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

Notifications

The Executive Director or designee shall make available copies of this Policy free of charge. The annual notice of this Policy may be made available on NOVA Academy's website.

NOVA Academy shall annually provide written notification of NOVA Academy's UCP to employees, students, parents/guardians, advisory committees, school officials or representatives, and other interested parties as applicable.

The annual notice shall be in English. When necessary, under Education Code section 48985, if 15% or more of the students enrolled in NOVA Academy speak a single primary language other than English, this annual notice will also be provided to the parent/guardian of any such students in that primary language.

The annual notice shall include the following:

1. A list of the types of complaints that fall under the scope of the UCP and the state and federal provisions that govern complaints regarding child nutrition programs and special education programs.

2. A statement clearly identifying any California State preschool programs that NOVA Academy is operating as exempt from licensing pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 1596.792(o) and corresponding Title 5 health and safety regulations, and any California State preschool programs that NOVA Academy is operating pursuant to Title 22 licensing requirements.
3. A statement that NOVA Academy is primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

4. A statement that a student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.

5. A statement identifying the title of the compliance officer, and the identity(ies) of the person(s) currently occupying that position, if known.

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

7. A statement that the complainant has a right to appeal NOVA Academy's decision to the CDE by filing a written appeal within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of NOVA Academy's Decision, except if NOVA Academy has used its UCP to address a complaint that is not subject to the UCP requirements.

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

9. A statement that if NOVA Academy finds merit in a UCP complaint, or the CDE finds merit in an appeal, NOVA Academy shall take corrective actions consistent with the requirements of existing law that will provide a remedy to the affected student and/or parent/guardian as applicable.

10. 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.

11. A statement that copies of NOVA Academy's UCP 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 enumerated in the section "Scope," above. The compliance officer shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions for at least three (3) calendar years.

All parties named 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, including a person's duly authorized representative or an interested third party, public agency, or organization may file a written complaint of alleged noncompliance or unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying pursuant to this Policy.

A complaint of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying may be filed by an individual who alleges that that individual has personally suffered unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying or by one who believes any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying, or by a duly authorized representative who alleges that an individual student has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. An investigation of alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying shall be initiated by filing a complaint no later than six (6) months from the date the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, or the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying unless the time for filing is extended by the Executive Director or designee, upon written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension. Such extension by the Executive Director or designee shall be made in writing. The period for filing may be extended by the Executive Director or designee for good cause for a period not to exceed ninety (90) calendar days following the expiration of the six-month time period. The Executive Director shall respond immediately upon a receipt of a request for extension.

All other complaints under this Policy shall be filed not later than one (1) year from the date the alleged violation occurred. For complaints relating to the LCAP, the date of the alleged violation is the date on which the NOVA Academy Board of Directors approved the LCAP or the annual update was adopted by NOVA Academy.

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

Complaints filed pursuant to this Policy must be in writing and signed. A signature may be handwritten, typed (including in an email) or electronically generated. Only complaints regarding pupil fees, LCAP, or noncompliance with Education Code section 243 or 244 may be filed anonymously as set forth in this Policy. 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 the complainant in the filing of the complaint.

- **Step 2: Mediation**

Within three (3) business days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer may informally discuss with the complainant the possibility of engaging in mediation with a neutral third-party. If the complainant agrees to mediation, the compliance officer shall make arrangements for this process.

Before initiating the mediation of a discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaint, the compliance officer shall ensure that all parties agree that the mediator must maintain confidentiality.

If the mediation process does not resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the complainant, the compliance officer shall proceed with the 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) business days of receiving the complaint or an unsuccessful attempt to mediate the complaint. This meeting shall provide an opportunity for the complainant and/or the complainant's representative to repeat the complaint orally.

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

A complainant's refusal to provide the compliance officer with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, or a complainant's failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or the complainant's 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 compliance officer 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: Final Written Decision**

NOVA Academy shall issue an investigation report (the "Decision") based on the evidence. NOVA Academy's Decision shall be in writing and sent to the complainant within sixty (60) calendar days of NOVA Academy's receipt of the complaint unless the timeframe is extended with the written agreement of 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 providing a clear determination for each allegation as to whether NOVA Academy is in compliance with the relevant law.

3. Corrective actions, if NOVA Academy finds merit in the complaint and any are warranted or required by law.

4. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal NOVA Academy's Decision within thirty (30) calendar days to the CDE, except when NOVA Academy has used its UCP to address complaints that are not subject to the UCP requirements.

5. Procedures to be followed for initiating such an appeal.

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

Appeals to the CDE

If dissatisfied with NOVA Academy's Decision, the complainant may appeal in writing to the CDE within thirty (30) days of receiving NOVA Academy's Decision. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the complaint filed with NOVA Academy and a copy of the Decision. When appealing to the CDE, the complainant must specify and explain the basis for the appeal including at least one of the following:

1. NOVA Academy failed to follow its complaint procedures.

2. Relative to the allegations of the complaint, NOVA Academy's Decision lacks material findings of fact necessary to reach a conclusion of law.
3. The material findings of fact in NOVA Academy's Decision are not supported by substantial evidence.
4. The legal conclusion in NOVA Academy's Decision is inconsistent with the law.
5. In a case in which NOVA Academy's Decision found noncompliance; the corrective actions fail to provide a proper remedy.

Upon notification by the CDE that the complainant has appealed NOVA Academy's Decision, the Executive Director or designee shall forward the following documents to the CDE within ten (10) calendar days of the date of notification:

1. A copy of the original complaint.

2. A copy of the Decision.

3. A copy of the investigation file, including but not limited to all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by the parties or gathered by the investigator.

4. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint.

5. A copy of NOVA Academy's complaint procedures.

6. Other relevant information requested by the CDE.

If the CDE determines the appeal raises issues not contained in the local complaint, the CDE will refer those new issues back to NOVA Academy for resolution as a new complaint. If the CDE notifies NOVA Academy that its Decision failed to address an allegation raised by the complaint and subject to the UCP process, NOVA Academy will investigate and address such allegation(s) in accordance with the UCP requirements and provide the CDE and the appellant with an amended Decision addressing such allegation(s) within twenty (20) calendar days of the CDE's notification. The amended Decision will inform the appellant of the right to separately appeal the amended Decision with respect to the complaint allegation(s) not addressed in the original Decision.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the CDE's appeal Decision pursuant to 5 C.C.R. section 4633(f)(2) or (3), either party may request reconsideration by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction ("SSPI") or the SSPI's designee. The request for reconsideration shall specify and explain the reason(s) for contesting the findings of fact, conclusions of law, or corrective actions in the CDE's appeal Decision. The SSPI will not consider any information not previously submitted to the CDE by a party during the appeal unless such information was unknown to the party at the time of the appeal and, with due diligence, could not have become known to the party. Pending the SSPI's response to a request for reconsideration, the CDE appeal Decision remains in effect and enforceable, unless stayed by a court.

The CDE may directly intervene in the complaint without waiting for action by NOVA Academy when one of the conditions listed in 5 C.C.R. section 4650 exists, including but not limited to cases in which through no fault of the complainant, NOVA Academy has not taken action within sixty (60) days of the date the complaint was filed with NOVA Academy..

If Charter School fails to issue an investigation report within the required sixty (60) calendar day timeline, a party to a written complaint of prohibited discrimination may appeal directly to the SSPI. The complaint must provide evidence supporting the basis for direct filing and explain why immediate action is necessary.

Complaints alleging noncompliance with Education Code section 243 or 244 may be filed with the SSPI directly, and the SSPI may directly intervene without waiting for an investigation by NOVA Academy. The complainant shall present the SSPI with evidence that supports the basis for the direct filing and why immediate action is necessary.

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.

Complainants alleging a violation of Education Code section 220, 243, 244, 51500, 51501, or 60044, may seek civil remedies after sixty (60) calendar days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE. before pursuing civil law remedies. The waiting period does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if NOVA Academy has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of their right to file a complaint.

CAMPUS LIFE

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.

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

Students must remain in good academic and behavioral standing to engage in any 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. Parents and athletes must sign and return an "information sheet" on concussions/head injuries and sudden cardiac arrest.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. A student must demonstrate and maintain satisfactory citizenship without any school debt or truancies.

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 8th 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.

5. All ticket sales are final. There will be no refunds issued for tickets purchased.

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.

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.

DRIVING FOR STUDENTS

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.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Students at the Santa Ana campus must carry their school-issued Identification (I.D.) Card to school each day. All students will have an opportunity to purchase a replacement I.D. card. Replacement I.D. cards can be obtained BY ARRANGEMENT ONLY, Monday - Friday, at the office for a fee of $5. 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.

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 AND 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.

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.

PARENT ESCORTS

Parents are welcome to escort and accompany their children to school in order to encourage better attendance and behavior in class. Parents must provide 24 hour notice in order to escort students to school. Each student may have up to three parent escort days per school year.

WORK PERMIT APPLICATIONS

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

YEARBOOK

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

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.

STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

IMMUNIZATIONS

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

These required immunizations include:

Child's Grade	List of shots required to attend school
TK/K-12 Admission	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP) - Five (5) doses Polio - Four (4) doses Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) - Two (2) doses Hepatitis B (Hep B) - Three (3) doses Varicella (chickenpox) – Two (2) doses **NOTE:** Four doses of DTaP are allowed if one was given on or after the fourth birthday. Three doses of DTaP meet the requirement if at least one dose of Tdap, DTaP, or DTP vaccine was given on or after the seventh birthday (also meets the 7th-12th grade Tdap requirement.) One or two doses of Td vaccine given on or after the seventh birthday count towards the requirement for DTaP. Three doses of Polio are allowed if one was given on or after fourth birthday. MMR doses must be given on or after first birthday. Two doses of measles, two doses of mumps, and one dose of rubella vaccine meet the requirement, separately or combined. Combination vaccines (e.g., MMRV) meet the requirements for individual component vaccines.
Entering 7th Grade	Tetanus, reduced Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis (Tdap) - One (1) dose **NOTE:** In order to begin 7th grade, students who had a valid personal belief exemption on file with a public or private elementary or secondary school in California before January 1, 2016 must meet the requirements listed for grades K-12 as well as requirements for 7th grade advancement. At least one dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is required on or after the 7th birthday.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS

1. NOVA Academy ECHS does not provide a school nurse. In the event of an emergency, the school may contact an appropriate emergency professional for assistance. Only prescribed medication may be administered during the regular school day.
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 carry and self-administer prescription epinephrine delivery systems if NOVA Academy ECHS receives both a written statement from the qualified healthcare provider detailing the name of the medication, method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken, and confirming that the pupil is able to self-administer epinephrine delivery systems, and a written statement from the parent, foster parent, or guardian of the pupil consenting to the

self-administration, providing a release for the school to consult with the qualified health care provider of the pupil regarding any questions that may arise with regard to the medication, and releasing NOVA Academy ECHS and school personnel from civil liability if the self-administering pupil suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administering medication.

3. Additionally, the trained personnel who have volunteered may use epinephrine delivery systems to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, an anaphylactic reaction. NOVA Academy ECHS will ensure it has the appropriate type of epinephrine delivery systems on site (i.e., regular or junior) to meet the needs of its pupils. NOVA Academy ECHS will ensure staff properly store, maintain, and restock the epinephrine delivery systems as needed. NOVA Academy ECHS will ensure any school personnel who volunteer are appropriately trained regarding the storage and emergency use of epinephrine delivery systems based on the standards developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. NOVA Academy ECHS will distribute an annual notice to all staff describing the request for volunteers who will be trained to administer an epinephrine delivery system to a person if that person is suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, anaphylaxis. The annual notice shall also describe the training the volunteer will receive.
4. A student may not take non-prescription medication by himself/herself.
5. 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. In order for a pupil to be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel in administering medication other than emergency epinephrine delivery systems, NOVA Academy ECHS shall obtain both a written statement from the physician and surgeon or physician assistant detailing the name of the medication, method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken and a written statement from the parent, foster parent, or guardian of the pupil indicating the desire that NOVA Academy ECHS assist the pupil in the matters set forth in the statement of the physician and surgeon or physician assistant.
6. The school assumes no liability for possible complications which may arise.
7. 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.
8. 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.

DIABETES

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

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

A copy of the information sheet regarding type 2 diabetes is available at:
https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type2diabetes.asp.
Please contact the office if you need a copy of this information sheet or if you have any questions about this information sheet.

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

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

A copy of the information sheet regarding type 1 diabetes shall be made available by the CDE on the CDE webste. Please contact the office if you need a copy of this information sheet or if you have any questions about this information sheet.

TYPE 2 DIABETES INFORMATION

Description

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes in adults.

- Until a few years ago, type 2 diabetes was rare in children, but it is becoming more common, especially for overweight teens.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in three American children born after 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes in his or her lifetime.

Type 2 diabetes affects the way the body is able to use sugar (glucose) for energy.

- The body turns the carbohydrates in food into glucose, the basic fuel for the body's cells.
- The pancreas makes insulin, a hormone that moves glucose from the blood to the cells.
- In type 2 diabetes, the body's cells resist the effects of insulin, and blood glucose levels rise.
- Over time, glucose reaches dangerously high levels in the blood, which is called hyperglycemia.
- Hyperglycemia can lead to health problems like heart disease, blindness, and kidney failure.

Risk Factors Associated with Type 2 Diabetes

It is recommended that students displaying or possibly experiencing the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes be screened (tested) for the disease.

Risk Factors

Researchers do not completely understand why some people develop type 2 diabetes and others do not; however, the following risk factors are associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes in children:

- **Being overweight**. The single greatest risk factor for type 2 diabetes in children is excess weight. In the U.S., almost one out of every five children is overweight. The chances are more than double that an overweight child will develop diabetes.
- **Family history of diabetes**. Many affected children and youth have at least one parent with diabetes or have a significant family history of the disease.
- **Inactivity**. Being inactive further reduces the body's ability to respond to insulin.
- **Specific racial/ethnic groups**. Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, or Asian/Pacific Islanders are more prone than other ethnic groups to develop type 2 diabetes.

- **Puberty**. Young people in puberty are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes than younger children, probably because of normal rises in hormone levels that can cause insulin resistance during this stage of rapid growth and physical development.

Warning Signs and Symptoms Associated with Type 2 Diabetes
Warning signs and symptoms of type 2 diabetes in children develop slowly, and initially there may be no symptoms. However, not everyone with insulin resistance or type 2 diabetes develops these warning signs, and not everyone who has these symptoms necessarily has type 2 diabetes.

- Increased hunger, even after eating
- Unexplained weight loss
- Increased thirst, dry mouth, and frequent urination
- Feeling very tired
- Blurred vision
- Slow healing of sores or cuts
- Dark velvety or ridged patches of skin, especially on the back of the neck or under the arms
- Irregular periods, no periods, and/or excess facial and body hair growth in girls
- High blood pressure or abnormal blood fats levels

Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Methods and Treatments
Healthy lifestyle choices can help prevent and treat type 2 diabetes. Even with a family history of diabetes, eating healthy foods in the correct amounts and exercising regularly can help children achieve or maintain a normal weight and normal blood glucose levels.

- **Eat healthy foods**. Make wise food choices. Eat foods low in fat and calories.
- **Get more physical activity**. Increase physical activity to at least 60 minutes every day.
- **Take medication**. If diet and exercise are not enough to control the disease, it may be necessary to treat type 2 diabetes with medication.

The first step in treating type 2 diabetes is to visit a doctor. A doctor can determine if a child is overweight based on the child's age, weight, and height. A doctor can also request tests of a child's blood glucose to see if the child has diabetes or pre-diabetes (a condition which may lead to type 2 diabetes).

Types of Diabetes Screening Tests That Are Available

- **Glycated hemoglobin (A1C) test**. A blood test measures the average blood sugar level over two to three months. An A1C level of 6.5 percent or higher on two separate tests indicates diabetes.
- **Random (non-fasting) blood sugar test**. A blood sample is taken at a random time. A random blood sugar level of 200 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dL) or higher suggests diabetes. This test must be confirmed with a fasting blood glucose test.
- **Fasting blood sugar test**. A blood sample is taken after an overnight fast. A fasting blood sugar level less than 100 mg/dL is normal. A level of 100 to 125 mg/dL is considered pre-diabetes. A level of 126 mg/dL or higher on two separate tests indicates diabetes.
- **Oral glucose tolerance test**. A test measuring the fasting blood sugar level after an overnight fast with periodic testing for the next several hours after drinking a sugary liquid. A reading of more than 200 mg/dL after two hours indicates diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes in children is a preventable/treatable disease and the guidance provided in this information sheet is intended to raise awareness about this disease. Contact your student's school nurse, school administrator, or health care provider if you have questions.

Questions: CDE Coordinated School Health and Safety Office | 916-319-0914

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.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

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

In accordance with the California Healthy Youth Act, Charter School will provide age-appropriate instruction on the prevention of human trafficking, including sexual abuse, assault, and harassment. You have the right to excuse your child from all or part of the instruction on the prevention of human trafficking. An opt-out form is available on the NOVA Academy website at www.nova-academy.org or in the school office for your convenience. Your consent for this instruction is NOT required. If we do not receive a written request to excuse your child, your child will be included in the instruction.

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

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

Available on Campus:

- School-based counseling services – your child is encouraged to directly contact a Charter School counselor by coming into the counseling office during school hours and making an appointment to speak with a counselor. For the Coachella campus, the counseling office can be reached at (760) 398-9806; for Santa Ana, the counseling office number is (714) 569-0948. Our Charter School counselors support students by providing individual sessions, group or parent consultations whenever a student is having a difficult time due to academic stress, transition to changes in their environment, or social concerns,

including isolation. Counseling services, whether provided by our Charter School or by an outside provider listed in this letter, are voluntary.

- Special education services – if you believe your child may have a disability, you are encouraged to directly contact an administrator at (760) 398-9806 for the Coachella campus or (714) 569-0948 for the Santa Ana campus to request an evaluation.
- Prescription medication while on campus – if your child requires prescription medication during school hours and you would like assistance from School staff in providing this medication to your child, please contact the school office at (760) 398-9806 for Coachella or (714) 569-0948 for Santa Ana.

Available in the Community (Coachella):

- Latino Commission – Counseling Services
  1612 1st St, Coachella, CA 92236
  (760) 398-9000
- Catholic Charities
  83180 Requa Ave #9, Indio, CA 92201
  (760) 342-0157
- EHS Counseling
  45080 Golf Center Pkwy, Indio, CA 92201
  (760) 342-8344
- Riverside County Mental Health
  47825 Oasis St, Indio, CA 92201
  (760) 863-8455
- Expressive Arts and Therapies of the Desert
  78045 Calle Barcelona, Ste 7, La Quinta, CA 92253
  (760) 610-9650

Available in the Community (Santa Ana):

- 211 Orange County
  Within Orange County: Dial 2-1-1
  Outside the County: 949-646-4357
  Text Messages: Text your zip code to 898211
  https://www.211oc.org/
- Families and Communities Together
  714-566-2878
  info@factoc.org
  https://www.factoc.org/
- Friendly Center
  147 W Rose Ave
  Orange, CA 92867
  714-771-5300
  https://friendlycenter.org/
- Catholic Charities of Orange County
  1820 E 16th St, Santa Ana, CA 92701
  714-347-9600
  https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/member/catholic-charities-of-orange-county/

Available Nationally:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline - This organization provides confidential support for adults and youth in distress, including prevention and crisis resources. Available 24 hours at 1-800-273-8255.
- The Trevor Project - This organization provides suicide prevention and crisis intervention for LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13 and 24. **Available at 1-866-488-7386 or visit** https://www.thetrevorproject.org/**.**
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America – This organization is a community- based mentorship program. Community-specific program information can be found online at https://www.bbbs.org or by calling (813) 720-8778.

PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

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

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

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

Lisa Hernandez
Executive Director
500 W Santa Ana Blvd
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 569-0948

A copy of the UCP is available on the school's website. For further information on any part of the complaint procedures, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the complaint procedures, please contact the Executive Director.

SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

The Charter School offers comprehensive sexual health education to its students in grades 7-12. A parent or guardian of a student has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. The Charter School does not require active parental consent ("opt-in") for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education. Parents and guardians may:

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

Anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure student's health behaviors and risks (including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age-appropriate questions about the student's attitudes concerning or practices relating to sex) may be administered to students in grades 9-12. A parent or guardian has the right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. Parents or guardians shall be notified in writing that this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered, given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey if they wish, notified of their right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey, and informed that in order to excuse their child they must state their request in writing to the Charter School.

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

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND RIGHT TO REFUSE

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

A parent/guardian having control or charge of any child enrolled in the Charter School may file annually with the Principal/Head of School a written and signed statement stating that the parent/guardian will not consent to a physical examination of the child. Thereupon the child shall be exempt from any physical examination, but whenever there is a good reason to believe that the child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious

disease, the child shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return until the school authorities are satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

SCHOOL BUS AND PASSENGER SAFETY

All students who are transported in a school bus or school student activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office.

SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN AND ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Charter School has established a Comprehensive School Safety Plan. The Plan is available upon request at the main office.

The Charter School has also established an Asbestos Management Plan. The Plan is available upon request at the main office. The following asbestos-related activities are planned or in progress at the Charter School: inspections, response actions, and post-response action activities, including periodic reinspection and surveillance activities that are planned or in progress for the school year.

SURVEYS ABOUT PERSONAL BELIEFS

Unless the student's parent/guardian gives written permission, a student will not be given any test, questionnaire, survey, or examination containing any questions about the student's, or the student's parents' or guardians' personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, or religion.

CONCUSSION/HEAD INJURIES

A concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. Because the Charter School has elected to offer an athletic program, we must immediately remove from a school-sponsored athletic activity for the remainder of the day an athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during that activity. The athlete may not return to that activity until the athlete is evaluated by, and receives written clearance from, a licensed health care provider. If the licensed health care provider determines the athlete has a concussion or head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than 7 days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet must be signed and returned by the athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian before the athlete initiates practice or competition. This requirement does not apply to an athlete engaging in an athletic activity during the regular school day or as part of a physical education course.

OPIOID INFORMATION SHEET

The Charter School annually provides each athlete with an Opioid Factsheet for Patients published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The athlete and, if the athlete is 17 years of age or younger, the athlete's parent or guardian shall sign a document acknowledging receipt of the Opioid Factsheet for Patients and return

that document to the Charter School before the athlete initiates practice or competition. The fact sheet is available at:
https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/49530

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION AND AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

The Charter School is invested in the health of its athletes, especially their heart health. Sudden cardiac arrest ("SCA") is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly. Those wishing to participate in athletics at the Charter School must review the information sheet on sudden cardiac arrest via the following link: https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/pe/documents/pescaform.pdf

Santa Ana:
Front Office
Break Room
Second Floor near Sports Court

Coachella AED Location:
Front Office near Front Office

SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

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

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

- With very limited exceptions, California makes a person criminally liable for keeping any firearm, loaded or unloaded, within any premises that are under their custody and control where that person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby (1) causes death or injury to the child or any other person; (2) carries the firearm off the premises or to a public place, including to any preschool or school grades kindergarten through twelfth grade, or to any school-sponsored event, activity, or performance; or (3) unlawfully brandishes the firearm to others.
    - The criminal penalty may be significantly greater if someone dies or suffers great bodily injury as a result of the child gaining access to the firearm.
- With very limited exceptions, California also makes it a crime for a person to negligently store or leave any firearm, loaded or unloaded, on their premises in a location where the person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to it without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child, even where a minor **never** actually accesses the firearm.

- In addition to potential fines and terms of imprisonment, as of January 1, 2020, a gun owner found criminally liable under these California laws faces prohibitions from possessing, controlling, owning, receiving, or purchasing a firearm for 10 years.
- Finally, a parent or guardian may also be civilly liable for damages resulting from the discharge of a firearm by that person's child or ward.

The county or city may have additional restrictions regarding the safe storage of firearms. Thank you for helping to keep our children and schools safe. Remember that the easiest and safest way to comply with the law is to keep firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable.

DANGERS OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS

The illicit use and abuse of synthetic drugs represents an emerging and ongoing public health threat in California. The fentanyl crisis specifically, has impacted communities across the state, leading to a sharp increase in fentanyl poisonings and deaths in recent years. This notice aims to address the crisis with a preventative approach ensuring students and families are educated on the deadly consequences of recreational drug use.

A synthetic drug is a drug with properties and effects similar to a known hallucinogen or narcotic but having a slightly altered chemical structure, especially such a drug created in order to evade existing restrictions against illegal substances. Synthetic drugs include but are not limited to synthetic cannabinoids ("synthetic marijuana," "Spice," "K2"), methamphetamines, bath salts, and fentanyl.

The California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") has expounded on the extreme danger of drugs laced with fentanyl. Illicit fentanyl can be added to other drugs to make them cheaper, more powerful, and more addictive. Illicit fentanyl has been found in many drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine, counterfeit pills, and cocaine. Fentanyl mixed with any drug increases the likelihood of a fatal overdose. Furthermore, it is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl without additional testing, because fentanyl cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted when used as a lacing agent.
Additional information regarding fentanyl from the CDPH's Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch can be found here.

Notice Of Policy Regarding Immigration Enforcement Activity

This notice summarizes our Policy Regarding Immigration Enforcement Activity. The complete policy is available in the main office and at [INSERT LOCATION].

OUR COMMITMENT TO ALL STUDENTS

We provide a safe, welcoming environment for all students regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs. We limit immigration enforcement activities at our facilities consistent with California law.

YOUR RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

Non-Discrimination: We prohibit discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on immigration status, nationality, race, ethnicity, citizenship status, religion, national origin, or ancestry. We promptly investigate all complaints and take appropriate action.

Enrollment: We do not request citizenship or immigration documentation for enrollment, other than documents we might review but not retain to establish a child's birthdate. We accept various documents to establish residence (utility bills, rental agreements, pay stubs, declarations of residency) and age (birth certificates, baptism certificates, passports, or affidavits). Students experiencing homelessness may enroll even without typical documentation if otherwise eligible.

Privacy of Information: We do not collect or maintain information about students' or families' citizenship or immigration status except when required by law for specific education programs. If we do, we collect such information separately from enrollment and do not use it to discriminate or prevent school attendance.

Social Security Numbers: We do not require Social Security numbers for enrollment. We may request the last four digits of an adult household member's number only to establish eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. Students can still qualify without providing this information if they meet income requirements.

INFORMATION SHARING LIMITS

We do not share student information that might indicate immigration or citizenship status unless authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or required by valid court orders, warrants, or subpoenas. We provide parents notice before responding to such requests (except in child abuse cases or when prohibited).

Immigration Enforcement Officers: Without written parental consent, we do not provide student information to immigration enforcement officers unless they present a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or court order signed by a judge. ICE administrative warrants do not authorize access to nonpublic school areas or student information.

CAMPUS ACCESS PROCEDURES

Immigration enforcement officers carrying out immigration enforcement activities may not enter nonpublic school areas without a valid judicial warrant or court order. In the event of an enforcement activity authorized by a judicial order, our staff will:

- Request credentials and documentation from any officer
- Contact the schoolsite administrator before granting access
- Request that officers not interrupt instruction
- Document all interactions and notify parents, staff, and students pursuant to the procedures outlined in our Comprehensive School Safety Plan
- Report attempts to access campus or students to the California Department of Justice and to the Charter School Board of Directors

ANTI-BULLYING AND HATE CRIMES

We educate students about respecting all peers and the harmful effects of bullying based on protected characteristics. We train staff to eliminate hostile environments and respond to harassment. Students who experience hate crimes have the right to report them. Review our complete Harassment, Discrimination, Intimidation, & Bullying Policy and Uniform Complaint Procedures in the main office.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Emergency Contacts: You may update your student's emergency contact information anytime. We encourage you to include a trusted adult or multiple adults who can care for your child if you become unavailable. We use this information only for emergencies.

Caregivers Authorization Affidavit: We encourage families to support relative caregivers in completing a Caregivers Authorization Affidavit. We will rely on a signed, completed Affidavit to allow an authorized caregiver to enroll a student in school and to consent to school-related medical care. A parent's signature is not required on the Caregiver Authorization Affidavit. This form is available HERE.

If Parents Are Detained: We release students to emergency contacts or anyone with a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit. We contact child protective services only if we cannot arrange care through provided contacts.

Family Safety Plans: We encourage families to develop safety plans identifying trusted adults who can care for students and locations of important documents (birth certificates, passports, medical information).

Resources for Detained Family Members:

- **ICE Detainee Locator**: https://locator.ice.gov/odls#/search
- **Legal Assistance**: California organizations accredited by Board of Immigration Appeals at https://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-accreditation-roster-reports; Self-Help Centers at http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-selfhelpcenters.htm
- **Consulates/Embassies**: Contact your country of origin's consulate for assistance

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.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is a fundamental principle of scholarship. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to such things as cheating; inventing 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 considers 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 in Aeries by the teacher and/or Administration and a zero on the assignment.
2. Call to parent/guardian of student by teacher and/or Administration.
3. Recommendation for Disciplinary Probation or other appropriate consequence **The school may impose appropriate consequences at any stage deemed necessary.**

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.

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.

- 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.
- 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 INCLUDING Birkenstocks and Crocs not worn in sports mode.
- Caps, bandanas, hoods, and hairnets (except when serving food) may not be worn except as authorized by an administrator. This applies to all students. Religious headwear is permitted.
- No pajama attire allowed unless part of a school activity.

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 charge not to exceed the replacement value. 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 PHONES/ELECTRONICS

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

Private devices may be used:

- Off campus before or after school.
- On campus during non-instructional time (e.g. lunch or between class periods)

- Before or after any Charter School sponsored activity occurring before or after the regular school day.
- In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator of the Charter School grants permission to a student to possess or use a private device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.
- When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use of a private device is necessary for the health or well-being of the student.
- When the possession or use of a private device is required in a student's individualized education program ("IEP").

Private devices shall be turned off and shall not be used:

- During instructional classroom time, including assemblies, and any other school activity, which takes place during the regularly scheduled school day on or off campus.
- During events sponsored by the Charter School held before or after regular school hours.
- On field trips or excursions sponsored by the Charter School.

The school is not liable for cell phones or electronics brought to school that are lost/misplaced/stolen/damaged.

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 defiance. Except as specified above, electronics may only be picked up before school or after school by a parent/guardian only.

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.

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

SHARPIES

Sharpies are not permitted on campus.
Incident 1: Confiscation and return to parent.
Incident 2: 60 minutes Work/Study/Service, parent contact.
Incident 3: 90 minutes Work/Study/Service, parent contact.

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

ACTION	WHO
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

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
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

CAMPUS SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The Charter School 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 Charter School rules and regulations, jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of students and Charter School 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, Charter School has adopted a Policy outlining the reasonable search of students and their property, student use areas, and/or student lockers and the seizure of illegal, unsafe, unauthorized or contraband items and materials through a search based upon reasonable suspicion.

Student lockers, including P.E. lockers, are school property and remain at all times under the control of the Charter School. 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.
A student's personal cell phone, smartphone, or other personal electronic device shall not be searched by school officials without a warrant, the student's consent, or a legitimate emergency, unless the device is lost or abandoned. An emergency is any situation involving danger of death or serious physical injury to any person, that requires access to the information located or reasonably believed to be located on the electronic device. If the Charter School has a good faith belief that the device is lost, stolen, or abandoned, the Charter School may only access electronic device information in order to attempt to identify, verify, or contact the owner of the device.

The Charter School is not prohibited from seizing/confiscating a student's personal electronic device, without searching its contents, if the student's use or possession of the private electronic device is in violation of Charter School rules or regulations. The complete Policy is available for review on the school's website.

LANGUAGE

- No inappropriate and/or offensive language while on campus or attending NOVA Academy events. This includes swear words or anything that is offensive to a person's color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, sexual identity, weight/height or physical impairment. This includes spoken, written, or gestured.

APPENDIX – COMPLETE POLICIES

CLASSROOM-BASED ATTENDANCE POLICY

Definitions

- "*Tardy*": NOVA Academy ECHS starts at 8:30 a.m. Students shall be classified as tardy if the student arrives after that time.

- "*Unexcused Absence*": A student shall have an unexcused absence if the student is absent or is tardy for more than thirty (30) minutes without a valid excuse.

- "*Truant":* A student shall be classified as a truant if the student is absent from school without a valid excuse three (3) full days in one school year, or if the student is tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three (3) occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. Any student who has once been reported as a truant and who is again absent from school without valid excuse one or more days, or tardy on one or more days, shall again be deemed a truant. Such students shall be reported to the Principal/Head of School or designee.

- "*Habitual Truant*": A student shall be classified as a habitual truant if the student is reported for truancy three (3) or more times within the same school year. This generally occurs when the student is absent from school without a valid excuse for five (5) full days in one school year or if the student is tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on five (5) occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof.

- "*Chronic Truant*": A student shall be classified as a chronic truant if the student is absent from school without a valid excuse for ten (10) percent or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date.

- *"School Attendance Review Team ("SART"):* The SART panel will be composed of Administrators and other certificated personnel. The SART panel will discuss the absence problem with the student's parent/guardian to work on solutions, develop strategies, discuss appropriate support services for the student and student's family, and establish a plan to resolve the attendance issue.

    1. The SART panel shall direct the parent/guardian that no further unexcused absences or tardies can be tolerated.

    2. The parent/guardian shall be required to sign a contract formalizing the agreement by the parent/guardian to improve the child's attendance or face additional administrative action. The contract will identify the corrective actions required in the future, and indicate that the SART panel shall have the authority to order one or more of the following consequences for non-compliance with the terms of the contract:

        a. Parent/guardian to attend school with the child for one day

b. Student retention
c. After school detention program
d. Required school counseling
e. Loss of field trip privileges
f. Loss of school store privileges
g. Loss of school event privileges
h. Required remediation plan as set by the SART
i. Notification to the County District Attorney

3. Notice of action recommended by the SART will be provided in writing to the parent/guardian.

VERIFICATION OF ABSENCE

WHEN A STUDENT IS ABSENT, A WRITTEN NOTE IS REQUIRED upon the student's return to school. The office opens at 8:00 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, otherwise they will be marked as unexcused.
Healthcare provider verification:

a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, Charter School staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may contact a medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.
b. A healthcare provider's note of illness will be accepted for any reported absence. When a student has five consecutive absences or ten cumulative absences in the school year for illness verified by a written parent's note, any further absences for illness must be verified by a healthcare provider.

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.

EARLY LEAVE

Students generally cannot leave campus at any time for any reason without parental consent. Students in grades 7-12, inclusive, may be excused from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent or guardian.
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**

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

EXTENDED ABSENCE/INDEPENDENT STUDY

For students who will be absent from classroom-based instruction for an extended period (surgery, unavoidable travel, etc.), participation in independent study must be approved by the Principal/Head of School at least two weeks in advance whenever possible. For more information please refer to the school's Independent Study Policy, located on the school website.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

A student's absence shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness, including an absence for the benefit of the pupil's mental or behavioral health

2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.

3. Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointments:

    a. Students in grades 7-12, inclusive, may be excused from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent or guardian.

4. For the purpose of attending the funeral services or grieving the death of either a member of the pupil's immediate family, or of a person that is determined by the pupil's parent or guardian to be in such close association with the pupil as to be considered the pupil's immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than five (5) days per incident. "Immediate family" means the parent or guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the household of the pupil.

5. For any of the following reasons, if an immediate family member of the pupil, or a person that is determined by the pupil's parent or guardian to be in such close association with the pupil as to be considered the pupil's immediate family, has died:

    a. To access services from a victim services organization or agency.

    b. To access grief support services.

    c. To participate in safety planning or to take other actions to increase the safety of the pupil or an immediate family member of the pupil, or a person that is determined by the pupil's parent or guardian to be in such close association with the pupil as to be considered the pupil's immediate family, including, but not limited to, temporary or permanent relocation.

6. Absences under this section shall not be excused for more than three (3) days per incident, unless extended on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the school administrator. "Immediate family" means the parent or guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the household of the pupil.

7. Participation in religious instruction or exercises as follows:

    a. The student shall be excused for this purpose on no more than four (4) school days per month.

8. For the purposes of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.

9. Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent, including absences to care for a sick child. (The school does not require a note from the doctor for this excusal).

10. To permit the student to spend time with an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code section 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on

leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Charter School.

11. For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Election Code section 12302.

12. Attendance at the student's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen.

13. Authorized parental leave for a pregnant or parenting student for up to eight (8) weeks, which may be extended if deemed medically necessary by the student's physician.

14. Authorized at the discretion of the Principal/Head of School or designee, based on the facts of the student's circumstances, are deemed to constitute a valid excuse.

15. A student who holds a work permit to work for a period of not more than five (5) consecutive days in the entertainment or allied industries shall be excused from school during the period that the student is working in the entertainment or allied industry for a maximum of up to five (5) absences per school year subject to the requirements of Education Code section 48225.5.

16. In order to participate with a not-for-profit performing arts organization in a performance for a public-school student audience for a maximum of up to five (5) days per school year provided the student's parent or guardian provides a written note to the school authorities explaining the reason for the student's absence.

17. For the purpose of participating in a cultural ceremony or event. "Cultural" for these purposes means relating to the habits, practices, beliefs, and traditions of a certain group of people.

18. For the purpose of a middle or high school pupil engaging in a civic or political event as indicated below, provided that the pupil notifies the school ahead of the absence. A "civic or political event" includes, but is not limited to, voting, poll working, strikes, public commenting, candidate speeches, political or civic forums, and town halls.
    a. A middle school or high school pupil who is absent pursuant to this provision is required to be excused for only one schoolday-long absence per school year.
    b. A middle school or high school pupil who is absent pursuant to this provision may be permitted additional excused absences in the discretion of a school administrator.

19. For the following justifiable personal reasons for a maximum of five (5) school days per school year (unless otherwise indicated), upon advance written request by the student's parent or guardian and approval by the Principal/Head of School or designee pursuant to uniform standards:
    a. Appearance in court.
    b. Observance of a holiday or ceremony of the pupil's religion.
    c. Attendance at religious retreats (not to exceed one schoolday per semester).
    d. Attendance at an employment conference.
    e. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization.

A student who is absent due to an excused absence will be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the excused absence that can be reasonably provided and will receive full credit upon satisfactory

completion within a reasonable period of time. The teacher of the class from which a student is absent shall determine which tests and assignments are reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the student missed during the excused absence.

TARDY POLICY

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 may no longer be 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. **SART process begins if tardies are to the first class period of the day.**

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Unexcused absences include but are not limited to:

- Family vacations / reunions
- Theme Park excursions
- Non school-related sports events / competitions
- Cruises, trips to the river, Mexico, beach trips, etc.
- Theme camps (i.e. cheer camp, dance camp, baseball camp, etc.)
- Other activities not enumerated under California Education Code Section 48205 that are deemed unexcused by the Principal/Head of School or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING TRUANCY

1. Each of the first two (2) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes will result in a call home to the parent/guardian by the Principal/Head of School or designee. The student's classroom teacher may also call home.

2. Each of the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes will result in a call home to the parent/guardian by the Principal/Head of School or designee. In addition, the student's classroom teacher may also call home and/or the Charter School may send the parent an e-mail notification. In addition, upon reaching three (3) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes in a school year, the parent/guardian will receive "**Truancy Letter #1 – Truancy Classification Notice**" from the Charter School notifying the parent/guardian of the student's "Truant" status. This letter must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the Charter School. This letter shall also be accompanied by a copy of this Attendance Policy. This letter, and all subsequent letter(s) sent home, shall be sent by Certified Mail, return receipt requested, or some other form of mail that can be tracked. This letter shall be re-sent after a fourth (4^{th}) unexcused absence.

3. Upon reaching six (6) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes, the parent/guardian will receive "**Truancy Letter #2 – Habitual Truant Classification Notice and Conference Request**," notifying the parent/guardian of the student's "Habitual Truant" status and a parent/guardian conference will be scheduled to review the student's records and develop an intervention plan/contract. In addition,

the Charter School will consult with a school counselor regarding the appropriateness of a home visitation and/or case management.

4. Upon reaching seven (7) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes, the parent/guardian will receive a "**Truancy Letter #3 – Referral to SART Meeting"** and the student will be referred to a Student Success Team (SST) and the SART.

5. If the conditions of the SART contract are not met, the student may incur additional administrative action up to and including disenrollment from the Charter School, consistent with the Involuntary Removal Process described below. If the student is disenrolled after the Involuntary Removal Process has been followed, notification will be sent within thirty (30) days to the student's last known school district of residence.

6. For all communications set forth in this process, the Charter School will use the contact information provided by the parent/guardian in the registration packet. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to update the Charter School with any new contact information.

7. If a student is absent ten (10) or more consecutive school days without valid excuse and the student's parent/guardian cannot be reached at the number or address provided in the registration packet and does not otherwise respond to the Charter School's communication attempts, as set forth above, the student will be in violation of this Policy and the SART contract (if any), and may be subject to disenrollment in compliance with the Involuntary Removal Process described below.

8. Any documentation received by the Charter School regarding a student's enrollment and attendance at another public or private school (i.e., CALPADS report) shall be deemed evidence of a voluntary disenrollment and shall not trigger the Involuntary Removal Process below.

Process for Students Who Are Not in Attendance at the Beginning of the School Year

When a student is not in attendance on the first five (5) days of the school year, the Charter School will attempt to reach the student's parent/guardian on a daily basis for each of the first five (5) days to determine whether the student has an excused absence, consistent with the process outlined in this policy. If the student has a basis for an excused absence, the student's parent/guardian must notify the Charter School of the absence and provide documentation consistent with this policy. However, consistent with process below, students who are not in attendance by the sixth (6^{th}) day of the school year due to an unexcused absence will be disenrolled from the Charter School roster after following the Involuntary Removal Process described below, as it will be assumed that the student has chosen another school option.

1. Students who are not in attendance on the first (1^{st}) day of the school year will be contacted by phone to ensure their intent to enroll in the Charter School.

2. Students who have indicated their intent to enroll but have not attended by the third (3^{rd}) day of the school year and do not have an excused absence will receive a letter indicating the student's risk of disenrollment.

3. Students who have indicated their intent to enroll but have not attended by the fifth (5^{th}) day of the school year and do not have an excused absence will receive a phone call reiterating the content of the letter.

4. Students who are not in attendance by the sixth (6^{th}) day of the school year and do not have an excused absence will receive an Involuntary Removal Notice and the CDE Enrollment Complaint Notice and Form. The Charter School will follow the Involuntary Removal Process described below, which includes an additional five (5) schooldays for the parent/guardian to respond to the Charter School and request a hearing before disenrollment.

5. The Charter School will use the contact information provided by the parent/guardian in the registration packet.

6. Within thirty (30) calendar days of disenrollment, the Charter School will send the student's last known school district of residence a letter notifying it of the student's failure to attend the Charter School.

7. Any documentation received by the Charter School regarding a student's enrollment and attendance at another public or private school (i.e., CALPADS report) shall be deemed evidence of a voluntary disenrollment and shall not trigger the Involuntary Removal Process below.

Involuntary Removal Process

No student shall be involuntarily removed by the Charter School for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of the Charter School's intent to remove the student ("Involuntary Removal Notice"). The Involuntary Removal Notice must be provided to the parent or guardian no less than five (5) schooldays before the effective date of the proposed disenrollment date.

The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder. The Involuntary Removal Notice shall include:

1. The charges against the student
2. An explanation of the student's basic rights including the right to request a hearing before the effective date of the action
3. The CDE Enrollment Complaint Notice and Form

The hearing shall be consistent with the Charter School's expulsion procedures. If the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the Charter School issues a final decision. As used herein, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions or expulsions pursuant to the Charter School's suspension and expulsion policy.

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

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

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

A hearing decision not to disenroll the student does not prevent the Charter School from making a similar recommendation in the future should student truancy continue or re-occur.

Non-Discrimination

These policies will be enforced fairly, uniformly, and consistently without regard to the characteristics listed in Education Code section 220 (actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Penal Code section 422.55, including immigration status, pregnancy, or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics).

Reports

The Principal/Head of School, or designee, shall gather and report to the Board the number of absences both excused and unexcused as well as students who are truant, and the steps taken to remedy the problem.

GENERAL COMPLAINT POLICY

NOVA Academy Early College High (the "Charter School") has adopted this General Complaint Policy to address concerns about the Charter School generally and/or regarding specific Charter School employees. For complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying, unlawful pupil fees, or other specific perceived violations of state or federal laws, please refer to the Charter School's Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy and/or the Charter School's Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures. For all other complaints, this Policy, the General Complaint Form, and accompanying procedures will be appropriate. For any questions regarding the application of this Policy or the Charter School's other policies, please contact Lisa Hernandez, Executive Director, at 714-569-0948, or lisa-hernandez@nova-academy.org.

This Policy shall be used when a non-employee complainant raises a complaint or concern about Charter School generally or a Charter School employee.

If reasonably feasible, third-party complaints shall be resolved at the lowest possible level, including attempts to discuss/resolve concerns with the Charter School employee directly. However, in the event an informal resolution cannot be achieved or is not appropriate, the following steps will be followed:

1. The complainant begins the process by filing a written complaint using a General Complaint Form (sample below) with the office of the Executive Director as soon as possible after the events that give rise to the complainant's concerns. The written complaint shall set forth in detail the factual basis for the complaint;

2. The Executive Director (or designee) shall use their best efforts to ascertain the facts relating to the complaint. When applicable, the Executive Director (or designee) shall confer with the parties identified in the complaint or persons with knowledge of the particulars of the complaint to ascertain said facts; and

3. In the event that the Executive Director (or designee) finds that a complaint is valid, the Executive Director (or designee) shall take appropriate action to resolve the concern. In the event the complaint is against an employee of the Charter School, the Executive Director (or designee) may take disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, the Executive Director (or designee) may counsel or reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures. The Executive Director's (or designee's) decision relating to the complaint shall be final.

4. If the complaint is about the Executive Director, the complainant may file their complaint by using a General Complaint Form (sample below) and sending it to the Chair of the Board, who will then conduct a fact-finding investigation or authorize a third-party investigator on behalf of the Charter School. The Chair or investigator will report the findings to the Board, in closed session for review and further action, if necessary.

5. The Executive Director or Chair shall draft a written response to the complainant indicating that the matter has been investigated and sufficiently addressed. If appropriate, the response may include general details about the manner of the resolution, but at all times employee and student privacy rights shall be maintained. No response may include any details about adverse action taken against a student or employee.

General Assurances

1. Confidentiality: All complainants shall be notified that information obtained from the complainants, and thereafter gathered during the investigation, shall be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

2. Non-Retaliation: All complainants shall be advised that complainants shall be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaints or participation in any complaint process.

3. Resolution: The Board, Executive Director, or designee will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES/ADULT-STUDENT INTERACTION POLICY

This policy applies to all NOVA Academy School employees, volunteers, contractors, and governing board ("Board") members[6] (collectively referred to as "adults" herein).

[6] This policy does not apply to student board members under Education Code 47604.2, or otherwise.

The School recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing student and adult behavior to bring about the safest and most learning-conducive environment possible. This policy is available on the school's website.

Corporal Punishment

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

For clarification purposes, the following examples are offered for direction and guidance of School employees, volunteers, contractors, and Board members:

A. Examples of permitted actions (i.e., not corporal punishment)

1. Stopping a student from fighting with another student;
2. Preventing a pupil from committing an act of vandalism;
3. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a student;
4. Forcing a pupil to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
5. Requiring a student on an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
6. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.

B. Examples of prohibited actions (i.e., corporal punishment)

1. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a student as a means of control;
2. Making unruly students do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
3. Paddling, swatting, slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Adult/Student Behavior

This policy is intended to guide adults in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of them and to specify the boundaries between adults and students.

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

For the purposes of this policy, the term "boundaries" is defined as acceptable professional behavior by an adult while interacting with a student, whether during school hours or outside of school hours, including through social media platforms, text messaging, and other forms of communication that do not otherwise include a student's parent/guardian. Trespassing the boundaries of a student/adult relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Professional boundaries apply not only between students and staff, volunteers, and contractors, and Board members, but also among and between students, and among and between adults employed, volunteering, or under contract with the School. All members of the School community are expected to maintain professional conduct that models appropriate behavior and fosters a safe and respectful learning environment. Additionally, all facilities/areas under School control shall be effectively supervised to promote a safe environment for students and individuals performing services on behalf of the School.

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

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

Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct

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

Examples of Specific Behaviors

The following examples are not an exhaustive list:

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)

(a) Giving gifts to an individual student that are of a personal and intimate nature.
(b) Kissing of any kind.
(c) Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a student in a private situation.
(d) Intentionally being alone with a student away from the School.
(e) Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.
(f) Sexual jokes.
(g) Seeking emotional involvement with a student for your benefit.
(h) Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented.
(i) Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a student.
(j) Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.
(k) Communication with students via an employee's personal accounts, such as email and/or social media.

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has written parent/guardian and supervisor permission.)

(a) Giving students a ride to/from School or School activities.
(b) Being alone in a room with a student at School with the door closed.
(c) Allowing students in your home.

Cautionary Staff/Student Behaviors

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

(a) Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone.
(b) Excessive attention toward a particular student.
(c) Sending emails, text messages, or letters to students if the content is not about School activities.

Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Student Behaviors

(a) Getting parents/guardians' written consent for any after-school activity.
(b) Obtaining formal approval to take students off School property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
(c) Emails, text, phone, and instant messages to students within School-provided platforms must be professional and pertain to School activities or classes (Communication should be limited to School technology).
(d) Keeping the door open when alone with a student.
(e) Keeping reasonable space between you and your students.
(f) Stopping and correcting students if they cross your own personal boundaries.
(g) Keeping parents/guardians informed when a significant issue develops about a student.
(h) Keeping after-class discussions with a student professional and brief.
(i) Asking for advice from fellow staff or administrators if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
(j) Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the student.
(k) Informing the Principal about situations that have the potential to become more severe.
(l) Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
(m) Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students or coworkers.
(n) Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any student with special needs.
(o) Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a student after regular school hours.
(p) Giving students praise and recognition without touching them.
(q) High fives, fist bumps, and handshakes are acceptable.
(r) Keeping your professional conduct a high priority.
(s) Asking yourself if your actions are worth your job and career.

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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, administrators, other school staff members, parents/guardians/caregivers, students, local health agencies and professionals, the county mental health plan, law enforcement, and community organizations in planning, implementing, and evaluating NOVA Academy's strategies for suicide prevention and intervention. NOVA Academy must work in conjunction with local government agencies, community-based organizations, and other community supports to identify additional resources.

To ensure the policies regarding suicide prevention are properly adopted, implemented, and updated, NOVA Academy shall appoint an individual (or team) to serve as the suicide prevention point of contact for NOVA Academy. This policy shall be reviewed and revised as indicated, at least annually in conjunction with the previously mentioned community stakeholders.

Suicide Prevention Crisis Team

To ensure the policies regarding suicide prevention are properly adopted, implemented, and updated, NOVA Academy created an in-house Suicide Prevention Crisis Team ("SPCT") consisting of administrators, mental health professionals, relevant staff, parents, and middle and high school students. The SPCT includes the following individuals:

Santa Ana High School and Middle School

1. Kimberly Beckstrom, Principal
2. Daryl Tripp, TOSA
3. Melissa Mier, Director of Counseling and Student Services
4. Mitzy Rodriguez, College Advisor

Coachella

1. Scott Winter, Principal
2. Sonia Felix, Vice-Principal
3. Dulce Borquez, College Advisor
4. Valeria Chavez, Counselor

To ensure the SPCT reflects the student body's perspective, NOVA Academy has designated the following volunteer student representatives to provide consultative insights:

Santa Ana:

1. Santa Ana 12th Grade High School Representative
2. Santa Ana 7th Grade Middle School Representative

Coachella:

3. Coachella 12th Grade High School Representative
4. Coachella 11th Grade Middle School Representative

NOVA Academy designates the following employees to act as the primary and secondary Suicide Prevention Liaisons to lead the SPCT:

Santa Ana Middle and High School:

- Primary Liaison: Kimberly Beckstrom, Principal, kimberly-beckstrom@nova-academy.org, 714-569-1010
- Secondary Liaison: Daryl Tripp, TOSA, daryl-tripp@nova-academy.org, 714-569-2019

Coachella:

- Primary Liaison: Scott Winter, Principal, scott-winter@nova-academy.org, 760-398-3010
- Secondary Liaison: Sonia Felix, Vice-Principal, sonia-felix@nova-academy.org, 760-398-3014

The functions of the SPCT are to:

- Review mental health related school policies and procedures;
- Provide annual updates on school data and trends;
- Review and revise school prevention policies;
- Review and select general and specialized mental health and suicide prevention training;
- Review and oversee staff, parent/guardian, and student trainings;
- Ensuring the suicide prevention policy, protocols, and resources are posted on the school website;
- Ensure compliance with Education Code section 215;
- Collaborate with community mental health organizations;
- Identify resources and agencies that provide evidence-based or evidence-informed treatment;
- Help inform and build skills among law enforcement and other relevant partners; and
- Collaborate to build community response.

Staff Development

NOVA Academy, along with its partners, has carefully reviewed available staff training to ensure it promotes the mental health model of suicide prevention and does not encourage the use of the stress model to explain suicide.

Training shall be provided for all school staff members. It may also be provided, when appropriate, for other adults on campus (such as substitutes and intermittent staff, volunteers, interns, tutors, coaches, and afterschool staff). Training shall include the following:

1. All suicide prevention trainings shall be offered under the direction of mental health professionals (e.g., school counselors, school psychologists, other public entity professionals, such as psychologists or social workers) who have received advanced training specific to suicide. Staff training may be adjusted year-to-year based on previous professional development activities and emerging best practices.

2. At least annually, all staff shall receive training on the risk factors and warning signs of suicide, suicide prevention, intervention, referral, and postvention.

3. Charter School shall ensure that training is available for new hires during the school year.

4. At a minimum, all staff shall participate in training on the core components of suicide prevention (identification of suicide risk factors and warning signs, prevention, intervention, referral, and postvention) at the beginning of their employment or annually. Core components of the general suicide prevention training shall include:

    a. Suicide risk factors, warning signs, and protective factors.
    b. How to talk with a student about thoughts of suicide.
    c. How to respond appropriately to the youth who has suicidal thoughts. Such responses shall include constant supervision of any student judged to be at risk for suicide and an immediate referral for a suicide risk assessment.
    d. Emphasis on immediately referring (same day) any student who is identified to be at risk of suicide for assessment while staying under constant monitoring by staff member.
    e. Emphasis on reducing stigma associated with mental illness and that early prevention and intervention can drastically reduce the risk of suicide.
    f. Reviewing the data annually to look for any patterns or trends of the prevalence or occurrence of suicide ideation, attempts, or death. Data from the California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey (Cal-SCHLS) should also be analyzed to identify school climate deficits and drive program development. See the Cal-SCHLS Web site at http://cal-schls.wested.org/.
    g. Information regarding groups of students judged by the school, and available research, to be at elevated risk for suicide. These groups include, but are not limited to, the following:
        i. Youth affected by suicide.
        ii. Youth with a history of suicide ideation or attempts.
        iii. Youth with disabilities, mental illness, or substance abuse disorders.
        iv. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth.
        v. Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings, such as foster care.
        vi. Youth who have suffered traumatic experiences.

5. In addition to initial orientations to the core components of suicide prevention, ongoing annual staff professional development for all staff may include the following components:

    a. The impact of traumatic stress on emotional and mental health.
    b. Common misconceptions about suicide.
    c. Charter School and community suicide prevention resources.
    d. Appropriate messaging about suicide (correct terminology, safe messaging guidelines).
    e. The factors associated with suicide (risk factors, warning signs, protective factors).
    f. How to identify youth who may be at risk of suicide.
    g. Appropriate ways to interact with a youth who is demonstrating emotional distress or is suicidal. Specifically, how to talk with a student about their thoughts of suicide and (based on NOVA Academy guidelines) how to respond to such thinking; how to talk with a student about thoughts of suicide and appropriately respond and provide support based on NOVA Academy guidelines.
    h. Charter School-approved procedures for responding to suicide risk (including multi-tiered systems of support and referrals). Such procedures should emphasize that the suicidal student should be constantly supervised until a suicide risk assessment is completed.
    i. Charter School-approved procedures for responding to the aftermath of suicidal behavior (suicidal behavior postvention).

j. Responding after a suicide occurs (suicide postvention).
k. Resources regarding youth suicide prevention.
l. Emphasis on stigma reduction and the fact that early prevention and intervention can drastically reduce the risk of suicide.
m. Emphasis that any student who is identified to be at risk of suicide is to be immediately referred (same day) for assessment while being constantly monitored by a staff member.

Specialized Professional Development for School-based Mental Health Staff (Screening and/or Assessment

Additional professional development in suicide risk assessment (SRA) and crisis intervention is provided to designated student mental health professionals, including but not limited to school counselors, psychologists, social workers, administrators, and nurses employed by Charter School. Training for these staff is specific to conducting SRAs, intervening during a crisis, de-escalating situations, interventions specific to preventing suicide, making referrals, safety planning, and re-entry.

Specialized Professional Training for targeted School-based mental health staff includes the following components:

- Best practices and skill building on how to conduct an effective suicide risk screening/SRA using an evidence-based, Charter School-approved tool; Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9) Depression Scale; BSS Beck Scale for Suicide Ideation; National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)'s Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ) Toolkit; and the Adolescent Suicide Assessment Protocol – 20.
- Best practices on approaching and talking with a student about their thoughts of suicide and how to respond to such thinking, based on school guidelines and protocols.
- Best practices on how to talk with a student about thoughts of suicide and appropriately respond and provide support based on school guidelines and protocols.
- Best practices on follow up with parents/caregivers.
- Best practices on re-entry.

Virtual Screenings for Suicide Risk

Virtual suicide prevention efforts include checking in with all students, promoting access to school and community-based resources that support mental wellbeing and those that address mental illness and give specific guidance on suicide prevention.

Charter School has established a protocol for assigning school staff to connect with students during distance learning and school closures. In the event of a school closure, Charter School has determined a process and protocols to establish daily or regular contact with all students. Staff understand that any concern about a student's emotional wellbeing and/or safety must be communicated to the appropriate school staff, according to Charter School protocols.

Charter School has determined a process and protocols for school-based mental health professionals to establish regular contact with high-risk students, students who are on their caseloads, and those who are identified by staff as demonstrating need. When connecting with students, staff are directed to begin each conversation by identifying the location of the student and the availability of parents or caregivers. This practice allows for the staff member to ensure the safety of the student, particularly if they have expressed suicidal thoughts.

Employee Qualifications and Scope of Services

Employees of NOVA Academy must act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. While it is expected that school professionals are able to identify suicide risk factors and warning signs, and to prevent the immediate risk of a suicidal behavior, treatment of suicidal ideation is typically beyond the scope of services offered in the school setting. In addition, treatment of the mental health challenges often associated with suicidal thinking typically requires mental health resources beyond what schools are able to provide.

Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers Participation and Education

1. Parents/guardians/caregivers may be included in suicide prevention efforts. At a minimum, the Charter School shall share this Policy with parents/guardians/caregivers by notifying them where a complete copy of the policy is available.

2. This Suicide Prevention Policy shall be easily accessible and prominently displayed on the NOVA Academy Web page and included in the parent handbook.

3. Parents/guardians/caregivers should be invited to provide input on the development and implementation of this policy.

4. Charter School shall establish and widely disseminate a referral process to all parents/guardians/caregivers/families, so they are aware of how to respond to a crisis and are knowledgeable about protocols and school, community-based, and crisis resources.

5. Community-based organizations that provide evidence-based suicide-specific treatments shall be highlighted on the Charter School's website with treatment referral options marked accordingly.

6. Staff autoreplies during vacations or absences shall include links to resources and phone/text numbers so parents and students have information readily available.

7. All parents/guardians/caregivers may have access to suicide prevention training that addresses the following:

    a. Suicide risk factors, warning signs, and protective factors.
    b. How to talk with a student about thoughts of suicide.
    c. How to respond appropriately to the student who has suicidal thoughts. Such responses shall include constant supervision of any student judged to be at risk for suicide and referral for an immediate suicide risk assessment.
    d. Charter School's referral processes and how they or their children can reach out for help, etc.

8. Parents/guardians/caregivers are reminded that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") generally protects the confidentiality of student records, which may sometimes include counseling or crisis intervention records. However, FERPA's health or safety emergency provision permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education records, to appropriate parties, in order to address a health or safety emergency when the disclosure is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

Student Participation and Education

Messaging about suicide has an effect on suicidal thinking and behaviors. Consequently, NOVA Academy along with its partners has carefully reviewed and will continue to review all materials and resources used in awareness efforts to ensure they align with best practices for safe messaging about suicide. 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 instruction shall not use the stress model to explain suicide.

NOVA Academy's instructional curriculum may include information about suicide prevention, as appropriate or needed. If suicide prevention is included in the Charter School's instructional curriculum, it shall consider the grade level and age of the students and be delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. Under the supervision of an appropriately trained individual acting within the scope of her/his credential or license, students shall:

1. Receive developmentally appropriate, student-centered education about the warning signs of mental health challenges and emotional distress. The content of the education may include:

    a. Coping strategies for dealing with stress and trauma.
    b. How to recognize behaviors (warning signs) and life issues (risk factors) associated with suicide and mental health issues in oneself and others.
    c. Help-seeking strategies for oneself and others, including how to engage school-based and community resources and refer peers for help.
    d. Emphasis on reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and the fact that early prevention and intervention can drastically reduce the risk of suicide.

2. Receive developmentally appropriate guidance regarding NOVA Academy's suicide prevention, intervention, and referral procedures.

Student-focused suicide prevention education can be incorporated into classroom curricula (e.g., health classes, orientation classes, science, and physical education).

NOVA Academy will support the creation and implementation of programs and/or activities on campus that raise awareness about mental wellness and suicide prevention (e.g., Mental Health Awareness Week, Peer Counseling, Freshman Success, and National Alliance on Mental Illness on Campus High School Clubs).

Charter School maintains a list of current student trainings, which is available upon request. Charter School has shared school-based supports and self-reporting procedures, so students are able to seek help if they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or if they recognize signs with peers. Although confidentiality and privacy are important, students should understand safety is a priority and if there is a risk of suicide, school staff are required to report. Charter-based mental health professionals are legally and ethically required to report suicide risk. **When reporting suicidal ideation or an attempt, school staff must maintain confidentiality and only share information limited to the risk or attempt**.

Charter School shall establish and widely disseminate a referral process to all students, so they know how to access support through school, community-based, and crisis services. Students shall be encouraged to notify a

staff member when they are experiencing emotional distress or suicidal ideation, or when they have knowledge or concerns of another student's emotional distress, suicidal ideation, or attempt.

Intervention and Emergency Procedures

Whenever a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, they shall promptly notify the primary designated suicide prevention liaison. If this primary suicide prevention liaison is unavailable, the staff shall promptly notify the secondary suicide prevention liaison.

The suicide prevention liaison shall immediately notify the Principal/Head of School or designee, who shall then notify the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible if appropriate and in the best interest of the student. Determination of notification to parents/guardians/caregivers should follow a formal initial assessment to ensure that the student is not endangered by parental notification.

The suicide prevention liaison shall also refer the student to mental health resources at NOVA Academy or in the community.

When a student is in imminent danger (has access to a gun, is on a rooftop, or in other unsafe conditions), a call shall be made to 911. The call shall NOT be made in the presence of the student and the student shall not be left unsupervised. Staff shall NOT physically restrain or block an exit.

When a suicide attempt or threat is reported on campus or at a school-related activity, the suicide prevention liaison shall, at a minimum:

1. Ensure the student's physical safety by one or more 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.
    d. Remaining calm, keeping in mind the student is overwhelmed, confused, and emotionally distressed.
    e. Moving all other students out of the immediate area.
    f. Not sending the student away or leaving him/her alone, even to go to the restroom.
    g. Providing comfort to the student, listening and allowing the student to talk and being comfortable with moments of silence.
    h. Promising privacy and help, but not promising confidentiality.

2. Document the incident in writing as soon as feasible.

3. Follow up with the parent/guardian and student in a timely manner to provide referrals to appropriate services as needed. **Determination of notification to parents/guardians/caregivers should follow a formal initial assessment to ensure that the student is not endangered by parental notification**.

4. After a referral is made, NOVA Academy shall verify with the parent/guardian that the follow up treatment has been accessed. Parents/guardians will be required to provide documentation of care for the student. If parents/guardians refuse or neglect to access treatment for a student who has been identified to be at risk

for suicide or in emotional distress, the suicide prevention liaisons shall meet with the parent to identify barriers to treatment (e.g., cultural stigma, financial issues) and work to rectify the situation and build understanding of care. If follow up care is still not provided, NOVA Academy may contact Child Protective Services.

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 suicide prevention liaison shall follow the crisis intervention procedures contained in NOVA Academy's safety plan. After consultation with the Principal/Head of School 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/Head of School 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.

In the event a suicide occurs or is attempted off the NOVA Academy campus and unrelated to school activities, the Principal/Head of School or designee shall take the following steps to support the student:

1. Contact the parent/guardian and offer support to the family.

2. Discuss with the family how they would like NOVA Academy to respond to the attempt while minimizing widespread rumors among teachers, staff, and students.

3. Obtain permission from the parent/guardian to share information to ensure the facts regarding the crisis are correct.

4. The suicide prevention liaisons shall handle any media requests.

5. Provide care and determine appropriate support to affected students.

6. Offer to the student and parent/guardian steps for re-integration to school. Re-integration may include obtaining a written release from the parent/guardian to speak with any health care providers; conferring with the student and parent/guardian about any specific requests on how to handle the situation; informing the student's teachers about possible days of absences; allowing accommodations for make-up work (being understanding that missed assignments may add stress to the student); appropriate staff maintaining ongoing contact with the student to monitor the student's actions and mood; and working with the parent/guardian to involve the student in an aftercare plan; providing parents/guardians/caregivers/families local emergency numbers for after school and weekend emergency contacts.

Supporting Students during or after a Mental Health Crisis

Students shall be encouraged through the education program and in NOVA Academy activities to notify a teacher, the Principal/Head of School, another NOVA Academy administrator, psychologist, NOVA Academy counselor,

suicide prevention liaisons, 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 staff should treat each report seriously, calmly, and with active listening and support. Staff should be non-judgmental to students and discuss with the student, and parent/guardian, about additional resources to support the student.

Responding After a Suicide Death (Postvention)

A death by suicide in the school community (whether by a student or staff member) can have devastating consequences on the school community, including students and staff. NOVA Academy shall follow the below action plan for responding to a suicide death, which incorporates both immediate and long-term steps and objectives:

The suicide prevention liaison shall:

1. Coordinate with the Principal/Head of School to:

    a. Confirm death and cause.
    b. Identify a staff member to contact deceased's family (within 24 hours).
    c. Enact the Suicide Postvention Response.
    d. Notify all staff members (ideally in-person or via phone, not via e-mail or mass notification).

2. Coordinate an all-staff meeting, to include:

    a. Notification (if not already conducted) to staff about suicide death.
    b. Emotional support and resources available to staff.
    c. Notification to students about suicide death and the availability of support services (if this is the protocol that is decided by administration).
    d. Share information that is relevant and that which you have permission to disclose.

3. Prepare staff to respond to needs of students regarding the following:

    a. Review of protocols for referring students for support/assessment.
    b. Talking points for staff to notify students.
    c. Resources available to students (on and off campus).

4. Identify students significantly affected by suicide death and other students at risk of imitative behavior, and refer them to a school-based mental health professional.

5. Identify students affected by suicide death but not at risk of imitative behavior.

6. Communicate with the larger school community about the suicide death. Staff shall not share explicit, graphic, or dramatic content, including the manner of death.

7. Consider funeral arrangements for family and school community.

8. Respond to memorial requests in respectful and non-harmful manner; responses should be handled in a thoughtful way and their impact on other students should be considered.

9. Identify media spokesperson if needed.

10. Ensure that all communications, documents, materials related to messaging about suicide avoid discussing details about method of suicide, avoid oversimplifying (i.e. identifying singular cause of suicide), avoid sensational language, and only includes clear, respectful, people-first language that encourages an environment free of stigma. As part of safe messaging for suicide, we use specific terminology when referring to actions related to suicide or suicidal behavior:

Use	Do Not Use
"Died by suicide" **or** **"Took their own life"**	**"Committed suicide"** **Note:** Use of the word "commit" can imply crime/sin
"Attempted suicide"	**"Successful" or "unsuccessful"** **Note:** There is no success, or lack of success, when dealing with suicide

11. Include long-term suicide postvention responses:

    a. Consider important dates (i.e., anniversary of death, deceased birthday, graduation, or other significant event) and how these will be addressed.
    b. Support siblings, close friends, teachers, and/or students of deceased.
    c. Consider long-term memorials and how they may impact students who are emotionally vulnerable and at risk of suicide.

Student Identification Cards

Charter School will include the telephone numbers on all student identification cards:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/Suicide Crisis Lifeline:
  - Call or Text "988"
  - Call 1-800-273-8255
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: Call 1-800-799-7233
- Crisis Text Line: Text "HOME" to 741741
- Teen Line: Text "TEEN" to 839863
- Trevor Project: Call 1-866-488-738 or Text "START" to 678678
- Trans Lifeline: 1-877-565-8860
- Local suicide prevention hotline telephone number

In addition to listing the above resources on student identification cards, Charter School shall include the following language: "*If you or someone you know is struggling emotionally or having trouble coping, there is help. Students in distress or those who just want to talk about their problems, can call or text the phone numbers listed here for free, confidential support*."

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY & PROCEDURES

No student shall be involuntarily removed by NOVA for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five (5) schooldays before the effective date of the action. The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder, and shall inform him or her of the right to initiate the procedures specified in this policy for expulsions, before the effective date of the action. If the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder initiates the procedures specified in this policy for expulsions, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until NOVA issues a final decision. As used in this Charter, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions or expulsions pursuant to the suspension and expulsion procedures described below.

Notwithstanding the legally required notice in the preceding paragraph, compliance with the procedures set forth in this section of the Charter shall be the only process for the Charter School to involuntarily remove, dismiss, or otherwise exclude a student who attends the Charter School from further attendance at the Charter School for any reason, including but not limited to, disciplinary, attendance, and academic causes.

Students expelled from any school for the offense listed within this Policy shall not be permitted to enroll in NOVA during the period of their expulsion.

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, though revisions to the causes or procedures for suspension or expulsion beyond those necessary to comport with current laws as applicable to charter schools or to reflect changes in Education Code Section 48900 *et seq*. shall constitute a material revision to the Charter.

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. 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[7] 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.

[7] The Charter School shall ensure that a homeless child or youth's educational rights holder; a foster child or youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker; and an Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker have the same rights as a parent or guardian to receive a suspension notice, expulsion notice, manifestation determination notice, involuntary transfer notice, involuntary removal notice, and other documents and related information. For purposes of this Policy and its Procedures, the term "parent/guardian" shall include these parties.

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 ("IDEA") 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, 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. Students who voluntarily disclose their use of a controlled substance, alcohol, or an intoxicant of any kind in order to seek help through services or supports shall not be suspended solely for that disclosure.
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. Students who voluntarily disclose their use of a controlled substance, alcohol, or an intoxicant of any kind in order to seek help through services or supports shall not be suspended solely for that disclosure.
i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
k) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.

l) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.

m) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a 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.

n) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.

o) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a 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.

p) Made terroristic 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.

q) 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.

r) Caused, attempted to cause, threatened 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.

s) 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 instruction, 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.

t) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.

1) "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.

2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or 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:

i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.

ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:

(a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.

(b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a 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 or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.

iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.

(a) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means 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 subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.

(b) For purposes of this clause, "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.

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

u) 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)(a)-(b).

v) 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.

1. 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 destructive device 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.

    b) Brandished a knife at another person.

    c) Unlawfully sold a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053, et seq.

    d) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 or former Section 288a of the Penal Code, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4

3.

If it is determined by the Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel that a student has brought a firearm 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. In such instances, the pupil shall be provided due process rights of notice and a hearing as required in this policy.

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.

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

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 principal or the principal's designee with the student and his or her parent/guardian and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or Charter School employee who referred the student.

The conference may be omitted if the principal 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 in accordance with Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(J)(i). This conference shall be held within two (2) 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 principal or principal's designee, the pupil and the pupil's parent/guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the pupil should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. In such instances when the Charter School has determined a suspension period shall be extended, such extension shall be made only after a conference is held with the pupil or the pupil's parents, unless the pupil and the pupil's parents fail to attend the conference, and written notice of the decision to extend the suspension and the rationale for such extension shall be provided to the parent/guardian, including the charges against the student and the student's basic rights.

This determination will be made by the principal 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.

For suspensions and all other expulsions for disciplinary reasons, the Charter School shall: provide timely, written notice of the charges against the student and an explanation of the student's basic rights; and provide a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer within a reasonable number of days at which the student has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the student has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate, in accordance with Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(J)(ii).

4. Homework Assignments During Suspension

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

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

D. Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled by the Charter School Board of Directors upon the recommendation of a neutral Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel ("Panel") to be appointed by the Executive Director.

Any Panel that conducts the hearing shall consist of at least three members who do not have an instructional or supervisory relationship with the student and are not a member of the Charter School's Board of Directors.

The Hearing Officer or Panel may recommend expulsion of any student found to have committed an expellable offense, subject to review by the Board.

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 and principal or designee determines that the pupil has committed an expellable offense.

The hearing shall be held in a confidential setting (complying with all pupil confidentiality rules under FERPA).

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 and/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. 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.

G. 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.

H. Expulsion Decision

The decision of the Hearing Officer or 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 Hearing Officer or Panel decides not to recommend expulsion, or the Board ultimately decides not to expel, the pupil shall immediately be returned to his/her educational program at the Charter School.

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: (a) Notice of the specific offense committed by the student; and (b) 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; and 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

Parents/guardians of 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 parent/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 Board shall then make a final decision regarding readmission during the closed session of a public meeting, reporting out any action taken during closed session consistent with the requirements of the Brown Act. The pupil's readmission is also contingent upon the Charter School's capacity at the time the student seeks readmission.

O. Notice to Teachers

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

P. Involuntary Removal for Unexcused Absences

As charter schools are schools of choice and as a charter school student who fails to attend school is potentially depriving another student of their opportunity to enroll, a student may be involuntarily removed as described within the Charter School's Board adopted Attendance Policy for truancy and only after the Charter School follows the requirements of the Attendance Policy and only in accordance with the policy described above which requires notice and an opportunity for a parent, guardian, educational rights holder to request a hearing prior to any involuntary removal. Students who are involuntarily removed for truancy will be given a rehabilitation plan and will be subject to the readmission procedures set forth herein.

Q. 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/panel. 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 (5) 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 complaining witness 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 Hearing Officer or Panel, 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 Hearing Officer or Panel may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.

5. The Hearing Officer or Panel 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 Hearing Officer or Panel from removing a support person whom the

Hearing Officer or Panel finds is disrupting the hearing. The entity 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 Hearing Officer or Panel 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 Hearing Officer or Panel shall remind the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the Hearing Officer or Panel 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 hearing room during that testimony.

9. Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, complaining witness shall have the right to have their testimony heard via alternative means that may include but are not limited to, videotaped testimony 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 Hearing Officer or Panel 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.

R. 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, which could constitute a change of placement and the student's IEP would reflect this change), and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP/504 Plan; and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, 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 alterative 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 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 direct 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. 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) school 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 U.S.C. Section 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
b) Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
c) Has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

5. Interim Alternative Educational Setting

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

6. 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 IDEA-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.

TITLE IX POLICY PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX

This Title IX Policy Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Sex ("Policy") contains the policies and grievance procedures of the NOVA Academy Early College High School ("NOVA" or "Charter School") to address sex discrimination, including but not limited to sexual harassment, occurring within Charter School's education program or activity.

Charter School does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits any acts of sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by California law, Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq*.) and the Title IX regulations (34 C.F.R. Part 106), including in admission and employment.[8]

This Policy applies to conduct occurring in Charter School's education programs or activities including but not limited to incidents occurring on the school campus, during school-sponsored events and activities regardless of

[8]Charter School complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations and local ordinances in its investigation of and response to reports and complaints of misconduct prohibited by this Policy.

the location, and through school-owned technology, whether perpetrated by a student, parent/guardian, employee, volunteer, independent contractor or other person with whom Charter School does business.

Inquiries about the application of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Title IX") may be referred to the Charter School Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

Definitions

Prohibited Sex Discrimination

Title IX and California law prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment and differences in the treatment of similarly situated individuals on the basis of sex with regard to any aspect of services, benefits, or opportunities provided by Charter School.

Prohibited Sexual Harassment

Under Title IX, "sexual harassment" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- An employee of Charter School conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of Charter School on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

- Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to Charter School's education program or activity; or

- "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

Under California Education Code section 212.5, sexual harassment consists of conduct on the basis of sex, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct on the basis of sex, regardless of whether or not the conduct is motivated by sexual desire, when: (a) submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual's employment, education, academic status, or progress; (b) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of employment, educational or academic decisions affecting the individual; (c) the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment; and/or (d) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through Charter School.

Examples of conduct that may fall within the Title IX or the Education Code definition of sexual harassment, or both:

- Physical assaults of a sexual or sex-based nature, such as:
    - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults.
    - Intentional physical conduct that is sex-based or sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, poking another's body, violence, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work or school because of sex.

- Unwanted sexual advances or propositions, derogatory sex-based comments, or other sex-based conduct, such as:
    - Sexually oriented or sex-based gestures, notices, epithets, slurs, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
    - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an individual for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any individual to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
    - Subjecting or threats of subjecting a student or employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making the student's or employee's performance more difficult because of the student's or the employee's sex.
    - Retaliation against an individual who has articulated a good faith concern about sex-based harassment.

- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the work 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 in the work or 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.
    - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an individual by sex in an area of the work or educational environment (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

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

Complainant means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment means a written document filed and signed by a complainant who is participating in or attempting to participate in Charter School's education program or activity or signed by the Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that Charter School investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. At the time of filing a formal complaint of sexual harassment, the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in Charter School's education program or activity.

Party means a complainant or respondent.

Respondent means a person who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Supportive Measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to a party before or after the filing of a formal complaint of sexual harassment or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to Charter School's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or Charter School's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

Title IX Coordinator

The Board of Directors of Charter School ("Board") has designated the following employees as the Title IX Coordinator ("Coordinator"):

Kimberly Beckstrom
Principal
NOVA Academy Early College High School
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 569-0948 ext. 1010

Scott Winter
Principal
NOVA Academy Early College High School
52780 Frederick St
Coachella, CA 92236
(760) 398-9806

In the event the above-named individuals becomes unavailable or unable to serve as the Coordinator, the Board has designated the following employees to serve as a temporary or interim Coordinator:

Melissa Mier
Director of Counseling & Student Services
NOVA Academy
500 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 569-0948

Sonia Felix
Assistant Principal
NOVA Academy
52780 Frederick St
Coachella, CA 92236
(760) 398-9806

The Coordinator is responsible for coordinating Charter School's efforts to comply with the requirements of Title IX, receiving reports and complaints of sex discrimination, formal complaints of sexual harassment, and inquiries about the application of Title IX to Charter School, coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures, and taking other actions as required by this Policy. The Coordinator or designee may serve as the investigator for formal complaints of sexual harassment.

Reporting Sex Discrimination

All employees must promptly notify the Coordinator when the employee has knowledge of or notice of allegations of sex discrimination or sexual harassment occurring within Charter School's education program or activity.

Students are expected to report all incidents of misconduct prohibited by this Policy. Any student who feels they are a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, the Executive Director, Coordinator, a staff person or a family member so that the student can get assistance in resolving the issue in a manner that is consistent with this Policy.

Complaints regarding such misconduct may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders may also be available to complainants.

While submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to submit a written report to the Coordinator. Charter School will promptly and effectively investigate and respond to all oral and written complaints and reports of misconduct prohibited by this Policy. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on an anonymous report.

Privacy
Charter School acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. All reports and complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process to the

greatest extent possible. This includes but is not limited to keeping the identity of the reporter and other personally identifiable information confidential, as appropriate, except to the extent necessary to comply with the law, carry out the investigation and/or to resolve the issue, as determined by the Coordinator or designee on a case-by-case basis.

Retaliation
Charter School prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who files a report or complaint, testifies, assists, participates, or refuses to participate in any investigation or proceeding related to misconduct prohibited by this Policy. Such participation or lack of participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the individual.

Response to Sexual Harassment
Charter School will respond promptly and in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent when it has actual knowledge, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 106.30(a), of sexual harassment occurring in its education program or activity against a person in the United States.

Charter School's response will treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures to a complainant, and by following the grievance procedures for formal complaints of sexual harassment that are listed below before imposing any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures on a respondent for sexual harassment under Title IX.

Supportive Measures

Once notified of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment occurring in Charter School's education program or activity against a person in the United States, the Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint of sexual harassment.

Supportive measures may include but are not limited to: counseling; extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments; modifications of work or class schedules; mutual restrictions on contact between the parties; changes in work locations; leaves of absence; increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus; and other similar measures.

Supportive measures will not unreasonably burden either party or be imposed for punitive or disciplinary reasons. Charter School will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair Charter School's ability to provide the supportive measures. The Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

Grievance Procedures

Scope and General Requirements
Charter School has adopted and published grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited under Title IX and a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. § 106.45 for formal complaints of sexual harassment.

Complaints of misconduct prohibited by this Policy that do not constitute a formal complaint of sexual harassment will be addressed in accordance with Charter School's Uniform Complaint Procedures, its employment

discrimination complaint procedures, or the grievance procedures set forth in its Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy, as applicable. The following grievance procedures will apply to formal complaints of sexual harassment.

Upon receipt of a formal complaint of sexual harassment, the Coordinator or designee will promptly initiate these grievance procedures, or the informal resolution process if available, appropriate, and requested by all parties.

Charter School requires that any Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision maker, and any person designated by Charter School to facilitate an informal resolution process not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

Charter School will treat complainants and respondents equitably. Charter School presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sexual harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of its grievance procedures.

Charter School may consolidate formal complaints of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against another party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Charter School allows for the temporary delay of the grievance process or limited extension of timeframes on a case-by-case basis for good cause. Requests for extensions must be submitted to the Coordinator in writing at least one (1) business day before the expiration of the timeframe. If the grievance process is temporarily delayed or a timeframe is temporarily extended by Charter School, the Coordinator or designee will notify the parties of the reason for the delay or extension in writing.
Charter School will objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.[9] Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

Dismissal
Charter School must dismiss a formal complaint of sexual harassment for purposes of sexual harassment under Title IX if the conduct alleged:

- Would not constitute sexual harassment under Title IX even if proved;
- Did not occur in Charter School's education program or activity; or
- Did not occur against a person in the United States.

Charter School may dismiss a formal complaint of sexual harassment or any of the allegations therein if:
- The respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by Charter School;
- A complainant notifies the Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the complaint or any allegations therein; or
- Specific circumstances prevent Charter School from gathering sufficient evidence to reach a determination as to the complaint or allegations therein.

Upon dismissal, the Coordinator or designee will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties. Dismissal under Title IX does not preclude action under another applicable Charter School policy.

[9] Inculpatory means tending to impute guilt or fault, and exculpatory means tending to absolve from guilt or fault.

Notice of the Allegations
Upon receipt of a formal complaint of sexual harassment, the Coordinator or designee will provide written notice of the allegations to the parties whose identities are known. The notice will include:

- Charter School's grievance procedures and any informal resolution process;
- The allegations of sexual harassment including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details includes the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment under Title IX, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s), if known;
- A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
- A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence; and
- A statement that Charter School prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

Emergency Removal
Charter School may place a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance procedures in accordance with Charter School's policies.

Charter School may remove a respondent from Charter School's education program or activity on an emergency basis, in accordance with Charter School's policies, provided that Charter School undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any person arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

This provision must not be construed to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Informal Resolution
At any time after a formal complaint of sexual harassment is filed and prior to determining whether sexual harassment occurred under Charter School's Title IX grievance procedures, Charter School may offer an informal resolution process to the parties. Charter School will not offer or facilitate informal resolution to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student, or when such a process would conflict with Federal, State, or local law. Parties will not be required or pressured to agree to participate in the informal resolution process.

Before initiation of the informal resolution process, Charter School will obtain the parties' voluntary, written consent to participate in the informal resolution and provide the parties with a written notice that explains:

- The allegations;
- The requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint of sexual harassment arising from the same allegations;
- The right to withdraw and initiate or resume the grievance procedures at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution; and
- Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.

Investigation

In most cases, a thorough investigation will take no more than thirty (30) business days. Charter School has the burden to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether sexual harassment occurred. The investigator will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance in accordance with Title IX.

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence, are impermissible (i.e., will not be used, accessed, considered, or disclosed), regardless of whether they are relevant:

- A party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless Charter School obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so for these grievance procedures; and
- Evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent.

The parties will be provided with an equal opportunity to present witnesses, to inspect and review any evidence obtained that is directly related to the allegations raised, and to have an advisor present during any investigative meeting or interview. The parties will not be prohibited from discussing the allegations under investigation or from gathering and presenting relevant evidence. A party whose participation is invited or expected at an investigative meeting or interview will receive written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the meeting or interview with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

Before the investigator completes the investigative report, Charter School will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, a copy of the evidence subject to inspection and review, and the parties will have at least ten (10) days to submit a written response for the investigator to consider prior to completing the investigation report.

The investigator will complete an investigation report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and send a copy of the report to each party and the party's advisor, if any, at least ten (10) days prior to the determination of responsibility.

Determination of Responsibility

Before making a determination of responsibility, the decision maker must afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants to ask of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. The decision maker must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Determinations will be based on an objective evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. The standard of evidence used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard.

Within fifteen (15) business days after Charter School sends the investigation report to the parties, the decision maker, who will not be the same person as the Coordinator or investigator, will simultaneously send the parties a written determination of whether sexual harassment occurred. The written determination will include:

- The allegations of sexual harassment;

- A description of the procedural steps taken including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
- The findings of facts supporting the determination;
- The conclusions regarding the application of Charter School's code of conduct to the facts;
- The decision and rationale for each allegation;
- Any recommended disciplinary sanctions for the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity will be provided to the complainant; and
- The procedures and permissible bases for appeals.

The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that Charter School provides the parties with the written appeal decision, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

Appeals
Either party may, within five (5) business days of their receipt of Charter School's written determination of responsibility or dismissal of a formal complaint of sexual harassment, submit a written appeal to the Chair of the Charter School Board, who will serve as the decision maker for the appeal or designate a decision maker for the appeal.

The complainant and respondent may only appeal from a determination regarding responsibility or Charter School's dismissal of a formal complaint of sexual harassment or any allegations therein, on one or more of the following bases:

- Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- The Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

The decision maker for the appeal will not be the same person as the Coordinator, the investigator or the initial decision maker.

The decision maker for the appeal will: 1) notify the other party of the appeal in writing; 2) implement appeal procedures equally for the parties; 3) allow the parties to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome within five (5) business days of notice of the appeal; and 4) within fifteen (15) business days of the appeal, provide a written decision simultaneously to the parties describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

Consequences
Students or employees who engage in misconduct prohibited by this Policy, knowingly make false statements or knowingly submit false information during the grievance process, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Charter School or termination of employment. If there is a determination that sexual harassment occurred, the Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies ordered by Charter School.

Training

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 Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision makers, and any person who facilitates a Title IX informal resolution process will receive Title IX training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment as required by law.

Recordkeeping

Charter School will maintain the following records for at least seven (7) years:

- Records of each sexual harassment investigation, including any determination of responsibility; any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript; any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent; and any remedies provided to the complainant;
- Records of any appeal of a formal complaint or sexual harassment and the results of that appeal;
- Records of any informal resolution of a formal complaint or sexual harassment and the results of that informal resolution;
- All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process; and
- Records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment.

The above records will be maintained in a secure location until destroyed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND BULLYING POLICY

Discrimination, 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, the NOVA Academy Early College High School ("NOVA" or "Charter School") prohibits any acts of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying altogether.

As used in this policy, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are described as the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication or cyber-bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the actual or perceived characteristics of mental or physical disability, sex (including pregnancy and related conditions, and parental status), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality (including national origin, country of origin, and citizenship), race or ethnicity (including ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background, and traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locs, and twists), religion (including agnosticism and atheism), religious affiliation, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, age or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or based on any other characteristic protected under applicable state or federal law or local ordinance. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as "misconduct prohibited by this Policy."

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

This policy applies to incidents occurring on the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities regardless of the location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means, whether perpetrated by a student, employee, parent/guardian, volunteer, independent contractor or other person with whom Charter School does business, and all acts of Charter School's Board of Directors ("Board") in enacting policies and procedures that govern Charter School.[10]

Charter School complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations and local ordinances in its investigation of and response to reports of misconduct prohibited by this Policy.

Definitions

Harassment means conduct based upon one or more of the protected characteristics listed above that is severe or pervasive, which unreasonably disrupts an individual's educational or work environment or that creates a hostile educational or work environment. Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

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

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

- Placing a reasonable student [11] or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
- Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
- Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with the student's academic performance.
- Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by Charter School.

Cyberbullying is an electronic act that includes the transmission of harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, video 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.

[10] This policy becomes effective on August 1, 2024. Conduct occurring before August 1, 2024 will be addressed in accordance with the former version of this policy, which was entitled "Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Bullying Policy."

[11] "Reasonable student" is defined as a student, including, but not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill and judgment in conduct for a person of the student's age, or for a person of the student's age with the student's exceptional needs.

Electronic act means the creation or 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 message, text, sound, video, or image.
- A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
    - Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in the definition of "bullying," above.
    - Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student 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 student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated.
    - Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile.
- An act of "Cyber sexual bullying" including, but not limited to:
    - The dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a student to another student 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.
    - "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.
- 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.

Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures

Charter School has adopted the following procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures

Charter School advises students:

a. To never share passwords, personal data, or private photos online.
b. To think about what they are doing carefully before posting and by emphasizing that comments cannot be retracted once they are posted.
c. That personal information revealed on social media can be shared with anyone including parents, teachers, administrators, and potential employers. Students should never reveal information that would make them uncomfortable if the world had access to it.
d. To consider how it would feel receiving such comments before making comments about others online.

Charter School informs its employees, students, and parents/guardians of Charter School's policies regarding the use of technology in and out of the classroom. Charter School encourages parents/guardians to discuss these policies with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with such policies.

Education
Charter School employees cannot always be present when bullying incidents occur, so educating students about bullying is a key prevention technique to limit bullying from happening. Charter School advises students that hateful and/or demeaning behavior is inappropriate and unacceptable in our society and at Charter School and encourages students to practice compassion and respect each other.

Charter School educates students to accept all student peers regardless of protected characteristics (including but not limited to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identification, physical or cognitive disabilities, race, ethnicity, religion, and immigration status) and about the negative impact of bullying other students based on protected characteristics.

Charter School's bullying prevention education also discusses the differences between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors and includes sample situations to help students learn and practice appropriate behavior and to develop techniques and strategies to respond in a non-aggressive way to bullying-type behaviors. Students will also develop confidence and learn how to advocate for themselves and others, and when to go to an adult for help.

Charter School informs Charter School employees, students, and parents/guardians of this Policy and encourages parents/guardians to discuss this Policy with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with this Policy.

Professional Development
Charter School annually makes available the online training module developed by the California Department of Education pursuant Education Code section 32283.5(a) to its certificated employees and all other Charter School employees who have regular interaction with students.

Charter School informs certificated employees about the common signs that a student is a target of bullying including:

- Physical cuts or injuries
- Lost or broken personal items
- Fear of going to school/practice/games
- Loss of interest in school, activities, or friends
- Trouble sleeping or eating
- Anxious/sick/nervous behavior or distracted appearance
- Self-destructiveness or displays of odd behavior
- Decreased self-esteem

Charter School also informs certificated employees about the groups of students determined by Charter School and available research to be at elevated risk for bullying and provides its certificated employees with information on existing school and community resources related to the support of these groups. These groups include but are not limited to:

- Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth ("LGBTQ") and those youth perceived as LGBTQ; and
- Students with physical or learning disabilities.

Charter School encourages its employees to demonstrate effective problem-solving, anger management, and self-confidence skills for Charter School's students.

Complaint Procedures

Scope of the Complaint Procedures
Charter School will comply with its Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") policy when investigating and responding to complaints alleging unlawful harassment, discrimination, intimidation or bullying against a protected group or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of the protected characteristics set forth in the UCP that:

a. Are written and signed;
b. Filed by an individual who alleges that they have personally suffered unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying, or by one who believes any specific class of individuals has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying based on a protected characteristic, or by a duly authorized representative who alleges that an individual student has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying; and
c. Submitted to the Charter School UCP Compliance Officer not later than six (6) months from the date the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Charter School will comply with its Title IX Policy when investigating and responding to complaints alleging sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in its education program or activity, as applicable.

The following procedures shall be utilized for complaints of misconduct prohibited by this Policy that do not fall within the scope of Charter School's Title IX Policy or comply with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements of the UCP. A copy of Charter School's Title IX Policy and UCP is available in the main office.

Submitting a Report or Complaint
All staff are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of misconduct prohibited by this Policy, to intervene when 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.

Reports and complaints of misconduct prohibited by this Policy shall be submitted to the Executive Director (or the Secretary of the Board if the complaint is against the Executive Director) as soon as possible after the incidents giving rise to the report or complaint.

Complaints regarding such misconduct may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders may also be available to complainants.

While submission of a written report is not required, and Charter School will investigate and respond to all oral and written reports of misconduct prohibited by this Policy, the reporting party is encouraged to submit a written report. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on an anonymous report.

Students are expected to report all incidents of misconduct prohibited by this Policy and other verbal or physical abuses. Any student who feels they are a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, the Executive Director, a staff person or a family member so that the student can get assistance in resolving the issue in a manner that is consistent with this Policy.

Charter School acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. All reports and complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process to the greatest extent possible. This includes keeping the identity of the reporter and/or complainant confidential, as appropriate, except to the extent necessary to comply with applicable law, carry out the investigation and/or to resolve the issue, as determined by Charter School on a case-by-case basis.

Charter School prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who files a report or complaint, testifies, assists, participates, or refuses to participate in any investigation or proceeding related to misconduct prohibited by this Policy. Such participation or lack of participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the individual. Individuals alleging retaliation in violation of this Policy may file a grievance using the procedures set forth in this Policy.

Investigation and Response
Upon receipt of a report or complaint of misconduct prohibited by this Policy, the Executive Director or designee will promptly initiate an investigation. In most cases, a thorough investigation will take no more than twenty-five (25) school days.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Executive Director or designee will, to the extent possible with respect to confidentiality laws, provide the complainant with information about the investigation and resolution of the incident/situation. However, the Executive Director or designee will not reveal confidential information related to other students or employees.

If the complaint is against the Executive Director, a non-employee Board member who is not the Board Chair or a parent/guardian of a student at Charter School will conduct a fact-finding investigation and provide the complainant with information about the investigation and resolution of the incident/situation.

Consequences
Students or employees who engage in misconduct prohibited by this Policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Charter School or termination of employment.

Right of Appeal
Should a complainant find Charter School's resolution unsatisfactory, for complaints within the scope of this Policy, the complainant may, within five (5) business days of notice of Charter School's decision or resolution, submit a written appeal to the Chair of the Charter School Board, who will serve as the decisionmaker for the appeal or designate a decisionmaker for the appeal. The decisionmaker for the appeal will notify the complainant of the final decision.