

DOUGLASS VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
2025-26  
STUDENT HANDBOOK



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Welcome to Douglass Valley Elementary School, home of the Wolves. We provide a variety of rich educational programs for approximately 315 students, grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>.

We have a great building in a fabulous location, devoted families and staff, and a talented student body. Douglass Valley is known throughout the neighborhood and the school district as a positive, supportive learning community. Staff members are busily engaged as a team exploring ways of improving student learning while providing an environment where all children can feel safe and happy. We encourage students to do their best and we celebrate their academic as well as social and emotional growth.

Teachers, support staff, and families work cooperatively to provide students with exceptional instructional experiences in a safe, positive environment. The talents of each student and staff member alike are fostered so that learning is maximized. In addition to the regular classroom instruction, students attend classes in science, Spanish, art, music, and physical education. Independently operated day care options are available for families needing those services.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the school by explaining programs and guidelines to help create a positive learning environment. Please review the rest of the handbook with your child.

### **Douglass Valley Strategic Priorities**

- Create a culture of belonging for all students, staff, and our community of stakeholders.
- Ensure academic excellence for all.
- Invest in and value our greatest asset, our staff, to help them grow.

### **Douglass Valley Tactics**

- We will guide and practice expected behaviors while empowering students to do the same.
- We will maximize connectedness within our school and community.
- We will develop and evolve collaborative Tier 1, 2, and 3 instruction in reading, writing, and math.

Adrienne Morey  
Principal

Shannon Morris  
Assistant Principal



## Academy District 20

### **Our Mission.**

*Why we exist.*

**We educate and inspire students to thrive in a safe and supportive environment.**

### **Our Values.**

*What we believe and how we behave.*

**We believe people are the heart of our success.** We aspire to practice meaningful inclusion, honor diversity and develop a culture of belonging throughout our school community.

**We believe relationships matter.** We aspire to nurture relationships rooted in honesty, integrity, equity and transparency to drive continued growth and positive change.

**We believe in quality education.** We aspire to teach and learn in ways that value the growth of all students, engaging them to demonstrate excellence as we respect their individual journeys.

### **Our Vision.**

*Our big goal and vivid description of what it will be like when we arrive.*

**We provide creative and personal learning opportunities, accessible to all students, preparing them to thrive in an ever-changing world.**

Our culture encourages bold, creative, and courageous behavior. A spirit of innovation empowers active collaboration. Together we create effective and engaging instructional strategies that lead to student success. We are a community of learners who leverage individual talents and accomplishments into district-wide progress. We are flexible and adapt our organizational structures so that students, staff and families – no matter their background, ethnicity, perspective, talents, or challenges – feel welcomed and inspired in our classrooms and schools.

## **General School Information**

### **Arrival at School / School Hours**

Unless your student is involved in a specific school activity, please do not permit your children to arrive before 8:35 AM. No adult supervision is available to students prior to 8:35 AM. When the temperature or wind chill is 20°F or below, students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:35 AM and will be supervised inside the building.

School Hours: 8:45 AM – 3:50 PM

Office: 8:00 AM – 4:15 PM

### **Attendance Procedures**

Attendance will be taken at 8:45 AM each school day. It is our policy to notify families regarding any student about whom we have had no report of either a late arrival (tardy) or excused absence. Families should call by 9:30am the day of the student absence or tardy. Families may also call any time before the absence or tardy to notify our office staff or to leave a message on the school's attendance line at 719-234-4205. If a student has an "unverified" absence, our office staff will contact families to verify the absence. This policy is for your child's protection, ensuring the school is informed of your child's whereabouts and well-being. All families must check in their child(ren) in at the office after 8:45am. Families are not allowed to walk their child(ren) up to their classrooms after the first bell.

### **Attendance Policy**

Under the attendance accountability policies within Academy District 20 and the State of Colorado, all absences are marked either excused or unexcused. Please note that if you leave a voice mail on our attendance line, please be specific with the reason for the absence (doctor appointments/illness/family emergency/etc.), teacher name, and the student(s) it impacts. To keep our attendance records accurate, follow-up phone calls and/or emails will be made to determine the reason for an absence. If a student is going to be gone for longer than three days, we request that families come into the front office and fill out a "Prearranged Absence Notification" form. Any unreported absences will be left as "unexcused" after three days.

### **Class Parties**

There are several parties per school year that are sponsored by the room families/guardians in coordination with the teacher. Birthday treats are acceptable as long as they are coordinated in advance with the classroom teacher. **Please check with your child's teacher to ensure there are no allergies in the classroom.**

### **Electronics**

Please leave electronic devices (i.e., ipads, cell phones, etc.) at home. If students bring these items to school, the items must remain in the student's backpack unless students are using them under the direction of an instructor. Any electronic devices not turned off or found with the student outside of the request of an instructor will be kept with the classroom teacher until the end of the school day. If the issue persists, a conference between the family/guardian, student, and school personnel may be required. If any electronics are lost or stolen there is no recourse, and the student will assume responsibility for all replacement costs.

### **Field Trips**

Class field trips are scheduled periodically to extend classroom learning. Families must sign a permission slip for each field trip. Specific instructions and fees for the field trip will be listed on the permission form. Chaperones must be approved and trained through the volunteer process.

### **Homework Responsibility**

To function well in the classroom, you must do homework as required by the teacher.

1. Homework assignments also teach students to be independent learners. Homework gives students experience in following directions, making judgments and comparisons, raising additional questions for study, and developing responsibility and self-discipline.
2. Student achievement rises significantly when teachers assign homework and students conscientiously do it.
3. Well-designed homework assignments relate directly to class work and extend students' learning beyond the classroom. A choice board will be provided monthly for ideas to complete that will support success in the classroom. Some choices will be more of an experience and some choices will be more traditional. In addition to the choice board, your child will be assigned nightly reading.
4. Homework is a report card standard and will be reported as such.
5. Homework is never designed to make students feel defeated. If your student is struggling for more than 5-10 minutes on a concept, and you have tried to support them, please write a note at the top of the page to the teacher, and he or she will support your student with the work the following day.

How much time should be spent on homework? While research supports regular daily homework, excessively long periods of homework can be counterproductive. Because we feel that homework is important, we ask that the following times are taken into consideration when planning your child's extracurricular activities.

Kindergarten: Reading with or to your child 10-15 minutes each day

First-Second Grade: a student is expected to read 10-20 minutes at home daily.

Third - Fifth Grade: a student is expected to read 20-30 minutes at home daily.

## ABSENCES

Absences impact your child's progress. Contact the school's office and teacher as soon as possible. Communication is paramount. When speaking with the teacher, ideas will be explored to keep the impact small. Upon return, students are responsible for finding out what assignments were missed and will receive assistance from the teacher before completing them. Students will be given an extra school day for each day missed to complete make-up work. Long term assignments will be handled on an individual basis by the classroom teacher.

## GUIDELINES for homework:

- Allow your child some time to unwind before beginning homework.
- Make homework a habit, set a regular study time.
- Communicate to your child that homework is important and that extracurricular activities will not be an excuse for unfinished homework.
- Help students understand that homework is a personal responsibility.
- Hold your child responsible for getting homework to and from school.
- Encourage your child to write down daily homework assignments at school in their planner.
- Recommend that your child work on tough assignments first, when his/her energy level is high.
- Show confidence in your child's ability. Don't do the work for him/her. (It's okay to explain directions.) Communicate with your child's teacher when there are concerns.
- Help your child with time management by showing him/her how to keep a calendar of deadlines and show them real life applications of keeping track of your responsibilities.

### **Report Cards and Conferences at Douglass Valley**

Report cards are issued four times a year, after each nine-week grading period. They are made available through your Parent Portal on Infinite Campus. Should you like a paper copy, please contact your student's teacher. Twice a year, in October and March, we have conferences. This is the time when families and teachers talk about students, their progress in school, and their individual needs. At Douglass Valley, we think both families and teachers are educators, in other words, partners. Please join the teacher in finding the best way to help your student learn. The teacher will have information to share with you. Because time for conferences is limited, we suggest you think about what you'd like to ask the teacher in advance. You may ask for more conferences anytime during the year. In addition, if you ever have a question, your child's teacher is no further than the telephone or a quick email away.

### **Lost and Found**

Please ensure that your student's name is on all his/her personal items. Lost items are kept in the "Lost and Found" box located in the gymnasium. Small items such as watches, glasses, jewelry, and money are kept in the office. Students and families may inquire about personal missing items during the day or before and after school. Unclaimed items will be donated to the D20 Family Resource Center or another local charity.

### **Meals at DVE**

Academy District 20 is participating in the Healthy Meals for All program through the state of Colorado. If you wish to buy lunch at school to eat with your student, please call the office before 9:00 a.m. to place your order. To learn more about the meals please visit the district's website and type "meals" in the search bar.

### **Morning Drop-Off and Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures**

Please note the "student valet drop-off (kiss and go) area" is located along the sidewalk that is closest to the school. Students must exit/enter their car next to the sidewalk only and in this designated area only. Please stay in line and wait until a staff member is available to support your student with entering/exiting your car. If you wish to walk with your child up to the school, parking is available on the left-hand side of the road by the park. **The bus parking area and the staff parking lot are not authorized student drop-off and pick-up areas!** Cars **may not** be in the bus loop at **any** time that buses are present.

### **When Driving Students To School, Drivers Should:**

1. Have patience and proceed in a single file line and pull forward until reaching the designated, yellow zone for passenger drop-off; i.e., along the sidewalk, or anywhere along the sidewalk, exiting on the **passenger side** of the vehicle.
2. After dropping students off, remain in a single file line following the vehicle ahead. While proceeding forward to exit, keep a watchful eye for pedestrians and staff members and our crossing guard who will be directing pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
3. All pedestrians (students and families) may only cross at the designated crosswalks.

Since more students will be driven to school when the weather is inclement, patience and cooperation will be more in demand. When the temperature or wind chill is 20°F or below, students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:35 AM.

To protect students and others, we will be vigilant about violators. Those who choose to not follow our safety procedures in our drop-off zone will be asked verbally to cooperate. Please be careful!

### **Moving/Relocating/Change of Address**

When you are planning to move either outside of Colorado Springs, or outside of District 20, please notify the front office at 234-4200.

Please submit a "Change of Address" form, along with the required documentation to prove residency, to the district's Central Registry office (D20 Education and Administration Center, 1110 Chapel Hills Drive, 80920) or to the school office (we will forward the document to Central Registry for you).

### **PE Class**

**In order to participate in PE class, all students are required to wear either tennis or athletic shoes** - no hiking boots, Heelys shoes w/the wheel, crocs, sandals, or flip flops.

### **Pets at School**

For the safety of students and staff, no personal pets (dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, rodents, etc.) are allowed inside the school building or on school grounds. If you use a service animal, please check in at the front office to let us know. If you are walking or picking up your child to or from school and you are walking with your pet, you must stay in the park area across from the school.

### **Recess**

All recesses are supervised by staff members. District policy states, if adverse weather conditions exist (when the outside temperature- including wind chill is **under** 20°F, actively snowing/raining, high winds, etc.) recess will be held inside the school.

### **School Delays, Closings/Cancellations, and Early Releases**

The school district will use every available resource in making the decision to cancel school because of inclement weather or unsafe road conditions. We sincerely ask and urge families to help with the decision as far as their own children are concerned. If a families' judgment is that it is too hazardous to send his/her child to school, please keep your child at home.

### **Delays and Closures**

If adverse weather conditions occur, the District Superintendent may delay the start of school for two hours or close all schools for the day. The procedure is as follows:

1. Families will be contacted about delays and closures by either email, text, or phone (whichever is indicated in your Parent Portal Account).
2. Local radio/TV stations will be informed no later than 6:00 AM that the starting time for District 20 schools will be delayed by two hours or school closure. Please check your local radio/TV stations for updates on two-hour delays that may turn into school closures.
3. A two-hour delayed start means that school will begin at **10:45 AM**. "Before school" activities will not be held. Breakfast will not be served. Transportation will run on a two-hour delay as well.

### **Early Release Due to Storm and/or Other Conditions**

If School District 20 is in session when a storm develops, a decision may be made to send students home early. Local radio/TV stations will announce early dismissal times, and 20Alerts will be sent out. If the decision to release early is made (usually between 10:00 AM and 10:30 AM), each bus driver will be notified. They will make their regular runs in the same sequence as usual, and all students in District 20 will arrive home approximately two hours early.

1. Be sure your child understands what he/she should do on early storm release days.
2. The usual early release time for elementary students will vary.
3. Each teacher will have a sign out sheet. Families must sign for all students leaving with them.  
**EACH CHILD MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR BEFORE BEING RELEASED.**
4. Children who have permission to walk home will be allowed to leave at the designated time. Those who are not to walk will be held until their families, or someone who has been authorized to pick them up, comes for them.
5. **PLEASE BE SURE THAT EARLY RELEASE INFORMATION SUCH AS PHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESSES AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS ARE CURRENT.**

**PLEASE UPDATE ALL INFORMATION REGULARLY IN YOUR PARENT PORTAL ACCOUNT.**

**Severe Weather Releases**

From time to time, storms develop at dismissal time, making it unsafe for students and staff to leave school. A red flag will be flown on the flagpole to indicate the alternative release. The following will occur when the bell rings at 3:50 pm:

1. Students who ride the bus will wait in their classrooms until the bus arrives. An announcement will be made to have students proceed to their bus when it is safely at the school.
2. Students who attend Champions will be dismissed to the cafeteria.
4. An announcement will be made over the intercom to allow families to go to their child's outside classroom door to pick up their student, if they feel safe doing so.
5. Families can choose to use Kiss 'n' Go. If families are doing so, staff will ask for each student's name and say them over the intercom. Students will proceed down the hallways to go to Kiss 'n' Go to enter their car.
6. Students who ride their bike or walk home will need to call home to determine if families want them to go home as usual or wait until the storm has passed.
7. Any remaining students will report to the office to obtain permission to walk home or other directions via communication with families.

**School Health Services**

The DVE nurse will be at our school one day a week. The administration of medication and first aid is delegated to trained school personnel. The school nurse's role is a supervisory role for regular education students. The school nurse's role lies primarily in special education doing medical reviews/assessments. If you have any questions about your child's health and/or medical condition, please contact the nurse at 234-4200.

**First Aid/Illness at School**

Only basic first aid is performed at school. If an injury is serious, families will be notified to pick their child up from school. If a family cannot be reached, 911 will be contacted for transport to the nearest medical facility. If your child becomes ill at school, he/she is allowed to rest in the health room for a short time and is then encouraged to return to class. Families will be contact to pick up their child if he/she is exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

1. Too sick/not feeling well enough to participate in the regularly scheduled daily activities
2. Temperature of 100.5°F or higher
3. Excessive coughing
4. Vomiting
5. Diarrhea

Please make sure your current phone number and other contact information is current in Infinite Campus. If your child is sick in the morning before school, please do not send him/her to school.

**Health Concerns**

If your student has a specific health concern such as asthma, allergies, diabetes, seizures, etc. please be sure the school is aware of the concern and please keep all teachers and staff working with your student updated on these concerns. Health care plans are often completed on students with specific health needs, and they are available in the school office or on the district website at

www.asd20.org. You can then download the forms that you need. In certain circumstances, the nurse will meet with families separately to gather the needed health information. This information is especially important on new students and those who have recently been diagnosed with a new health condition. Our nurse has an active confidential health concerns list that is shared with staff members on a “need to know” basis only. **Please make it your responsibility to keep the school informed of any health concerns regarding your student.** With good communication between home and school, we will be able to stay informed about the health needs of our students and provide a safe environment for them while at school.

### **Illness Guidelines**

Students with the following symptoms will be excluded from school (kept at home) until all symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours.

1. Temperature of 100.4°F or higher with other symptoms. The student’s temperature must be normal for 24 hours **WITHOUT** the aid of fever-reducing medications (such as Tylenol) before returning to school.
2. Abnormal color or consistency of nasal or eye discharge.
3. Uncontrolled cough or unusual cough.
4. Vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours with other symptoms. Symptoms must be resolved for 24 hours before a student may return to school.
5. If antibiotics are prescribed for an illness, the student must receive the antibiotics for 24 hours before the student may return to school.
6. Undiagnosed skin rashes and/or open lesions.

### **Medication at School**

Only families and/or legal guardians are allowed to bring medications to school and leave them with office personnel who will administer all medications. For safety reasons, no medications will be sent home with children.

When at all possible, please try to schedule medications to be administered **at home**. Medications ordered for administration three times a day should be administered before school, after school, and at bedtime. If medications must be administered at school, please arrange the schedule so that the medication is administered around the lunch hour to avoid disruption of the instructional program. **THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE MUST BE FOLLOWED FOR MEDICATION TO BE ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL:**

Prescription medications must come in the bottle dispensed by the pharmacy. We suggest you have a bottle for school and a bottle for home. The bottle label must include the following information:

1. Student’s name;
2. Prescribing doctor’s name;
3. Name of the drug, dosage, and the time the drug is to be administered; and
4. Prescription date.

**OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS** such as pain relievers/fever reducers and cold medications must be brought to school in the bottle or box in which they were purchased. Breeze cough drops are the only cough drops acceptable at school. Families may bring any of the above medications anytime during the school day to administer to their child. If not, they must fill out the “Permission to Administer Medications” form. All forms must be signed and dated by a healthcare physician.

The student’s name must be written on the container, and the container kept in the main office/health room. If you have any questions regarding over-the-counter medications, please contact the office or the school nurse.

No medication will be administered if it comes in a plastic bag, plain bottle, envelope, etc. The family will be called and the medication will **not** be administered. Forms may be picked up from the school office or downloaded from the district and school websites.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

Cases of child abuse or neglect or battered children are sometimes detected by school personnel. Colorado Statute (19-10-102 to 115) requires the reporting of these cases to the appropriate county department or local law enforcement agency. It is the intent that, as a result of such reports, protective social services shall be made available in an effort to prevent further abuses and to safeguard and enhance the welfare of such children.

### **Entering the School/ Visitors**

The building is kept locked at all times. To access the building, please use the front entrance on the east side of the school by the flagpole. You will see a “doorbell” panel to the left of the door. Press the button, wait to be acknowledged, identify yourself and the reason for your visit, and then enter the building.

We will be using the Raptor Visitor Management System as part of our goal of ensuring safety for students, staff and our community. Upon entering the office, visitors/volunteers, including families, will be required to present a valid drivers’ licenses, which will be scanned by the system. At this time, military IDs will not work with the system. The scanning process is fast, simple, and our office staff will assist you. Once the ID has been scanned and the entry is approved, the system will create a unique badge that identifies the visitor, date, and purpose of the visit. The visitor will be required to wear the badge to proceed to the intended destination and should remain visible for the duration of the visit. Our staff is instructed to stop visitors who are not wearing a badge. A visitor’s badge will not be required for those who are just coming to DVE to drop something off. However, if a student is being checked out during the school day they will need to present their driver’s license or military ID.

### **Family Contact Information**

Please be sure that your Parent Portal account in Infinite Campus is current with your contact numbers as well as emergency contact numbers, including the information for people who may check your child out of school. If changes or additions need to be made, you must make them through your Parent Portal. The school cannot make changes on your behalf.

### **Safety Drills**

Safety drills include fire, tornado, and lockdown procedures and are conducted on a regular basis. During these drills, we practice getting all students into their classrooms or other secure areas as quickly as possible. Teachers are instructed where to gather students, how to maintain a safe position, and how to alert administrators of their needs.

## **Student Responsibilities**

### **Expectations**

All Douglass Valley students are expected to follow the school-wide expectations of PAWS:

1. Participate Responsibly
2. Act Kindly
3. Work Hard
4. Show Respect

DVE supports a school climate that is free from threats, harassment and any types of bullying behavior. All types of bullying are unacceptable. “Bullying” is defined in District policy JICDE and state law as “the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental, or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal,

or electronically transmitted expressions (i.e., cyberbullying) or by means of physical act or gesture.” Bullying does not necessarily include all conflicts between students.

A student who engages in an act of bullying and/or a student that takes retaliatory action against a person, who in good faith reports an incident of bullying, is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. DVE cannot respond to allegations of bullying unless informed about them. Please tell an adult if you have been bullied or if you have witnessed bullying.

### **Care of Property**

Students are held responsible for the loss of or damage to technology devices, textbooks, library books, and school property. Fines will be levied to cover the cost of replacement.

### **Social and Emotional Learning**

In addition to our PBIS System, DVE makes use of RULER to support Social and Emotional Learning.

#### **RULER**

RULER is an acronym that stands for Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing and Regulating emotions. RULER is an approach to creating a positive learning climate and developing emotional skills of all adults and students within the school. It is a mindset and a language with which everyone in the school community can talk about their emotions.

RULER is a school-wide approach that focuses first on developing adults personally and professionally so they can be role models and knowledgeable implementers of the skill-based instruction for students. The goals of RULER are to create a positive emotional climate and to enhance emotional intelligence in adults and students.

### **School Dress**

School dress is a joint concern between the school and families. Students are expected to dress in a manner that will permit them to participate in school activities. This includes warm or weather-proof outerwear in keeping with the unpredictable Colorado weather. Standards of decency, cleanliness, good grooming, and noninterference with teaching and learning are stressed. The following shall not be worn in school buildings, on school grounds, or at school activities:

- Any clothing, grooming, jewelry, accessories or body adornments that are disruptive or potentially disruptive to the educational environment as determined by the administrator; including but not limited to items that refer to drugs, tobacco, or alcohol, are obscene, profane, vulgar or defamatory in design or message, or threaten the safety or welfare of any person.
- Any clothing that reveals all or part of the stomach, buttocks or chest, shirts with spaghetti straps, strapless tops, any clothing that reveals underwear, or is inappropriately sheer, short, tight or low cut.

### **Bicycles**

Park bicycle in the bicycle racks only.

Keep on the right-hand side of the street.

Keep both hands on the bars, except when signaling his/her intention to stop or turn.

Never carry additional riders.

Always wear a helmet.

Bikes need to be walked once on school property.

### **Skates, Skateboards, and Scooters**

Stay on the sidewalks.

Remove skates, or dismount skateboards and scooters, and walk on school property.

“Heely” shoes are not allowed to be used on school property.

## **MTSS- Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

At Douglass Valley Elementary, we follow the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) model. This prevention-based framework of team-driven, data-based problem-solving for improving the academic and social emotional learning outcomes of EVERY student through family, school, and community partnering and a layered continuum of evidence-based practices applied at the classroom, school, district, region, and state level.

If your student is struggling in a particular academic area, our staff members will begin to provide additional layers of support to help them find success. By systemically analyzing and evaluating students' growth through ongoing formal and informal assessments, we are able to more effectively utilize our available resources to improve student performance. Through the frequent tracking and discussion of student progress, we can problem-solve less severe educational challenges in the classroom setting. Interventions are very fluid and allow students to get what they need, when they need it. If your student is very strong with number sense, but struggles with geometric concepts, MTSS allows us to easily support him/her with a quick intervention to get him/her up to speed, and then he/she can resume instruction in the classroom setting.

If at any time you have concerns about your students' progress, please don't hesitate to reach out to your student's classroom teacher. If he/she is receiving support from any of our intervention or enrichment team, we would be happy to get everyone together to discuss what supports we have in place and how your student is responding to them.

## **Bus Information**

Please see Academy School District 20 Transportation Department website.

<https://www.asd20.org/departments/transportation/Pages/default.aspx>

## **School Communication**

### **ParentSquare**

Academy School District 20 uses a rapid communication system called ParentSquare. This system is used to keep families informed of activities, emergencies, and student absences. ParentSquare will provide reliable cost-effective communication to the District 20 community. Families will be able to receive information not only from the district, but also from Douglass Valley regarding specific events and reminders. Families may elect to download the app to receive information through email, texting, and/or cell phone.

### **DVE Website**

Our school website is full of information! You can check the school calendar for events and keep up to date with the school. Go to <https://douglassvalley.asd20.org/>

## **Family Participation at DVE**

Families are one of our greatest assets! We are fortunate to have an active and supportive community. We are successful because you are involved. **Our school programs can only happen with the time and talent of our numerous volunteers. These programs are a necessary component to make great things happen at Douglass Valley!**

## **School Accountability Committee (SAC)**

The Douglass Valley SAC has been created to:

1. Act as a face-to-face communication link between the community and the school personnel;
2. Serve as a sounding board for the administration;
3. Promote community involvement and ownership;
4. Provide recommendations for the school's plan for improvement.

## **Community Use of the Building**

Community organizations may be allowed to use the building under District 20 rules and regulations for a rental fee. Scheduling should be done through our School Bookkeeper.

### **Parent Sounding Board**

The Douglass Valley representative to the Parent Sounding Board will meet with other families from the district and administrators to foster school/community communications. This group meets monthly with the Superintendent.

### **General Information/Questions**

We want you to be a part of Douglass Valley! We encourage you to call the school and check out facts if you have concerns. Do not wait and later wish you had discussed the matter with the appropriate person. Please feel free to call the school at 234-4200 to let us know if we can be of any help to you.

### **Volunteer Information**

Volunteers are an integral part of our programming at Douglass Valley. We recognize and appreciate the time, expertise, support, and assistance they give. Volunteers may include families and patrons who give their time to assist in the classrooms and the library. They also include student teaching assistants and high school students who are receiving credit for work in classrooms and offices.

Documents that may not be seen or handled by anyone other than the appropriate school personnel are as follows:

1. Teacher's grade book or record
2. Child abuse reports
3. DHS reports
4. 504 Evaluations
5. Disciplinary files
6. Special Education records
7. Students' permanent school records
8. Records containing names of books checked out by students
9. Records containing names of students who may have overdue books out, and if and how much is owed in book fines
10. Free and Reduced forms

### **Becoming a Volunteer at Douglass Valley**

1. The first step is to visit [www.asd20.org](http://www.asd20.org).
  - a. In the search bar, type volunteers. There is a button to click that says, "apply to volunteer." This is the background check application.
  - b. Non-guardians will work with D20's HR department to schedule an appointment for fingerprinting.
  - c. Guardians do not need to be fingerprinted.
2. The administration holds a monthly Volunteer Orientation, which is a required step of the process.
3. Once your application is checked and approved and you have attended the orientation, DVE will notify you that you have been approved for volunteering in the school.

Please remember to always sign in/out at the office and wear a visitor/volunteer badge provided by the school.

Academy District 20

Handbook of Students' Rights and Responsibilities  
and Annual Notifications to Parents

School Year 2025-2026



This document is provided as a resource to Academy District 20's parents and students. **Readers should be aware that much of this information is in summary form. Current policies in their entirety, including revisions which may have occurred after publication of this document, are available on the District website at <https://www.asd20.org/board-of-education/board-policies/>. Policies may also be reviewed at the Education and Administration Center of Academy District 20 located at 1110 Chapel Hills Drive. A printed copy of the Handbook of Students' Rights and Responsibilities and Annual Notifications to Parents may be requested at no cost in the administrative office of any school or by calling Legal Relations at 719-234-1200. Policies are subject to change as necessary at any time during the school year. Students are expected to be knowledgeable about and comply with District and school policies, including ones which may not be included in this publication but are on the website.**

July 15, 2025

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## Introduction

Public school students have certain rights guaranteed by the constitution and laws of Colorado as well as the United States of America. These rights are not the same as adults because the school is a special setting. The law provides that school officials need flexibility to control student behavior in the schools and at school activities, even possibly for actions that occur off-campus, on weekends or during the summer, if the actions have a nexus to school or are detrimental to the welfare of students or staff at the school. However, students do have numerous protections from undue censorship, arbitrary actions of school staff members and elected officials, and unlawful search and seizure, among other things.

This handbook informs you of your rights and your responsibilities as an Academy District 20 student. It will help you be a successful student and citizen in our District. Please read it carefully and ask questions of your principal, your counselor, or your teachers if you do not understand.

## Academic Rights

To function well in the classroom, you must have a clear idea of what the teachers expect of you. Therefore, you have a right to know exactly what the requirements are for each course in which you are enrolled. If the course requirements seem unclear to you, or if you have questions, you have not only a right but also an obligation to yourself, your fellow classmates, and to your teacher, to ask for clarification.

## Academy District 20 Mission Statement

The mission of Academy School District 20 is to educate and inspire students to thrive.

## Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Annual Legal Notification:

In accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, the District has Asbestos Management Plans available for review at each school and at Facilities Management, 10221 Lexington Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920. Contact the Director for Facilities with any questions. Telephone: 719- 234-1510.

## Assessments (administrative policy IKA):

State and federal laws require District students to take standardized assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, math and science. If a student's parent/guardian chooses to opt the student out of taking a state assessment, the District shall not prohibit the student from participating in an activity, or receiving any other form of reward, that the District provides to students for participating in the state assessment.

C.R.S. § 22-7-1013 (8)(b).

### Attendance and Truancy (administrative policies JE, JH, JHB):

Daily attendance at school is a critical factor in school success. Students are expected to arrive at school each day on time, ready to learn. It is difficult to replace the learning that occurs in the classroom through the exchange of ideas with study outside the classroom. Excessive absences and/or tardies, whether excused or unexcused, may have a negative effect on a student's learning and grades.

Colorado law requires every student who is age six by August 1 and under 17 to attend school a certain number of hours [C.R.S. § 22-33-104(1)(a)]. Parents have a legal obligation to ensure that every child under their care and supervision receives adequate education and training [C.R.S. § 22-33-104(5)(a)].

Per District policy JE and state law, excused absences are as follows:

1. Absences approved by the principal or designee.
2. Absences due to temporary illness or injury.
3. Absences for an extended period of time due to physical, mental or emotional disabilities.
4. Absences due to being in the custody of the court or law enforcement authorities.

If an absence does not fall into one of the above categories, it will be considered unexcused. Medical notes may be requested if a student has excessive absences.

State statute defines any student who has four unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences in a school year as habitually truant. [Administrative policy JE and

C.R.S § 22-33-102(3.5)]. Be aware that the District will first take steps to work with families to reduce truancy, but that we partner with local juvenile courts to intervene and address “habitual truancy.” When a student has an excessive number of absences, whether excused or unexcused, they negatively impact the student’s academic success. The principal may identify a student who is absent 10% of a quarter, even if the absences are excused, as “chronically absent.” [Administrative policy JH, Student Absences and Excuses]. Legal action may be taken by school administrators if parents and students fail to follow compulsory attendance laws [Administrative policy JHB, Truancy].

### Balancing Rights and Responsibilities

With student rights come student responsibilities. In most cases, this means “follow the rules.” The rights of all others in the school environment are protected when students exercise responsibility and follow the rules.

The rules and regulations, the most important of which are summarized in this handbook, are designed to protect rights, yours and others’. They help set expectations so that students learn behavior patterns which enable them to become responsible members of society. The rules also allow us, if necessary, to discipline individuals who do not respect rules. They also help protect every student’s right to an education. Given the Columbine tragedy and other more recent events, students need to tell an adult if they are aware of

other students who are planning to harm themselves or others in the school or community. This is not being a “snitch” or a “tattle-tale.” It is responsible citizenship that could save lives, including your own. Safe2Tell® provides a way for students to anonymously report any threatening behaviors or activities endangering them or someone they know. A report can be made by calling 877-542-SAFE (877-542-7233) or online at [Make a Report](#).

#### [Bullying \(administrative policy JICDE\):](#)

The District supports a school climate that is free from threats, harassment and any types of bullying behavior. All types of bullying are unacceptable. “Bullying” is defined in District policy JICDE and state law as “the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental, or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal, or electronically transmitted expressions (i.e., cyberbullying) or by means of physical act or gesture.” Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance or any basis protected by federal and state law, including disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family composition, national origin, religion, ancestry or the need for special education services, whether such characteristic(s) is actual or perceived. Bullying does not necessarily include all conflicts between students. A student who engages in an act of bullying and/or a student that takes retaliatory action against a person, who in good faith reports an incident of bullying, is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The District cannot respond to allegations of bullying unless it knows about them. Please tell an adult in your building if you have been bullied or if you have witnessed bullying. Safe2Tell® is a way to anonymously report any threatening behavior that endangers you, your friends, your family or your community. To make a report using Safe2Tell®, call 877-542-SAFE (877-542-7233) or online at [Make a Report](#).

#### [Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices \(administrative policy JICJ\)](#)

Policy JICJ allows students to carry electronic communication devices approved by the building principal, but these devices must be turned off and put away during instructional time unless they are being used for instructional purposes and with approval of the teacher. During non-instructional time, school staff may restrict students’ use of such devices if, in their judgment, use of the devices interferes with the educational environment. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic communication device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic communication device is confiscated. School personnel will not accept responsibility for lost or stolen personal property. The student will assume responsibility for replacement costs in the event that an electronic device or cell phone is lost or stolen.

### Clubs (see Student Organizations, administrative policy JJA)

Meetings of student groups must be organized, scheduled, and conducted within the guidelines established by policy JJA and accompanying procedure. All proposed student organizations shall use the common District-wide application that can be found in JJA E. The principal, or designee, will communicate a final decision to all proposals using the submitted District-wide application.

### College Classes-Opportunity to Earn College Credits and Accelerate Learning Pathways to College

Students may earn college credit at a significant cost and time savings.

**Concurrent Enrollment (CE) Programs Act** [C.R.S § 22-35- 103(6)(a)] and **District 20 Concurrent Enrollment policy** IHEDA make it possible for eligible students in grades 9-12 who are under the age of 21 and officially registered at an Academy District 20 high school and at a qualified institution of higher education with whom the District has a written cooperative agreement to earn college credit at a significant cost and time savings. Interested students may contact the high school counselor for information on the eligibility criteria and application process as identified by the statute and the District policy.

**Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) (administrative procedure IHEDA R 2)** is a fifth-year program which allows eligible students to participate in concurrent enrollment courses for the year after 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Student eligibility includes meeting graduation requirements and the completion of at least 12 credit hours of transcribed postsecondary courses (non-remedial) by the completion of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade year. [C.R.S § 22-35-108]. ASCENT is a fifth year only program. Participation in the CE or ASCENT programs must align with a student's Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP). Students must complete the District's ASCENT application process and submit all approved documents to the high school concurrent enrollment designee by the published deadline.

### **Confidential Student Records-also see (The) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The District protects the confidentiality of student records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Therefore, without written consent from a parent or guardian, we do not disclose personally identifiable information from a child's education records unless disclosure is covered by one of the exceptions in FERPA (see administrative policy JRA/JRC). If you wish to allow a third party (for example, a step- parent or other family members) access to personally identifiable information from your child's education records, please contact your building administrator to request a third- party consent form. Each parent or guardian must complete the form and have his or her signature notarized. Return the notarized forms to your building administrator. The permission will be effective until a parent/guardian revokes permission in writing and submits the revocation to the building administrator.

### Disciplinary Removal from Classroom (administrative policy JKBA)

It is the policy of the District to maintain classrooms in which student behavior does not interfere with the ability of the licensed staff member to teach effectively or the ability of other students to participate in classroom learning activities.

Students shall be expected to abide by the code of conduct adopted by the District and any other appropriate classroom rules of behavior established by the licensed staff member, and approved by the building principal, for the purpose of maintaining order and a favorable academic atmosphere. Any student who violates the code of conduct or other classroom rules may be subject to removal from class and/or disciplinary removal.

Student removal from class is a serious measure and should not be imposed in an arbitrary, casual, discriminatory or inconsistent manner. Behavioral expectations are always more constructive and more likely to be followed when they are communicated as clearly as possible to students. However, it is neither possible nor necessary to specify every type of improper or inappropriate behavior, or every circumstance that would justify removal from class under this policy. Licensed staff members are expected to exercise their best professional judgment in deciding whether it is appropriate to formally remove a student from class in any particular circumstance. All instances of formal removal from class shall be documented.

A licensed staff member is authorized to immediately remove a student from his or her classroom if the student's behavior:

1. violates the code of conduct adopted by the District administrative policy; or
2. is dangerous, unruly, or disruptive; or
3. seriously interferes with the ability of the teacher to teach the class or of the students to learn.

A student with a disability may be removed from class and placed in an alternative educational setting only to the extent authorized by state and federal laws and regulations.

Removal from class under this policy does not prohibit the District from pursuing or implementing additional disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, detentions, suspensions, or expulsions for the conduct or behavior for which the student was removed, in accordance with District policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary interventions. Parents/guardians should be notified of the student's removal from class in accordance with established procedures.

### Equal Educational Opportunity (administrative policy JB)

Every student in this school district shall have equal educational opportunities through programs offered in the school district regardless of race, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, religion, national origin,

immigration/citizenship status, ancestry, age, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, disability, family composition and genetic information.

### Evaluation

You have a right to be evaluated fairly. Grades, progress reports, and other forms of evaluation should be based on requirements that are clearly set forth by teachers and they should be applied fairly to all students.

### **(The) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (administrative policy JRA/JRC), Notification of Rights under:**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("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 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The 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 the school to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them 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.
3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. FERPA does permit disclosure without a parent's or guardian's written consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including but not limited to paraprofessionals, transportation personnel, health and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contactor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own staff members 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, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or

her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District 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.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

U.S. Department of Education Student  
Privacy Policy Office 400 Maryland  
Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-  
8520

**FERPA Notice for Directory Information (administrative policy JRA/JRC):** FERPA requires that the District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

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

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's or guardian's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you may opt out using the Extended Parent Portal.

The District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Student's photograph
- Student's grade level
- Dates of attendance
- Enrollment status
- Participation in officially recognized activities & sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended

Please note that FERPA contains a specific exclusion for records such as investigative reports, risk assessments, and other records created and maintained by school security personnel, which may be disclosed without consent. 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(a)(4)(ii)(B)(II).

#### Free Association

You are generally free to associate with groups of your own choosing. However, any group, school-sponsored or not, that acts to interfere with the rights of others, or disrupt the educational process, may be subject to disciplinary actions by school officials or appropriate law enforcement agencies.

#### Free or Reduced Lunch (administrative policy EF)

Students do best in school if they have eaten a nutritious and balanced meal. Academy District 20 participates in the National School Lunch Program, as well as the Healthy School Meals for All Program that provides free meals to all students. The Board of Education agrees to the federal eligibility regulations, and the food service program meets all state and federal requirements relating to meal and menu records, fiscal controls and accountability, free and reduced-price meals, civil rights compliance, sanitation, and safety.

#### Gangs (administrative policy JICF):

Gang activities at school impose a threat to the welfare and safety of students and others in the school community and cause substantial disruption to the educational process.

The term "gang" as used in this policy refers to two or more individuals who share a common interest, bond, or activity characterized by criminal, delinquent, or otherwise disruptive conduct engaged in collectively or individually.

The Board of Education and District administration desire to keep District schools and students free from the threats of harmful influence of any groups or gangs which advocate drug and/or alcohol use, violence, or disruptive behavior. School district personnel shall maintain supervision of school premises, school vehicles, and school-related activities to deter gang intimidation of students and confrontations between

members of different gangs. The superintendent or designee shall establish open lines of communication with local law enforcement authorities to share information and provide mutual support in this effort. The superintendent or designee shall provide periodic in-service training to help staff members identify gangs and gang symbols, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities and respond appropriately to gang behavior.

Any apparel or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute denotes membership in or affiliation with any gang is prohibited on school premises, in school vehicles, and at school-related activities. Any gestures, signals, or graffiti which connote gang membership or activities are also prohibited. These prohibitions shall be applied at the principal's discretion after consultation with the superintendent or designee, as the need arises at individual school sites.

### Homeless Students Notification

Specific rights and protections are ensured to parents, children and youth experiencing homelessness as defined under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For more information about services for homeless students, refer to administrative policy JFABD or contact the Homeless Liaison Coordinator Aubrey Ranson at 719-234-1362.

### Homework Responsibilities

To function well in the classroom, you must do homework as required by the teacher. Homework is a critical component of the instructional program. Homework provides opportunities for extended learning for students. The District has a homework policy (administrative policy IKB) which states that each school must develop homework guidelines and communicate them to students and parents.

### Identification

For the protection of all, you must identify yourself when requested by school authorities: in the school building, on school grounds, on the bus, at the bus stops or at school activities, including off-campus activities.

### Individual Dignity

Every person is entitled to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, family composition, national origin, religion, ancestry need for special education services, or conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth. The dignity of each individual is best served when all concerned, whether staff or students, treat one another respectfully. Academy District 20 is committed to a learning and working environment free from any form of violence or abuse including, but not limited to, actions, words, or insults towards our students, staff, and parents.

The District does not tolerate harassment or bullying in Academy District 20 schools, at school activities or on school buses or at District bus stops. To enhance safety on school

buses, video and audio recording devices have been installed and may be in operation at any time.

[Non-Discrimination under Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, Age Discrimination ACT, Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, Notice of:](#)

In accordance with federal and state law, Academy District 20 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, religion, national origin, immigration/citizenship status, ancestry, age, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, disability, family composition and genetic information in its programs, activities, operations and employment decisions and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Administrative policy AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity, and procedures AC R 1, AC R 2, and AC R 3 outline the formal complaint process. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

General Counsel Academy  
District 20 1110 Chapel Hills  
Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920 719-  
234-1200

[Peaceful Assembly](#)

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution allows students of a school to peacefully assemble on the school grounds, in compliance with attendance rules and procedures as well as building regulations.

[\(The\) Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment \(PPRA\), Notification of Rights Under \(policy JLDAC-E\):](#)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, affords parents certain rights regarding the District's conducting of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) -

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents/guardians; and/or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of -

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding; and
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under state law.

Academy District 20 has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through

U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation in the specific activity or survey. The District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be

provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under state law.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education 400  
Maryland Avenue, SW Washington,  
D.C. 20202-5901

### [Respect for Property](#)

Students are expected to treat all property with care and respect. This applies to property of the school, private property brought to school by school staff or other students, and to property surrounding the school. Neither the District nor the school is responsible for loss, damage or theft of personal property.

### [Screening and Testing of Students \(and Treatment of Mental Disorders\) \[administrative policy JLDAC\] and Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment \(PPRA\) \[JLDAC-E\]](#)

Parents and eligible students have the right to review any survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students. Parents and eligible students have the right to consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more protected areas, and to opt out, as detailed in administrative policy JLDAC and accompanying notification JLDAC E.

### [Seeking Change through the Proper Channels](#)

Students and parents are encouraged to participate in the District in a variety of ways. Building and District committees offer positive ways of influencing the operation of the District. Most positive changes come about through the committee process. The District and the Board of Education also want to maintain open lines of communication. Administrative policy KE and the associated regulation KE R contain information on public concerns and complaints.

### Sex Education/Health and Family Life

The District teaches about family life and sex education in regular courses on anatomy, physiology, science, health, and consumer and family studies. If a separate program for family life or sex education is developed, it shall not be required. Any curriculum that includes instruction on human sexuality shall comply with applicable law and the District's academic standards. *See* policy IMB – Teaching About Controversial Issues. In accordance with this policy, procedure IMB R details how a parent may request an exemption from such curricula.

### Sex Offenders, Notification Regarding:

Colorado Revised Statute § 22-1-124 instructs school districts to notify parents of their right to request information concerning registered sex offenders in the community. More information on accessing such information may be obtained online at either of the following:

[http://www.sheriffalerts.com/cap\\_main.php?office=54430](http://www.sheriffalerts.com/cap_main.php?office=54430) OR

<https://coloradosprings.gov/police-department/page/sex-offender-information>

For additional information parents may also contact the District's Director for Security at 719-234-1300.

### Sexual Harassment (administrative policy JBB)

Academy District 20 complies with Title IX and the implementing regulations. In accordance with administrative policy AC and its corresponding regulations, no discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, transgender status, or family composition is permitted in the programs or activities District 20 operates. Sexual harassment is recognized as a form of sex discrimination and thus is a violation of the laws which prohibit sex discrimination. A learning environment that is free from sexual harassment shall be maintained. It shall be a violation of policy for any staff member to harass students or for students to harass other students through conduct or communications of a sexual nature.

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature may constitute sexual harassment, even if the harasser and the student being harassed are the same sex and whether or not the student resists or submits to the harasser. Acts of verbal or physical aggression, intimidation or hostility based on sex, but not involving conduct of a sexual nature may also constitute sexual harassment.

Students are encouraged to report all incidents of sexual harassment to an adult at school and file a complaint, through the District's complaint process outlined in JBB E. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct, and the context in which the alleged conduct

occurred shall be investigated. *See* administrative policy JBB, Sexual Harassment of Students, and the reporting form JBB E.

#### [Sharing/Release of Student Information \(administrative policy JRCA\):](#)

To the extent required or allowed by state law, the District will facilitate the sharing of relevant student records and information when necessary to protect the safety and welfare of school district staff, visitors, students, and the public and to protect property. School personnel who share disciplinary and attendance information concerning a student pursuant to this policy are immune from civil and criminal liability if they act in good faith compliance with state law. Within the bounds of state law, school district personnel shall seek to obtain such information regarding students as is required to perform their legal duties and responsibilities; such information may be obtained from the judicial department or any state agency that performs duties and functions under the Colorado Children’s Code. If such information is shared with another school or school district to which a student may be transferring, it shall only be shared in compliance with the requirements of federal law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). *See* policy JRCA, Sharing of Student Records/Information between School District and State Agencies.

#### [Student Code of Conduct:](#)

The descriptions below are summaries of more detailed policies. For complete information, please consult the latest version of each administrative policy at [Board/Administrative Policies](#).

#### [Code of Conduct \(administrative policy JICDA\):](#)

The principal or designee may suspend or recommend expulsion of a student who engages in one or more of the following activities while in school buildings, on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event and off school property when the conduct has a nexus to school or any District curricular or non- curricular event.

1. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or stealing or attempting to steal school property of value.
2. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property or stealing or attempting to steal private property.
3. Willful destruction or defacing of District property.
4. Commission of any act which if committed by an adult would be robbery or assault as defined by state law.
5. Committing extortion, coercion or blackmail, i.e., obtaining money or other objects of value from an unwilling person or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.

6. Engaging in verbal abuse, i.e., name calling, ethnic or racial slurs, either orally or in writing or derogatory statements addressed publicly to others that precipitate disruption of the District or school program or incite violence.
7. Engaging in “hazing” activities, i.e., forcing prolonged physical activity, forcing excessive consumption of any substance, forcing prolonged deprivation of sleep, food, or drink, or any other behavior which recklessly endangers the health or safety of an individual for purposes of initiation into any student group.
8. Violation of the District's policy on bullying prevention and education.
9. Violation of criminal law which has an effect on the District or on the general safety or welfare of students or staff.
10. Violation of any District policy or regulations, or established school rules.
11. Violation of the District's policy on weapons in the schools. Expulsion shall be mandatory for bringing or possessing a firearm, in accordance with federal law.
12. Violation of the District's policy on student conduct involving drugs and alcohol.
13. Violation of the District’s violent and aggressive behavior policy.
14. Violation of the District's tobacco-free schools policy.
15. Violation of the District's policies prohibiting sexual or other harassment.
16. Violation of the District's policy on nondiscrimination.
17. Violation of the District's dress code policy.
18. Violation of the District’s policy on gangs and gang-like activity.
19. Throwing objects, unless part of a supervised school activity, that can or do cause bodily injury or damage to property.
20. Directing profanity, vulgar language or obscene gestures toward other students, school personnel or others.
21. Lying or giving false information, either verbally or in writing, to a District staff member.
22. Engaging in scholastic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.
23. Making a false accusation of criminal activity against a District staff member to law enforcement or to the District.
24. Behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel, including behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the student exhibiting the behavior or to one or more other students.
25. Repeated interference with the District’s ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
26. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority including deliberate refusal to obey a member of the District staff.

[Dress Code for Students \(administrative policy JICA\):](#)

You have a right to dress as you want in accordance with your own taste so long as it is not materially and substantially disruptive to the educational process. The Student Dress Code, administrative policy JICA, defines certain clothing or appearance as disruptive if it

advocates drug use, violence, or unlawful activity. If your clothes are inappropriately revealing or tattered and torn, you will be in violation of the dress code as well. A safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to a quality educational program. District-wide standards on student attire are intended to help encourage school pride and thereby help students concentrate on schoolwork, reduce discipline problems, and improve school safety. The District administration is committed to the idea that students have a right to express themselves through dress and personal appearance, and that student dress influences behavior, work quality and school pride. Students are not permitted to wear apparel that is disruptive or potentially disruptive to the classroom environment or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school.

Subject to approval by the superintendent or designee, school administrators may develop and adopt additional specific dress code standards for their own schools consistent with this policy. Disciplinary actions for violation of the dress code standards will include notification to the student of the violation, the requirement that the clothing be changed before re-entering class, and at the discretion of the building administrator, a parental conference. More severe disciplinary consequences, including suspension or expulsion, may result from repeated or serious violations.

The following shall not be worn in school buildings, on school grounds or at school activities:

1. Any clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, jewelry, hair coloring, accessories, or body adornments that are or contain any advertisement, symbols, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that:
  - Refer to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons
  - Are of a sexual nature
  - By virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute denote membership in gangs which advocate drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior
  - Are obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, or legally libelous
  - Threaten the safety or welfare of any person
  - Promote any activity prohibited by the student code of conduct
  - Otherwise disrupt the teaching-learning process

Clothing that:

- is inappropriately sheer, short, tight or low-cut  
bares or exposes traditionally private parts of the body including, but not limited to, the stomach, buttocks, back and breasts

Exceptions:

Appropriate clothing may be worn in physical education. Clothing normally worn when participating in school sponsored extracurricular or sports activities (such as cheerleading uniforms and the like), may be worn to school when approved by the sponsor or coach.

### Drug and Alcohol Use by Students (administrative policy JICH):

It shall be a violation of District policy and considered to be behavior that is detrimental to the welfare and safety of other students or school personnel for any student to possess, use or distribute alcohol or drugs, or to possess drug paraphernalia on school property or at school-sponsored events. **Sharing any controlled substance, including prescription medication, is also a violation of District policy.** In order to promote a healthy and safe learning environment, the school district will take disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion from school and may include referral to law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

Students who use or possess alcohol or drugs or are under the influence of alcohol or drugs in violation of policy JICH will be disciplined in the following manner:

- First Offense - The student may be suspended for up to three school days, and the principal may recommend additional suspension and/or expulsion/deferred expulsion. . At the discretion of the principal and with the concurrence of the superintendent, a portion of the suspension may be held in abeyance if the student completes an appropriate program, which may include an alcohol and/or drug education/treatment/counseling program and/or community service, details of which shall be agreed to between principal and parent. Costs of the program shall be the responsibility of the student and parent. Failure to provide documentation of completion of the program within the prescribed time limits will result in the reinstatement of the original suspension.

Based on circumstances of individual cases, including but not limited to situations involving particularly pernicious, harmful, or addictive illegal drugs such as felony class controlled substances, the principal or designee, at his or her discretion, may recommend additional suspension or expulsion. Violations of administrative policy JLCD on Administering Medications to Students may result in disciplinary action, at the discretion of the principal or designee.

- Second Offense - The student may be suspended for up to five school days, and the principal may recommend additional suspension and/or expulsion/deferred expulsion.
- Third and Subsequent Offense(s) – The student may be suspended for up to 10 school days and the principal may recommend to the superintendent expulsion of the student for up to one calendar year for the third offense and all subsequent offenses occurring within three years.

### **Penalties for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**

Students who possess drug paraphernalia at school, on the school bus, or at school sponsored events may be disciplined in the following manner:

- First Offense - The student may be suspended for up to three school days.
- Second Offense - The student may be suspended for up to five school days.
- Third Offense - The student may be suspended for five school days and the principal may recommend an additional five days' suspension, or expulsion.

### **Penalties for Distribution, Selling, Purchasing or Exchanging Alcohol or Drugs**

Students who distribute, sell, purchase or exchange alcohol or drugs, whether by selling or giving, may be expelled, provided that the purchase or exchange of over-the-counter drugs may be limited to a suspension in appropriate circumstances at the discretion of the principal.

### Electronic Communication Devices, including Cell Phones (administrative policy JICJ):

Electronic communication devices can play a vital communication role. However, unless expressly permitted by a teacher for instructional purposes, the use of electronic communication devices within the classroom is not permitted. For purposes of this policy, an “electronic communication device” is any device which records, replays, transmits, receives or otherwise conveys information electronically between the student and another person or entity.

Students may carry electronic communication devices approved by the building principal, but these devices must be turned off and put away during instructional time, unless they are being used for instructional purposes and with approval of the teacher. Regarding non-instructional time, school staff members have the authority to restrict students' use of such devices in school buildings, on school buses, at school-sponsored activities and on field trips, if in the judgment of the staff member, the use of the device interferes with the educational environment. Use of a device to record all or part of any classroom instruction is permissible only with the prior approval of the teacher.

Use of electronic communication devices with cameras is prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, or other locations where such operation may violate the privacy rights of another person. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times.

Violation of this policy and/or use that violates any other District policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic communication device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic communication device is confiscated.

The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of electronic communication devices brought onto school property.

### Screening and Testing of Students (and Treatment of Mental Disorders) (administrative policy JLDAC)

Parents/guardians and eligible students have the right to review any survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students whether created by the District or a third party. "Eligible student" means a student 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor. Any survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students shall be subject to applicable state and federal laws protecting the confidentiality of student records.

Parents/guardians and eligible students shall receive notice and have the opportunity to opt a student out of activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from the student for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing the information to others for that purpose.

School personnel are prohibited under state law from recommending or requiring the use of psychotropic drugs for students. School personnel are also prohibited from testing or requiring testing for a student's behavior without giving notice to the parent/guardian describing the recommended testing and how any test results will be used. Prior to conducting any such testing, school personnel shall obtain written permission from the parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with applicable law.

Licensed school personnel are encouraged to be knowledgeable about psychiatric or psychological methods and procedures but shall not be involved in any diagnosis, assessment or treatment of any type of mental disorder or disability unless appropriately certified.

### Student Expression

Students have a limited right to free expression based on the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The right to speak (including written expression), however, must not create a material and substantial disruption to the educational process, be obscene, lead to unlawful action, harm someone's reputation, or create a clear and present danger to others.

These legal requirements also apply to how students dress when they come to school or school activities. If students cross the line from protected speech, where they are expressing their point of view/opinion, to speech which creates a material and substantial disruption, they may be disciplined. *See* policies on Student Publications, JICE; Suspension, Expulsion and Denial of Admission, JKD/JKE; and the Student Dress Code, JICA.

### Student Conduct (administrative policy JIC):

It is the intention of the Board of Education and District administration that the District's schools help students achieve maximum development of individual knowledge, skills and competence and that they learn behavior patterns which will enable them to be responsible, contributing members of society.

The District, in accordance with state law, has adopted a written student conduct and discipline code based upon the principle that every student is expected to follow accepted rules of conduct and to show respect for and to obey persons in authority. The code shall emphasize that certain behavior, especially behavior that disrupts the classroom, is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. The code shall emphasize proportionate disciplinary interventions and consequences and keeping students engaged in learning. The code shall be enforced uniformly, fairly and consistently for all students.

All administrative policies and regulations containing the letters "JIC" in the file name shall be considered as constituting the conduct section of the legally required code.

The rules shall not infringe upon constitutionally protected rights, shall be clearly and specifically described, shall be printed in a handbook or some other publication made available to students and parents/guardians, and shall have an effective date subsequent to the dissemination of the published handbook.

The superintendent shall arrange to have the conduct and discipline code distributed once to each student in elementary, middle, junior high and high school and once to each new student in the District. The superintendent shall ensure reasonable measures are taken to ensure each student is familiar with the code. Copies shall be posted or kept on file in each school of the District.

The code shall apply to behavior in the classroom, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at school activities and events, and in certain circumstances, to off-campus behavior. In all instances, students shall be expected to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, acting with due regard for the supervisory authority vested by the board in all District staff members, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, the widely shared use of school property, and the rights and welfare of other students. All staff members of the District shall be expected to share the responsibility for supervising the behavior of students and for seeing that they abide by the established rules of conduct.

#### [Student Discipline \(administrative policy JK\)](#)

The District, in accordance with state law, has adopted a written student Conduct and Discipline Code based upon the principle that every student is expected to follow accepted rules of conduct and to show respect for and to obey persons in authority. The Code also emphasizes that certain behavior, especially behavior that disrupts the classroom, is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Additionally, the District has adopted policies and procedures for handling general and major discipline problems for all students of the District which are designed to achieve these broad objectives. All administrative policies and regulations containing the letters "JK" in the file name constitute the discipline section of the legally required code.

### Student Fees and Fines (administrative policy JQ)

Families that are eligible for the **Free and Reduced Program** should provide their household income information by completing the Free and Reduced Application. While meals are provided for free to all Academy District 20 students through Healthy School Meals for All, it's important for us to gather this information in order to receive federal funding.

By providing this information, families support the district in accessing additional federal funds that go directly to schools to help cover the cost of meals, as well as after school programs and other nutritional programs for students.

Families who qualify may receive discounted school fees, athletics, bus passes, device fees and more.

Applications and information regarding the free and reduced-price lunch program can be obtained by contacting the free and reduced lunch registrar at 234-1416 or free-and-reduced@asd20.org.

**Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests (administrative policy JIH):** The Board of Education and District administration seek to maintain a climate in the schools which is conducive to learning and protective of the safety and welfare of staff and students. To achieve this goal, it may be necessary for school personnel to search the person and/or the personal property of the student and to seize any property deemed injurious or detrimental to the safety and welfare of students and staff.

#### **Interviews by school administrators**

When a violation of District policy or school rules occurs, the principal or designee may question potential student victims and witnesses without prior consent of the student's parent/guardian. If a school official is investigating a report of child abuse and the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, no contact with the student's family will be made.

#### **Searches conducted by school personnel**

Searches may be conducted by a school official who has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the student has violated either the law or policy. When reasonable grounds for a search exists, the school principal or designee may search a student and/or the student's personal property while on school premises or during a school activity in accordance with this policy and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials.

Whenever possible, the student shall be informed of the reason(s) for conducting the search and the student's permission to perform the search shall be requested. A student's failure to cooperate with school officials conducting a search shall be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

## Search of school property

School lockers, desks and other storage areas are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. All such lockers, desks and other storage areas, as well as their contents, are subject to inspection at any time, with or without notice.

Students shall assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers and/or other storage areas in the manner approved by the administration. Students shall be responsible for whatever is contained in desks and lockers assigned to them by the school, as well as for any loss or damage relating to the contents of such desks and lockers.

## Search of the student's person or personal effects

The principal or designee may search a student or a student's personal effects such as a purse, backpack, book bag, briefcase, or vehicle parked on school property or at school-sponsored events or activities if the school official has reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will uncover:

- Evidence of a violation of District policies, school rules, or federal, state, or local laws.
- Anything which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person.

Search of the person shall be limited to the student's pockets, any object in the student's possession such as a purse, backpack, book bag, or briefcase, and a "pat down" of the exterior of the student's clothing by a staff member who is the same sex as the student being searched. Staff members may also utilize a handheld metal detector on the exterior of a student's clothing and personal items. The extent of the search of a student's person or personal effects, as well as the means to conduct the search, must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and the nature of the suspected violation. Additionally, school officials conducting the search shall be respectful of privacy considerations and religious beliefs, in light of the sex and age of the student.

Except in situations presenting a significant risk to the safety or welfare of students, school personnel, or property, personal searches of a student shall be conducted in a private room by a person of the same sex as the student being searched. At least one person of the same sex as the student being searched shall witness but not participate in the search.

Searches of a student's person and/or personal effects may be conducted without the prior consent of the student's parent/guardian. However, the parent/guardian of any student searched shall be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible.

Searches of the person which may require removal of clothing other than a coat or jacket shall be referred to a law enforcement officer. School personnel shall not participate in such searches.

**Law enforcement officers' involvement--Interrogations and interviews** When law enforcement officials request permission to question students when students are in school or participating in school activities, the principal or designee shall ascertain that the law enforcement officer has proper identification.. Except when law enforcement officers have a warrant or other court order, or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist, such interrogations and interviews are discouraged during students' class time.

It is the responsibility of the law enforcement officer interviewing student witnesses or interrogating student suspects to assure compliance with all applicable procedural safeguards. Upon request by law enforcement to interview a student witness or interrogate a student suspect, school officials shall make an effort to notify the student's parent/guardian, except in cases involving investigation of reported child abuse where the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, when law enforcement has a court order directing that the student's parent/guardian not be notified, or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist. However, whether or not to postpone the interview or interrogation until the parent/guardian arrives is the law enforcement officer's decision.

## Seizure of items

Anything found in the course of a search conducted by school officials which is evidence of a violation of law or District policy or school rules or which by its presence presents an immediate danger of physical harm may be:

- Seized and offered as evidence in any expulsion proceeding. Such material shall be kept in a secure place by the principal until it is presented at the hearing.
- Returned to the student or the parent/guardian.
- Turned over to a law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy.

## Search and seizure

The principal or designee may request a search on school premises be conducted by a law enforcement officer. When law enforcement officers respond to such a request, no school staff member shall assist or otherwise participate in the search. It is expected that searches by law enforcement will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of applicable law.

## Custody and/or arrest

Students will be released to law enforcement officers if the student has been placed under arrest or if the student's parent/guardian and the student consent to such release. When a student is removed from school by law enforcement officers for any

reason, school officials will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent/guardian.

It is expected that all procedural safeguards prescribed by law are followed by law enforcement officers conducting student arrests. However, District staff is not responsible for an officer's legal compliance when arresting a student.

#### Parking Lot/Vehicle Searches (administrative policy JHB)

The privilege of bringing a student-operated vehicle on to school premises is conditioned on consent by the student driver to allow for search of the vehicle when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will yield evidence of contraband.

Refusal by a student, parent/guardian, or owner of the vehicle to allow access to a motor vehicle on school premises at the time of request to search the vehicle shall be cause for termination without further hearing of the privilege of bringing the vehicle on to school premises. If a student refuses to consent to search, a parent or guardian will be contacted to obtain their consent to search. If the consent to search is denied by parent, then the vehicle shall be removed immediately from District property and forever banned from all District property. In such cases, there will be no refund of the parking fees paid, and the student will not be permitted to purchase a future parking pass. Should the vehicle be subsequently found on District property, it is subject to being towed at the owner's expense immediately without notice. In such cases, there will be no refund of the parking fees paid, and the student will not be permitted to purchase a future parking pass. Refusal to submit to search also may result in disciplinary action and notification of law enforcement officials.

#### Student Organizations (administrative policy JJA)

Students in middle and high schools in this District shall be permitted to conduct meetings of student clubs or student organizations to meet on school premises during noninstructional time, in accordance with administrative policy JJA. Curriculum-related student organizations serve as an extension of the regular school curriculum. The function of curriculum-related student organizations is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools. Curriculum-related student organizations must articulate how the content and activities of the proposed student organization will extend the curriculum of a course/s offered in the school. Student organizations meeting these criteria and approved by the principal will be deemed to be officially recognized, school-sponsored student organizations. All proposed student organizations shall use the common District-wide application that can be found in JJA E. The principal, or designee, will communicate a final decision to all proposals using the submitted District-wide application.

Secondary school students are also permitted to organize and conduct meetings to pursue activities outside of the school curriculum. Such organizations must be student initiated and directed, and persons not attending school in this District, parents, school personnel

or non-school persons are prohibited from directing, conducting, controlling, or regularly attending the activities of a noncurricular student group. Noncurricular student groups shall not be deemed to be curriculum-related or endorsed, but must be supervised by a licensed District staff member. Students seeking approval for a student organization to meet at school during noninstructional time should seek approval from the principal or his or her designee in accordance with administrative procedure JJA R.

### Student Use of the Internet, Electronic Communications, and Digital Media (administrative policy JS)

The utilization of the Internet, electronic communications, and digital media is integral to supporting educational curricula and substantially enriching the learning environment. Engagement with these resources necessitates students to exercise critical thinking, information analysis, effective communication, proficient writing skills, problem-solving abilities, and the cultivation of digital competencies essential for current employment demands. Moreover, leveraging these tools fosters a mindset of continual learning and provides avenues for remote education participation, peer interaction, and access to educational informational resources. For this policy’s purposes, “digital resources” means District network and any device, hardware, software, website, database, or other technology used to access the Internet.

**Blocking or filtering obscene, pornographic, or harmful information** Recognizing the dynamic nature of the digital landscape, wherein students may encounter materials of varying content, including potentially harmful content, the District will make reasonable measures to safeguard students from accessing material deemed obscene, pornographic, or otherwise detrimental to minors, in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Students shall take responsibility and use good judgment when using District digital resources to avoid exposure to inappropriate material.

### **No expectation of privacy**

District-owned digital resources are intended for educational purposes and are subject to monitoring and oversight by the District. Students should be aware that there is no expectation of privacy when accessing or using District digital resources or within the District network. Students’ devices will be filtered at home using the same filtering settings as those applied within the District.

### **Unauthorized and unacceptable uses**

Students shall use District technology devices in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Unauthorized and unacceptable uses of digital resources encompass a spectrum of behaviors, including, but not limited to, accessing, creating, or transmitting material unrelated to educational objectives. All material and information accessed/received through the District network shall remain the property of Academy District 20 and subject to disclosure under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

No student shall access, create, transmit, retransmit, or forward material or information:

- that promotes violence or advocates destruction of property including, but not limited to, access to information concerning the manufacturing or purchasing of destructive devices or weapons
- that is not related to District education objectives
- that contains pornographic, obscene, or other sexually oriented materials, either as pictures or writings, that are intended to stimulate erotic feelings or appeal to prurient interests in nudity, sex or excretion
- that harasses, threatens, demeans, or promotes violence or hatred against another person or group of persons in violation of the District's nondiscrimination policies
- for personal profit, financial gain, advertising, commercial transaction, or political purposes
- that plagiarizes the work of another
- that uses inappropriate or profane language likely to be offensive to others in the school community
- that is knowingly false or could be construed as intending to purposely damage another person's reputation
- in violation of any federal or state law or District policy, including but not limited to copyrighted material and material protected by trade secret
- that contains personal information about themselves or others, including information protected by confidentiality laws
- that impersonates another or transmits through an anonymous remailer
- that accesses fee services without specific permission from the system administrator
- that uses Artificial Intelligence in an inappropriate manner
- that engages in cyberbullying (policy JICDE)

## Security and safety

Ensuring the security and safety of digital resources is of paramount importance. Students must promptly report any security concerns they encounter while using digital resources to designated District personnel.

Students are prohibited from engaging in activities that compromise the integrity or functionality of District networks or digital resources, including acts of vandalism, hacking attempts or unauthorized access attempts which includes using another person's password or any other identifier. Inappropriate use or vandalism against District networks or digital resources are subject to disciplinary measures, including loss of the digital resource, loss of network privileges, suspension, expulsion, or civil or criminal liability under applicable laws.

In the interest of student safety and security, schools integrate digital citizenship skills into instruction as part of their accreditation process. Students are reminded to

exercise caution if sharing personally identifiable information (PII) and to refrain from arranging in-person meetings with individuals encountered online.

## District Provided Devices

Students must handle and maintain District-provided devices carefully to avoid fines for damages. They are responsible for the safekeeping, proper use, and accountability of these devices, including refraining from putting stickers or other modifications on the device. Damage or loss of devices must be reported within 24 hours, and if a student leaves the District, the device must be returned at the time of disenrollment. Student DPDs must not be taken out of the country.

## Student use is a privilege

The District emphasizes that the use of digital resources, including access to the Internet, electronic communications, and digital media services, is a privilege contingent upon responsible and ethical conduct. Failure to adhere to established usage guidelines may result in the loss of access privileges, restitution for damages incurred, and disciplinary action in accordance with District policy.

## School district makes no warranties

Students and parents/guardians are required to annually review the District's Student Use of the Internet, Electronic Communications, and Digital Media (JS E 1) before accessing Internet, electronic communications, or digital media accounts. It is important to note that the District assumes no liability for the content accessed or the quality of information received via digital resources, and students utilize such resources at their own risk.

## [Students with Life-Threatening Allergies \(administrative policy JLCDA\)](#)

The District recognizes that many students are being diagnosed with potentially life-threatening food allergies. To best protect students and to meet state law requirements concerning the management of food allergies and anaphylaxis among students, the District requires the following:

## Health care plan

The school nurse, or a school administrator in consultation with the school nurse and parent, shall develop and implement a health care plan (plan) for each student with a diagnosis of a potentially life-threatening food allergy. The plan shall address communication between the school and emergency medical services, including instructions for emergency medical responders.

## Reasonable accommodations

Reasonable accommodations shall be made to reduce the student's exposure to agents that may cause anaphylaxis within the school environment. If a student

qualifies as a student with a disability in accordance with federal law, the student's Section 504 plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), and/or other plan developed in accordance with applicable federal law shall meet this requirement.

## Access to emergency medications

Emergency medications for treatment of the student's food allergies or anaphylaxis shall be kept in a secure location accessible to designated school staff. The student's parent/legal guardian shall supply the school with the medication needed for treatment of the student's food allergies or anaphylaxis, unless the student is authorized to self-carry such medication in accordance with administrative policy JLCD, Administering Medications to Students. Even if the student is authorized to self-carry, the parent is strongly encouraged to provide self-injectable epinephrine to the school.

## Staff training

The principal or designee, in consultation with the school nurse, shall determine the appropriate recipients of emergency anaphylaxis treatment training, which shall include those staff directly involved during the school day with a student who has a known food allergy.

## Suspension and Expulsion (administrative policy JKD/JKE):

Academy District 20 shall provide due process of law to students, parents/guardians and school personnel through written procedures consistent with law for the suspension or expulsion of students and the denial of admission.

The Board and its designee(s) may consider the following factors in determining whether to suspend or expel a student:

1. the student's age;
2. the student's disciplinary history;
3. the student's eligibility as a student with a disability;
4. the seriousness of the violation committed by the student;
5. the threat posed to any student or staff; and
6. the likelihood that a lesser intervention would properly address the violation.

The following are grounds for suspension or expulsion under state law and/or District policy:

1. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority.
2. Willful destruction or defacing of school property.
3. Behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel, including behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the child or to other children. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the school district's authority to suspend a student with a disability for a length of time consistent with federal law.

4. Declaration of the student as a habitually disruptive student, pursuant to administrative policy JK and its accompanying administrative procedure.
  - a. For purposes of this paragraph, “habitually disruptive student” means a child who has caused a material and substantial disruption three times during the course of the school year on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at school activities.
  - b. The student and the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian shall have been notified in writing of each disruption counted toward declaring the student as habitually disruptive and the student and parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian shall have been notified in writing and by telephone or other means at the home or the place of employment of the parent or legal guardian of the definition of “habitually disruptive student.”
5. Committing one of the following offenses on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event:
  - a. Possession of a dangerous weapon without the authorization of the school or the school district;
  - b. The use, possession, or sale of a drug or controlled substance as defined in C.R.S. §18-18-102(5); or
  - c. The commission of an act that, if committed by an adult, would be robbery or assault other than third degree assault.
6. Repeated interference with a school's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
7. Carrying, bringing, using, actively displaying, or threatening with the use of a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on school property without the authorization of the principal or designee.
8. Violation of the District's substance abuse policy, JICH, as outlined in that policy and accompanying administrative procedure.
9. Failure to comply with the immunization requirements as specified in Colorado law and administrative policy JLCB unless one of the following has been provided: a written authorization signed by a parent/guardian requesting local public health officials administer the immunizations; a certificate of medical exemption; a certificate of completion of the online education module administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; or a certificate of non-medical exemption. Any exclusion for such failure to comply shall not be recorded as a disciplinary action but may be noted in the student's permanent record with an appropriate explanation.

### Grounds for denial of admission

Admission to Academy District 20 may be denied a student for the following reasons:

1. Graduation from the 12<sup>th</sup> grade of any school or receipt of any document evidencing completion of the equivalent of a secondary curriculum;
2. Failure to meet the requirements of age, by a child who has reached the age of 6 at a time after the beginning of the school year, as fixed by the Board of Education;

3. Having been expelled from any school district during the preceding 12 months;
4. Not being a resident of the District, unless otherwise entitled to attend under Colorado law;
5. Behavior in another school district during the preceding twelve months that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or of school personnel; or
6. Failure to comply with the immunization requirements of Colorado law and administrative policy JLCB unless one of the following has been provided: a written authorization signed by a parent/guardian requesting local public health officials administer the immunizations; a certificate of medical exemption; a certificate of completion of the online education module administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; or a certificate of non- medical exemption.

### **Expulsion or Denial of Admission for unlawful sexual behavior or crime of violence**

When a petition is filed in juvenile court or district court that alleges a student between the ages of 12 to 18 years has committed an offense that would constitute unlawful sexual behavior or a crime of violence if committed by an adult, basic identification information, as defined in state law, along with the details of the alleged delinquent act or offense, is required by law to be provided immediately to the school district in which the juvenile is enrolled.

The information shall be used by the superintendent to determine whether the student has exhibited behavior that is detrimental to the safety, welfare, and morals of the other students or school personnel and whether educating the student in the school may disrupt the learning environment in the school, provide a negative example for other students, or create a dangerous and unsafe environment for students, teachers, and other school personnel. The District shall take appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, in accordance with the student code of conduct and related policies.

The superintendent may determine to wait until the conclusion of court proceedings to consider expulsion, in which case it shall be the responsibility of the District to provide an alternative educational program for the student as specified in state law.

### Tobacco Free Schools (administrative policy ADC):

To promote the general health, welfare and well-being of students and staff, smoking, chewing, vaping or any other use of any tobacco product by staff, students and members of the public is prohibited on all school property.

Possession of any tobacco product by students is also prohibited on school property. For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. "School property" means all property owned, leased, rented, or otherwise used or contracted for by a school including but not limited to the following:
  - a. All indoor facilities and interior portions of any building or other structure used for children for instruction, educational or library services, routine health care, daycare, or early childhood development services, as well as for administration, support services, maintenance, or storage.
  - b. All school grounds over which the school exercises control including areas surrounding any building, playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation areas and parking areas.
  - c. All vehicles used by the District for transporting students, staff, visitors or other persons.
  - d. At a school sanctioned activity or event.
  
2. "Tobacco product" means:
  - a. Any product that contains nicotine or tobacco or is derived from tobacco and is intended to be ingested or inhaled by or applied to the skin of an individual, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco; and
  - b. Any electronic or other device that can be used to deliver nicotine to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, hookah, vape pen or vape MODS (mechanical modified delivery systems) which produce vapor from an electronic cigarette or other similar device.
  - c. "Tobacco product" does not include any product that has been approved by the appropriate federal agency as a tobacco use cessation product.
  
3. "Use" means lighting, chewing, smoking, ingesting or application of any tobacco product.

Signs will be posted in prominent places on all school property to notify the public that smoking or other use of tobacco products is prohibited in accordance with state law and District policy. This policy will be published in all staff member and student handbooks, posted on bulletin boards and announced in staff meetings.

Any member of the general public considered by the superintendent or designee to be in violation of this policy will be instructed to leave school district property.

Disciplinary measures for students who violate this policy will include in-house detention, revocation of privileges and exclusion from extracurricular activities. Repeated violations may result in suspension from school. In accordance with state law, no student will be expelled solely for tobacco use.

### Use of Physical Intervention and Restraint (administrative policy JKA and JKA R)

To maintain a safe learning environment, District staff members may, within the scope of their employment duties and consistent with state law, use physical intervention and restraint with students in accordance with District policy and accompanying regulation. JKA E 2 represents the process that must be followed when a student or the student's parent/guardian wishes to file a complaint about the use of restraint or seclusion by a District staff member.

### Weapons in School (administrative policy JIC):

Possession, use, and/or threatened use of a dangerous weapon by students is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the District. Using, possessing or threatening to use a dangerous weapon on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school- sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event, and off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event without the authorization of the school or school district is prohibited.

### **As used in this policy, "dangerous weapon" means:**

- A firearm
  - A firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
  - The frame or receiver of any weapon described above;
  - Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
  - Any destructive device.
    - A “destructive device” is defined as any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas including a bomb, grenade, or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or device similar to the devices described above.
- Any pellet gun, BB gun, or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air;
- A fixed-blade knife with a blade that exceeds three inches in length;
- A spring-loaded knife or a pocket knife with a blade exceeding three and one-half inches in length;
- Any knife or cutting instrument possessed without authorization of school officials;
- Any device capable of temporarily immobilizing a person by the infliction of an electrical charge, including stun guns or taser guns; or
- Any object, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, that is used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury including, but not limited to, a slingshot, a bludgeon, nun chucks, brass knuckles, or artificial knuckles of any kind.

- Students who use, possess, or threaten to use a dangerous weapon in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with District policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions, and other disciplinary interventions.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 7151, a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to a school, or to have possessed a firearm at a school, shall be expelled for not less than one year, except that the superintendent may modify this requirement in writing for a student on a case-by-case basis.

School administrators shall consider violations of this policy on a case-by-case basis to determine whether suspension, expulsion or any other disciplinary action is appropriate based upon the individual facts and circumstances involved.

[Wellness, School \(administrative policy ADF\):](#)

Academy District 20 promotes healthy schools by supporting student wellness, including good nutrition, regular physical activity, and social-emotional well-being as part of the total learning environment and encourages school health teams in every building. If you are sending food to school for any school function, please consider sending in healthy choices.