



COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	2
CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY	2
Entrances and Exits.....	2
Releasing Students	2
Visitors Policy	3
Fingerprinting Policy.....	4
Registered Sex Offender Policy.....	5
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.....	7
Drills.....	7
Civil Defense Procedures.....	7
Alert Signals.....	7
Staff Responsibilities	8
Emergency Procedures	9
First Aid	10
DISASTER PLANS.....	10
Fire.....	10
Earthquake.....	10
Flood/ Severe Weather	11
Electrical Failure	11
Gas Line Break.....	11
Water Main Break.....	11
Water Contamination.....	11
Chemical Spill/ Incident.....	11
Lockdown/Shooting Incident.....	12
Bomb Threat	12
Explosion	13
Death/Suicide.....	13
Intruders/ Vicious Animals	13
SCHOOL UNIFORMS	14
STUDENT DISCIPLINE	14
Discipline in General.....	14
Suspension	15
Expulsion	18
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY	20
Students.....	20
Employees – Sexual Harassment	21
Employees – All Other Kinds Of Discrimination Or Harassment.....	23
PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE POLICY	24
Reporting Suspected Abuse/Neglect	24
Reporting Problems At The School Site	24
EMPLOYEE CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS	25

INTRODUCTION

Aspire Public Schools is committed to maintaining safe and secure campuses for all of its pupils and staff. To that end, this Comprehensive School Safety Plan covers Aspire's policies and expectations regarding the practices of each school in maintaining the security of the physical campus, responding appropriately to emergencies, increasing the safety and protection of students and staff, and creating a safe and orderly environment that is conducive to learning.

All school employees should receive training in the Comprehensive School Safety Plan upon joining the school, and should review any changes to the Plan annually.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

Each school and its staff members will maintain policies, practices and procedures so that the campus is physically secure and safe.

Entrances and Exits

The school principal and office manager should develop procedures so that students, staff, parents and community members can enter and exit the building in a safe and orderly way, and that the building is secure from unauthorized entry during non-school hours, as follows:

- Designating individuals to lock the school building and/or grounds when not in use
- Training school staff members to maintain the security of the building when working during non-regular working hours (e.g. not propping doors open, re-securing the building after leaving)
- Maintaining a practice of locking doors that are not being regularly used, even during school hours

- Posting signs requesting that visitors sign in at the main office
- Establishing a culture in which any adults without a visitor or staff badge and any children not enrolled at the school are escorted immediately to the main office

- Periodically testing the security system according the manufacturer or vendor instructions, to ensure it is functioning
- Creating a dismissal plan and student pick-up traffic plan to avoid congestion of the parking lot and local streets, and to prevent students from crossing traffic unnecessarily

Releasing Students

Aspire employees are responsible for releasing students to parents, legal guardians or other persons designated by parents or legal guardians, unless formally modified by a court order served to the school.

In the event that employees are uncertain of the propriety of releasing a student, they should locate or contact the school principal, principal's designee or Aspire counsel before releasing the student.

Visitors Policy

Aspire encourages interested members of the community to visit our schools. To avoid potential disruptions to learning, to provide visitors with the information they need, and for the safety of students and staff, ALL visitors should register immediately upon entering any school building or grounds. Visitors shall sign in at the beginning of their visit, receive a visitor badge, and sign out at the end of their visit. Students from other schools as well as students who have ended their school day are not to be on campus unless accompanied by parents/guardians or with the permission of the site administrator.

In registering as a visitor, the sign-in form should include spaces for the following information

- Name;
- His/her purpose for entering school grounds;
- Destination within the school
- Time in and out

At his/her discretion, the principal, office manager or designee may also request

- proof of identity
- address
- occupation and company affiliation
- age (if less than 21); and any other information consistent with law.

Parents and guardians visiting during the school day for any purpose other than picking up at or dropping off a child at the beginning or end of the school day as part of the normal school day schedule should also be requested to sign into the visitor log or a special log for parents. This applies to parents and guardians who are picking up a student early (e.g. for a medical reason) or dropping off a student late (e.g. tardy), as well as parents and guardians who are on campus to volunteer in their child's classroom.

Aspire employees from school campuses and the Home Office are strongly encouraged to notify the office manager and principal upon arrival and should wear badges signifying that they are Aspire employees. However, formal visitor registration is at the discretion of the school principal or designee.

VIP Visitors accompanied by any Aspire management team member (Vice-President level and above only) may be requested to register as a visitor at the discretion of the accompanying Aspire management team member.

Students not enrolled at the school who wish to use the school grounds for recreation during the school day are, at the discretion of the principal, also subject to Aspire's visitor policy.

The principal or designee may refuse to register any visitor if he or she reasonably concludes that the visitor's/outsider's presence would disrupt the school, students or employees, would result in damage to property, or would result in the distribution or use of a controlled substance. (Penal Code 627.4).

The principal or designee may request that a visitor/outsider who has failed to register, or whose registration privileges have been denied or revoked, to promptly leave school grounds. If necessary, the principal or designee may call the local police to enforce the departure of the visitor/outsider. When a visitor/outsider is directed to leave, the principal or designee shall inform the visitor/outsider that if he or she reenters the school within seven (7) days, he or she will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine and/or imprisonment. (Penal Code 627.7).

All schools shall inform parents annually about the school's policies regarding visitors/outsiders, and remind parents that to maximize safety and security they should also register when visiting the school.

This visitor/outsider policy is subject to the further terms and conditions contained in Aspire's Registered Sex Offender Policy, set forth below.

Fingerprinting Policy

For the protection of students, California State law requires criminal background checks for all public school employees, as well as any individual working alone with minors in a school setting. In most cases, fingerprinting is completed with a "Live Scan" machine which takes an electronic picture of the fingerprints (rather than using an ink pad). The fingerprints are then compared to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and/or Department of Justice (DOJ) databases.

Who should be fingerprinted

All new school site employees must be fingerprinted and cleared before they begin work. Individuals who were previously fingerprinted when they worked in another school district must be fingerprinted again to ensure that Aspire is notified if the person subsequently commits a felony or misdemeanor.

In addition, any volunteers who have the occasion to be alone with an Aspire pupil while not in the presence of a credentialed Aspire employee must receive fingerprint clearance prior to volunteering on campus. Volunteers do not have to be fingerprinted only if they are working under the direct and continual supervision of a credentialed school employee in the same room, and will have no occasion to be alone with an Aspire pupil. This policy also applies to parents/guardians of Aspire students who volunteer at the school and may have the occasion to be alone with an Aspire pupil other than their own child.

The actual background check depends on the individual's residency history. If the individual has resided in the state of California for more than 5 years, only DOJ check is required. If the individual has resided in the state of California for less than 5 years, DOJ and FBI checks are both required.

Note that most DOJ background checks take less than seven days, sometimes more. FBI background checks take considerably longer. Individuals who wish to work or volunteer at Aspire schools should plan to get fingerprinted as quickly as possible to avoid delays in commencing work or volunteer activities.

Who pays for fingerprinting

Aspire pays for Live Scan (fingerprinting) services for employees, using school general funds. Volunteers are requested to cover the cost of their own fingerprinting. If a potential volunteer is

not able to pay for such fingerprinting, then the cost of the fingerprinting may be paid by the school's booster club. If that entity does not have funds available, the cost will be paid by Aspire Home Office.

Please see complete Fingerprinting Policy & Procedure for specific details about how to get fingerprinted.

Registered Sex Offender Policy

For the protection of pupils while they are traveling to and from school, attending school, or at a school-related activity, principals and their designees should respond appropriately when apprised of information that a registered sex offender resides or works within two (2) miles of an Aspire school, or otherwise may be likely to attempt to visit an Aspire school for any reason whatsoever.

In accordance with "Megan's Law", the principal or designee shall notify parents/guardians annually of the availability of the CD-ROM from local law enforcement regarding registered sex offenders, and recommend that they utilize the information contained on the disk, and that information about registered sex offenders may be obtained from the California Attorney General's Megan's Law website, found at <http://meganslaw.ca.gov>, (Penal Code 290.4 and Parra Act), subject to the disclaimer found on said website.

Aspire and its employees shall be immune from liability for the good faith dissemination of sex offender information so long as the dissemination is in the manner and to the extent authorized by law. (Penal Code 290).

When a school has received information about a registered sex offender from any source, the principal or designee may, on a case-by-case basis, notify staff, including but not limited to, campus supervisors, bus drivers, staff who may be involved in visitor/outsider registration, and teachers. If the principal or designee informs any staff member of the information about a registered sex offender, the principal or designee shall also inform the staff member of the following:

- a) Aspire schools will share public registered sex offender information with staff members of a particular school to assist in identifying a danger;
- b) Any person who uses registered sex offender information to commit a felony will be subject to criminal penalties; and
- c) Staff is not permitted to notify any parents or any other members of the community of any information received pursuant to this policy without the written permission of the principal or designee.

If a suspected registered sex offender is seen on or nearby school grounds, and is not a parent or guardian of a pupil at the school, staff members shall immediately inform the principal or designee. When the principal or designee receives information that a suspected registered sex offender may be on or nearby school grounds or around any pupil, he or she will determine whether the suspected registered sex offender has received written permission for the entry onto school grounds, is a parent or guardian of a pupil at the school, and if possible, is actually a registered sex offender. Any such registered sex offender who does not have written permission for the entry onto school grounds or is not a parent or guardian of a pupil attending the school will be promptly directed to leave by the principal, who will notify law enforcement immediately. Law enforcement will determine if the registered sex offender is in violation of parole or probation conditions.

If a school learns or is notified that a registered sex offender is a parent/guardian of one or more pupils who attend the school, the principal or designee should attempt to schedule a meeting with the parent/guardian for the following purposes:

- a) To establish a positive, cooperative working relationship to the extent possible;
- b) To discuss the incident(s) leading to the registration requirement, (Aspire recognizes that the parent/guardian is not required to discuss any criminal or personal history with representatives of Aspire);
- c) To explain the limitations placed upon the parent's/guardian's participation in school programs, activities or visits, as specified in this policy;
- d) To advise the parent/guardian that the regulations limiting his/her access to children at school will be strictly enforced with the assistance of law enforcement personnel, if required;
- e) To develop joint strategies with the parent/guardian for "normalizing" the educational experience of his/her children to the fullest extent possible; and
- f) To be advised of any judicial restraining orders or conditions of probation or parole that may limit the parent's/guardian's ability to participate in school activities.

This meeting shall be held on school grounds unless there is a concern for the safety or welfare of pupils or staff, and in that event, it may be held at a location within the principal's or designee's discretion. If this meeting with the parent is not held, the principal or designee shall notify the parent/guardian in writing of the information contained in this policy. Aspire recognizes the following rights of the parent/guardian to participate in his/her child's education:

- a) To transport his/her child to and from school;
- b) To attend regularly scheduled parent conferences with the teacher, principal or other school official; and
- c) To attend a regularly scheduled school program or activity in which their child is a participant.

The parent/guardian may not extend their presence at school beyond what is reasonable to exercise the aforesaid parental rights, and to that end, a registered sex offender shall not:

- a) Serve as a school or class volunteer;
- b) Act as a chaperone on a school field trip;
- c) Be in the presence of children for any reason other than for the parent rights stated herein; and
- d) Make individual contact with any student other than his/her own while at school or during a school activity.

Staff shall provide observation and/or supervision of a parent/guardian registered sex offender who is visiting a school or participating in a school activity defined herein.

When a parent/guardian is a registered sex offender, the school will make an effort to preserve the confidentiality of information obtained pursuant to the Megan's Law notification process to the fullest degree possible. School officials may share relevant information with employees as needed but will not share the information with unauthorized employees, other parents or with the community at large. In order to avoid a breach of confidentiality, copies of forms, materials or information distributed or used in connection with the implementation of this policy should be

collected and/or destroyed. Under no circumstances is it appropriate to post notices, photographs, or the identity of a parent/guardian registered sex offender on school bulletin boards.

All schools shall inform parents annually about the existence of this policy regarding registered sex offenders. All schools shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible with local law enforcement for receiving, communicating and disseminating information concerning registered sex offenders.

NOTE: Pursuant to Penal Code 290(q), any person who uses registered sex offender information to commit a felony will receive a five-year state prison term; any person who uses registered sex offender information to commit a misdemeanor will be fined at least \$500 and not more than \$1000.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Every school should have emergency preparedness procedures readily on hand, including a list of up to date emergency contact numbers. This information should be discussed and disseminated before school starts, ideally at an all school staff meeting just when the teachers return to duty.

Drills

It is the principal's responsibility to schedule emergency drills throughout the year, and record the date and time of each drill. The Office Manager may be asked to help out. Those drills are:

- **Fire Drill:** At least once per quarter, a fire drill should be conducted in which all pupils, teachers, and other employees are required to vacate the building.
- **Civil Defense Drill:** A Civil Defense Drill should be conducted at least twice each school year following the (school's or Aspire's) Civil Defense Procedure.
- **Earthquake Duck & Cover Drill:** This drill should be performed twice per school year.
- **Major Disaster Drill:** This drill should be performed twice per school year so personnel are oriented to the (School or Aspire) Major Disaster Plan.

Civil Defense Procedures

Civil defense procedures are established to promote the safety of children and adults during a period of civil emergency. The local Civil Defense and Disaster Council is responsible for coordinating disaster planning among the cities in your area. It is through this coordination that information and warning notifications are communicated. An Emergency Warning System, which includes sirens strategically positioned throughout the school's county, becomes the major Civil Defense alarm.

In addition, schools will receive warning through telephone communications from the local county office.

Alert Signals

The ability to respond quickly and efficiently when a major disaster strikes is important so that we are to provide protection for students and school staff. In order to be better prepared, the staff, students and parents should be informed of their responsibilities following a major disaster.

At the sound of the "Alert" signal:

- All students in transit between classrooms, in restrooms, etc., will walk to their assigned classrooms.
- Children on the playground or library will return to their assigned classrooms.
- Each teacher will stay in the classroom with his/her students.
- Each custodian will report to the school office for instructions.

At the sound of the “Take Cover” signal:

- Students will position themselves under desks or tables.
- Students on the playground or out of doors will drop, face down on the ground.
- Open all doors; leave windows as they are.
- The teacher should be ready with stories, songs, guessing games, etc., in case of an extended waiting period.

At the “All Clear” signal:

- Children will resume their regular class activities.
- When a building is unsafe to resume classroom instruction or if the situation has made the streets and sidewalks hazardous, the superintendent (or designee) will declare the premises unsafe.
- If an evacuation is found necessary, the principal will post on a conspicuous place, the new location of the students. A notice or letter to parents designating a site as well as procedures should be included in the first day packet going home with students.

Staff Responsibilities

In the event of a disaster or civil defense alert, individuals on the school site have the following responsibilities:

Principal

- Sound appropriate alarm to evacuate building (fire drill) or take cover within the building (civil defense).
- Following fire drill procedures, check the building to ensure that all students, personnel and visitors have evacuated the building.
- Provide for administration of first aid and request other emergency assistance as needed.
- Keep the Home Office and your local county office informed and, if necessary, set up a telephone communications at a nearby residence or business.
- Give directions to police in search clearing procedures and take full responsibility for search.
- Coordinate supervision of students and all clean-up or security efforts.

Teachers

- Carry out appropriate emergency procedures to ensure the safety and welfare of students.
- Supervise children and maintain calm and order.
- Make sure you have access to the classroom copy of the students’ emergency cards.

Office Manager

- Assist and take direction from the principal.
- Make sure first aid supplies are handy in case they are needed.
- Carry out other duties as assigned.

Custodial Engineers

Shut off the valves for gas, water, electricity and air conditioning (if necessary).
Open all gates and doors to assembly and exit areas.

Aides, Volunteers and Other Adults

Should assist teachers working with students to keep them safe, orderly and comfortable.
Be on call for Administrators' requests.

Community Council

In advance of emergencies, the Community Council should ensure the following emergency supplies are stored:

Student Emergency Packets (1 per student)

2 quarts of water
Solar blanket
Food for two days
Note from parents with emergency instructions

School Emergency Supplies:

First aid kits
Flashlights
Batteries
Radios
Megaphone
Walkie-talkies

Emergency Procedures

All classrooms should have emergency exit charts posted near the door(s). In the case of an emergency, every adult should be aware of his/her role and responsibilities and follow these procedures:

1. Principal assesses the situation.
2. Principal notifies all staff members of the emergency via PA, fire alarm, and/or megaphone.
3. Assigned person calls 911.
4. Assigned person notifies APS headquarters.
5. Principal or assigned person meets with emergency crews.
6. Assigned person(s) ensures all classrooms, hallways and restrooms on first floor are empty after escorting students their students to assigned location.
7. Assigned person(s) ensures all classrooms, hallways and restrooms on second floor are empty after escorting students their students to assigned location
8. Assigned person(s) ensures the cafeteria and gym are empty.
9. Assigned person(s) greet, organize and comfort students outside the building.
10. Each teacher takes role and Lead Teachers pick up the names of any missing students and report these names to the emergency crew chief and the Principal.
11. Assigned person(s) will direct students who need first aid to an assigned location.

12. Principal determines, in consultation with the emergency crews, whether to release students to their homes or to return students to classes and makes announcement via megaphone.
13. If students and staff are dismissed for the day, an assigned person(s) will be responsible for securing the building against vandalism and theft.
14. All classroom teachers will ensure that students are released to guardians' care.
15. In the case that counseling services are subsequently needed by any students, the Principal and an assigned person will coordinate that effort.
16. In the case that media coverage is an issue, Principal and an assigned person will control and organize press releases and media requests.

First Aid

The First Aid area should be located at an assigned place and properly stocked at all times.

The First Aid team will consist of individuals assigned by the principal or designee.

DISASTER PLANS

Whenever there is any type of disaster, the primary concern is the safety of the students. The following general guidelines will offer assistance in a variety of disaster situations. Each teacher should also display Disaster Plan guidelines prominently in each classroom.

Fire

1. Principal, custodians and/or office manager will determine the location of the fire.
2. Office manager will phone 911, picks up emergency card binder and student medication and leaves the building prepared to phone parents of any injured child.
3. Custodian or principal will sound the fire alarms.
4. Staff will follow emergency procedures previously described.
5. Students should leave the room in a single file, walk briskly but carefully, and stay in their class group when they reach their designated spot.

Earthquake

If indoors:

1. All drop down to the floor and duck and cover.
2. Turn away from windows.
3. Take cover under a desk or table or against an interior wall.
4. Cover head with arms or hold to the cover and be prepared to move with it.
5. Hold the position until the ground stops shaking.
6. When initial shaking stops, principal or office manager sounds alarms to evacuate the building.
7. Staff to follow emergency procedures previously described.

If outdoors:

1. Move away from buildings, poles and overhead wires.
2. Lie down or crouch low to the ground.

3. Look out for dangers that demand movement.
4. Be prepared to duck and cover again due to after shocks.
5. Staff to follow emergency procedures previously described.

Flood/ Severe Weather

Warnings of severe weather are usually received via public radio or the State Warning Center. If time and conditions permit, students may be sent home. However, if the weather conditions develop during school hours, without sufficient warning, students should be held at school.

The principal will assess the situation and make an announcement over the PA or megaphone to A) evacuate, B) stay in classes or C) release students to go home.

See emergency procedures previously described for evacuation directions.

Electrical Failure

1. Principal and/or custodian notify the electrical company (PG&E) at 800-743-5000.
2. Office staff and classroom teachers turn off computers and other equipment that might be damaged by a power surge when the service is restored.

Gas Line Break

1. Principal and/or custodian notify PG&E.
2. Principal and/or custodian notify the Fire Department.
3. Staff to follow the emergency procedures previously described.

Water Main Break

1. Principal and/or custodian notifies the water department.
2. Custodian shuts off water.
3. Principal or notifies the police.
4. Principal determines if it is necessary to follow the emergency procedures on page 6 to evacuate students and staff.

Water Contamination

1. Instruct teachers to move students away from drinking fountains and sinks.
2. Notify school office and APS headquarters.
3. Have custodian turn off pressure to drinking fountains and sinks.

Chemical Spill/ Incident

If Indoors:

1. Block or rope off area – DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING.
2. Evacuate room and TURN OFF air conditioning system.

3. Notify school office and Head Custodian of the incident - contact 911 if necessary.
4. Head Custodian should check for chemical safety data to determine clean up procedure.

If Outdoors:

1. Upon hearing of a chemical leak (usually from the fire department or other city office) the principal will determine if students should be evacuated.
2. Move away from buildings, poles and overhead wires.
3. Close doors and windows and TURN OFF air conditioning system.
4. If it is necessary to leave the site, move crosswind, never more directly with or against the wind which may carry fumes.
5. Give first aid.
6. Staff to follow the emergency procedures previously described.

Lockdown/Shooting Incident

If a shooting takes place the first priority is to shelter students and staff. On hearing shots or an announcement from Principal:

1. Teachers close and lock all classroom doors and windows immediately.
2. Teachers take roll.
3. Teachers calmly direct students to duck under their desks.
4. Principal calls 911.
5. Principal assigned person ensure students are not in the hallways or bathrooms. Students found in these areas are immediately escorted to a secure classroom or office.
6. Office personnel close and lock all office doors and windows immediately.
7. Nobody leaves their secure sites until emergency crew members escort them to safety.
8. Assigned person(s) will control and organize media.
9. Assigned person(s) will ensure that counseling services are available as soon as possible.

Bomb Threat

There are two primary ways a bomb threat may arise. One is through a phone call or written letter in which a bomb is discussed. The other is through a citing of a suspicious object. Threats should be handled quickly and efficiently as if they were real and life threatening.

If there is a phone call or written threat of a bomb on campus, the person who took the call or read the note will:

1. Notify Principal immediately.
2. Try to obtain information from the caller such as where the bomb is, where it is set to explode, what it looks like, what kind of bomb it is, why it is there and who the caller is. Note any identifying features about the caller (i.e. gender, speech patterns).

If there is a citing of a suspicious object, the person would:

1. Notify Principal immediately.
2. Do not touch the object but note any identifying features to describe it to the Principal and emergency crews.

In all cases:

1. If Principal determines to evacuate, staff follows emergency procedures previously described.
2. Before emergency crews are on campus, do not search for any bomb, or explosive. Search only for people who should be evacuated.
3. If you see any suspicious object, steer clear of it and report it to the Principal and the emergency crew chief. Follow all emergency crew and bomb squad directives.
4. Use radios, walkie-talkies and phones only if absolutely necessary as the frequencies may set off the bomb(s).

Explosion

If indoors:

1. All drop down to the floor and duck and cover.
2. Turn away from the windows.
3. Take cover under a desk or table or against an interior wall.
4. Cover head with arms or hold to the cover.
5. Hold the position until directed to the building.
6. Staff to follow the emergency procedures previously described.

If outdoors:

1. Move away from buildings, poles and overhead wires.
2. Lie down or crouch low to the ground.
3. Look out for dangers that demand movement.
4. Staff to follow emergency procedures previously described.

Death/Suicide

1. Principal will be notified in the event of a death or suicide on campus.
2. Assigned person(s) will phone 911.
3. Assigned person(s) will phone APS headquarters.
4. Principal will notify teachers to keep students in their classrooms until informed otherwise.
5. Assigned person(s) will control and organize media.
6. Assigned person(s) will notify relatives where the victim(s) have been taken and not divulge unnecessary details.
7. Assigned person(s) will ensure that counseling services are available as soon as possible.

Intruders/ Vicious Animals

1. Call the school main office and office staff will check out the situation and take appropriate action (i.e., contact Police or animal control agency).
2. Administration should initiate a code to alert staff of a potential suspicious intruder.
3. Keep the students in the classroom until the threat is cleared.
4. Implement shelter in place if necessary; lock classroom doors and windows, move away from windows, draw curtains, remain silent.
5. Notify office of who is with you, if possible.
6. All students outside of the building are to be quietly and cautiously led into the building.
7. Wait for further instructions from administration and/or police/animal agency.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Aspire policy requires all students at Aspire schools to wear uniforms, beginning in the 2005-06 school year. Aspire Public Schools is committed to create a culture of academic rigor in our schools. A uniform dress code encourages this atmosphere. Implementation of this policy will reduce distractions and disruptions caused by clothing, make economic disparities between students less obvious, minimize the use of clothing to signal gang affiliation and other risks to student safety, and promote student achievement and create an orderly learning environment.

- *Uniform selection:* The specific uniform (i.e. colors and other specifications) will be determined by the school site with consideration for feeder schools.
- *Support for needy families:* Each school will designate philanthropy or general funds to support families who may need assistance in meeting the uniform requirements.
- *Exceptions:* Because Aspire schools are schools of choice, there will be NO exemptions for students.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Aspire believes that one of the major functions of education is the preparation of youth for responsible citizenship. Aspire shall foster a learning environment that reinforces self-discipline and the acceptance of personal responsibility. In addition, Aspire shall work with students and families to provide a safe school environment that provides students with the opportunity to have a quality education.

The following policies and procedures are designed to guide Aspire schools and personnel in dealing with student discipline issues, while providing students and parents with a clear set of expectations regarding student behavior and an understanding of the consequences of misconduct.

As provided in Aspire charter petitions, the policies and procedures for suspension and expulsion of Aspire students set forth in this document comply with the policies and procedures identified in the California Education Code. These policies and procedures will be periodically reviewed and the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension or expulsion will be modified as necessary.

These policies and procedures will be enforced fairly, uniformly, and consistently without regard to sex, ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, color, race, national origin and physical or mental disability

Discipline in General

Each school should develop a process for handling, and if necessary escalating, individual cases of student misbehavior. Strategies may include but are not limited to:

- Relocating the student's desk to a different part of the classroom;
- Assigning different or additional work appropriate to the infraction;
- Utilizing a peer mediation or student conflict resolution program;
- Individual conversation with the classroom teacher about behavior and consequences;

- Utilizing a written referral framework;
- Designating selected classrooms and teachers (typically, lead teachers or advisors) as places for “time out”;
- Referring students to the principal or a designee;
- Contacting parents/guardians; and/or
- Requiring the student to attend before/after school detention or Saturday detention;

All Aspire employees will report unmanageable or unusual behavior of students to the school principal or designee as soon as possible. The school principal or designee shall investigate the report and exercise his or her discretion for purposes of notification of parents, legal guardians, law enforcement, or local child protection services.

Suspension

Suspension is the temporary removal of a student from class instruction for adjustment or disciplinary reasons. A suspension does not mean any of the following:

1. Reassignment to another class at the same school where the student will receive continuing instruction for the school day.
2. Referral to an advisor assigned that role by the Principal.

While on suspension from school, the student is not to loiter on or about any school grounds at any time, nor to attend any Aspire activity at any time, no matter where such activity may be taking place. Violation may result in further disciplinary action.

Except in cases where suspension for a first offense is warranted in accordance with law, each school site shall consider suspension from school only when other means have not been successful or where the student’s presence would constitute a danger to persons or property or seriously disrupt the educational process.

Authority to Suspend:

1. A teacher may suspend a student only from his/her classroom for the day of the suspension plus the following school day.
2. The Principal or his/her designee may suspend a student from class, classes or the school campus for a period not to exceed five school days.
3. The Superintendent or his/her designee may extend a student’s suspension pending final decision by the Aspire Board of Directors – Executive Committee (“Aspire Executive Committee”) on a recommendation for expulsion.
4. A Special Education student being considered for expulsion may be suspended for ten (10) consecutive days pending assessment and an IEP Team meeting. The suspension may also be extended pending final decision by the Aspire Executive Committee on a recommendation for expulsion.

A pupil may not be suspended or expelled for any of the acts enumerated unless the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school under the jurisdiction of the Chief Executive Officer or principal or occurring within any other school district. A pupil may be suspended or expelled for acts that are enumerated in the section and related to school activity or attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to any of the following:

- While on school grounds.

- While going to or coming from school.
- During the lunch period whether on or off the campus.
- During, or while going to or coming from, a school sponsored activity.

Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion

The following information is provided in order to provide uniformity within Aspire in matters of student misconduct requiring disciplinary action. The following offenses constitute grounds for suspension and expulsion and require police notification for the grade levels indicated:

- **Physical Injury:** Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person (Ed. Code 48900(a)(1)) or willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense. (Ed. Code 48900(a)(2)) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.
- **Weapons, Explosives, Dangerous Objects:** Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal. (Ed.Code 48900(b)) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.
- **Controlled Substances/Alcohol:** Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind. (Ed.Code 48900(c)) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.
- **Substances in Lieu of Controlled Substances:** Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and then either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant. (Ed.Code 48900(d)) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.
- **Robbery or Extortion:** Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion. (Ed.Code 48900(e)) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.
- **Damage to Property:** Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property. (Ed. Code 48900(f)) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.
- **Theft of Property:** Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property. (Ed. Code 48900(g)) Notification to police required for students in grades 4-12.
- **Tobacco:** Possessed or used tobacco, or any product containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. However, this section does not prohibit use or possession by a pupil of his or her own prescription products. (Ed.Code 48900(h))
- **Obscenity/Profanity:** Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity. (Ed.Code 48900(i))
- **Drug Paraphernalia:** Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code. (Ed.Code 48900(j)) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.
- **Disruption/Defiance:** Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, or other school personnel engaged in the

performance of their duties. (Ed.Code 48900(k)) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.

- **Received Stolen Property:** Knowingly received stolen school property or private property. (Ed.Code 48900(l)) Notification to police required for students in grades 4-12.
- **Imitation Firearm:** Possessed an imitation firearm. (Ed. Code 48900(m)) Notification to police required for students in grades 4-12.
- *Definition of Imitation Firearm:* a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm. (Ed.Code 48900(m))
- **Sexual Assault/Sexual Battery:** Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289 of the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code. (Ed.Code 48900(n)) Notification to police required for students in grades 4-12.
- *Definition of Sexual Assault:* includes rape, various types of sexual abuse, and lewd and lascivious conduct. (Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, 289.)
- *Definition of Sexual Battery:* the touching of an intimate part of another person, if the touching is against the will of the person touched, and is for the specific purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse. (Penal Code 243.4.)
- **Harassment of Witness:** Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness, or both. (Ed.Code 48900(o))
- **Sexual Harassment:** Committed sexual harassment. (Ed.Code 48900.2)
- *Definition of Sexual Harassment:* an act which, upon review of a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim, is determined to be sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to cause negative impact on one's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Notification to police required for students in grades 4-12.
- *Limitation:* Sexual harassment must be unwelcomed by the recipient in order to constitute a violation of Education Code 48900.2.
- *Limitation:* Only students in grades 4-12 are subject to suspension for sexual harassment.
- **Hate Violence:** Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence. (Ed.Code 48900.3) Notification to police required for students in grades K-12.
- *Definition of Hate Violence:* the use of force or threat of force to intimidate a person in the exercise of a constitutional or statutory right, or damage or destruction of property for the purpose of intimidating or interfering with a person because of that individual's "race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation."
- **Intentional Harassment:** Created a hostile educational environment (Ed.Code 48900.4)
- *Definition of Intentional Harassment:* engaging in harassment, threats or intimidation, directed against a student or group of students, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting a classroom, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of the students or group of students by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.
- **Terrorist Threats Against School Officials and/or Property:** Committed a terroristic threat against school officials, school property or both (Ed.Code 48900.7)

- *Definition of Terrorist Threat:* includes any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in:
 - death
 - great bodily injury to another person, or
 - property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00),
 - with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for:
 - his or her own safety,
 - his or her immediate family's safety,
 - the protection of school property, and/or
 - the personal property of the person threatened or of his or her immediate family.
- **Electronic Signaling Device:** Possessed electronic signaling device, including cell phones and pagers while on school grounds while attending school sponsored activities or while under the supervision and control of school employees (Ed. Code 48901.5)
- **Hazing:** Engaged in hazing activities or any act that causes or is likely to cause personal humiliation or disgrace (Ed.Code 32050-32052)
- **Vandalism/Malicious Mischief:** Defaced, damaged or destroyed any school property including, books, supplies of all kinds, equipment, buildings and grounds.
- *Note:* Parents can be held financially liable for damages up to \$10,000 and shall also be liable for the amount of any reward not exceeding \$10,000 pursuant to Section 53069.5 of the Government Code (Ed.Code 48904).

See complete Suspension/Expulsion Policy and Procedures for steps taken in cases requiring suspension and appeals process.

Expulsion

Expulsion is the involuntary removal of a student from all schools and programs of Aspire for an extended period of time for acts of specified misconduct. Except for single acts of a grave nature, expulsion is used only when there is a history of misconduct, when other forms of discipline, including suspension, have failed to bring about proper conduct, or when the student's presence causes a continuing danger to other students. Final action is only taken by vote of the Aspire Board of Directors – Executive Committee (“Aspire Executive Committee”).

In the event that a student is recommended for expulsion from Aspire, he or she is entitled to a hearing and, among other things, advance written notice of the rights and responsibilities enumerated in Education Code section 48918. Written notice of these due process rights shall be provided at least 10 days in advance of the date set for the hearing. (Ed. Code 48918)

Expulsion proceedings for a currently identified Special Education student require additional due process procedures. Aspire will follow all due process procedures for Special Education students included in this document and in the Education Code.

While under expulsion, a student cannot enroll in another California school district without approval of that district's Board of Education. Certain expelled students may enroll only in Juvenile Court Schools, County Community Schools, or District operated Community Day Schools (AB922) during the duration of the expulsion.

The Aspire Executive Committee, upon voting to expel a pupil, may suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order for a period of not more than one calendar year and may, as a condition of the suspension of enforcement, assign the pupil to a school, class, or program that is deemed appropriate for the rehabilitation of the pupil. The rehabilitation program to which the pupil is assigned may provide for the involvement of the pupil's parent or guardian in his or her child's education in ways that are specified in the rehabilitation program. A parent or guardian's refusal to participate in the rehabilitation program shall not be considered in the Aspire Executive Committee's determination as to whether the pupil has satisfactorily completed the rehabilitation program. (Ed. Code 48917)

Expellable Offenses:

Category I – Mandatory Expulsion

Under the mandatory provisions of Education Code 48915(c), a student who has committed one or more of the following acts **must be recommended for expulsion** and the Aspire Executive Committee **must expel** the student.

- Possessing, selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm when an Aspire employee verified firearm possession,
- Brandishing a knife at another person,
- Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, or
- Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing sexual battery

Category II – Mandatory Recommendation for Expulsion

Under the mandatory provision of Education Code 48915(a), a student who has committed one of the following acts of misconduct must be **recommended for expulsion** unless particular circumstances render it inappropriate.

- Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense;
- Possession of any knife, explosive, or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the student;
- Unlawful possession of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (Commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, except for the first offense for the possession of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis;
- Robbery or extortion;
- Assault or battery upon a school employee.

Category III – Expulsion May Be Recommended

In accordance with Education Code 48915 and by direction of the California Board of Education, a student may be considered for expulsion for committing any act not listed in Category I or II and enumerated in Education Code sections 48900, 48900.2, 48900.3, 48900.4, or 48900.7.

Note: The Aspire Executive Committee’s decision to expel a student for violations included in Categories II and III must be based on a finding of one or both of the following:

1. Other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about the proper conduct.
2. Due to the nature of the act, the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the pupil or others. (Ed. Code 48915(b) and 48915(e).)

Note: If the Discipline Review Board chooses not to recommend the expulsion of the student, Aspire may, at its discretion, impose a lesser form of disciplinary action which may include assigning the student to another school or program. Such transferred students will not be permitted to re-enroll in their former school of assignment. (Ed. Code 48918(e).)

See complete Suspension/Expulsion Policy and Procedures for procedures in cases involving expulsion, requiring the extension of suspension and/or expulsion, and the appeals process.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

Aspire Public Schools (“Aspire”) is committed to providing a cooperative and comfortable work and education environment free of discrimination and harassment of any kind. Accordingly, Aspire forbids discrimination against any employee, applicant for employment, or student, on the basis of sex, ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, color, race, national origin and physical or mental disability. Aspire will not tolerate discrimination or harassment activity by any of its employees, non-employee volunteers, or any other person subject to the control of school authorities. Furthermore, all programs and activities at Aspire shall be free from discrimination and harassment with respect to sex, ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, color, race, national origin and physical or mental disability.

This policy is intended to be consistent with, and intended to be, enforced in conformity with the California Fair Employment and Housing Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits harassment in the workplace, as well as multiple sections of the Education Code.

Students

All students shall have equal opportunities in admission and access to the educational program, guidance and counseling programs, athletic programs, testing procedures, and other activities. Eligibility for choral and cheerleading groups shall be determined solely on the basis of objective competencies. School staff and volunteers shall carefully guard against segregation, bias and stereotyping in instruction, guidance and supervision.

Aspire schools may provide girls and boys with separate shower rooms and sex education classes in order to protect student modesty. In physical education, when objective standards have an adverse effect on students because of their gender, race, ethnic group or disability, other standards should be used to measure achievement and create comparable educational opportunities.

The Board prohibits intimidation or harassment of any student by any employee, student or other person in Aspire. Staff shall be alert and immediately responsive to student conduct that may interfere with another student's ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities or privileges.

Students who harass or discriminate against other students shall be subject to appropriate counseling and discipline, up to and including expulsion. An employee who permits or engages in discrimination or harassment may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Any student who feels that he/she is being harassed or discriminated against should immediately contact the principal or designee. The student and/or parent may file a complaint verbally or in writing under Aspire's "Discrimination/Harassment Student/Parent Complaint Procedure." Upon receipt of a harassment complaint the Chief Executive Officer or designee will be notified. Complaints of harassment will be investigated immediately according to the procedures set forth in Aspire's "Discrimination/Harassment Student/Parent Complaint Procedure."

Aspire's "Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy" and the "Discrimination/Harassment Student/Parent Complaint Procedure" will be reviewed with students at the beginning of each school year, either in the classroom or in student assemblies.

At the start of each school year, this policy will be mailed to parents/guardians.

Employees – Sexual Harassment

Aspire forbids discrimination against any employee, applicant for employment, or student, on the basis of sex. Aspire will not tolerate sexual harassment activity by any of its employees. This policy similarly applies to non-employee volunteers or any other person subject to the control of school authorities.

A. Definitions

- (1) Conduct of a Sexual Nature - Conduct of a sexual nature may include, but is not limited to, verbal, visual or physical sexual advances, including subtle pressure for sexual activity; touching, staring, looking up and down, pinching, patting, or brushing against; comments regarding physical or personality characteristics of a sexual nature; sexually-oriented "kidding," "teasing," double-entendres, explicit or suggestive messages, cartoons, pictures and jokes, and any harassing conduct to which an employee would not be subjected but for such employee's sex.
- (2) Unwelcome Conduct of a Sexual Nature.
 - (a) Verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature may constitute sexual harassment when the allegedly harassed employee has indicated, by his or her conduct, that it is unwelcome.
 - (b) An employee who has initially welcomed such conduct by active participation must give specific notice to the alleged harasser that such conduct is no longer welcome in order for any such subsequent conduct to be deemed unwelcome.
 - (c) Aspire prohibits any conduct of a sexual nature directed toward students by teachers or others to whom this policy applies, and shall presume that any such conduct is unwelcome.

B. Sexual Harassment Prohibited

- (1) For the purposes of this policy, unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, and other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, constitute prohibited sexual harassment if:
 - (a) Submission to the conduct is made either an explicit or implicit condition of employment (as an illustration, and not as a limitation, where a person's continued employment is conditioned upon or impacted by prohibited sexual-based factors);
 - (b) Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as a basis for an employment decision affecting the harassed employee; and
 - (c) The conduct substantially interferes with an employee's or student's performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or school environment, regardless of whether the employee's continued employment or compensation is affected.
- (2) Specific Prohibitions--Administrators and Supervisors.
 - (a) It is sexual harassment for a manager or supervisor to use his or her authority to solicit sexual favors or attention from subordinates when the subordinate's failure to submit will result in adverse treatment, or when the subordinate's acquiescence will result in preferential treatment.
 - (b) Administrators and supervisors who either engage in sexual harassment or tolerate such conduct by other employees shall be subject to sanctions, as described below.
- (3) Specific Prohibitions--Non-managerial and Non-supervisory Employees: It is sexual harassment for a non-administrative and non-supervisory employee to subject another such employee to any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Employees who engage in such conduct shall be subject to sanctions as described below.
- (4) Specific Prohibitions--Employees and Students: It is sexual harassment for an employee to subject a student to any conduct of a sexual nature. Employees who engage in such conduct shall be subject to sanctions.

C. Reporting, Investigation, and Sanctions

- (1) It is the express policy of Aspire to encourage victims of sexual harassment to report such claims. Aspire understands that victims of harassment are often embarrassed and reluctant to report acts of harassment for fear of being blamed, concern about being retaliated against, or because it is difficult to discuss sexual matters openly with others. However, no employee of Aspire should have to endure harassing conduct, and therefore the School encourages everyone to promptly report any incidents of harassment so that corrective action can be taken.
 - (a) Employees who feel that their superiors are conditioning promotions, increases in wages, continuation of employment, or other terms or conditions of employment upon agreement to unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, are encouraged to report these conditions to the appropriate administrator. If the employee's direct administrator or supervisor is the offending person, the report shall be made to the next higher level of authority.
 - (b) Employees are also urged to report any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature by superiors or fellow employees if such conduct interferes with the individual's work performance, or creates a hostile or offensive working environment.
 - (c) Students are urged to report any conduct of a sexual nature by school employees or others to whom this policy applies to a school counselor or administrator.
- (2) Every reported complaint of harassment will be investigated promptly and thoroughly by Aspire. Typically the investigation will include interviewing the complainant, anyone who may have knowledge of the alleged harassment, and the alleged harasser. Once the

investigation is completed, Aspire will notify the complainant of the results of the investigation. Aspire will make every effort to handle the investigation in as confidential a manner as possible consistent with a thorough, fair and proper investigation. Aspire will not tolerate reprisals or retaliation against anyone as a result of the good-faith reporting of charges of sexual harassment.

- (3) 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 have to be investigated.
- (4) Any employee found to have engaged in sexual harassment shall be subject to sanctions, including, but not limited to, warning or reprimand, suspension, or termination. Conduct of a sexual nature directed toward students shall be reported as child abuse for investigation by appropriate law enforcement and/or other authorities.

D. Filing Complaints with State and Federal Agencies

In addition to notifying Aspire of harassment or retaliation, aggrieved parties may wish to file complaints with other appropriate state and federal agencies, including the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and/or the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), which have authority to conduct investigations of facts. Aggrieved parties are advised that statutory deadlines apply for the tender of complaint to either the EEOC and/or the DFEH and that if complaints are not timely filed they may be barred by law. If the EEOC and/or the DFEH believe that a complaint is valid and settlement efforts fail, aggrieved parties may seek an administrative hearing. Aggrieved parties may also be entitled to file a lawsuit in Federal or state court. Administrative agencies and the courts have the authority to award monetary and non-monetary relief in meritorious cases. Employees can contact the nearest EEOC or DFEH office at the locations listed on Aspire's employment law poster or by checking the state government listings in the local telephone directory.

Employees – All Other Kinds of Discrimination or Harassment

Prohibited harassment on the basis of race, ethnic group, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, physical or mental disability, marital status, medical condition, sexual orientation, veteran status, age, or any other protected basis, includes behavior similar to sexual harassment, such as:

- Verbal conduct such as threats, epithets, derogatory comments, or slurs;
- Visual conduct such as derogatory posters, photographs, cartoons, drawings, or gestures;
- Physical conduct such as assault, unwanted touching, or blocking normal movement; and
- Retaliation for reporting harassment or threatening to report harassment.

Complaint Procedure

Aspire's complaint procedure provides for an immediate, thorough, and objective investigation of any claim of unlawful or prohibited harassment, appropriate disciplinary action against one found to have engaged in prohibited harassment, and appropriate remedies for any victim of harassment. A claim of harassment may exist even if the employee has not lost a job or some economic benefit.

Employees who believe they have been harassed on the job, or who become aware of the harassment of others are encouraged to inform the offender that this behavior is unwelcome. They should also immediately provide a written or verbal complaint to your supervisor, manager, Human Resources, or any other member of management as soon as possible. The complaint should be as

detailed as possible, including the names of individuals involved, the names of any witnesses, direct quotations when language is relevant, and any documentary evidence (notes, pictures, cartoons, etc.).

All incidents of prohibited harassment that are reported will be investigated. Aspire will immediately undertake or direct an effective, thorough, and objective investigation of the harassment allegations. The investigation will be completed and a determination regarding the reported harassment will be made and communicated to the employee who complained and to the accused harasser(s).

If Aspire determines that prohibited harassment or other conduct that violates an Aspire policy has occurred, the organization will take effective remedial action commensurate with the circumstances. Appropriate action will also be taken to deter any future harassment. If a complaint of prohibited conduct is substantiated, appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination, will be taken. Whatever action is taken against the wrongdoer will be communicated to the employee who complained. Applicable law prohibits retaliation against any employee who complains of prohibited harassment or who participates in an investigation.

Liability for Harassment

Any employee of Aspire, whether an employee, supervisor, or manager who is found to have engaged in prohibited harassment is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate discharge from employment. Any employee who engages in prohibited harassment, including any supervisor or manager who knew about the harassment but took no action to stop it, may be held personally liable for monetary damages. Aspire does not consider conduct in violation of this policy to be within the course and scope of employment or the direct consequence of the discharge of one's duties. Accordingly, to the extent permitted by law, Aspire reserves the right not to provide a defense or pay damages assessed against employees for conduct in violation of this policy.

PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE POLICY

Aspire is committed to maintaining safe and secure campuses for students, and for following its legal responsibilities in reporting suspected child abuse/neglect to the proper authorities.

Reporting Suspected Abuse/Neglect

While the responsibility of enforcing legal prohibitions against child abuse and neglect lies with the protective agencies such as the local police department and Children's Protective Services, Aspire's child care custodians (including teachers, administrative officers, certificated personnel, etc.) are mandated reporters of known or suspected child abuse/neglect and are required to fulfill this legal responsibility. Every child care custodian of Aspire must sign a "Child Abuse Reporting" form indicating they understand their responsibilities to report known or suspected child abuse/neglect.

See complete Prevention of Child Abuse Policy and Procedure for specific steps regarding the reporting of suspected abuse and neglect.

Reporting Problems at the School Site

Aspire maintains zero tolerance for abuse. Every member of any Aspire community must participate actively in the protection of its students.

All Aspire schools will monitor the school buildings and grounds:

- All unused rooms, storage areas, and closet doors should be kept locked at all times;
- all unused buildings and areas must be designated, posted and enforced as off-limits to children;
- all students are required to remain in areas that are easily viewed by employees;
- Interior doors should be left open and unlocked when rooms are in use
- Blinds should be left open to allow informal monitoring by a passerby.

In the event that any current or future Aspire employee observes any suspicious or inappropriate behaviors on the part of any third party or other employee while on any Aspire premises, he or she is required to immediately report their observations to the principal or designee. Examples of suspicious or inappropriate behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- policy violations,
- neglectful supervision,
- “private time” with students,
- taking students off premises without adhering to procedures,
- buying unusual gifts for children and youth,
- swearing or making suggestive comments to students,
- or any other conduct as identified in this policy, or which is inappropriate or illegal in the eyes of the observer.

All reports of suspicious or inappropriate behavior with students will be taken seriously. The principal or designee will conduct an immediate investigation concerning the alleged act or omission. If at any point in gathering information about the allegedly suspicious, inappropriate or illegal behavior, a concern arises that there is a possibility of abuse of any kind, appropriate law enforcement and/or local child protection services will be contacted immediately and a report will be filed. If at any point any policy violations with students are confirmed, employees will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, administrative leave, termination and/or criminal prosecution.

Aspire will cooperate with any and all law enforcement and/or governmental entities in the implementation and enforcement of this policy.

EMPLOYEE CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS

All Aspire employees are responsible for conducting themselves in ways that preserves the safety of students and that prevents either the reality of or perception of inappropriate interaction with students.

In general, all Aspire employees will treat all children with respect and consideration equally, regardless of sex, race, religion, culture or socio-economic status. Employees will portray a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of respect, patience and maturity.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substances

All Aspire employees are prohibited from the use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco products, or any illegal controlled substances while in the presence of students or at any time on school grounds. They are also prohibited from being under the influence of alcohol or any illegal controlled substances while in the presence of students or at any time on school grounds.

Transportation of Students

Aspire employees may occasionally be in a position to provide transportation for students. The following guidelines should be observed in such circumstances:

- a) With the exception of emergency situations related to medical necessity, employees should avoid transporting students without the written permission of his or her parent or guardian;
- b) If written permission is not possible, the employee should make a written record of any verbal permission granted by the parent or guardian;
- c) Students should be transported directly to their destination and no unauthorized or unnecessary stops should be made;
- d) Employees will avoid unnecessary and/or inappropriate physical contact with students while in vehicles;
- e) Drivers who are assigned to transport students must be at least 21 years old and must abide by standards related to insurance and other legal requirements;
- f) The employee should make a written record of the trip, including departure and arrival times and locations and students involved; and
- g) Whenever possible, two Aspire employees should collectively engage in the transportation activity.

Language

Employees will not speak to students in a way that is or could be construed by any observer as harsh, coercive, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning, or humiliating. Employees are to refrain from swearing in the presence of students. Employees are cautioned against initiating sexually oriented conversations with students, except in the context of Aspire's health education or advisory curriculum. Employees are not permitted to discuss their own sexual activities with students.

Gifts

Money will not be given to students. Gifts will not be given to individual students, except as an award related to a previously announced academic competition; or as a group award given to all participants in celebration of classroom or school accomplishment or special event.

Attire

Employees must be appropriately and professionally dressed in presence of students. Each school may adopt its own dress code for employees and employees will be expected to follow that code.

Behavior

One-to-one counseling with students will be done in a public place insofar as possible, where private conversations are possible but occur in full view of others.

Employees will refrain from intimate displays of affection towards others in the presence of students, parents, and other personnel.

Employees are prohibited from possessing any sexually oriented materials (magazines, cards, videos, films, clothing, etc) on school grounds or in the presence of students.

Physical contact with students

Some forms of physical contact between adults and children are appropriate and that other forms are inappropriate, illegal, or have been used by adults to initiate inappropriate or illegal contact with children.

Appropriate physical contact between employees and students include, but are not limited to:

- Handshakes;
- “High Fives” or hand slapping;
- briefly touching tops of heads, shoulders or upper back in acknowledgement, congratulation or consolation;
- brief sideways hugs; and
- holding hands while walking with small children.

Inappropriate physical contact between employees and students include, but are not limited to:

- full body hugs or lengthy embraces;
- kisses;
- holding small children on the lap;
- touching bottoms, chests, knees, legs, , and/or genital areas;
- showing affection in isolated or private areas;
- sleeping with a student;
- wrestling with students;
- tickling students;
- piggyback rides;
- any type of massage;
- any form of unwanted affection; and/or
- any compliments that relate to physique or body development.

All Aspire employees are prohibited from using physical punishment in any way for behavior management of students. No form of physical discipline is acceptable. This prohibition includes spanking, slapping, pinching, hitting or any other physical force as retaliation or correction for inappropriate behaviors by students. Other prohibitions include, but are not limited to,

- isolation except as needed for the child to gain self-control (and then only under the supervision of an adult, and no longer than 15 minutes),
- withholding food or water,
- degrading punishment,
- work assignments unrelated to a natural or logical consequence,
- excessive exercise,

- withholding access to contact with parents or guardians,
- withholding or using medications for punishment,
- mechanical restraint such as rope or tape to restrict movement, or
- any type of physical restraint.