

## CODE OF CONDUCT

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*High Standards for Academics, High Standards for Behavior*

### INTRODUCTION

Brownsville Collegiate Charter School (the “School”) is unequivocally committed to providing a safe and orderly environment in which students can improve their academic achievement. Students whose behavior does not meet the School community’s clearly defined standards for reasonable and acceptable behavior will not be permitted to disrupt the education of others.

Without a firm and consistent discipline policy, none of what we envision for the School can happen. We cannot overemphasize the importance of providing a strong discipline policy that every student and family knows and understands. Students and families have a right to attend a safe and orderly school. Therefore, for every infraction, there will be a consequence. This is the basis of our student Code of Conduct. The School reserves the right to amend, supplement, or rescind provisions of this Code of Conduct at any time as it deems appropriate, in its sole and absolute discretion, consistent with applicable law and regulations.

Most terms which appear with initial capitalization are defined in the “Definitions” section at the end of the Code of Conduct.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students can only be successful if they are present and prepared in school every day. At the School, excessive absences will not be tolerated. If a student is absent **with or without excuse** for more than 10 days of the school year, it may affect your child’s promotion to the next grade. After 10 absences, a student may lose their ability to participate in the School’s activities and trips.

Parents and guardians are expected to call the school as early as possible but no later than 7:15 AM if their child will not be attending school for any reason. Earlier, written notice of an expected absence is both welcome and appreciated. Calls should be made as far in advance as possible and can be left on the school’s main voice mail if necessary. If a student is not in homeroom and the school has not been notified that he or she will be absent, his or her parent or guardian will be called at home and/or work. In phone calls, voice mails, and notes, please leave or list your child’s name, your relationship to the child, and the reason for and date(s) of the child’s absence.

All questions regarding student attendance and attendance records should be directed to the school’s Office Manager.

A student is considered absent with excuse when the student’s family has contacted the school regarding student illness, family emergency, or religious observance. All other absences will be considered unexcused, including but not limited to, family vacation, participation at sports tournaments, attendance at entertainment events, or when the family

has not contacted the school with a satisfactory reason.

Class work will not be provided in advance of unexcused absences, and may not be provided even in advance of excused absences. It is the responsibility of the student to make up any class work, homework, projects, quizzes, or exams – including midterms and finals – missed during those absences.

If prior notification had not already been provided, upon the student's return to school from an absence, whether it is the next day or on some day after, the student is required to bring a signed note from his or her parent or guardian explaining in detail the reason for the absence. If a student had a medical visit while out of school, a note from his or her doctor is required in lieu of the parent note.

Since repeated absences means missing class, and missing class affects academic achievement, excessive absences will result in lower class grades since part of a student's grade is based on his or her performance in class. Therefore, it is imperative that students are at school, on time, every day.

Students who are absent from school cannot attend school sporting events, dances, or any other school-sponsored activities occurring on the day of the absence, unless the school has given advance permission.

### **LATENESS POLICY**

Students who arrive late to school should report to the Main Office to check in with the Office Manager to be marked present and drop off their homework in the homework bins before proceeding to their classroom. Lateness due to NYC Department of Education busing will not be held against the student.

Excessive lateness will not be tolerated. Students who are late will be issued a detention upon arrival. Every 3 incidences of lateness per semester (the first two quarters or last two quarters) will be counted as one absence. Additional mandatory family meetings with the Principal will also be scheduled.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY**

Unless a parent or guardian has contacted the school in advance and provided a written note to the school explaining the situation, and the school has granted permission, no student will be dismissed early from school. In addition, the parent or guardian must sign the student out with the Main Office before removing the student from school grounds. Students will not be dismissed unless the parent or guardian has physically come to the Main Office.

In order to minimize disruptions to class, we ask that notification regarding early dismissals be made as far in advance as possible, but no later than 7:45 AM of the day of the early dismissal. We also ask that doctor and dentist appointments be limited to non-school hours to avoid students missing class time.

Families are encouraged to consider the class period start and ending times when determining early dismissal requests. In order to minimize disruptions, students cannot be dismissed in the middle of a class period.

The school will record students who are dismissed from school for more than two full class periods as absent. The school will record students who are dismissed from school for two full class periods or less as present but dismissed early.

Students who repeatedly miss the same classes as a result of early dismissals may be required to make up missed class time and may incur full-day absences as a result. Additional mandatory family meetings with the Principal will also be scheduled.

## **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

The School is committed to providing its students, Employees, volunteers and visitors with an educational and working environment that is safe and secure, promotes respect, dignity and equality, and is free from bullying, or other forms of harassment or intimidation. Bullying is strictly prohibited on School Property and at any School Function, as well as any other place or time when the effects of such conduct would reasonably be expected to impact the educational process or create a risk disruption within the School environment.

“Bullying” for the purpose of this policy is defined as harassment, aggressive behavior or other intentional action, whether verbal or physical, which is intended, or could reasonably be expected, to cause Emotional Harm, distress, fear, ridicule, humiliation and/or intimidation. Bullying can be face-to-face, or carried out by phone, over the internet and other ways directed at another person through the "posting" of sensitive and/or private information, including Cyberbullying: “Cyberbullying” means Bullying through any form of electronic communication, such as email, text, and social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram). Bullying can take many forms, such as slurs, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, cartoons, pranks, gestures, and physical attacks. (“Intentional action” refers to the individual’s choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).)

This policy includes Bullying of students (by other students, Employees, volunteers and visitors) and by students (of Employees, volunteers and visitors).

Bullying by students will result in discipline, up to and including expulsion. Bullying by Employees will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

## **ANTI-HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

All students are entitled to a learning environment free from harassment and Discrimination. No student or Employee shall be subjected to Discrimination or harassment by other students, Employees or visitors on the basis of physical, cultural or even social differences, including, without limitation based on his her actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender. “Harassment” includes any action (verbal or physical) which tends to

create a hostile environment (including Bullying and Cyberbullying) and has substantially interfered with a student's educational opportunities or benefits or the terms and conditions of an Employee's employment, reasonably causes a student or Employee to fear for his or her physical safety, or reasonably poses a risk to a student's or Employee's physical or emotional well-being. Just like Bullying, Harassment that occurs off School Property may be prohibited when the effects of such conduct would reasonably be expected to impact the educational process or create risk of disruption within the School environment.

Harassment by students will result in discipline, up to and including expulsion. Harassment by Employees will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

## **REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS OF HARASSMENT/ DISCRIMINATION AND BULLYING**

Any Employee who witnesses, receives an oral or written account of, or otherwise reasonably suspects the occurrence of, any act constituting Harassment, Discrimination or Bullying *must* promptly notify the principal, superintendent, or the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator of such occurrence as soon as reasonably practicable. All students, Parents, visitors and others are *strongly encouraged* to report any such conduct. Retaliation or reprisal by any Employee, student or Parent against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of Harassment, Discrimination or Bullying is strictly prohibited (and, for students and Employees, will result in severe discipline).

The principal, superintendent or the DASA Coordinator will lead or supervise the prompt and thorough investigation of all such reports. If such investigation results in a finding of a violation of the School's anti-Harassment/Discrimination/Bullying policies, the School will take prompt action, reasonably calculated to end the Harassment/Discrimination or Bullying, eliminate any hostile environment, prevent recurrence of the behavior, and ensure the safety and educational opportunities of the student(s) or Employee(s) against whom such behavior was directed.

The School reserves the right to notify an appropriate law enforcement agency when it is believed that any Harassment/Discrimination/Bullying constitutes criminal conduct.

### *Dignity Act Coordinators*

The following are the DASA Coordinators for the 2016-17 school year:

1. Joel Tracy, Principal

## **INTERNET SECURITY AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

**Undesirable Materials:** Accessing, downloading, or transmitting inappropriate content that otherwise would present a violation of the School's Code of Conduct is itself a violation of the Code. The School will take all possible precautions to restrict access to undesirable

materials including, but not limited to, installing content filtering software/hardware solutions on its network or using an Internet provider which uses content filtering software on its equipment to screen all Internet web sites by URL and/or by keyword search. However, students must also accept responsibility for restricting access to these materials. Students who gain access to undesirable Internet materials must report this material to their teacher.

The following rules apply to students' use of school-owned or operated technology, equipment, and systems:

**Security:** Students must not allow others to use their network accounts (both Internet and School accounts). Users of school file servers to store files should have no expectation of privacy in such files. Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Designated school personnel may review files and communications stored on the school file server or other systems to maintain system integrity, ensure compliance with school policies, and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on school file servers will always be private.

**E-Mail:** Student use of email is not allowed during school or on the school's network without the approval from the supervising teacher.

**Social Networking, Blogging, Chat and Other User Groups:** Student use of social networking, blogging, chat and other user groups is not allowed without approval from the supervising teacher.

**Copyright and Citations:** Any copyrighted materials are subject to the Fair Use provision of copyrighted materials as it relates to education. Internet materials used in reports or other documents must be cited. If there is no direct citation, the Uniform Resource Location (URL) must be cited. The use of internet sources without proper citation constitutes plagiarism.

**Downloading:** Downloading from the Internet without approval from the supervising teacher is not allowed.

**Private Internet Providers:** Students may not use school computers to access private Internet providers.

**Acceptable Internet Usage:** The School will ensure age-appropriate internet usage among students who use its internet facilities. This will enforce the School's commitment to student safety with regard to:

- i. safety on the Internet; and
- ii. appropriate behavior while online, while accessing Web sites, and while engaging in any internet based communication, including but not limited to:
  - a. Unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities undertaken online by minors;
  - b. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors;

- c. Cyberbullying awareness and response; and
- d. Other behavior determined to be threatening, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate in any way.

**Telephones:** Students are prohibited from using school telephones, except in the event of an emergency, and in such instance, only at the discretion of school staff members.

**Cell phones:** Students are prohibited from carrying cell phones during the school day. Cell phones taken out at school will be confiscated per the school’s code of conduct. If you chose to send your child to school with a phone, it will be collected by the supervising teacher in the morning, locked away, and returned at dismissal time. The school is not responsible for any lost or damaged phones. We encourage families not to send their children with any valuables, including cell phones. Students are only allowed to use the school phone in the event of an emergency with permission from a school staff member.

## STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

In order to improve the school’s educational environment, promote a more effective climate for learning, foster school unity and pride, and allow students to focus solely on learning and not on attire, the school has a dress policy for students that applies to school days and school-sponsored events.

All shirts must contain the school’s imprinted logo. The school uniform can be purchased directly through Lands’ End by calling 1-800-469-2222 or visiting their website at [www.landsend.com/school](http://www.landsend.com/school). You will need to reference the Preferred School Number for Brownsville Collegiate Charter School which is 900132796.

### Daily Dress

#### BOYS

- School Uniform Big Kids Short Sleeve Interlock Polo (Lands’ End)
- Khaki-colored dress pants (Lands’ End)
- Black shoes, loafer, lace-up style or all black sneakers only\*\*
- Solid colored socks
- Black belt (required)

#### GIRLS

- School Uniform Big Kids Short Sleeve Interlock Polo (Lands’ End)
- Khaki-colored dress pants (Lands’ End)
- Khaki-colored skirt (Lands’ End), knee-length, worn with brown, black, or navy tights or knee socks
- Black shoes, loafer, lace-up style or all black sneakers only\*\*
- Solid colored socks
- Black belt (required with pants)

\* \*\*Only traditional loafer or lace-up style shoes are permitted, to be worn with dark colored socks. Work boots and platform shoes are not permitted; heels should be no higher than one inch. Open-toe shoes and sandals are not permitted at any point during the year. If sneakers are worn, they must be all black and have no visible logos.

When students enter the school building, they must be in the proper uniform. They cannot change into the school uniform upon arrival or tuck their shirts in only after getting to class. Students also may not change out of their uniform before dismissal. Doing so may result in a demerit or detention. Students who attend school events at night – on school grounds or otherwise – are expected to be properly dressed, either in the school uniform or as young professionals. This includes never wearing hats inside.

At all times during the school day – including afterschool – shirts must be tucked in. Students who do not have their shirts tucked in will be given a demerit.

Students whose uniform does not adhere to any of the above guidelines will receive a consequence and will have to change to meet the school's requirements. Repeated disregard of the dress policy will involve the Principal or his/her designee and the student's family.

#### *Hats, Hair, Jewelry, Nails, and Tattoos*

Once students enter the school building, the wearing of hats, headwraps, bandanas, or kerchiefs is not permitted unless it is in accordance with religious observation. Hats worn in the school building will be confiscated.

Hair colors or shades of hair other than black, brown, blond, or red are also not permitted. Dyed hair or a hairstyle that serves as a distraction – at the determination of the school – will not be permitted.

Any tattoos – small or large – must be covered at all times. Fingernails should not be or potentially be a distraction to others. Simple polish is acceptable.

Finally, jewelry should be appropriate for a professional, school setting and may not serve as a distraction to others or it will be confiscated. Earrings should be smaller than a quarter. Medium- or large-sized chains must stay inside a student's shirt and any face or tongue piercing must be removed before entering school. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will not be permitted to attend class.

## **BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE**

The School recognizes that it enrolls students with different backgrounds and a range of educational and emotional issues. The following is a non-exhaustive listing of disciplinary violations, and the procedures for disciplining students.. The School reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to amend or discontinue any of the policies, procedures, practices or general descriptions set forth in this policy, including to take immediate action when required, and to

create alternatives to disciplinary protocols when in the best interests of our students, Employees and/or the School. Nothing in this policy is to be viewed as creating a contract by the School.

The standards set forth in this policy apply when such behavior can reasonably be expected to impact the educational process and/or create a risk of substantial disruption within the School environment (except where noted) and where such behavior occurs on School Property (at any time, including before/after School hours), during a School Function, on a School Bus, outside any of the foregoing locations, or, under certain specific circumstances, while a student is traveling to or from School.

### **Prohibited Student Conduct**

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion from school, for:

**Engaging in Insubordinate and/or Disorderly Conduct.** Examples of insubordinate and/or disorderly conduct include, *but are not limited to*:

- **Violating the Dress Code.** In addition to the imposition of discipline against a student who fails to abide by the Dress Code, Parent(s)/guardian(s) may be required to pick up children, bring the missing Dress Code items to the school, or authorize the student to return home to retrieve the necessary items as students may not be permitted to attend class.
- **Arriving to Class Unprepared or without Completed Homework.** When class begins, students must be prepared and have all necessary materials (books, organized binder, paper, pen, pencil, etc.) and assignments completed on time.
- **Cutting School, Class, Detention, Homework Center, Saturday School, Summer School, or Mandatory School Events.** Students are not permitted to have unexcused absences or to leave the school building without permission.
- **Failing to be in one's assigned place on School Property.**
- **Disrupting Class and/or Preventing Teaching.** Students may not interfere with or disrupt class or the educational process, whether by misbehaving or otherwise.
- **Being Disrespectful toward an Employee:** The School cannot function properly if students are permitted to be disrespectful toward adults. For that reason, students may not be disrespectful toward any Employee, visitor or any other adult associated with the School. Behaviors that are considered disrespectful include, but are not limited to: rolling of the eyes, smacking lips or sucking teeth, making inappropriate remarks or sounds in response to a request, walking away from an Employee before a conversation is over, talking back to an Employee, or ignoring/disrespecting a staff member's action or authority.. Disrespectful actions in response to the imposition of discipline (or a warning/counseling) will almost always increase the severity of a discipline.



- **Acts of Dishonesty.** Honesty is an essential element of personal character and is needed to build a community based on trust and respect. Students are not permitted to lie, give false information, or attempt to conceal the truth when dealing with any Employee, commit acts of forgery, or use or possess false identification. Students also may not tamper with or alter any School record or document.
- **Scholastic Dishonesty.** Academic integrity is paramount. Scholastic dishonesty is strictly prohibited, is likely to result in severe discipline for a first-time offense (including expulsion), and includes the following (without limitation):
  - a. copying the work of another student;
  - b. plagiarizing materials;
  - c. using unauthorized help sheets or materials;
  - d. obtaining or possessing tests in advance;
  - e. substituting for a test-taker or having someone substitute for you in a test;
  - f. altering records;
  - g. other forms of authorized collusion; or
  - h. assisting another student in any of the above actions.
- **Failing to Comply with Directive(s):** Students shall not fail to comply with the lawful directives of Employees.
- **Being Disrespectful of Other Students.**
- **Profane Language or Gestures.** Students may not use or direct toward others lewd, vulgar, coarse, or degrading language or gestures.
- **Failing to Submit a Required Signature.** Students are required to secure the signature of a Parent on homework assignments or School forms when requested.
- **Submitting a Forged Signature.** Students may not represent to the School that a signature is that of a parent or School employee that they know to be that of another person.
- **Gum, Food, and Beverages:** Students may not chew gum, nor eat or drink at unauthorized times or places.
- **Spitting or Littering.**
- **Obstructing Vehicular or Pedestrian Traffic:** Students are not permitted to obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic on or adjacent to School Property. .
- **Blocking Access to any Part of the School Building:** Students are not permitted to block access to School Property (including any individual classroom).
- **Creating a Hazardous Condition for Others.**
- **Trespassing.** Students may not trespass or enter into a private or restricted area without permission.
- **Possession of Inappropriate or Prohibited Property/Material.** Students may not possess iPods, MP3 players, cell-phones, cameras, laser pointers, entertainment devices, unauthorized electronic equipment of any kind, or any other items inappropriate for School. Students also may not possess any material (including printed text or lyrics) that is obscene, vulgar, profane, sexually explicit, or may create

a hostile or offensive learning environment for other students. In addition to discipline imposed upon the student, such items will be confiscated until an adult family member comes to the school to retrieve it at a time designated by the school administration. Items which are repeatedly brought to school in violation of this policy may be confiscated for the remainder of the year irrespective of any costs or fees students and/or their families may incur as a result. A Parent may retrieve an inappropriate item which has been confiscated from their child at a mutually convenient time agreed to by the Dean of Students and/or the Instructional Leader.

- **Defamation:** Students may not make false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them through any medium, whether on or off School Property, including by electronic means (text, email, social media, etc.).
- **Gambling.** All gambling is strictly prohibited, including card games, dice games, sports bets, and fantasy sports bets. Students are reminded that gambling which occurs outside of School Property, School Functions or School Busses may result in discipline if the effects of such conduct would reasonably be expected to impact the educational process or create risk of disruption within the School environment.
- **Failing to Comply with School-Imposed Consequences.** Students must comply with School-imposed consequences, including but not limited to detention, Homework Center, Saturday School, Summer School, school service, suspension from school and/or temporary or permanent denial of school-provided transportation.
- **Solicitation/Distribution.** Students may not distribute or post any written material, pamphlets or posters at the School or at a School Function without the prior written approval of the Instructional Leader or the Instructional Leader's Designee, or as specifically approved by the Board of Trustees. Students may also not sell any items or services at the School or at a School Function unless they are participating in a School-approved fundraiser for a School-approved event, club, or student council.

**Students found engaging in the below actions may be subject to suspension or expulsion**

**Engaging in Conduct that Endangers the Safety, Morals, Health, or Welfare of Self or Others.**

Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

- **Presence on School Property or at a School Function without Supervision of an Employee.**
- **Theft, Loss, or Destruction of Personal or School Property:** Students may not steal, negligently lose, vandalize, or damage the property of the School, other students, Employees, or any other person lawfully on School Property, attending a School Function, or while traveling to or from School. In addition to facing other consequences for violation of this rule, students are expected to return property to its rightful owner in its original condition or to reimburse the owner and/or the School for lost, damaged, or stolen property.

- **Mistreatment or Inappropriate Use of Technology or Other School Property:** Students must treat computers, printers, and other School technology with care, and in accordance with School computer and network policies. Students are prohibited from using school telephones, except at the discretion of an Employee in an emergent situation. Students must not vandalize, damage or otherwise mistreat School property.
- **Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying.** Any violation of the above anti-harassment, anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies, whether on or off School Property, is strictly prohibited and will result in severe discipline, up to and including expulsion.
- **Engaging in Sexual Activity, Inappropriate Touching or Lewd Behaviour.** A student may not engage in sexual activity of any kind, touch himself/herself or others inappropriately, or otherwise engage in non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature on School Property, at a School Function or on a School Bus. Students also are prohibited from making sexually suggestive comments or jokes, or sexually propositioning any other student (or Employee) on School Property, at a School Function or on a School Bus. Students are reminded that sexual activity/conduct with or directed at others outside of School Property, a School Function or a School Bus may violate the School's anti-discrimination/harassment/bullying policy, and/or otherwise impact the educational environment such that disciplinary or remedial/preventive action may be taken.
- **Hazing.** Hazing is strictly prohibited, whether on or off School Property. Hazing is defined as any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with, or maintaining membership in any School sponsored activity, organization, club, or team.
- **Gang Activity.** Students may not engage in gang-related behavior (e.g. wearing or displaying gang apparel, writing graffiti, making gestures or signs), including when off School Property and such behavior can reasonably be expected to impact the educational process and/or create a risk of substantial disruption within the School environment. In determining whether the behavior is gang-related (which is left the sound discretion of the School), School officials may consult with the Office of School and Youth Development's Gang Unit as well as law enforcement.
- **Drugs and Alcohol:** Students may not use, distribute, sell, possess, or be under the influence of any controlled substance (other than as prescribed for that student), unauthorized or illegal drug, alcohol or counterfeit or look-alike drugs/alcohol, or use, distribute, sell or possess any drug paraphernalia.
- **Tobacco Products:** Students may not use, distribute, sell or possess tobacco products, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, chewing-tobacco, other tobacco products or lighters/ matches.
- **Physical Harm/Violence on Self or Directed At Others:** Students may not cause or threaten to cause physical injury upon themselves, other students, Employees, visitors or any other person on School Property, at a School Function, on a School Bus, or while traveling to or from School. Any conduct that has the potential of resulting in physical harm/violence also will result in discipline, including, without

limitation, fighting, play-fighting, horseplay, unwanted physical contact, Bullying and Harassment.

- **Engaging In Coercion.**
- **Posting Material Which Threatens Violence, or Depicts Violent Actions Against Students or Employees.**
- **Making a Bomb Threat.**
- **Conduct Tending to Incite or Cause a Riot.**
- **Selling, Using, Possessing, or Distributing a Weapon.**
- **Open Flame/Arson.** Students may not create an unauthorized open flame on School Property or at a School Function, or otherwise set fire to anything.
- **Setting Off a False Alarm or Making a Threat:** Students may not intentionally set off a false alarm, call 911, or discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause,.

### **Disciplinary Penalties and Procedures**

Students who are found to have violated the School's Code of Conduct may be subject to various discipline (which may be combined) in the School's administrative and educational discretion. The type and severity of discipline will be contingent upon many factors, including, without limitation (and in no particular order): (i) the type and severity of the conduct; (ii) the harm or potential harm of the conduct (including the disruption of educational processes, physical or emotional harm to others, damage to property, etc.); (iii) the student's prior disciplinary and academic record; (iv) the student's age; (v) deterrence; (vi) the student's honesty and cooperation when confronted with the violation; and (vii) the future protection of persons and property. The following is a non-exhaustive list of possible penalties that may be issued to a student who is determined to have violated the School's Code of Conduct:

- 1) Oral warning
- 2) Written warning
- 3) Written notification to parent/guardian
- 4) Conference with parent(s)/guardian(s)
- 5) Confiscation of property
- 6) After-school detention
- 7) Saturday detention
- 8) Suspension, exclusion and/or removal from a particular class or School Function
- 9) Suspension or revocation of School privileges related to the violation (e.g., revocation of computer use privileges);
- 10) Suspension from transportation
- 11) Suspension from cafeteria, commons, library, social, athletic, after-school, field trip, extracurricular, or other School Functions
- 12) In-school suspension

- 13) Short-term suspension (ten days or less) from school
- 14) Long-term suspension (more than ten days) from school
- 15) Expulsion from school\*

\* Certain violations, such as bringing a firearm to School, may legally require suspension for a time certain (one year) and require reporting to law enforcement agencies.

### **Procedure for Certain Discipline**

*Short Term In-School Suspension or Short Term Suspension from School (ten days or less)*  
When the Principal and/or Director of Operations or their designee (referred to as the “Suspending Authority”), such as a Dean of Students, determines that a student charged with misconduct should be assigned in-school suspension or should be suspended for ten days or less, the Suspending Authority will provide notice (by telephone or in writing) of such suspension decision to, in the first instance, the student in terms of the charges against the student and allow the student an opportunity to give the student’s side of the story, and then to the student’s parent or guardian, and afford the parent or guardian an opportunity for an informal conference. The student also may be removed from class and/or school immediately if, in the sole discretion of the suspending authority, it is determined that the student’s presence in class or school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or risks disruption of the academic process. In the event that your child is suspended from school, you or a trusted designee, are expected to pick up your child within the timeframe stated by the Principal, Director of Operations, or Dean of Students.

The purpose of the informal conference, if the parent or guardian chooses one, is to discuss with the parent or guardian the circumstances that led to the suspension decision and to explore proactive steps to ensure the student’s misconduct that led to the suspension does not reoccur. The informal conference may be held in person or by telephone. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) choose to contest the suspension decision, they may file a written appeal to the Board of Trustees via the Principal and/or Director of Operations within five business days of the date of the Suspending Authority’s decision, or if an informal conference has been held, within five days of such informal conference. The suspension will take place while such a challenge is made. The appeal to the Board will be handled by the Board’s designee, currently the School’s Chief Operating Officer from Uncommon Schools. If the Board’s designee upholds the challenge to the suspension, any portion of the suspension already served will be expunged from the student’s records and any portion of the suspension not yet served will be nullified and cancelled. The Board’s designee will promptly communicate his or her decision in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s).

### *Long Term In-School Suspension, Long Term Suspension from School (more than ten days) and Expulsion*

When the Instructional Leader and/or Operations Leader or their designee determines that a suspension for more than ten days or expulsion may be warranted, the student may be removed from class and/or school immediately if the student’s presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or is an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process. The Instructional Leader and/or Operations Leader or their designee shall give reasonable notice to the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) of their of the charges against the student, the proposed penalty and the right to a fair hearing

within 10 days unless the parent(s) or guardian(s) consent to an adjournment. The student or parent(s) or guardian(s) shall also have an opportunity to tell the student's side of the story. A short-term suspension will be imposed until the hearing on the long term suspension or expulsion. Every effort will be made to ensure that the hearing is held as soon as practicable in order to limit the amount of time the student spends outside the classroom, but not so soon as prevent the parent/guardian from seeking counsel and making arrangements to attend the hearing..

At the hearing, the student shall have the right to be represented by counsel or advocate (at the student's/parent's expense), the right to question witnesses against him/her, confront evidence against him/her and the right to present witnesses and other evidence on his/her behalf. The Board's designee, currently the School's Chief Operating Officer from Uncommon Schools, shall personally serve as hearing officer or may, in his/her discretion, designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer shall be authorized to administer oaths and make determinations on evidentiary issues. A record of the hearing shall be maintained, but no stenographic transcript shall be required. An audio recording shall be deemed a satisfactory record. The hearing officer shall make written findings of fact and recommendations as to the appropriate measure of discipline. The report of the hearing officer will be final, and the Board's designee may accept all or any part within three days.

If the parent(s)/guardian(s) are not satisfied with the decision of the Board's designee, they may file a written appeal to the Board of Trustees via the Instructional Leader or Operations Leader within five business days of the date of the decision of the Board's designee. The Board may adopt in whole or in part the decision of its designee and will make its decision based solely upon the record before it. Final decisions of the Board alleging a violation of the school's charter or of applicable law may be appealed to the school's authorizer, the State University of New York. The Charter Schools Institute, acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, shall investigate and respond. If the parent(s) / guardian(s) are not satisfied with the decision of the authorizer, the matter may be further appealed to the New York State Board of Regents. The State Education Department, acting on behalf of the New York State Board of Regents, shall investigate and respond.

#### *Alternative Instruction*

For any suspension (in-school or out of school) of one day or more, or any suspension of less than one day when the student has not yet received 90 minutes of live instruction, the School will provide the student with live alternative instruction by qualified staff of at least 90 minutes. The character of the instruction shall be such that the student receives all homework, takes all tests and quizzes and is able to keep pace with the student's class toward promotion in grade or graduation. The instruction shall be provided as soon as feasible after the suspension. The School may provide alternative instruction in-school or out-of-school at the school's discretion. If the student does not attend alternative instruction, the student shall be marked absent. If the School does not offer alternative instruction the student may not be recorded as absent.

In the case of an expulsion, alternative instruction will be provided for a reasonable period of time or until the student is enrolled at another accredited school, or otherwise participating in an accredited program to the extent the provision of such services is required by law. If

the expulsion is in close proximity with the end of the school year, then the School will provide alternative instruction until the end of the school year.

### *Physical Restraints*

In an emergency, a school administrator, teacher, school employee, or volunteer may use a physical restraint or time-out room as necessary to maintain order or to prevent a student from harming him/herself, other students, and school staff or property. Parents will receive notification if your child is physically restrained or accesses the time out room.

### *Gun Free Schools Act*

Federal law (20 USC §7961) requires suspension from school for a period of not less than one year for a student who the School determines to have brought a firearm to school, or to have possessed a firearm at school, except that the School's Chief Operating Officer from Uncommon Schools may modify in writing such suspension requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis with the consent of the Board of Trustees. "Firearm" as used in this law includes firearms as defined under federal law in 18 USC §921(a).

The School may also permanently expel a student for bringing a firearm to school.

It is the policy of the School that in the event a student brings a firearm to school or possesses one at school, the Chief Operating Officer will refer the student to local law enforcement or to the NYS Office of Children and Family Services or NYC Administration for Children's Services or other presentment agency as a juvenile delinquent. In addition, the NYPD should be contacted to take possession of any firearm.

## **Discipline of Students with Special Needs**

In addition to the discipline procedures applicable to all students, the following procedures are applicable to students with disabilities. A student not specifically identified as having a disability but whose school district of residence or charter school, prior to the behavior which is the subject of the disciplinary action, has a basis of knowledge—in accordance with 34 CFR 300.534—that a disability exists may request to be disciplined in accordance with these provisions. The school shall comply with sections 300.530-300.536 of the Code of Federal Regulations and the following procedures, except that in the event that the following procedures are inconsistent with federal law and regulations, such federal law and regulations shall govern.

The school shall maintain written records of all suspensions and expulsions of students with a disability including the name of the student, a description of the behavior engaged in, the disciplinary action taken, and a record of the number of days a student has been suspended or removed for disciplinary reasons.

If a student identified as having a disability is suspended during the course of the school year for a total of eight (8) days, such student will immediately be referred to the CSE of the

student's district of residence for reconsideration of the student's educational placement. Such a student shall not be suspended for a total of more than ten (10) days during the school year without the specific involvement of the CSE of the student's district of residence prior to the eleventh day of suspension, because such suspensions may be considered to be a change in placement.

In considering the placement of students referred because of disciplinary problems, the CSE of the student's district of residence is expected to follow its ordinary policies with respect to parental notification and involvement.

#### Provision of Services During Removal

Those students removed for a period of fewer than ten days will receive all classroom assignments and a schedule to complete such assignments during the time of their suspension. Provisions will be made to permit a suspended student to make up assignments or tests missed as a result of such suspension. The school also shall provide additional alternative instruction within the ten (10) days and by appropriate means to assist the student, so that the student is given full opportunity to complete assignments and master curriculum, including additional instructions, phone assistance, computer instruction and/or home visits and one-on-one tutoring.

During any subsequent removal that, combined with previous removals equals ten (10) or more school days during the School year, but does not constitute a change in placement, services must be provided to the extent determined necessary to enable the child to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and in achieving the goals of his or her IEP. In these cases, school personnel, in consultation with the child's special education teacher, shall make the service determination.

During any removal for drug or weapon offenses pursuant to 34 CFR §300.530(g) services will be provided to the extent necessary to enable the child to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and in achieving the goals of his or her IEP. These service determinations will be made by the CSE of the student's district of residence. The School will, in consultation with the CSE, place students in interim alternative educational settings as appropriate per 34 CFR §300.520(g).

During any subsequent removal that does constitute a change in placement, but where the behavior is not a manifestation of the disability, the services must be provided to the extent necessary to enable the student to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and in achieving the goals of his or her IEP. The CSE of the student's district of residence will make the service determination.

#### Due Process

If discipline which would constitute a change in placement is contemplated for any student with an IEP, the following steps shall be taken: (1) not later than the date on which the decision to take such action is made, the parents of the student with a disability shall be notified by the school of that decision and provided the procedural safeguards notice described in 34 CFR §300.504; and (2) the CSE of the student's district of residence and



other qualified personnel shall meet and review the relationship between the child's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action (subject to CSE's availability).

If, upon CSE review, it is determined that the child's behavior was not a manifestation of his or her disability, then the child may be disciplined in the same manner as a child without a disability, except as provided in 34 CFR §300.530(d), which relates to the provision of services to students with disabilities during periods of removal.

Parents may request a hearing to challenge the manifestation determination. Except as provided below, the child will remain in his or her current educational placement pending the determination of the hearing.

If a parent requests a hearing or an appeal to challenge the interim alternative educational setting or the manifestation determination resulting from a disciplinary action relating to weapons or drugs, the child shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period provided for in the disciplinary action, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and School agree otherwise.

#### Compliance with the Child Find Requirements of IDEA

Leadership Prep Bedford Stuyvesant will comply with the federal Child Find requirements (34 CFR §300.111), which require schools to have in place a process for identifying, locating and evaluating students with disabilities. Students enrolling for the first time in a New York public school will be screened by a team of teachers (including both regular and special education teachers) to identify any possible indication that the child may need a specialized or Individualized Education Program, or referral to the CSE of the student's district of residence. Other students will be brought to the attention of the team if they are demonstrating any problems within the regular classroom environment. Strategies will then be implemented to address any identified special needs of the student. Should the problems persist and a disability is suspected, the student will be referred to the CSE of the student's district of residence for an evaluation.

## **Student Searches**

### *Searches of Property*

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy rights in school lockers, cubbies, desks, or other school storage places. The School exercises overriding control over such school property, which may be opened and subjected to inspection at any time by school officials.

### *Searches of the Person*

The School authorizes the Instructional Leader and/or Operations Leader or their designee to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or the School's Code of Conduct or otherwise constituted a threat to the health, safety, welfare, or morals of the School, other students, school personnel, or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a School Function. An authorized

school official, with minimal suspicion, may also conduct a search of a student's belongings that is minimally intrusive, such as touching the outside of a book bag for a security check so long as the school official has a legitimate reason for the very limited search and the reason for criminal investigative purposes.

An authorized school official may search a student or the student's belongings based upon information received from an informant who is deemed reliable, in the official's sole discretion. Individuals, other than the School's employees, will be considered reliable informants if they have previously supplied information that was accurate and verified, they make an admission against their own interest, they provide the same information that is received independently from other sources, or they appear to be credible and the information they are communicating relates to an immediate threat to safety. School employees will be considered reliable informants unless they have knowingly supplied information in the past that was not accurate.

Before searching a student or the student's belongings, the authorized school official should seek an admission from the student that he or she possesses physical evidence that they violated the law or the school code, or request the student to voluntarily consent to the search. Searches will be limited in scope to that which is necessary to locate the evidence sought.

Whenever practicable, searches will be conducted in the privacy of administrative offices with more than one witness present, and students will be present when their possessions are being searched.

## **DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of the code, the following definitions apply:

- 1) "Parent" means the parent, guardian, or person in a parental relationship to a student.
- 2) "School Property" means on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public school, or in or on a School Bus.
- 3) "School Bus" means every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency or private school and operated for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity, to or from school or school activities, or, privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity to or from school or school activities..
- 4) "School Function" means any school-sponsored curricular or extra-curricular event or activity, whether on School Property or elsewhere.
- 5) "Disability" means (a) a physical, mental or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, genetic or neurological conditions which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or

laboratory diagnostic techniques or (b) a record of such an impairment or (c) a condition regarded by others as such an impairment).

- 6) "Discrimination" means taking any unwanted or adverse action, or denial of any educational opportunity, on the basis of a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, sex, or other characteristic protected by law. Discrimination may result from actions (or inaction) taken against a student by a fellow student or School Employee, or against a School Employee by a student.
- 7) "Emotional harm" that takes place in the context of "harassment or bullying" means harm to a student's emotional well-being through creation of a hostile school environment that has or would reasonably expect to have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's education.
- 8) "Employee" means any person receiving compensation from a school or employee of a contracted service provider or worker placed within the school under a public assistance employment program, pursuant to title 9-B of article 5 of the Social Services Law, and consistent with the provisions of such title for the provision of services to such district, its students or employees, directly or through contract, whereby such services performed by such person involve direct student contact.
- 9) "Gender" means a person's actual or perceived sex and includes a person's gender identity or expression.
- 10) "Sexual Orientation" means actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.
- 11) "Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator" means a staff member or staff members designated by the School to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender and sex.
- 12) "Weapons" include, but are not limited to:
  - a. a firearm or destructive device as defined in 18 USC §921 for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act, any other real or mock gun, including without limitation a rifle, shotgun, pistol, handgun, silencer, electronic dart gun, stun gun, machine gun, air gun, mock gun, toy gun, imitation gun, spring gun, BB gun, or paint ball gun;
  - b. a switchblade knife, gravity knife, pilum ballistic knife, cane sword, dagger, stiletto, dirk, razor, box cutter, metal knuckle knife, utility knife, or any other dangerous knife;
  - c. a billy club, blackjack, bludgeon, chukka stick, or metal knuckles;
  - d. a sandbag or sandclub;
  - e. a sling shot or slungshot;
  - f. a martial arts instrument, including, but not limited to, a kung fu star, ninja star, nun-chuck, or shirken;
  - g. an explosive, including but not limited to, a firecracker or other fireworks;
  - h. a deadly or dangerous chemical, including, but not limited to, a strong acid or base, mace, or pepper spray;
  - i. loaded or blank cartridges or other ammunitions;
  - j. any other deadly or dangerous instrument; or

k. any other instrumentality used as a weapon. However, pursuant to the intent of this School policy, administrators will have considerable discretion in identifying any potentially dangerous implements as a weapon.

## **ADDITIONAL POLICIES**

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*Brownsville Collegiate Charter School*

### **STUDENT RECORDS**

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:

- 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 [or appropriate school official] 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. Copies of records will be made available if requested by a parent or guardian.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School Principal [or appropriate official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. 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.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without con-sent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or

grievance committee, or 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 School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- 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 are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5901

The policy applicable to the release of student directory information, which includes the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of degrees and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended by the student, applies equally to military recruiters, the media, colleges and universities, and prospective employers.

The School shall arrange to provide translations of this notice to non-English speaking parents in their native language.

## **HEALTH POLICIES**

The School provides the health services required by law. Students with serious injuries are taken to the hospital for emergency medical care and the parent(s) or guardian(s) are notified immediately.

### *Administration of Medication*

Non-self-directed student: The School nurse may administer medication to a non-self-directed student when a parent or guardian submits a written request from a physician indicating the frequency and dosage of prescribed medication.

Self-directed student: Any self-directed student may take medication during school hours if he/she keeps the medication in the nurse's office and whose parent or guardian submits a written verification from a physician indicating the frequency and dosage of the prescribed medication.

The parent or guardian must assume responsibility to have the medication delivered directly to the nurse's office in a properly labeled original container.

Procedures will be developed for students taking medications off School grounds or after School hours while participating in a school-sponsored activity in accordance with State Education Department Guidelines.

Before any medication may be administered to or by any student during school hours, the Board requires:

1. The written request of the parent(s) or guardian(s), which will give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication
2. The written order of the prescribing physician, which will include the purpose of the medication, the dosage, the time at which or the special circumstances under which medication will be administered, the period for which medication is prescribed, and the possible side effects of the medication

Both documents will be kept on file in the office of the School nurse. Standardized request forms will be available from the School nurse.

The School abides by all New York State immunization requirements. Each new student must have a certificate of immunization at the time of registration or not later than the 14<sup>th</sup> day of school. Parents/guardians must present documentation that their children have received all required doses of vaccines or are waiting to receive the subsequent doses at the appropriate time intervals. Parents seeking to waive the immunization requirement should submit their request to the school nurse or Office Manager. The nurse will review the request and will advise the Instructional Leader, who will make the final decision on whether to grant the waiver request.

## ADDRESSING CONCERNS

**Informal Complaint Procedures:** An informal complaint is a complaint that does not concern the alleged violation of law or charter (e.g., a concern about an academic grade, the school's uniform policy, the school's cell phone policy, or the bus schedule). An individual who (or group that) has an informal complaint against a school policy or member of the school community is encouraged to contact the appropriate staff member at the School by telephone. All staff members are committed to responding promptly to informal complaints, either in person, by telephone, or in writing. If an informal complaint is not responded to and resolved promptly or satisfactorily, the group or individual should contact the Instructional Leader or Operational Leader to discuss the matter; the Instructional Leader or Operational Leader shall respond in person, by telephone, or in writing.

**Formal Complaint Procedures:** A formal complaint is a complaint that concerns an alleged violation of law and/or charter. An individual who (or group that) has a formal complaint against a school policy or a member of the school community may follow the informal complaint procedures set forth above. Alternatively, the individual or group may file a complaint in writing to the Chair of the School's Board of Trustees, who shall then appoint the School's Chief Operating Officer from Uncommon Schools or another designee(s) to review the complaint. If the substance of the complaint directly involves the School's Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Operating Officer shall not be appointed as the designee. After reviewing the complaint, the designee(s) will respond in writing to the complainant within a

reasonable amount of time. At this time, the Chair of the Board of Trustees or the Chair's designee(s) shall provide the complainant with written notice of the opportunity to appeal the Board's decision to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, and a copy of the Charter Schools Institute's grievance guidelines available at [www.newyorkcharters.org/contact/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/contact/).

If, after receiving the written response from the Chair of the Board of Trustees and/or the Chair's designee, the individual or group determines that the Board has not adequately addressed their complaint, the complainant may present the complaint to the Charter Schools Institute, acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, which shall investigate and respond. If, after presentation of the complaint to the Charter Schools Institute, the individual or group determines that the Charter Schools Institute has not adequately addressed the complaint, the complainant may present the case to the State Education Department, acting on behalf of the Board of Regents, which shall investigate and respond. The Charter Schools Institute and the State Education Department each has the power and the duty to take remedial action to resolve the complaint, as appropriate.

Any individual or group that elects to follow the informal complaint procedures to resolve a formal complaint shall be permitted at any time to stop the informal complaint procedures and initiate the formal complaint procedures.

If an individual or group voices a complaint at a public meeting of the School's Board of Trustees or to individual trustees, trustees shall not respond to the substance of the complaint, but instead shall thank the individual or group for their time and direct them to the relevant complaint procedures.

A copy of the full Complaint Policy is kept on file and available in the School's Main Office.

### *Snow Closings*

In the event of poor weather conditions such as heavy snow, please listen to your local television or radio stations, or call 311, for relevant information regarding school cancellation. Brownsville Collegiate Charter School follows the exact same cancellation policies as New York City Public Schools so if New York City Public Schools are closed, so is Brownsville Collegiate Charter School.

## **ASSESSMENT**

In addition to traditional classroom assessment measures and other performance evaluations, Brownsville Collegiate Charter School uses several other assessment tools to evaluate the progress of our students:

1. **New York State Assessments.** So that students are held to the same standards as other students in the State, Brownsville Collegiate Charter School administers all state exams on the same schedule as the New York City public schools, to demonstrate both school-wide and individual student progress. The state's middle school exams are given in April, (Grades 5-8 English Language Arts) and May (Grade 5-7 Mathematics). Regents exams

in Living Environment and Common Core Algebra I are administered to students in grade 8.

2. **Interim Assessments.** To demonstrate regular student progress throughout the year, and to address students' on-going academic needs, Brownsville Collegiate Charter School administers Interim Assessments in Math, English Language Arts, Science, and History. These assessments are created and coordinated by Brownsville Collegiate Charter School faculty based on the school's expectations for what each student should know and be able to do at the end of each middle school grade level. The exams are generally given every six to eight weeks though more precise testing schedules are discussed with students and families at the beginning of the school year.
3. **Final Exams.** At the end of every core academic class in every grade, students take a final, comprehensive exam that covers all material covered throughout the year. Students' final exam performance counts as a separate percentage of their overall, final grade (5%).
4. **Progress Reports, Report Cards, and Family Teacher Conferences.** Teachers and staff use progress reports every three weeks and quarterly report cards to communicate students' academic and behavioral performance. Progress reports are sent home with students to be reviewed at home with families. Students then return a signed letter from their families indicating receipt and review. Report cards are distributed at Family Teacher Conferences, which families must attend in order to receive their child's report card. If a family cannot attend Family Teacher Conferences, they must schedule another time with the school to meet with teachers and pick up their child's report card. If a student or family owes any school materials (e.g., library books) at the end of the school year, the final report card may be withheld until those materials are returned or paid for, and all accounts are clear.



## **BUILDING SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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**T**here are a number of basic procedures the school has in order to ensure the safety and security of its students and staff. Cooperation on everyone's part will go a long way in guaranteeing that the business of the school – teaching and learning – can take place.

### **CLOSED CAMPUS**

Under no circumstances are students to leave their assigned floor of the building or use any exit other than our designated entrance/exit without permission. A student with permission to leave may only leave under the escort and supervision of an authorized adult – who has physically come to the Main Office to sign a student out – unless the school has been given prior written permission authorizing unaccompanied departure. Once students have entered in the morning, they may not leave the building unless a staff member escorts them.

### **VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

The School encourages parent(s)/guardian(s) and other school citizens to visit the School's classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The Instructional Leader or Operations Leader is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the School:

- 1) Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the School will be considered a "visitor."
- 2) All visitors to the School must sign in and report to the main office.
- 3) Teachers are expected not to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
- 4) Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the Instructional Leader or Operations Leader. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
- 5) All visitors are required to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this Code of Conduct. By entering school property, visitors accept these rules.

The School is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment; therefore, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions.

### **SHARED SPACE**

The school is extremely fortunate to share space with the DOE. Therefore, all members of the Brownsville Collegiate Charter School community need to be thoughtful and respectful toward members of the 364 Sackman Street community.

- Brownsville Collegiate Charter School students should never be on other school's floors or rooms, without a staff member.

- Students will exhibit professional and courteous behavior whenever traveling to or walking in other parts of the school building and on the school grounds.
- Brownsville Collegiate Charter School students must respect the authority of staff members from other schools.
- If a Brownsville Collegiate Charter School student has a negative interaction with any member of the other school communities, that student should immediately inform a Brownsville Collegiate Charter School staff member and allow the Principal and/or Director of Operations or his/her designee to resolve the situation.
- Students traveling to and from school on foot or via subway need to conduct themselves as if they were in the school hallways: travel on the sidewalk in a safe and orderly fashion; dispose of waste appropriately; do not loiter outside or near the school building; and remember that they are representatives of Brownsville Collegiate Charter School and treat all neighborhood community members with respect.
- Families who drive their children to or from school must not block access to the main entrances to the school or cause other disruptions to traffic patterns.
- In general, all members of the Brownsville Collegiate Charter School community need to be sensitive to how their actions affect the school's neighbors in and around the school.

## **EMERGENCIES**

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

## **FIRE SAFETY AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

*Please note, some procedures may change once the school year has officially begun. Students will be notified of and trained in any significant changes.*

The school follows the General Response Protocol for all building-related safety drills and emergency events, as required by the New York City Department of Education. In case of an emergency, if a student or staff member sees fire or smells smoke, he or she should close the door. Upon hearing an alarm, school staff will assemble students in their rooms and proceed out of the building according to the fire evacuation plan posted in each room. Students should follow the direction of staff members who will verify the safety of the stairwells and lead students outside the building to the designated locations, where school staff will line up students by class and take attendance.

Frequently throughout the school year, students and staff will participate in a minimum of 12 fire drills and at least 1 lockdown and 1 shelter-in drill to ensure that the entire school community is familiar with the appropriate response in the event of each type of emergency. This handbook shall serve as notice that these drills will take place. The school will notify families by letter or auto-dialer in the event of an actual evacuation.

In case of a more serious emergency, should it be necessary to evacuate our school before, during, or after the school day—and it appears that we will be unable to return to the school for an extended period of time or for the rest of the day—school staff and students will evacuate according to the school's evacuation plan. Staff will line up students in a safe and orderly fashion on the sidewalks outside of the evacuation site. After staff takes attendance, should conditions permit, all staff and students will return promptly to school.

## TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

### *Arrival and Dismissal*

Students should not arrive at school earlier than 7:15 AM. Students arriving at school before 7:15 AM, will need to wait outside the school doors. At the 4:00 PM dismissal, students should either leave the school building, or attend afterschool tutoring or Homework Center. Students are never allowed to wait in any other portion of the building. They must wait in the Main Office or in another designated afterschool location, under the supervision of a staff member. Students may not wait outside without staff supervision.

Student transportation will be provided by the New York City Department of Education. Students who live ½ mile – 1 mile from school are eligible for half-fare metro cards. Students who live 1 mile or more from school may be eligible for yellow busing or metro cards, except for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who are not eligible for yellow busing. Buses will pick up and drop off students directly in front of the building. As a result, we ask that parents who are dropping off and/or picking up students be mindful of the tight traffic situation and plan accordingly.

We also encourage families who drive who pick up their children in the afternoon to arrive no earlier than 4:00 PM. Announcements and a staggered dismissal sometimes delay students from leaving the building at exactly 4:00 PM.

We ask for families to please cooperate with this policy to guarantee a safe, timely, and orderly environment for all students and families at dismissal.

### *Bus Behavior*

It should be clear to all students and their families that a public school bus is a form of school-sponsored transportation. Therefore, appropriate behavior as laid out in the Code of Conduct is expected at all times.

### *MetroCards*

Full-fare Student MetroCards are provided to students who live more than one mile from the school and are not provided service by a public school bus. Half-fare metro cards are provided to students that live between one-half of a mile to a mile away from school. Both MetroCards provide three trips on both subway and surface bus lines. On most trips, students can use their cards freely to transfer from bus to subway, bus to bus, or subway to bus.

Full-fare MetroCards are good for use to and from school and school-related activities during the hours specified on the back of the card, in most cases 5:30 AM to 8:30 PM. The card is good for the entire school year, but only on days when school is in session.

#### *Students Who Walk*

For students who walk to and from school, and for students who may be walking from the subway station or bus stops, a number of streets must be crossed. Families should instruct students to use all of the appropriate crossing lights at each intersection, and to cross each intersection only when it is safe to do so within the designated crosswalks. Parents are urged to call the local New York City Police Department for questions or concerns.

### **FIELD TRIPS/END-OF-YEAR EVENTS**

The school's curriculum may sometimes require outside learning experiences or special school events. During these activities – which are a privilege and not a right – it is important for all students to be responsible for their behavior since the site of the activity or event is a temporary extension of the school grounds. A permission slip that allows students to attend each school field trip or event will be sent home prior to the trip/event, and should be signed by a parent or guardian. Students who fail to return the signed slip – or who are not permitted to attend as a result of an earlier incident – will not be eligible to participate, and will be required to attend school that day.

If parents or other volunteers assist with such trips or events, students must afford these chaperones the same respect they would provide to teachers. Appropriate behavior must be maintained when attending school-sponsored events, and riding on school-provided transportation. The use of portable electronic devices is prohibited on field trips unless the staff chaperones indicate otherwise.