



**NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS TO PARENTS  
2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Attached please find the following annual notifications which are also publicized on the district website at [www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org) and in student handbooks:

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## **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

It is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education that students shall be provided an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the activities, programs, and courses of study offered by the school district without discrimination on account of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, parenthood, pregnancy, alienage or any other basis prohibited by local, state and federal law.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and/or complaints regarding the school district's non-discrimination policy:

Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
(860) 354-3235

For more information, please refer to Board Policy #5000 and administrative regulations.

## **Notice Regarding Sexual, Racial and Other Unlawful Harassment**

**NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS**  
**DISCRIMINATION IS AGAINST THE LAW**  
**SEXUAL, RACIAL AND OTHER UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT**  
**IS AGAINST THE LAW**

Everyone in the New Milford Public Schools has a right to feel respected and safe. Consequently, we want you to know about our policies to prevent unlawful harassment and other forms of discrimination.

The New Milford Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation, in any of its programs, activities and employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Furthermore, it is the policy of the Board to maintain a working and learning environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment based upon a student's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, alienage or any other basis prohibited by law.

A harasser may be a student, school employee, or any other person involved in or present for school-sponsored events or programs.

Harassment may include the following when based upon a student's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or alienage:

1. name calling, jokes or rumors;
2. pulling on clothing;
3. graffiti;
4. notes or cartoons;
5. unwelcome touching of a person or clothing;
6. offensive or graphic posters or book covers;
7. any words, images or actions that make you feel uncomfortable, embarrass you, hurt your feelings or make you feel bad.

If any words, images or actions make you feel uncomfortable or fearful, you need to tell a guidance counselor, the Principal, Assistant Principal or the district's Title IX Coordinator. You may also make a written report.

Your right to privacy will be protected as much as possible.

We take seriously all reports of harassment or violence and will take all appropriate actions based on your report. The school district will also take action if anyone tries to intimidate you because you have reported harassment.

This is a brief summary of the district's policies on non-discrimination and unlawful harassment. Complete policies (Nos. 5000, 5145.5) are available at the Board of Education offices and on the district website at [www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org) under BOE Policies.

Students who harass other students or school employees may be subject to discipline as severe as expulsion from school for up to one calendar year.

For more information or to file a complaint of discrimination or unlawful harassment, contact the school district's Title IX Coordinator:

Office of the Assistant Superintendent  
50 East Street, New Milford, CT 06776  
(860) 354-3235

## **Safe School Climate Plan/Bullying (Policy 5131.911)**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The Board of Education is dedicated to promoting and maintaining a positive learning environment where all students are welcomed, supported, and feel safe in school, socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically. The purpose of this policy is to address the existence of bullying in schools and teen dating violence and to establish the district's Safe School Climate Plan.

### **II. BULLYING PROHIBITED**

- A. Bullying is prohibited on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of education.
- B. Bullying is also prohibited outside of the school setting if such bullying results in any of the following: (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.
- C. Any form of discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying is also strictly prohibited.

- D. Any student who engages in bullying as defined in this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Any school employee who fails to respond to bullying as required by this policy and the district's Safe School Climate Plan may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Bullying" means (1) the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district, or (2) a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district, that:
- (a) Causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property,
  - (b) Places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property,
  - (c) Creates a hostile environment at school for such student,
  - (d) Infringes on the rights of such student at school, or
  - (e) Substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.
- Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.
- B. "Cyberbullying" means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.
- C. "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication between two or more individuals, including, but not limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital video disk, or equipment on which digital images are taken or transmitted.
- D. "Electronic communication" means any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic or photo-optical system;
- E. "Hostile environment" means a situation in which bullying among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the school climate;
- F. "Outside of the school setting" means at a location, activity or program that is not school related, or through the use of an electronic device or a mobile electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education;
- G. "Safe School Climate Coordinator" means the individual appointed by the Superintendent of Schools from existing staff who is responsible for:
- 1. Implementing the district's Safe School Climate Plan;

2. Collaborating with the safe school climate specialists, the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to prevent, identify and respond to bullying in the schools of the district;
  3. Providing data and information, in collaboration with the Superintendent of Schools of the district, to the State Department of Education regarding bullying, in accordance with state law; and
  4. Meeting with the safe school climate specialists at least twice during the school year to discuss issues relating to bullying in the school district and to make recommendations concerning amendments to the district's Safe School Climate Plan.
- H. “Safe School Climate Specialist” means the principal of each school, or the principal's designee who is responsible for:
1. Investigating or supervising the investigation of reported acts of bullying in the school in accordance with the district's Safe School Climate Plan;
  2. Collecting and maintaining records of reports and investigations of bullying in the school; and
  3. Acting as the primary school official responsible for preventing, identifying and responding to reports of bullying in the school.
- I. “School employee” means
1. A teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or
  2. Any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.
- J. “School climate” means the quality and character of school life with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the school community between and among students and adults;
- K. “Teen Dating Violence” means any act of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, that occurs between two students who are currently in or who have recently been in a dating relationship.

#### **IV. SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN**

The district's Safe School Climate Plan consists of this policy as well as the administrative regulations developed by the Superintendent of Schools to implement this policy. This policy clarifies the legal mandates regarding the district's response to bullying in its schools. The administrative regulations shall address the broader topic of school climate and may incorporate the National School Climate Standards or other applicable evidence-based standards. Revisions to any part of the Safe School Climate Plan shall be approved by the Board of Education.

##### **A. Reporting Procedures**

1. Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of bullying may report the matter to any school employee. Students may anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees.
2. Parents or guardians of students may also file written reports of suspected bullying.

3. School employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying are required to orally notify the safe school climate specialist (or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist is unavailable), not later than one school day after such school employee witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not later than two school days after making such oral report.

## **B. Investigation**

1. The safe school climate specialist shall investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports. Parents of both the alleged bully and the alleged victim must receive prompt notice that an investigation has begun.
2. The safe school climate specialist shall review any anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.
3. The investigator shall assess whether there is a necessity to take immediate interim measures to prevent further allegations of bullying or retaliation of any kind while the investigation is pending.
4. The investigator shall remind involved parties that any form of discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying is strictly prohibited.
5. At all times the investigator must be mindful of the requirements regarding the confidentiality of education records.
6. If the allegations of bullying involve acts that may also constitute unlawful harassment based upon a student's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, the investigator shall notify the district's Title IX Coordinator. The student who has made a report of bullying and his/her parent or guardian will be provided with information about the district's policies and procedures for making a complaint of unlawful harassment.
7. After a prompt investigation, the investigator should ascertain whether the alleged conduct occurred and whether such conduct constitutes bullying as defined by this policy.

## **C. Response to Verified Acts of Bullying**

1. If it is determined that bullying has occurred, the school will take prompt corrective action that is reasonably calculated to stop the bullying and prevent any recurrence of such behavior. As part of such remedial action, the offender may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action which may include, but is not limited to one or a combination of the following: counseling, awareness training, warning, reassignment, transfer, suspension, or expulsion.
2. Each school shall notify the parents or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation. This notification shall include a description of the response of school employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of bullying.
3. Each school is required to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified act of bullying and the parents or guardians of the student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or guardians the

- measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed and to prevent further acts of bullying. This invitation shall also include the description of the response of school employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of bullying. The meeting with parents of the bully shall be separate and distinct from the meeting with the parents of the victim.
4. A student safety support plan shall be developed for any student against whom an act of bullying was directed. The plan shall address safety measures the school will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying. When meeting with the parents of a student who has been the victim of bullying, school officials shall communicate not only the details of the student safety support plan, but also the policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying.
  5. Case-by-case interventions shall be developed to address repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and discipline.
  6. The principal of a school, or designee, shall notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct.

#### **D. Prevention and Intervention Strategy**

Students shall be provided with a variety of prevention and intervention strategies which may include, but are not limited to:

1. Implementation of a positive behavioral interventions and supports process or another evidence-based model approach for safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying and teen dating violence identified by the State Department of Education;
2. School rules prohibiting bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts;
3. Adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other specific areas where bullying and teen dating violence is likely to occur;
4. Inclusion of grade-appropriate bullying and teen dating violence education and prevention curricula in kindergarten through high school;
5. Individual interventions with the bully, parents and school employees, and interventions with the bullied child, parents and school employees;
6. School-wide training related to safe school climate;
7. Student peer training, education and support;
8. Promotion of parent involvement in bullying and teen dating violence prevention through individual or team participation in meetings, trainings and individual interventions;
9. Culturally competent school-based curriculum focused on social-emotional learning, self-awareness and self-regulation;
10. Referrals to a school counselor, psychologist or other appropriate social or mental health service, and periodic follow-up by the safe school climate specialist with the bullied student.

## **E. Documentation and Record Keeping**

1. Safe school specialists shall establish a procedure for each school to:
  - a. Document and maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in such school.
  - b. Maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such list available for public inspection. This public list must not contain any personally identifiable information about any student or information that might reasonably lead to the identification of any student.
2. The district's safe school climate coordinator shall annually report the number of verified acts of bullying in the district's schools to the Department of Education in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.
3. The Safe School Climate Plan shall be submitted for approval by the State Department of Education in accordance with state law.

## **F. Training**

1. All school employees must annually complete training on the prevention, identification and response to bullying, teen dating violence and the prevention of and response to youth suicide. The training will be provided to teachers, administrators and pupil personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or professional educator certificate via in-service training. (Such in-service training may not be required if the district implements any evidence-based model approach that is approved by the State Department of Education and is consistent with state law.) All other school employees shall receive such training as provided by the State Department of Education.
2. As part of the prevention and intervention strategies, schools may also implement school-wide training related to safe school climate and student peer training, education and support.

## **G. Safe School Climate Committee**

Each school year, the principal of each school shall establish a committee (or designate at least one existing committee in the school) to be responsible for developing and fostering a safe school climate and addressing issues relating to bullying in the school. Such committee shall include at least one parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school appointed by the school principal. Parents or guardians who serve on such committee shall not participate in the activities described in subparagraphs (1) and (2) below or any other activity that may compromise the confidentiality of a student. The safe school climate committee of each school shall:

1. Receive copies of completed reports following investigations of bullying;
2. Identify and address patterns of bullying among students in the school;
3. Review and make recommendations to amend school policies relating to bullying;
4. Review and make recommendations to the district safe school climate coordinator regarding the district's safe school climate plan based on issues and experiences specific to the school;
5. Educate students, school employees and parents and guardians of students on issues relating to bullying;
6. Collaborate with the district safe school climate coordinator in the collection of data regarding bullying, in accordance with the law;
7. Perform any other duties as determined by the school principal that are related to the prevention, identification and response to school bullying for the school.



## **H. Periodic Assessment of School Climate**

1. On and after July 1, 2012, and biennially thereafter, each school in the district shall complete an assessment using the school climate assessment instruments, including surveys, approved and disseminated by the State Department of Education. The assessments for each school in the district shall be submitted to the State Department of Education so that the state can monitor bullying prevention efforts over time and compare each district's progress to state trends.
2. Assessment tools may also be used by Safe School Climate Committees to review and make recommendations for revisions to the district's Safe School Climate Plan.
3. Assessment tools shall include student assessment instruments, including surveys that contain uniform grade-level appropriate questions that collect information about students' perspectives and opinions about the school climate at the school and allow students to complete and submit such assessments and survey anonymously.

## **I. Notice Requirements**

1. At the beginning of each school year, each school will provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school district's Safe School Climate Plan.
2. Students and the parents or guardians of students shall be notified annually at the beginning of the school year of the process by which students may make reports of bullying.
3. Students shall be provided with notice of the definition of bullying, cyberbullying and the potential consequences of engaging in such acts by the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying.
4. The district's Safe School Climate Plan shall be made available on the board's and each individual school in the school district's Internet web site and ensure that such plan is included in the school district's publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

### **Attendance:** (Annual Notification of Parental Obligations under C.G.S. 10-184)

Connecticut law requires that the school district annually provide you with written notice of your obligations under Connecticut General Statute 10-184. This law requires each parent or guardian of a child five years of age and older and under eighteen years of age to ensure that the child attends school regularly when school is in session — unless such parent or guardian shows that the child is receiving equivalent instruction elsewhere, or that the child has graduated from high school. Parents or guardians of a child five or six years of age have the option of not sending the child to school until age six or age seven. Parents or guardians should communicate this decision to the district by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The parent or guardian of a child seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school by signing a withdrawal form at the school district office.

Regular student attendance is essential to the educational process. So that we can inform you if your child is absent without a previous explanation, Connecticut laws also require that we obtain from you a telephone number or other means of contacting you during the school day. Please complete and return the demographic form which we will send to you at the beginning of the school year.

## **Excused or Unexcused Absences**

Students are considered absent if they are not present for at least half of the regular school day. For the first nine absences in a school year, an absence will be excused when a parent provides a timely written note approving the absence. For the tenth and all absences thereafter to be considered excused, the absence must be due to an acceptable reason. Acceptable reasons include:

- student illness (verified by a licensed medical professional);
- the student's observance of a religious holiday;
- death in the family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
- mandated court appearances (additional documentation required);
- lack of transportation usually provided by the school district; or
- extraordinary educational opportunities (pre-approved by the principal).

Up to ten absences will be considered excused for students to visit with parents or legal guardians who are active members of the armed forces and have been called to duty for, are on leave from or have immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The Board of Education may grant additional excused absences for such purposes.

## **Documentation of absence**

Documentation is a written explanation of the nature of and the reason for the absence as well as the length of the absence. This includes a signed note from the student's parent or guardian, a signed note from a school official that spoke in person with the parent or guardian regarding the absence, or a note confirming the absence by the school nurse or by a licensed medical professional. All documentation of absences must be provided within ten days of the absence.

## **Notification to parents**

Whenever a student in grade K-8 is absent from school and no communication has been received by school personnel that the parent or guardian is aware of the student's absence, the school shall notify the parent by telephone of the student's absence.

## **Truancy**

Truancy is defined as four unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten unexcused absences from school in any school year. When a student is identified as a truant, the Superintendent or his/her designee will conduct a meeting with the parent, the student, if appropriate, and other school personnel. The meeting will occur not later than ten school days after the child's fourth unexcused absence in a month or the tenth unexcused absence in a school year and will be for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating the reasons for truancy. In reviewing and evaluating the reasons for the student's truancy, the participants of the meeting should consider the appropriateness of referring the student to the school's Student Assistance Team or planning and placement team. At the meeting, school personnel shall be designated to coordinate services with and referrals of children to community agencies providing child and family services if appropriate.

For more information, please refer to Board Policy #5113, "Truancy."

# Confidentiality of Student Information

## Directory information

<b>NOTIFICATION OF DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT</b>
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Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: August 30, 2017

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student:

Federal law enables the School District to release “directory” information about the above-named student to the public without your prior written consent. The term “directory information” refers to information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Although the District uses its discretion and exercises caution when releasing directory information about its students, it is possible that information regarding your child may be released to parties such as the media, colleges, civic or school-related organizations, employment and military recruiters, as well as to the public via school district websites or in published programs for athletic, music, theater and other school sponsored presentations.

Directory information is the following categories of information:

1. Name of student
2. Address
3. Telephone number
4. Electronic mail address
5. Photograph
6. Date and place of birth
7. Major field of study
8. Grade level
9. Dates of attendance
10. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
11. Weight and height of members of athletic teams
12. Degrees, honors and awards received (including publication of honor roll)
13. Most recent school previously attended

**IF YOU DO NOT WANT ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT, YOU MUST NOTIFY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE BY COMPLETING AND RETURNING THE FOLLOWING FORM:**

### Refusal to allow disclosure of directory information

I understand that the District has designated the above categories as directory information and may disclose such information about my child without my prior written consent. I refuse to allow disclosure of directory information to the following extent:

- Do NOT release information from the specific categories I have circled above without prior written consent.
- Do NOT release any category of directory information without prior written consent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Rights**

### **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS**

Consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [“FERPA”], parents of enrolled students and students over 18 years of age [“eligible students”] have certain rights with respect to education records. These rights are as follows:

**The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school officials receive a request for access to the records.** Parents or eligible students should submit a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect to the school principal. The school will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

**The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate or misleading.** Parents or eligible students may ask school officials to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading or a violation of privacy. If school officials decide not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, they 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 disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records except to the extent that FERPA, specifically as set forth in 34 C.F.R. §99.31, authorizes disclosure without consent, including but not limited to the following situations:**

- To other school officials within the school system who have a legitimate educational interest. A school official is defined as persons who are employed by the Board in an administrative, counseling, supervisory, academic, student support services, research position, or a support person to these positions AND contractors, consultants, volunteers or other parties engaged to perform a special task or service for the Board. School officials include the superintendent, administrators, supervisors, teachers, school nurses, medical advisors, psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, paraprofessionals, support or clerical staff, security personnel, school resource officers, members of the Board of Education, attorneys who represent the District, accountants, auditors, bus contractors, medical or educational consultants or therapists; or a person serving on a Board of Education committee or as a hearing officer in discipline cases. 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.
- To other agencies or institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, provided that the school makes a reasonable effort to notify the parent or eligible student of the order or subpoena prior to compliance.
- To appropriate parties in the event of a health or safety emergency.

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

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

The Board of Education has adopted a comprehensive written policy concerning the access, confidentiality and amendment of students' education records. Copies of the complete “Education Records” policy are available at [www.newmildfordps.org](http://www.newmildfordps.org)

**Military and college recruiters**

**-NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS OF SECONDARY STUDENTS-  
ACCESS TO STUDENT INFORMATION BY  
MILITARY and COLLEGE RECRUITERS**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: August 30, 2017

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent/Guardian and Secondary Students:

In compliance with federal law, our school district must, upon request, provide to military recruiters, colleges and universities, access to the names, addresses and telephone listings of secondary students.

A parent/guardian or student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone number not be released by the District without prior written parental consent. If you would like to make such a request, please complete the following and return it to your child's school. If we do not receive this request within two weeks of the date of this notice, we will give military recruiters, colleges and universities access to your child's name, address and telephone listing.

**IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD'S NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED TO MILITARY OR COLLEGE RECRUITERS WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT, YOU MUST NOTIFY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE BY COMPLETING AND RETURNING THE FOLLOWING FORM:**

Request for non-disclosure of information to recruiters

I am aware the District must provide access to military recruiters and colleges or universities of student names, addresses and telephone listings. I am aware the District will provide this information upon request, unless I require that such information not be given to the following groups without prior written parental consent. I therefore request the following:

**Military Recruiters** *(please check one)*

- Do not release my secondary student's information to military recruiters at any time.
- Do not release my secondary student's information to military recruiters until you have first obtained my *prior written parental consent* before doing so.

**Colleges, Universities, or Institutions of Higher Learning** *(please check one)*

- Do not release my secondary student's information to colleges, universities or other institutions of higher learning at any time.
- Do not release my secondary student's information to colleges, universities or institutions of higher learning until you have first obtained my *prior written parental consent* before doing so.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (“PPRA”) affords parents and eligible students over the age of eighteen certain rights regarding the District’s conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

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

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

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

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

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

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

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

The school district has adopted policies (Board of Education Policy 6162.51 and 6141.11) and regulations, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The school district will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The school district will also directly notify, such as through United States Mail or e-mail, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. The school district will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the district has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an

opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. The following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

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

Parents or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

## **Students with Disabilities – Reasonable Accommodations and Special Education**

### **Section 504**

A student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity or otherwise substantially limits the student's ability to access his or her education may be entitled to reasonable accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Major life activities include, but are not limited to learning, concentrating, thinking, working, communicating, caring for oneself, seeing, hearing, walking, breathing or eating as well as the operation of a major bodily function. A student's eligibility for such accommodations is determined by a Section 504 Team, and any accommodations the disabled student may require are set forth in what is known as a Section 504 Plan. The 504 Plan outlines the modifications and accommodations that the disabled student needs in order to participate fully in the programs offered by the school. If you wish to have your child considered for identification for accommodations under Section 504, you should contact your child's assistant principal and/or guidance counselor. Any questions, concerns or disagreements regarding 504 Plans should be directed to the school district's Section 504 Coordinator:

Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
(860) 354-3235

### **Special Education**

Students with disabilities who need specialized instruction may qualify for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, or "IDEA." Unlike Section 504 accommodations, which are intended to support the student in a general education setting, specialized instruction is tailored to the student's unique academic needs and consists in large part of annual goals and short-term objectives that are set forth in the student's Individual Education Plan, or "IEP." The New Milford Public School system actively seeks to identify children, beginning at age 3, who may require special education services. Eligibility for special education is determined by a Planning and Placement Team, or

“PPT.” Before a child is referred to a PPT, however, the law requires that the school system consider and, where appropriate, implement alternative procedures and programs in a general education setting. Referrals for special education may be made by school personnel as well as from a student's parents, physician, or social worker. If you wish to refer your child for special education services, you should contact the principal or assistant principal at your child's school. Any questions, concerns or disagreements regarding special education should be directed to:

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
(860) 354-2654

In providing special education and/or reasonable accommodations to students, the district complies with the requirements of federal and state law.

### **Video surveillance**

Video camera surveillance may be used on school buses, other transportation vehicles, in school buildings and on school property for the purpose of promoting the safety and security of students, staff and property. There will be no video surveillance in areas where students and staff have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as lavatories and locker rooms. For more information, please refer to Board Policy 5131.111.

### **Use of canines to detect illicit substances on school grounds**

New Milford Public Schools has zero tolerance for the possession and/or use of illegal drugs on school campuses. As educators, we are concerned about the use of illegal drugs by adolescents in our community. Our school district's efforts to prevent drug use at New Milford High School and Schaghticoke Middle School are well-established through our comprehensive health education and developmental guidance programs. However, despite our best efforts, some students continue to engage in unsafe behavior, take dangerous risks with drugs, and possess drugs on school grounds.

Therefore, working in collaboration with the New Milford Police Department, school administrators will periodically invite a canine unit trained in the detection of drugs onto school campuses. It is our intention to use the canine unit to conduct sweeps through the hallways, bathrooms, common areas, lockers and locker rooms, and the parking lot. During this procedure students will remain in their classrooms, much as they do when we practice an emergency drill. The canine unit will not be used in rooms occupied by students, nor will it be used to sniff students. If the canine unit detects an illicit substance in a student locker or vehicle, the student who is responsible for that locker or vehicle shall be called to witness any search. The student will be brought to an administrative office, questioned and possibly searched by a school administrator. Students who are discovered to be in possession of illegal drugs will be subject to disciplinary consequences including suspension and expulsion from school as well as possible arrest.



## **Transportation Complaints**

### PROCEDURE FOR FILING REQUESTS/COMPLAINTS/CONCERNS REGARDING SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

- I. Immediate Safety Concerns, Clarification of Existing Routes/Schedules and Complaints Regarding Existing Transportation Services:**
  - These requests can be made via telephone to All-Star Transportation Dispatch Office at 860-350-2880.
- II. Requests for extensions and alterations of service during the school year:**
  - These requests should be made in writing to the New Milford Public Schools, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, 50 East Street, New Milford, CT 06776.
  - Upon receipt of your request, you will be contacted within fifteen (15) business days regarding the disposition of the matter. Typically, these requests are not of an immediate or time-sensitive nature.
- III. Requests for extensions and alterations of service during the summer:**

During the summer, requests for alterations of service received on or before August 15<sup>th</sup> will be handled within ten business days prior to the opening of school. Requests received after August 15<sup>th</sup> will be processed within fifteen business days of the request.
- IV. Student Discipline Issues:**
  - All student discipline issues should be addressed with the school principal or designee.

## **Student Discipline Policies**

- Policy 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion
- Policy 5131 Student Conduct
- Policy 5131.1 Student Behavior on School Transportation
- Policy 5131.8 Out of School Misconduct
- Policy 5144 Discipline

**A comprehensive series of all Board policies and by-laws are available on the New Milford Board of Education website at [www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org). Please contact the district's central office at (860) 355-8406 if you have difficulty accessing any of these materials on the website or would like to request hard copies.**

## **Policy 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion**

### **SECTION I DEFINITIONS**

- A. **“Bullying”** is defined as (A) the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication directed at or referring to another student in the school district; or (B) a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student in the school district that (1) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to the student's property; (2) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property; (3) creates a hostile environment at school for such student; (4) infringes on the rights of such student at school; or (5) substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the school. Bullying shall include but not be

limited to a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socio-economic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical developmental or sensory disability or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

- B. **“Cyberbullying”** is defined as any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.
- C. **“Dangerous instrument”** means any instrument, article or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a motor vehicle and a dog that has been commanded to attack.
- D. **“Days”** is defined as days when school is in session.
- E. **“Deadly weapon”** means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles.
- F. **“Emergency”** is defined as a situation under which the continued presence of the student in the school imposes such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that a hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible.
- G. **“Exclusion”** is defined as any denial of public school privileges to a student for disciplinary purposes.
- H. **“Expulsion”** is defined as an exclusion from school privileges for more than ten (10) consecutive school days and shall be deemed to include, but not be limited to, exclusion from the school to which such student was assigned at the time such disciplinary action was taken, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond a period of one (1) calendar year. Such period of exclusion may extend to the school year following the school year in which such exclusion was imposed.
- I. **“Firearm”** means 1) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; 2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; 3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or 4) any destructive device. Firearm does not include any antique firearm. For purposes of this definition "destructive device" means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than 1/4 ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the weapons described herein.
- J. **“In-school suspension”** is defined as an exclusion from regular classroom activity for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, but not an exclusion from school, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension was imposed. An in-school suspension may be served in the school that the pupil attends, or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the Board. An in-school

suspension may include reassignment to a regular classroom program in a different school in the school district; such reassignment shall not constitute a "suspension" or "expulsion" under this policy.

- K. **“Martial arts weapon”** means a nunchaku, kama, kasari-fundo, octagon sai, tonfa or chinese star.
- L. **“Possess”** means to have physical possession or otherwise to exercise dominion or control over tangible property.
- M. **“Removal”** is defined as an exclusion from a classroom for all or part of a single class period, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond 90 minutes.
- N. **“School sponsored activity”** is defined as any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Board and includes activities conducted on or off school property.
- O. **“Suspension”** is defined as an exclusion from school privileges and/or from transportation services for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension was imposed.
- P. **“Vehicle”** means a "motor vehicle" as defined in Section 14-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, snow mobile, any aircraft, or any vessel equipped for propulsion by mechanical means or sail.

## **SECTION II REMOVAL FROM CLASS**

- A. Each teacher shall have the authority to remove a student from class when such student deliberately causes a serious disruption of the educational process within the classroom, provided that no student shall be removed from class more than six times in any year, nor more than twice in one week unless such student is referred to the building principal, or his/her designee, and granted an informal hearing as set forth in section IV C of this policy.
- B. Whenever any teacher removes a student from the classroom, such teacher shall send the student to a designated area and shall immediately inform the building principal or his/her designee as to the name of the student against whom such disciplinary action was taken and the reason therefore.

## **SECTION III STANDARDS GOVERNING SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION**

- A. Conduct on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity as set forth in Section C below will be cause for suspension and/or expulsion when such conduct:
  - 1. Violates a publicized policy or code of student conduct in effect in the schools; or
  - 2. Seriously disrupts the educational process; or
  - 3. Endangers persons or property
- B. Conduct off school grounds as described in paragraph C below will be cause for suspension and/or expulsion when such conduct:

1. Violates a publicized policy of the Board and
  2. Seriously disrupts the educational process
- C. The following conduct is prohibited and will be considered cause for suspension and/or expulsion:
1. Threatening, harassing or intimidating another member of the school community in any manner, including orally, in writing, via electronic communication, or by gestures or other physical behavior such as stalking. Members of the school community include any school employee, fellow student, consultant, volunteer, or visitor to a school.
  2. Use of physical force against another person which is not reasonably necessary for self-defense;
  3. Theft of personal or school property, or taking or attempting to take personal property or money from another person, or from his/her presence, by means of force or fear;
  4. Willfully causing, or attempting to cause, damage to school property;
  5. Possession, use, transmission or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, performance enhancing drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, cocaine, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind including inhalants, prescription drugs for which the possessor, user or transmitter has no legal prescription, or drug paraphernalia;
  6. Possession or transmission of a facsimile of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, or marijuana;
  7. Knowingly being in the presence of those who are in possession of, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind;
  8. Possession or transmission of any weapon, including but not limited to any firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, martial arts weapon, knife, box cutter, razor, blade, chemical sprays, electroshock weapons or facsimile of any weapon or instrument.
  9. Using or copying the academic work of another and presenting it as his/her own without proper attribution;
  10. Possessing, smoking or consuming tobacco products or using vapor products and electronic devices that simulate smoking by delivering nicotine or other substances by the inhalation of a vapor on school grounds;
  11. Open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over the student, including verbal abuse;

12. Intentional and successful incitement of truancy by other students;
  13. Bullying or cyberbullying, including such conduct that may occur outside of the school setting if such bullying (1) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (2) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (3) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.
  14. Any violation of the Board's policies prohibiting sexual, racial and other unlawful harassment including any act of harassment based on an individuals' race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression or religion;
  15. Intentional incitement which results in an unauthorized occupation of any part of a school or other facility owned by any school district;
  16. Participation in an unauthorized occupancy of any part of any school or school premises or other building owned by any school district and failure to leave such school premises or other facility promptly after having been directed to do so by the principal or other person in charge of such building or facility;
  17. Making false bomb threats or other threats to the safety of students, staff members and/or other persons;
  18. Unauthorized use of any school computer, computer system, computer software, Internet connection or similar school property system or the use of such property or system for unauthorized or non-school related purposes;
  19. Create, use, access, upload, download, possess, transmit or distribute profane, pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit, harassing, threatening or illegal material or communications including but not limited to electronic data and communications;
  20. Violation of any other Board policy, rule, agreement, or directive dealing with student conduct, including that dealing with conduct on school buses and the use of school district equipment and;
  21. Violation of any federal or state law which would indicate that the violator presents a danger to any person in the school community or to school property.
- D. Expulsion proceedings pursuant to section V, shall be required whenever there is reason to believe that any student 1) was in possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity; 2) off school grounds, did possess a firearm in violation of Connecticut General Statutes §29-35, or did possess and use such a firearm, dangerous instrument, deadly weapon or martial arts weapon in the commission of a crime; or 3) on or off school grounds, offered for sale or distribution a controlled substance as defined in Connecticut General Statutes, §21a-240(9), whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering or administering is subject to criminal penalties under Connecticut General Statutes §§21a-277 and 21a-278. A student shall be expelled for a period of one calendar year if the Board of Education finds that the student engaged in any

of the conduct described herein, provided the period of expulsion may be modified on a case-by-case basis.

In the event it is determined by the Superintendent that a student issued a threat against a member of the school community as described in paragraph C.1, above, the matter shall be referred to law enforcement officials for possible criminal prosecution and the Superintendent shall take all available measures to ensure the safety of persons in the school community in the event of the student's return to school.

- E. Students in kindergarten, first and second grade may not be expelled except for mandatory reasons as described in the previous paragraph and in section V below.

#### **SECTION IV SUSPENSION PROCEDURE**

- A. The administration of each school is authorized to invoke suspension for a period of up to ten (10) days, or to invoke in-school suspension for a period of up to ten (10) days, of any student for one or more of the reasons stated in section III, above, in accordance with the procedure outlined in Paragraph C of this section. Moreover, the administration is authorized to suspend a student from transportation services whose conduct while receiving transportation violates the standards set forth in section III, above. The school administration is authorized to immediately suspend any student when there is an emergency as defined in section I, above.

Suspensions shall be in-school suspensions, except an out-of-school suspension may be imposed if:

##### **GRADES K to 2:**

the administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence that such pupil's conduct on school grounds is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers persons.

##### **GRADES 3-12:**

the administration determines that the pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (B) the administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of (i) previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil, and (ii) efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies.

- B. In the case of suspension, the school administration shall notify the Superintendent within twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension as to the name of the student who has been suspended and the reason for suspension. Any student who is suspended shall be given an opportunity to complete any class work including but not limited to examinations missed during the period of his/her suspension.
- C. Except in the case of an emergency as defined in section I, above, a student shall be afforded the opportunity to meet with a member of the administration and to discuss the stated charges prior to the effectuation of any period of suspension or in-school suspension. If at such a meeting the student denies the stated charges he/she may at that time present his/her version of the incident(s) upon which the proposed suspension is based. The school

administration shall then determine whether or not suspension or in-school suspension is warranted. In determining the length of a suspension period, the school administration may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, suspension or expulsion.

- D. No student shall be suspended more than ten (10) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless a hearing as provided in section V(B) of this policy is first granted.
- E. No student shall be placed on in-school suspension more than fifteen (15) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless a hearing as provided in section V(B) of this policy is first granted.
- F. Whenever a student is suspended, notice of the suspension and the conduct for which the student was suspended shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school.
- G. The administration may shorten or waive the suspension period of a student who is suspended for the first time and who has never been expelled if the student successfully completes a program and any other conditions specified by the administration. Any such program shall be at no expense to the student or his/her parents/guardians. For a student whose suspension period is shortened or waived, the notice of the disciplinary action must be expunged from the cumulative education record if the student graduates from high school or, if the administration chooses, at the time the student completes the specified program and any other conditions required by the administration, whichever is earlier.

## **SECTION V EXPULSION PROCEDURES**

The Board of Education may expel any student in grades three to twelve, inclusive, for one or more of the reasons stated in section III if, in the Superintendent's judgment, such disciplinary action is in the best interests of the school system. An expulsion hearing is required in any instance in which the Superintendent has reason to believe a student in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive has engaged in the conduct described in section III (D). The procedures outlined in Paragraphs A and B, below, shall be followed prior to the effectuation of any expulsion unless an "emergency" as defined in section I, above, exists. If an emergency exists, such a hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

- A. The Board of Education shall notify the student concerned and his/her parents, or the student if he/she has attained the age of eighteen (18), that expulsion is under consideration. Such notice shall contain the information required under Paragraph B of this section. Three members of the Board of Education shall constitute a quorum for an expulsion hearing. A student may be expelled if a majority of the Board members sitting in the expulsion hearing vote to expel, except that when only three Board members are presiding at the hearing, a unanimous vote shall be required for expulsion.
- B. The procedure for any hearing conducted under this section shall be determined by the hearing officer or Board chairperson, as appropriate, but shall include the right to:
  - 1. Notice of the proposed hearing which shall include:

- a. a statement of the time, place, and nature of the hearing;
  - b. a statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;
  - c. reference to the particular sections of the Connecticut General Statutes or school policies involved;
  - d. a short and plain statement of the matters asserted, if such matters have not already been provided in a statement of reasons requested by the student; the statement so provided may be limited to a statement of the issues involved if it is not possible to state the issues in detail at the time such notice is served. Upon request from the student concerned a more definite and detailed statement of the issues shall be furnished;
  - e. a statement, where appropriate, that the Board is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to any student between the ages of sixteen and eighteen who (1) has been expelled previously or (2) is found to have engaged in conduct which endangered persons and involved (a) possession on school property or at a school-sponsored activity of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, or (b) offering for sale or distribution on school property or at a school sponsored activity a controlled substance as defined by law. (See section VII on Alternative Educational Opportunity);
  - f. information concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services.
2. The opportunity to be heard;
  3. The opportunity to present witnesses and introduce documentary evidence;
  4. The opportunity to cross-examine adverse witnesses and challenge the introduction of documentary evidence;
  5. The opportunity to be represented by counsel; and
  6. Prompt notification of the decision of the Board of Education which decision shall be in writing if adverse to the student concerned.
- C. The record of any hearing held in an expulsion case shall include the following:
1. All evidence received or considered by the Board of Education, including a copy of the initial letter of notice of proposed expulsion, if any, and a copy of all notices of hearing;
  2. Questions and offers of proof, objections and rulings on such objections;
  3. The decision of the Board of Education rendered after such hearing; and



4. The official transcript, if any, of proceedings relating to the case or, if these are not transcribed, any recording or stenographic record of the proceedings.
- D. Rules of evidence at expulsion hearings shall include the following:
1. Any oral or documentary evidence may be received by the Board of Education, but as a matter of policy irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence shall be excluded;
  2. The Board of Education shall give effect to the rules of privilege recognized by law;
  3. In order to expedite a hearing, evidence may be received in written form, provided the interest of any party is not substantially prejudiced thereby;
  4. Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts if the original is not readily available provided, however, that any party to a hearing shall be given an opportunity to compare the copy with the original;
  5. A party to an expulsion hearing may conduct cross-examination of witnesses where examination is required for a full and accurate disclosure of the facts;
  6. The Board of Education may take notice of judicially cognizable facts in addition to facts within the Board's specialized knowledge provided, however, the parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing of material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data, and an opportunity shall be afforded to any party to contest the material so noted;
  7. A record of any oral proceedings before the Board of Education at an expulsion hearing shall be made. A transcript of such proceedings shall be furnished upon request of a party with the cost of such transcript to be paid by the requesting party.
- E. In determining the length of an expulsion, the Board of Education may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems, which have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, suspension, or expulsion.
- F. Decisions shall be in writing if adverse to the student and shall include findings of fact and conclusions necessary for the decision. Findings of fact made by the Board after an expulsion hearing shall be based exclusively upon the evidence adduced at the hearing.
- G. Except as provided for in Section VII, any student who is expelled shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity consistent with the requirements of state law.
- H. Whenever a student is expelled pursuant to the provisions of this policy, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice shall not be expunged at any time if the expulsion was based upon possession of a firearm or deadly weapon and the student was in grade nine through twelve. Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school. The expulsion notice may be

expunged from the student's record prior to graduation if the student has demonstrated to the Board that his/her conduct and behavior in the years following the expulsion warrants expungement.

- I. Whenever a student against whom an expulsion hearing is pending withdraws from school after notification of such hearing but before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered, notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record and the Board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision.
- J. Except in cases where an expulsion is based upon the possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board of Education may shorten the length of or waive the expulsion period of a student who is expelled for the first time and who has never been suspended if the student successfully completes a program and any other conditions specified by the Board. Any such program shall be at no expense to the student or his/her parents/guardians. For a student whose expulsion period is shortened or waived, the notice of the disciplinary action must be expunged from the cumulative education record if the student graduates from high school or, if the Board chooses, at the time the student completes the specified program and any other conditions required by the administration, whichever is earlier. Nothing herein shall be deemed to restrict the ability of the Board to shorten or waive the expulsion period, based upon completion of any program or meeting of conditions, for students who have been previously suspended or expelled, as may be permitted by law and as provided in Subsection L, below.
- K. The Board of Education may adopt the decision of a student expulsion hearing conducted by another school district, provided that the Board shall hold a hearing pursuant to this policy which shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would also warrant expulsion under the policies of the Board. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity in accordance with statutory requirements and this policy.
- L. In addition to such rights specified in Section J, above, an expelled pupil may apply for early readmission to school. Such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education; however, the Board may delegate authority for readmission decisions to the Superintendent. If the Board delegates such authority, readmission shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent. The Board or Superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.
- M. A student requiring special education and related services as described in Connecticut General Statutes §10-76a(5)(A) shall not be referred to an expulsion hearing until a planning and placement team is convened to determine whether the misconduct was caused by the student's disability. If it is determined that the misconduct was caused by the child's disability, the child shall not be referred to an expulsion hearing and shall not be expelled.

The planning and placement team shall reevaluate the child for the purpose of modifying the child's individualized education program to address the misconduct and to ensure the safety of other children and staff in the school. If it is determined that the misconduct was not caused by the student's disability, the student may be expelled in accordance with the provisions of this section applicable to children who do not require special education and

related services. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section VII, below, whenever a student requiring such special education and related services is expelled, an alternative educational opportunity, consistent with such child's educational needs shall be provided during the period of expulsion.

- N. Any student who commits an expellable offense and is subsequently committed to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement for such offense may be expelled using the procedures of this policy. The period of expulsion shall run concurrent with the period of commitment. If a student who committed an expellable offense seeks to return to the school district after having been in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement and the student has not been expelled for such offense, the district shall allow such student to return and may not expel the student for additional time for such offense.
  
- O. A student who has been identified as eligible for school accommodations pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, shall not be referred to an expulsion hearing until the student's Section 504 Team is convened to determine whether the misconduct was caused by the student's disability. If it is determined that the misconduct was caused by the child's disability, the child shall not be referred to an expulsion hearing and shall not be expelled. Where appropriate, the Section 504 Team shall modify and otherwise review the student's accommodations plan to address the misconduct and to ensure the safety of other children and staff in the school. If it is determined that the misconduct was not caused by the student's disability, the student may be expelled in accordance with the provisions of this section applicable to non-disabled students.

## **SECTION VI NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS OR GUARDIAN**

The parents or guardian of any minor student against whom disciplinary action is taken under this policy shall be given notice of such disciplinary action within twenty-four (24) hours of the time the student was excluded.

## **SECTION VII ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to offer any student under the age of sixteen (16) who is expelled an alternative educational opportunity during the period of expulsion. Any parent or guardian of such a student who does not choose to have his or her child enrolled in an alternative program shall not be subject to the provisions of section 10-184 of the General Statutes. Any expelled student who is between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) and who wishes to continue his or her education shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity if he or she complies with conditions established by the Board of Education. Such alternative may include, but shall not be limited to, the placement of such student in a regular classroom program of a school other than the one from which the student has been excluded and, for students at least sixteen (16) years of age, placement in an adult education program. Any student participating in an adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school. In determining the nature of the alternative educational opportunity to be offered under this section the Board of Education may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension, or expulsion.

State statutes do not require the Board of Education to offer an alternative educational opportunity to a student between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) who has been expelled previously or

who is expelled because of conduct which endangers persons and it was determined at the expulsion hearing that the conduct for which the student was expelled involved (a) possession on school property or a school-sponsored activity of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, or martial arts weapon or (b) offering for sale or distribution on school property or at a school sponsored activity a controlled substance as defined in subdivision (9) of C.G.S. §21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting, or possessing with the intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administration is subject to criminal penalties under C.G.S. §§21a-277 and 21a-278.

If the Board expels a student for the sale or distribution of such a controlled substance the Board shall refer the student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. If the Board expels a student for possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board shall report the violation to the local police department. The Board shall give the name of the student and a summary of the Board's action in so referring the student, to the commissioner of education within thirty (30) days after the student is expelled.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to students requiring special education who are described in subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of Connecticut General Statutes §10-76a.

## **SECTION VIII GUN FREE SCHOOLS ACT**

The Board of Education shall submit to the Commissioner of Education such information on expulsions for the possession of weapons as is required for purposes of the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. §7151, et seq.

## **SECTION IX PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

- A. As used in this section, “preschool program provider” means a local or regional board of education, state or local charter school or interdistrict magnet school that offers a preschool program. No preschool program provider shall expel any child enrolled in such provider's preschool program, except an expulsion hearing shall be conducted, in accordance with the provisions of subsection B, below, whenever there is reason to believe that any child enrolled in such preschool program was in possession of a firearm, on or off school grounds or at a preschool program-sponsored event. Such child shall be expelled for one calendar year if, at the expulsion hearing it is determined, that the child did so possess such a firearm. A preschool program provider may modify the period of expulsion for a child on a case-by-case basis.
- B. An expulsion hearing required under this subsection shall be conducted by (1) the program provider, as set forth above, or (2) the board of education, in accordance with section V above, if (a) the preschool program provider is the board of education, or (b) the preschool program provider is a regional educational service center or a state or local charter school pursuant to an agreement between such preschool program provider and the board of education, Unless an emergency exists, as set forth in section I, above, no child shall be expelled under this subsection without a formal hearing held pursuant to section V. If an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.
- C. No preschool program provider may authorize a suspension of a child enrolled in such provider's preschool program, unless the suspension is an in-school suspension. Except that an out-of-school suspension may be imposed if the administration determines that an out-of-

school suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence that such pupil's conduct on school grounds is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers persons.

## **Policy 5131 Student Conduct**

### **I. Philosophy of Discipline**

Discipline begins in the home with the responsibility of parents to develop a positive attitude towards study and behavior. No code established or action taken by school officials can be effective without parental acceptance of this primary responsibility. Discipline continues in the classroom with the relationship between the teacher and the student.

The school district is unequivocally committed to the principle that disorderly and disruptive behavior should not be permitted to interfere with the right of other students to pursue an education. While most discipline problems should be handled by the teacher, student and parent, the Administration and the Board of Education have the responsibility to support and maintain the enforcement of discipline within the building.

All students shall be required to conduct themselves at all times in accordance with established codes of student conduct. Every reasonable effort will be made to keep students within the school's sphere of influence, using suspension and/or expulsion only where appropriate according to established school policy. In this connection, students are reminded that:

1. The exercise of any of the student's rights must be weighed against the rights of another individual or group.
2. No student has the right to disrupt the educational process within a school.
3. All students will have the right to due process procedures in matters of suspension, transfer, and expulsion.

### **II. Areas of Responsibility**

#### **A. Board of Education**

The Board of Education holds the certified personnel responsible for the implementation of these rules with respect to students who are legally under the supervision and jurisdiction of the school and charges the Superintendent to see that such responsibility is effectively carried out.

#### **B. Principal**

The Principal shall implement immediate and necessary procedures and rules to render effective the policies of the Board of Education relating to standards of student behavior. The Principal may involve representatives of all areas of school personnel, students, parents and citizens of the community to this end.

**C. Teachers**

Teachers shall be responsible for the instruction of students in rules and regulations of proper conduct, as well as be responsible for assisting in the implementation of these rules and regulations. The responsibility and authority of any teacher extends to all students of the school district under the assigned supervision of the teacher and to other students so situated with respect to the teacher as to be subject to the teacher's control.

**D. Parents**

Parents shall be expected to cooperate with school authorities regarding the behavior of their children. Parents shall be held responsible for the willful misbehavior of their children.

**E. Students**

Each student is expected to act in accordance with the school behavior code, which emphasizes respect, cooperation, honesty, caring and responsibility. In doing so, students will develop life-long social and decision-making skills.

**III. Student Behavior**

Students shall be properly instructed in rules and regulations of acceptable conduct; they shall then be responsible for understanding and complying with the standards of behavior described therein. Any student who fails to comply with these laws and rules concerning student behavior is liable to suspension, exclusion or expulsion. Physical endangerment of another student or person shall be treated with especial strictness.

**Policy 5131.1 Student Behavior on School Transportation**

It is the responsibility of the Board, within the limits of the law, to ensure that the behavior of students on school vehicles or at school bus stops will promote the environment necessary for the safe transportation of students.

The New Milford Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools to establish and enforce uniform rules and procedures that will govern the behavior of students who are transported by a school vehicle to and from school and/or to and from a school sponsored activity. The rules and procedures shall be in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes and the guidelines set forth in this policy.

Parents or guardians are responsible for the behavior and safety of a student while on route to, from, and at the bus stop. Students at the bus stop shall behave in a manner that does not endanger the physical or emotional safety of self or others. Students who misbehave at a bus stop may, as a result, have the privilege of bus transportation denied as outlined in state statutes.

The Board of Education is responsible for student safety while students are in the Board's custody, that is, from the time a student boards the bus and until the student is discharged at the bus stop. The Board shall expect that the following general regulations will be followed:

1. The bus driver shall be in charge and treated respectfully by the students. All reasonable requests by the bus driver shall be obeyed.
2. Students shall remain seated until the bus is stopped at its destination and it is time for a student or students to leave the bus.
3. Students shall not tamper with any equipment that is part of the vehicle, including the rear exit door which is to be used only in an emergency.
4. All articles belonging to students, such as athletic equipment, books and backpacks, musical instruments, etc. shall not be placed in the aisle, in the driver's compartment, in the stairwell of the bus, or blocking any door.
5. Except for service animals that are individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability, animals of any kind shall not be allowed on school vehicles.
6. Disruptive behavior shall not be permitted and shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, suspension from school or suspension of transportation privileges; as well as payment for damage to a school vehicle as a result of the disruptive behavior.

The Superintendent shall establish the "Rules for Student Behavior on School Transportation" (5131.1); which shall be distributed to parents and students by the beginning of the school year.

#### **Policy 5131.8 Out of School Misconduct**

Students are subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion, for misconduct that occurs off school property, even when it is outside the school day, if the misconduct constitutes a violation of a publicized Board policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process. Disciplinary action may result, whether (1) the incident was initiated on school property, or (2) was initiated off-school property, whether during school time, or not.

The Board considers conduct which is "severely disruptive of the educational process" to be conduct that "markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operations of a school." In making the determination as to whether conduct is "seriously disruptive of the educational process," the administration may consider, but shall not be limited to, the following factors: (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (2) whether other students were involved, whether gang related or otherwise; (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in Section 29-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and whether any injuries occurred; and (4) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol or illegal drugs.

Examples of out-of-school misconduct that may result in discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion, include but are not limited to:

1. A bomb threat;
2. A threat to cause death or physical injury to an administrator, teacher, school employee, student, or other member of the community;

3. Use, possession, sale, or distribution of firearms, deadly weapons, dangerous weapons or dangerous instruments, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 29-35, 53-206 and 53a-3, for which expulsion is not otherwise mandatory;
4. Use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol;
5. Use or possession of illegal drugs, including medications for which the student does not possess a valid prescription;
6. Violent conduct;
7. A pattern of conduct that constitutes bullying, harassment, or stalking of another student.

### **Mandatory Expulsions for Out-of-School Misconduct**

Students shall be referred to an expulsion hearing and shall be expelled for one calendar year, provided that the Board may modify the period of expulsion on a case-by-case basis, if it is found that:

1. The student, off school grounds, did possess a firearm in violation of Connecticut General Statutes Section 29-35, or did possess and use such a firearm, instrument or weapon in the commission of a crime under Chapter 952 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 53a-24, *et seq.*
2. The student, off school grounds, offered for sale or distribution a controlled substance, as defined Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-240(9), whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administering is subject to criminal penalties under Sections 21a-277 and 21a-278.

### **Policy 5144 Discipline**

The policy of the New Milford Board of Education is to maintain an orderly environment in which teaching and learning can take place, to encourage students to respect the need for authority reasonably exercised and accept responsibility for their own actions, and to help them develop self-discipline consistent with the needs and expectations of the educational system and the society at large.

### **Student Behavior**

Appropriate behavior is expected from all students at all times. The Board realizes that appropriate behavior is not always automatic or easy. Often mistakes are made as students learn to be responsible for their own actions. Therefore, it is expected that each Principal and each teacher will have guidelines that will maintain discipline without inhibiting growth. The guidelines should be consistent with this policy while allowing for individual application reflecting the differences among administrators, teachers, students, grade levels, and circumstances.

### **Self Discipline**

The ultimate goal of school discipline should be to help students develop self-discipline, a capacity for personal restraint in view of the needs and rights of themselves and others that will guide them throughout life. Students should learn the meaning and value of deferred rewards.



## **Preventive Discipline**

The Board of Education believes that when certain conditions exist in a school many discipline problems will be prevented. These conditions, which each school should attempt to establish as part of a preventive discipline program, include:

1. A consistent application of reasonable rules and procedures beginning in the primary grades.
2. Adequate instruction at appropriate levels by competent teachers who are well-prepared in their subject matter areas.
3. Varied instructional and activity programs.
4. Sincere attempts to communicate with the home.
5. Genuine concern by the staff for individual student problems and growth.
6. Student involvement as appropriate in formulating rules and behavior standards.

Discipline should be a cooperative effort between home and school. It must begin at home and be reinforced in the schools. School discipline must be supported by parents. To secure maximum cooperation and support, the schools should inform parents about school discipline policies and about their child's behavior, and consult them promptly in the event of serious and/or persistent disciplinary problems.

## **Corrective Discipline**

When student behavior disrupts the learning environment, infringes on the rights of others, or endangers the student or other individuals, the educational system cannot achieve its purpose. Teachers and administrators may employ appropriate disciplinary measures as needed to control and correct inappropriate behavior. The measures should be consistent with this policy and appropriate to the student's age and the nature and seriousness of the behavior.

The Board of Education does not consider mass punishment or corporal punishment acceptable disciplinary measures. The Board does recognize that it may occasionally be necessary for a staff member to restrain a student or to use force to break up physical conflicts.

When persistent disciplinary problems occur, every effort should be made to resolve them through conferences with the student and the parents with the assistance of administrators and student personnel services. Although it may sometimes be necessary to temporarily remove a student from regular classes to help resolve personal problems that are causing misbehavior, the objective should be to help the learner to function constructively and responsibly in the normal school environment.

## **Students with Special Health Care Needs (Policy 5141.25)**

### **Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs**

The Board of Education believes all students, through necessary accommodations where required, shall have the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

In some cases, a student's disability may prevent him/her from eating meals prepared for the general school population.

Substitutions to the regular meal will be made for students who are unable to eat school meals because of their disabilities, when that need is certified in writing by a physician. Meal service shall be provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the disabled student.

The nature of the student's disability, the reason the disability prevents the student from eating the regular school meals, including foods to be omitted from the student's diet, indication of the major life activity affected by the disability, the specific diet prescription along with the substitution(s) needed will be specifically described in a statement signed by a licensed physician. The district, in compliance with USDA Child Nutrition Division guidelines, will provide substitute meals to food-allergic students based upon the physician's signed statement.

### **Management of Life Threatening Food Allergies**

The New Milford Board of Education recognizes the importance of developing and implementing a plan for the management of food allergies in the student population. This plan must provide a balance between the health, social normalcy and safety needs of students with life-threatening food allergies and the educational, health and safety needs of all students.

### **Food Allergy Management Team**

The Board of Education delegates the responsibility for developing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and revising the school district's Guidelines for Food Allergy Management to a multidisciplinary food allergy management team. The district's wellness advisory council is the designated food allergy management team and should include the following members: Superintendent or designee, building administrator, medical advisor or designee, school nurse, director of pupil personnel and special services, food and nutrition services director, teacher representative, parent representative, student representative, transportation coordinator, supervisor of custodial staff, other school personnel or community representatives as appropriate.

### **Guidelines established by the food allergy management team shall address the following areas:**

1. The process for identifying students with life-threatening food allergies including provisions for parents/guardians to provide adequate medical documentation
2. The process for developing individual health care plans for students with life-threatening allergies consistent with applicable state and federal law
3. Strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to life-threatening food allergens in school buildings
4. Provisions for the ongoing education of school personnel and the school community regarding the management of life-threatening food allergies
5. Emergency medical response plan including communication strategies between individual schools and local providers of emergency services
6. A method for monitoring and assessing of the food allergy management plan on at least an annual basis.

The Guidelines for Food Allergy Management shall be posted on the Board's website or the website of each school under the Board's jurisdiction. Parents and guardians shall be provided notice of the District's food allergy management plan annually, at the beginning of each school year in conjunction with the provision of the written statement of the Board's pesticide application policy.

## **Administration of Epinephrine for Emergency First Aid**

Connecticut law requires school nurses and other qualified and trained school employees in each public school to maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors (often referred to as “EpiPens”) for the purpose of administering emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine. This law serves to permit schools to provide emergency first aid to a student who experiences an allergic (and potentially life threatening) reaction even if the student does not have a prior written authorization for the administration of epinephrine. However, this same law permits the parent or guardian of a student to submit a written directive to the school nurse (or school medical advisor) that epinephrine shall not be administered to the student in emergency situations. **If a parent wishes to so prohibit the emergency use of epinephrine, or has any questions with regard to the emergency use of epinephrine and the parental ability to prohibit its use, then please contact the school nurse.**

## **Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness) – Policy 6142.2**

The New Milford Board of Education shall use a coordinated school health model in order to make wellness a cornerstone of our educational program. This well-rounded approach to school health connects the various components of health education, physical education, nutrition services, health promotion activities for staff, school health services, counseling and psychological support services, a safe and healthy school environment, and parent and community involvement. The teamwork that is inherent in this comprehensive model is intended to build momentum toward a program that supports positive dietary and lifestyle practices that are essential for students to achieve their academic potential, full physical and mental growth and lifelong health and well-being.

The entire school environment, not just the classroom, shall be aligned with healthy school goals to positively influence the student’s understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to good nutrition and regular physical activity.

### Guiding Principles:

- The Board of Education delegates the responsibility for developing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and revising the school district’s wellness policy guidelines (administrative regulations) to a Wellness Advisory Council comprised of the following members: parents, students, school food service personnel, members of the board of education, administrators, the public, school nurse, physical education teacher, health education teacher and any other person that the team wishes to invite to help achieve its goals.
- The Wellness Advisory Council will create a wellness plan that addresses goals and standards for nutrition promotion and education, physical education and physical activity, school meals, beverages and other food, communication and promotion and measurement and evaluation of the plan.
- During the regular school day, all students will be provided with opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active. Physical activity shall not be used as a form

of discipline. Preventing elementary students from participating in the time devoted to physical exercise shall not be used as a form of discipline.

- Curriculum:
  - The physical education program shall be a standards-based, sequential physical education curriculum taught in grades K-12 by qualified physical education teachers. A key component of this program is to teach students how to achieve and maintain a healthy level of personal fitness.
  - Nutrition education shall be offered in grades K-12 as part of a planned, sequential, standards-based comprehensive health education program taught by highly qualified teachers.
- Foods and beverages sold or served under school auspices during the instructional school day will meet or exceed the nutrition recommendations of the *USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
- Foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students during the school day shall meet or exceed state and federal nutrition standards.
- Foods and beverages marketed to students during the school day shall meet or exceed federal Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- The District shall provide meals that follow the USDA requirements for Federal School Meal Programs under 7CFR Part 210 and 220.
- Highly qualified nutrition professionals will administer the school meal programs, and will provide affordable, nutrient-dense foods. Guidelines for age-appropriate portion size and maximum amount of fat, sodium, sugar and other additives in foods served and sold will be established and reviewed according to current scientific and medical research.
- Meals will be served in a relaxed, enjoyable climate, with adequate clean, safe space for eating.
- School menus shall be planned in order to meet or exceed state and national nutritional standards. Nutritious and healthy foods, such as fresh or dried fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy foods, whole grains, and 100% natural fruit and vegetable juices and water, shall be made available wherever food is sold in the District.
- Healthy foods and beverages shall be encouraged at school sponsored activities, such as fundraisers, parties and sporting events. In addition, the District will only permit those foods and beverages that are permitted under state law (in particular, Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-221p and 10-221q and the guidelines established by the State Department of Education) to be sold to students.
- The district highly values the health and well-being of every staff member and shall plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff members to maintain a healthy lifestyle and that encourage staff members to serve as role models.
- Measurement and evaluation:

- Establish a baseline of school wellness in each school by conducting a self-assessment using standard instruments.
- Assign school-based leadership and responsibility in each site to monitor compliance to achieve policy goals.
- The Superintendent and/or his/her designee is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the District’s wellness policy.

**Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Notices**

**Title I Programs – Policy 6172.41**

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall pursue funding under Title I, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to supplement instructional services and activities in order to improve the educational opportunities of educationally disadvantaged or deprived children.

**Comparability of Services**

In order to fulfill the fiscal mandates of Title I, the Board of Education affirms that state and local funds will be used in Title I schools to provide services that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services in schools that do not receive Title I funds. In other words, the district will equalize the provision of educational services among its schools before it supplements its Title I schools with federal funds.

The Superintendent shall ensure comparability among schools by:

1. Maintaining a district-wide salary schedule.
2. Providing equivalence among schools in teachers, administrators, and other staff
3. Providing equivalence among schools in the provision of curriculum materials and instructional supplies.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall maintain records that are updated at least biennially to document the District’s compliance with this requirement and provide written assurances regarding comparability to the State Department of Education as required by law.

**Title I Parental Involvement**

The District maintains programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I. These programs, activities, and procedures are described in District-level and School-level compacts.

**District-Level Parental Involvement Compact**

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop a District-Level Parental Involvement Compact according to Title I requirements. The District-Level Parental Involvement Compact shall contain: (1) the District’s expectations for parental involvement, (2) specific strategies for effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, and (3) other provisions as required by federal law. The Superintendent or designee

shall ensure that the Compact is distributed to parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I.

### **School-Level Parental Involvement Compact**

Each Building Principal or his/her designee shall develop a School-Level Parental Involvement Compact according to Title I requirements. This School-Level Parental Involvement Compact shall contain: (1) a process for continually involving parents/guardians in its development and implementation, (2) how parents/guardians, the entire school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement, (3) the means by which the school and parents/guardians build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards, and (4) other provisions as required by federal law. Each Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the Compact is distributed to parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I.

### **District Report Card**

To view the most recent District Profile and Performance Report for New Milford Public Schools, go to [http://edsight.ct.gov/Output/District/HighSchool/0960011\\_201516.pdf](http://edsight.ct.gov/Output/District/HighSchool/0960011_201516.pdf)

### **Parents Right to Know – Teacher and Paraprofessional Qualifications**

As a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the New Milford Public Schools you have a right to know the following information concerning the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher and any paraprofessionals who may work with your child:

1. Whether your child's teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. Whether your child's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. Whether your child's teacher is teaching in the field or discipline of his or her certification; and
4. Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and, if so, the paraprofessionals' qualifications.

If you wish to obtain this information, please contact the district's Human Resources Office at (860) 210-2200.

### **Green Cleaning Program**

The New Milford Public Schools has initiated a Green Cleaning Program, in order to reduce the chance of exposure for anyone using NMPS facilities, from products that might adversely affect human health and the environment, effective July 1, 2011.

As part of this ongoing effort, NMPS will work to eliminate any cleaning products brought in from the outside. CT Public Act 09-81 prohibits any parent, teacher, or staff member from bringing in any consumer products for cleaning. Custodial staff will be provided with regular training in order for them to be knowledgeable in green cleaning procedures, to comply with Public Act 09-81, and to provide a safe and clean environment for all.

The components of our Green Cleaning Program, as required by Connecticut Public Act 09-81, include the following:

- A description and names of environmental, preferable cleaning products being used in the schools.
- The location(s) and application of where cleaning products are used.
- The schedule and/or frequency of when these cleaning products are used.
- Eliminating and monitoring cleaning products being brought in from outside sources as required by law.
- The manufacturer name and website information.
  - M.D. Stetson Co. Inc., 92 York Ave., Randolph, MA, 02368, Phone # 800-255-8651. Web site: www.mdstetson.com
- Names and designees who may be contacted for further information.
  - Kevin Munrett, Facilities Manager (860) 354-6265
  - Nestor Aparicio, Asst. Facilities Manager (860) 354-6265

<b>GREEN SEAL CERTIFIED PRODUCTS - Manufactured by M.D. Stetson</b>			
<b>Product Name:</b>	<b>Product Description:</b>	<b>Location/Area:</b>	<b>Frequency:</b>
PC101	Neutral & Glass Cleaner	Daily Tile Floor Cleaning, Mirrors, Glass	Daily
PC108	Spray & Wipe Cleaner	All Surfaces, Desks, Tables, Etc.	Daily
PC113	Carpet Spot Remover	Carpets, Upholstery	As Needed
PC116	Non-Acid Rest Room Cleaner	All Restroom Fixtures, Showers	Daily
PC120	Peroxide Multi-Cleaner	Restroom & Kitchen Floors	Daily
<b>PRODUCTS NOT COVERED BY THIS LAW:</b>			
<b>Product Name:</b>	<b>Product Description:</b>	<b>Location/Area:</b>	<b>Frequency:</b>
PC103	Disinfectant 256 HBV	Restrooms, Nurses' Offices, Hard Surfaces	Daily & As Needed

### **Pesticide Management Program**

The New Milford Board of Education has adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy for pest control within the building(s) on the grounds of the New Milford High School, Schaghticoke Middle School, Sarah Noble Intermediate School, Hill & Plain Elementary School and Northville Elementary School. IPM utilizes all available pest control methods such as sanitation, structural maintenance and exclusion, maintaining proper soil pH, fertility and moisture, trapping and/or biological controls along with the judicious use of pesticides to maintain pest populations at or below an acceptable level. Pesticides may be applied if a pest population has been identified through periodic monitoring; and alternative methods of control have not been effective. The least toxic pesticide would be used first. Pesticide applications will not be performed within any building or on the grounds of the school during regular school hours or during planned activities unless an emergency application is necessary to eliminate an immediate threat to human health. When this occurs, all children and staff will be removed from the area and not allowed to return until it is safe to do so according to the pesticide label.

Parents, guardians and staff who would like to be notified of pesticide applications may contact this office to register. Registrants will be notified of pesticide applications on or before the date of application by email. Notification will include (1) the name of the active ingredient of the pesticide being applied, (2) the location of the application on school property, (3) the date of the application, and (4) the name of the school administrator or a designee who may be contacted for further information. Registrants will be notified of any emergency pesticide applications that are made to eliminate an immediate threat to human health by email.

Notice will be sent to any person who registers to be notified if there is any revision or modification to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.

### **Asbestos Management Plan**

The New Milford Board of Education, in compliance with federal law, has developed a formal asbestos management plan, concerning the presence or suspected presence of asbestos-type materials within district school buildings, and required inspections and preventative measures related to those materials to ensure that there is no exposure hazard to the students, faculty or staff.

In accordance with federal law, members of the public, including parents, teachers and other employees, shall be permitted access to the asbestos management plan of the New Milford Board of Education. Upon request, the district shall permit members of the public, including parents, teachers and other employees, to inspect any asbestos management plan for any building so desired. The district shall grant access to such management plans within a reasonable period of time after a request from a member of the public is received.

The Facilities Department is responsible for ensuring that the requirements of our asbestos management program are properly implemented. All requests will be routed through them.

### **Eligibility for Free and Reduced Lunch**

Children need healthy meals to learn. **The New Milford Public Schools** offer healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$ 1.40 (K-Grade 5), \$1.75 (Grades 6-12) and lunch costs \$2.35 (K-Grade 5), \$2.60 (Grades 6-12). **Your children may qualify for either free meals or reduced-price meals.** The reduced price is \$ .30 for breakfast and \$ .40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and detailed instructions.

**NOTE:** Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefits may be directly certified and automatically eligible for free meals without applying for benefits. Questions regarding SNAP/TFA and direct certification should be sent to the determining official Charlene Kirkwood, [kirkwoodc@newmilfordps.org](mailto:kirkwoodc@newmilfordps.org), or 860-354-3712. If you have received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free meals, **do not** complete the application. Let the school know if any children in your household are **not** listed on the **Notice of Direct Certification** letter you received.

The answers to common questions below can help you with the application process.

#### **1. Who can get free or reduced-price meals?**

- All children in households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the **legal** responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.



- Children who meet the definition of homeless or runaway are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart:

Reduced Federal Eligibility Income Chart Effective 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	22,311	1,860	430
2	30,044	2,504	578
3	37,777	3,149	727
4	45,510	3,793	876
5	53,243	4,437	1,024
6	60,976	5,082	1,173
7	68,709	5,726	1,322
8	76,442	6,371	1,471
Each Additional Family Member	+ 7,733	+ 645	+ 149

- How do I know if my children qualify as homeless or runaway?** Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and you have not been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, [dicorpoa@newmilfordps.org](mailto:dicorpoa@newmilfordps.org) or 860-354-3235.
- Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Use **one** *Free and Reduced-price School Meals Application* for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to Charlene Kirkwood, Food & Nutrition Services Department, 22 Hipp Road, New Milford, CT 06776, 860-354-3712 by fax to 860-354-2118.
- Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are already approved for free meals?** No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Charlene Kirkwood, [kirkwoodc@newmilfordps.org](mailto:kirkwoodc@newmilfordps.org), Food & Nutrition Services Department, 22 Hipp Rd., New Milford, CT 06776, or 860-354-3712 immediately.
- My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out a new one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- I get WIC. Can my children get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC **may** be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application.
- Will the information I give be checked?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

9. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing Joshua D. Smith, 50 East Street, New Milford, CT 06776, 860-355-8406 or [jsmith@newmilfordps.org](mailto:jsmith@newmilfordps.org).
10. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You, your children or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.
11. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you **normally** receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
12. **What if some household members have no income to report?** Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. When this happens, please write "0" in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will **also** be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you **meant** to do so.
13. **We are in the military. Do we report our income differently?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food or clothing, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, these must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
14. **What if there isn't enough space on the application for my family?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach to your application. Contact Charlene Kirkwood, [kirkwoodc@newmilfordps.org](mailto:kirkwoodc@newmilfordps.org), Food & Nutrition Services Department, 22 Hipp Rd., New Milford, CT 06776, 860-354-3712 to receive a second application.
15. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for SNAP benefits and to contact the Department of Social Services office in your town, contact United Way's free referral number **2-1-1** (free call, statewide).

If you have other questions or need help, call **860-354-3712**.

## Addendum C: INFORMATION ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children qualify for free school meals or milk, you might also qualify for **SNAP** (formerly called Food Stamps). SNAP helps people buy food for themselves and their families. SNAP benefits are issued each month on plastic debit cards. You can use SNAP benefits to buy food at major supermarkets, neighborhood grocery stores, and some farmers' markets authorized to accept SNAP.

### HOW TO QUALIFY

If and how much SNAP you qualify for depends on:


- your household's income;
- allowable deductions to your household's income (examples include monthly shelter expenses, medical bills, and court ordered child support);
- your household size; and
- at least 5 years U.S. residency for qualified non-citizens.

If you have access to the Internet, you can go online to see if you may be eligible for SNAP. Go to [www.connect.ct.gov](http://www.connect.ct.gov) and click "Am I Eligible?" **Owning your own home or owning a car will not prevent you from being eligible for SNAP.**

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income	Gross Annual Income
1	\$1,832	\$21,984
2	\$2,470	\$29,640
3	\$3,108	\$37,296
4	\$3,747	\$44,964
5	\$4,385	\$52,620
6	\$5,023	\$60,276
7	\$5,663	\$67,956
8	\$6,304	\$75,648
For each additional member	+642	+7704
Larger households = higher incomes		

### TO APPLY OR GET MORE INFORMATION

- To find your local Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) office, call **United Way's free referral number 2-1-1** (free call statewide).
- You can find a list off all Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) office, or you can apply online at [www.connect.ct.gov](http://www.connect.ct.gov) (click "Apply for Benefits"). You can get the paper SNAP application in English at [www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/pdfs/applications/w-1e.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/pdfs/applications/w-1e.pdf) or in Spanish at [www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/pdfs/applications/w-1es.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/pdfs/applications/w-1es.pdf).
- The following three organizations conduct outreach for DSS and can assist with applying for SNAP benefits:
  1. **The Community Health Center Association of Connecticut** works with the following community health centers, which will help you enroll in SNAP.

HARTFORD COUNTY AND TOLLAND COUNTY	WINDHAM COUNTY	NEW HAVEN COUNTY	FAIRFIELD COUNTY
<p><b>Community Health Services</b> Hartford 860-249-9625</p> <p><b>Charter Oak Health Center</b> Hartford 860-550-7500</p> <p><b>Intercommunity, Inc.</b> East Hartford 860-569-5900</p> <p><b>First Choice Health Centers</b> East Harford, Manchester, Vernon 860-528-1359, ext. 241</p> <p><b>Wheeler Clinic</b> Bristol 860-920-4175</p>	<p><b>Generations Family Health Center</b> Willimantic, Norwich, Putnam 860-450-7471, ext. 6300</p>	<p><b>Cornell Scott Hill Health Center</b> New Haven 203-503-3000</p> <p><b>StayWell Health Center</b> Waterbury 203-756-8021, ext. 3814</p>	<p><b>Norwalk Community Health Center</b> Norwalk 203-899-1770, ext. 1203</p> <p><b>Optimus Health Care</b> Bridgeport, Stamford, Stratford 203-696-3260, ex. 3326</p> <p><b>CIFC Greater Danbury Community Health Center</b> 203-743-0100, ext. 254</p> <p><b>Southwest Community Health Center</b> Bridgeport 203-332-3542</p> <p><b>Family Centers</b> Greenwich 203-655-4693</p>
 <p>Community Health Center Association of Connecticut</p>			

## Addendum C: INFORMATION ON THE SNAP, continued

2. **End Hunger CT!** provides a SNAP eligibility screener ([www.ctsnap.org](http://www.ctsnap.org)) and call center (866-974-SNAP (7627)) to assist in determining eligibility. If you are eligible for SNAP, you will stretch your food dollars, support your school and community, and your kids get school meals at no cost. Many families are surprised they qualify – it is quick, easy and confidential to check by using the screener and call center.
3. **The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA)** works with the following community action agencies that will help you enroll in SNAP:

Agency	Phone Number	Areas Served
<a href="#">Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)</a>	203-366-8241	Greater Bridgeport Area and Upper Fairfield County
<a href="#">The Access Community Action Agency (Access)</a>	860-450-7400	Windham and Tolland Counties
<a href="#">Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)</a>	203-387-7700	Greater New Haven Area
<a href="#">The Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut, Inc. (CAAWC)</a>	203-744-4700	Northwestern CT and Lower Fairfield County
<a href="#">Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)</a>	860-560-5600	Hartford and Middlesex County
<a href="#">Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA)</a>	860-225-8601	New Britain and Bristol Areas
<a href="#">New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)</a>	203-575-9799	Greater Waterbury, Meriden, and Torrington Areas
<a href="#">Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)</a>	860-889-1365	Naugatuck Valley
<a href="#">Training Education and Manpower, Inc. (TEAM)</a>	203-736-5420	Southeastern CT- New London County

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



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