

STUDENT POLICIES GOALS

The student is the focal point of all operations of our school system. This top priority is shared with no one.

Consequently, the Foxborough School Committee can expect to spend much of its time in study, deliberation, and policy formulation on matters directly related to students.

The Foxborough School Committee and staff will work together to establish an environment conducive to the very best learning achievements for each student through meeting the following goals regarding students:

1. To individualize the learning program in order to provide appropriately for each student according to his/her specific background, capabilities, learning styles, interests, and aspirations.
2. To protect and observe the legal rights of students.
3. To enhance the self-image of each student by helping him/her feel respected and worthy through a learning environment that provides positive encouragement through frequent success.
4. To provide an environment of reality in which students can learn personal and civic responsibility for their actions through meaningful experiences as school citizens.
5. To deal with students in matters of discipline in a just and constructive manner.
6. To provide in every way possible for the safety, health, and welfare of students.
7. To promote daily attendance and strong academic achievement.

LEGAL REF.: 603 CMR 26:00

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

STUDENT POLICIES GOALS

Active Efforts

- (1) The School Committee of each school district shall establish policies, promote regulations and procedures, and implement monitoring and evaluation practices that support and promote affirmative action and stimulate necessary changes to ensure that all obstacles to equal access to school programs for all persons are removed, regardless of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion or limited English-speaking ability, no matter how subtle or unintended. Such policies shall include a requirement for an annual evaluation of all aspects of the K through 12 school program to insure that all students regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin are given an opportunity to develop skills, competence, and experience, and to receive appropriate guidance so that they may be able to participate in all programs offered by the school including athletics and other extracurricular activities. Special attention shall be given to schools and programs in which students of either sex or of racial or national origin groups present in the community are markedly under-represented.
- (2) If participation in any school sponsored program or activity has previously been limited to students based on race, color, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or religion, then the Foxborough School Committee shall make active efforts to insure that equal access to all school sponsored programs or activities be provided within the system.
- (3) It shall be the responsibility of the Foxborough School Committee and the Superintendent to provide necessary information and in-service training for all school personnel in order to:
 - (a) Advance means of achieving educational goals in a manner free from discrimination on account of race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.
 - (b) Enhance consciousness of the kinds of discriminatory and prejudicial practices and behavior, which may occur in the public schools.
- (4) The Superintendent, as an agent of the Foxborough School Committee, shall promote and direct effective procedures for the full implementation of 603 CMR 26.00, and shall make recommendations to the Foxborough School Committee for the necessary policies, program changes, and budget resource allocations needed to achieve adherence to 603 CMR 26.00.
- (5) At the beginning of the school year, the Superintendent shall be responsible for sending to the parents of all school age children, in their primary language, a notice of the existence of S. 1971 c.622 and its implications. Such notice shall include the information that all courses of study, extracurricular activities and services offered by the school are available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin. This notice may be included with other communications sent to parents by the school system. Upon request, the Department of Education shall provide a translation in requested languages to assist Superintendents in complying with this section. The Superintendent shall inform the community of the existence of the law and of its implications through newspaper releases or radio or television announcements.

- (6) The Superintendent shall ensure that all students are annually informed in a manner certain to reach them of the existence of St. 1971, c.622 and its implications. Students shall be informed that all courses of study, extracurricular activities, services, and facilities offered by the school are available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.
- (7) The Superintendent shall make certain that employers who recruit new employees in and through the schools of that district, do not discriminate on account of race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin in their hiring and recruitment practices within the schools. Before any employer is allowed to recruit at or through any school, they shall be required to sign a statement that they do not discriminate in hiring or employment practices on account of race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.
- (8) Since adults serve as role models for students, school authorities shall utilize adults in a variety of jobs, and as members of policy-making committees, to the extent consistent with their contractual obligations, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.
- (9) Adults serving on athletic regulatory boards shall fairly represent the interests of both male and female students.
- (10) Any contributions to a school for activities and monetary awards within or sponsored by the school or for scholarships administered by the school made after the effective date of 603 CMR 26.00 by any person, group or organization shall be free from any restrictions based upon race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.
- (11) The opportunity to receive guidance and counseling in a student's primary language should be made available to students from homes where English is not the primary language spoken.

LEGAL REF.: 603 CMR 26:00

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In recognition of the diversified characteristics and needs of our students and with the keen desire to be responsive to them, the Foxborough School Committee will make every effort to protect the dignity of the students as individuals. It also will offer careful consideration and sympathetic understanding of their personal feelings, particularly with reference to their race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or physical and intellectual differences.

To accomplish this, the Foxborough School Committee and its staff will make every effort to comply with the letter and the spirit of the Massachusetts equal educational opportunities law, which prohibits discrimination in public school admissions and programs. The law reads as follows:

No child shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and course of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.

This will mean that every student will be given equal opportunity in school admission, admissions to courses, course content, guidance, and extracurricular and athletic activities.

All implementing provisions issued by the Board of Education in compliance with this law will be followed.

LEGAL REFS.: Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964
Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972
Executive Order 11246, as amended by E.O. 11375
Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972
M.G.L. 76:5; 76:16 (Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971)
BESE regulations 603 CMR 26:00
BESE regulations 603 CMR 28.00

CROSS REF.: AC, Nondiscrimination

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy adopted as revised: 2-25-13

STUDENT-TO-STUDENT HARASSMENT

Harassment of students by other students will not be tolerated in the Foxborough Public Schools. This policy is in effect while students are on school grounds, School District property or property within the jurisdiction of the School District, school buses, or attending or engaging in school activities.

Harassment prohibited by the District includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, marital status or disability. Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Harassment means conduct of a verbal or physical nature that is designed to embarrass, distress, agitate, disturb or trouble students when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's education or of a student's participation in school programs or activities;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for decisions affecting the student, or;
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's performance or creating an intimidating or hostile learning environment.

Harassment as described above may include, but is not limited to:

- Verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse;
- Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- Implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, or other school matter.
- Demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student.

The Foxborough Public Schools will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of harassment. The Principal of each building will be responsible for handling all complaints by students alleging harassment.

Retaliation against a student, because a student has filed a harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment investigation or proceeding, is also prohibited. A student who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion.

The Superintendent will develop administrative guidelines and procedures for the implementation of this policy.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 151B:3A

Title VII, Section 703, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended
BESE 603 CMR 26:00

CROSS REFS.: AC Non-Discrimination
JICFB Bullying Prevention

REFS.: "Words that Hurt," American School Board Journal, September 1999
National Education Policy Network, NSBA

Policy adopted: 3-24-08
Policy revised: 4-4-11

Policy adopted as revised: 2-25-13

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

The School Committee's goal is to strive to address the needs of every student in each of our schools, subject to budgetary, space and other limitations.

Educational equity for the purpose of this policy is defined as providing all students, as reasonably practical, the high quality instruction and support they need to reach and exceed a common standard.

To achieve educational equity the district will commit to:

1. Systematically, when appropriate, use districtwide and individual school level data, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender/gender identity, national origin, language, special education, socioeconomic status and mobility to inform district decision making.
2. Raise the achievement of all students.
3. Graduate all students ready to succeed in a diverse local, national and global community.

In order to reach the goal of educational equity, as reasonably practical, for each and every student, the District shall:

1. Provide every student with access to high quality curriculum, support, and other educational resources.
2. Seek to promote educational equity as a priority in professional development.
3. Endeavor to create schools with a welcoming and inclusive culture and environment.
4. Provide multiple pathways to success in order to meet the needs of the diverse student body and actively encourage, support and expect high academic achievement for each student.

The Superintendent shall include equity practices in the district's strategic plan and goal strategies to implement this policy. The Superintendent, upon request, will periodically report to the Committee the progress of the implementation of this policy.

SOURCE: MASC

ATTENDANCE AREAS

Attendance areas for the various schools of the town will be drawn up by the Superintendent and approved by the Foxborough School Committee. The primary considerations that govern the establishment of a school attendance area are school capacity and transportation considerations. Generally, students will attend the school in the attendance area in which they live.

In establishing an attendance area, the following general guidelines will also be applied:

1. Use of safe walking conditions consistent with the Foxborough School Committee's transportation policies; where possible, major traffic thoroughfares and natural barriers will be used for boundaries.
2. Honoring community of interest; where possible, school attendance zones will incorporate community patterns.

From time to time an overcrowded condition in an existing school, the development of new residential areas, or the opening of a new school may require the establishment or change of previously established school attendance areas.

The Foxborough School Committee will confer with community representatives prior to setting new attendance lines. However, the Foxborough School Committee's primary basis for judgment must be equality of educational opportunity for all students rather than the personal desires of any one group.

The Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to attendance lines for individual students in the best interests of the student and/or the school.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37C; 71:37D; 71:37I; 71:37J
Board of Education Regulations Pertaining to Section 8 of Chapter 636 of the Acts of 1974, Regarding Magnet School Facilities and Magnet Educational Programs, adopted 2/25/75
Board of Education Regulations Pursuant to Chapter 636 of the Acts of 1974, adopted 9/10/74
Board of Education Regulations Pertaining to the Preparation of Racial Balance Plans which Involve Redistricting, adopted 4/24/73

CROSS REF.: JCA, Assignment of Students to Schools

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS

Generally, students will be required to attend school in the attendance area in which they reside, unless the Superintendent has granted special permission.

School bus transportation will not be provided for students attending schools outside their attendance area unless they can be accommodated on existing bus routes and schedules, or an exceptional student is involved; or unless specific permission is granted by the Superintendent of Schools.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37C; 71:37D; 71:37I; 71:37J
Board of Education Regulations Pertaining to Section 8 of Chapter 636 of the Acts of 1974, Regarding Magnet School Facilities and Magnet Educational Programs, adopted 2/25/75
Board of Education Regulations Pursuant to Chapter 636 of the Acts of 1974, adopted 9/10/74
Board of Education Regulations Pertaining to the Preparation of Racial Balance Plans which Involve Redistricting, adopted 4/24/73

CROSS REF.: JC, Attendance Areas

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy adopted as revised: 2-25-13

ENTRANCE AGE *FOR KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE*

In an attempt to permit students to enter kindergarten or first grade at the time most appropriate for them individually, the Foxborough School Committee establishes the following policy on entrance age:

1. Students who will be five (5) years of age before September 1st of the school year during which they wish to enroll will be eligible to enter kindergarten in September.
2. Students who will be six (6) years of age before September 1st of the school year during which they wish to enroll, will be eligible to enter first grade in September. Exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 15:1G
Board of Education Regulations for Entrance to First Grade and Kindergarten,
adopted 7/20/71

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy Adopted as Revised: 1-9-12

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

All students of school age who reside in the town will be entitled to attend the public schools, as will certain students who do not reside in the town but who are admitted under Foxborough School Committee policies relating to nonresident students or by specific action of the Foxborough School Committee.

Advance registration for prospective kindergarten students will take place in January. Every student seeking admission to school for the first time must present a birth certificate or equivalent proof of age acceptable to the Principal and proof of vaccination and immunizations as required by the state and the Foxborough School Committee. Proof of residency of legal guardianship may also be required by the school administration.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 15:1G; 76:1; 76:5; 76:15; 76:15A
603 CMR 26:01; 26:02; 26:03

CROSS REFS.: JLCA, Physical Examination of Students
JLCB, Inoculations of Students
JFBB, School Choice

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Purpose and Construction of 603 CMR 26.00

- (1) 603 CMR 26.00 is promulgated to insure the right of access to the public schools of the Commonwealth and the equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges and courses of study at such schools without regard to race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin. 603 CMR 26.00 shall be liberally construed for these purposes.
- (2) The obligation to comply with 603 CMR 26.00 is not obviated or alleviated by any local law or rule or regulation of any organization, club, athletic or other league or association which would limit the eligibility or participation of any student on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.

School Admissions

- (1) All public schools in the Commonwealth shall admit students without regard to race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin. This includes, but is not limited to regional vocational-technical schools, elementary, secondary, trade, and selective academic high schools.
- (2) The national citizenship of any applicant shall not be a criterion for admission to any public school nor shall national citizenship be a factor in the assignment or availability of courses of study or extracurricular activities.
- (3) Any standards used as part of the admissions process to any public school, including but not limited to testing, the use of recommendations, and interviewing (as referred to in 603 CMR 26.02 (1)) shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin. Limited English-speaking ability (as defined by M.G.L.c.71A) shall not be used as a deterrent to or limitation on admissions.
- (4) If admission to any school, including but not limited to selective academic high schools, regional vocational-technical schools and trade schools, is dependent upon the participation or completion of courses or programs which were previously limited to students of one sex or if close scrutiny reveals that access mechanisms or other administrative arrangements have limited the opportunities of any racial, ethnic or religious group of students to participate in such programs, then such criteria must be abolished.
- (5) Nothing in 603 CMR 26.00 shall be construed as to control the interpretation of or interfere with the implementation of St. 1965, c. 641, as amended by St, 1974, c. 636, providing for the elimination of racial imbalance in public schools, all rules and regulations promulgated in respect thereto and all court and administrative decisions construing or relating thereto.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 15:1G; 76:1; 76:5; 76:15; 76:15A
603 CMR 26:01; 26:02; 26:03

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Admission to Course of Study

- (1) Each and every course of study offered by a public school shall be open and available to students regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the use of prerequisite requirements that have been demonstrated to be essential to success in a given program. However, if participation in a course or program is dependent upon completion of a prerequisite which was previously limited to students of one sex, or if close scrutiny reveals that access mechanisms or other administrative arrangements have limited the opportunities of any class of students to participate in such prerequisites, then all members of the previously excluded group shall be given the opportunity to acquire the prerequisites or be allowed to enter the program without such prerequisites. If it cannot be shown that a prerequisite is essential for success in a given program, the prerequisite shall be abolished.
- (2) The determination of what courses or units of study are to be required of any student shall also be made without regard to the race, color, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or religion of that student.
- (3) The scheduling of students into courses or units of study shall not be done on the basis of sex, color, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.
- (4) Each student, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation or limited English-speaking ability, shall have equal rights of access to courses of study and other opportunities available through the school system of the city or town in which he/she resides, along with appropriate bilingual instruction and programs or other curriculum offerings of a supportive nature such as appropriate remedial programs.
- (5) Nothing in 603 CMR 26.03 shall be construed to prevent particular segments of a program of instruction from being offered separately to each sex when necessary in order to respect personal privacy.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 15:1G; 76:1; 76:5; 76:15; 76:15A
603 CMR 26:01; 26:02; 26:03

Policy Adopted: 3-24-08

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Students who are not residents of Foxborough may not attend the Foxborough Public Schools.

The students of families who have signed a contract to buy, build, or lease a residence in the Town of Foxborough may be enrolled in the Foxborough Public Schools at the discretion of the Superintendent.

The Foxborough School Committee shall continue to provide space within the Foxborough Public Schools for METCO students wishing to enroll in the Foxborough Public Schools, subject to funding, and capped at the lesser of the METCO per pupil funding or 55 students.

The Superintendent may allow a Foxborough High School student who moves from the Town of Foxborough to remain at Foxborough High School if he/she moves after the start of the twelfth grade school year. The Superintendent may allow students in all other grades to complete the school year in their current school if they move from the Town after May 1st.

In emergent or rare circumstances, the Superintendent may grant a waiver to the residency requirement for short periods of time.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 76:5, 6, 12, 12A, 12B

Policy Adopted: 8.16.76

Policy Revised: 6.20.83

Policy Reviewed: 10.16.89

Policy Amended: 11.6.89

Policy Amended: 6.3.02

Policy adopted as amended: 3-24-08

ADMISSION OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

The Foxborough Public Schools will enroll and place students who have left Commonwealth charter schools by adhering to the same policies and procedures in place for any other student enrolling in the school district including, but not limited to, examination of the course of study and level of academic attainment of the student when determining the student's grade placement or eligibility for high school graduation. The time of the school year when enrollment is sought shall be a factor in determining the student's grade level placement. The school district may determine that a student seeking enrollment after the mid-point of the academic year may not be eligible for promotion or graduation in that academic year.

To the same extent provided for other students enrolling in the school district, students who enroll in the Foxborough Public Schools from a Commonwealth charter school shall be subject to the graduation requirements of the Foxborough Public Schools, may have certain graduation requirements waived, and may make up certain graduation requirements.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS: Chapter 12, Section 11 of the Acts of 2010

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Policy Adopted: 4-24-11

HOMELESS STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES

To the extent practical and as required by law, the Foxborough Public Schools will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided Foxborough Public Schools services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs and school nutrition programs.

Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Being abandoned in hospitals;
5. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings;
7. Migratory students living in conditions described in the previous examples.

The superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the Foxborough Public Schools Homeless Education Liaison for homeless students and their families. The district's Homeless Education Liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless students and youths and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. This coordination includes providing public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters and soup kitchens. The district's Homeless Education Liaison will also review and recommend amendments to district policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Instead of remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area in which the student is actually living, or other schools. Attendance rights by living in attendance areas, other student assignment policies, or intra and inter-district choice options are available to homeless families on the same terms as families resident in the Foxborough Public Schools.

If there is an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the Foxborough Public Schools decision and their appeal rights in writing. The Foxborough Public Schools Homeless Education Liaison will carry out dispute resolution as provided by state rule. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of the dispute.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to Foxborough Public Schools policies. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the Foxborough Public Schools Homeless Education Liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to Foxborough Public Schools policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with Foxborough Public Schools policies, including compliance with the state's address confidentiality program when necessary.

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin in this district, the districts will coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student, or will divide the costs equally.

LEGAL REFS.: Title I, Part C
 No Child Left Behind Act, 2002
 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), 2015

Policy adopted: 3-24-08
Policy revised: 9-16-19

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the educational stability of students in foster care and their equal access to the same free and appropriate public education through high school graduation as provided to other students as required by law. Educational stability has a lasting impact on students' academic achievement and wellbeing, and the School Committee is committed to supporting district and community efforts to ensure that students in foster care have access to high-quality, stable educational experiences.

Foster care students will continue to attend their school of origin, unless after a collaborative decision-making process it is determined to be in the student's best interest to enroll in and attend school in the district in which a foster care provider or facility is located (if different). The law also requires that when it is not in the student's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the student is immediately enrolled and attending in a new school district, even if records normally required for enrollment cannot be quickly produced. Additionally, the law requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF), The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the school district to designate points of contact; and also that the district collaborate with DCF to ensure that students will receive transportation to the school of origin if needed.

Best Interest Determination

Decisions about whether a student in foster care should continue to attend the school of origin should be made collaboratively by DCF, the student (as appropriate), the student's family and/or foster family (and if different, the person authorized to make educational decisions on behalf of the student), the school and district of origin, and (when different) the local district where the student is placed. Best interest determinations should focus on the needs of each individual student and take into account a variety of factors. Every effort should be made to reach agreement regarding the appropriate school placement of a student in foster care. However, if there is disagreement regarding school placement for a student in foster care, DCF will finalize the best interest determination.

The district can seek review of DCF's decision by utilizing a Foster Care School Selection Dispute Resolution Process established by DESE and DCF. Decisions made through this process are not subject to review. Under the law, to promote educational stability, students should continue to attend their schools of origin while best interest determinations are being made.

Transportation

The district of origin must collaborate with DCF on how transportation will be provided and arranged to ensure that students in foster care who need transportation to remain in their school of origin will receive such transportation while they are in foster care.

Transportation options may include using Title I funds, establishing regional collaborations among districts, coordinating with existing routes for transportation, seeking help from foster parent(s), etc.

Absent other agreements between the district and DCF, the district of origin is responsible for providing transportation to and from the school of origin.

Immediate Enrollment

If it is in the best interest of a student in foster care to leave the school of origin, the student must be enrolled in school in the local school district immediately. To minimize disruption of the student's education, the law requires the district to enroll the student in a new school right away, without waiting to receive the typical student enrollment documentation (other than emergency contact information). The enrolling school must immediately contact the child's school and district of origin to obtain the relevant records and documentation, and the school and district of origin should immediately transfer those records.

To facilitate enrollment, DCF representatives will present the district with a form that indicates that the student is in foster care, along with their state-agency identification badge, when enrolling students.

LEGAL REFS: *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*;
Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act)

Policy adopted: 9-16-19

SCHOOL CHOICE

It is the policy of this school district **not** to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Inter-district School Choice Law (M.G.L. 76:12.) This decision must be reaffirmed annually prior to June 1st by a vote of the Foxborough School Committee following a public hearing. In the event the Foxborough School Committee votes to participate, the following local conditions would apply:

1. That by May 1 of every school year, the administration will determine the number of spaces in each school available to choice students.
2. That by June 1 of every school year, a public hearing will be held to review participation in the school choice program.
3. That resident students be given priority placement in any classes or programs within the Foxborough Public Schools.
4. That the selection of non-resident students for admission when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces be in the form of a random drawing. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place during the last week of the current school year but no later than July 1st. The second will be conducted during the week immediately preceding the opening of the next school year and will be based on the possibility of unexpected additional openings.
5. Any student who is accepted for admission under the provisions of this policy is entitled to remain in the Foxborough Public Schools until graduation from high school except if there is a lack of funding of the program.
6. The Foxborough School Committee affirms its position that it shall not discriminate in the admission of any student on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance or proficiency in the English language.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:6; 71:6A; 76:6; 76:12; 76:12B
BESE Regulations 603 CMR 26.00

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy adopted as revised: 2-25-13

STUDENT ABSENCES

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. Parents of children attending our schools have the responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly in accordance with state law.

Students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. For observance of major religious holidays.

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

A student's understanding of the importance of day-to-day school work is an important factor in the shaping of his/her character. Parents can help their children by refusing to allow them to miss school needlessly.

Accordingly, parents will provide a written explanation for the absence or tardiness of a child. This will be required in advance of an absence, when possible. In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justifiable.

Student Absence Notification Program

Each Principal will notify a student's parent/guardian within 3 days of the student's absence in the event the parent/guardian has not informed the school of the absence.

Each Principal or designee shall make a reasonable effort to meet with any student, and that student's parent/guardian, who has missed five (5) or more unexcused school days (a school day shall be equal to two (2) or more class periods in the same day) in a school year. The meeting shall be to develop action steps to improve student attendance and shall be developed jointly by the Principal or designee, the student, and the student's parent/guardian. The parties may seek input from other relevant school staff and/or officials from relevant public safety, health and human service, housing, and nonprofit agencies.

Dropout Prevention

Any student who has not graduated from high school will not be considered permanently removed from school unless the Principal or his/her designee has sent a notice to the student, and the student's parent/guardian. The notice shall be sent within five (5) days of the tenth consecutive day of absence and shall offer at least two (2) dates and times within the next ten (10) days for an exit interview with the Superintendent or designee, the student, and the student's parent/guardian. The notice shall be in

both English and the primary language of the home, if applicable. The notice shall include contact information for scheduling the exit interview and shall indicate the parties shall reach an agreement on the date/time of the interview within the ten (10) day timeframe. The timeframe may be extended at the request of the parent/guardian and no extension for the meeting date shall exceed fourteen (14) days.

The Superintendent or designee may proceed with any interview without a parent/guardian present, provided the Superintendent has documented a good faith effort to include the parent/guardian.

The Superintendent or designee shall convene a team of school staff to participate in the exit interview and shall provide information to the student and, if applicable, the student's parent/guardian on the detrimental effects of early withdrawal from school, the benefits of earning a high school diploma, and the alternative education programs and services available to the student.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 76:1; 76:1B; 76:16; 76:18; 76:20

Policy Adopted: 12-15-14

Policy Revised: 01-03-23

EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Denial of Admission

Denial of admission means the withholding of the privilege of enrolling in a school of the Foxborough Public Schools.

The following shall be the grounds for denial of admission to school or diversion to an appropriate alternative program:

Graduation from the twelfth grade of any school or receipt of any document evidencing completion of the equivalent of a secondary curriculum;

Failure to meet the requirements of age by a student who has reached the age of six years at a time after the beginning of the school year, as fixed by the Foxborough School Committee as provided in Massachusetts General Laws;

Not being a resident of the District and the District has opted not to participate in the School Choice Law;

Failure to comply with the provisions of the Massachusetts School Entry Immunization Law.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37H; 76:12; 76:12A; 76:12B
603 CMR 26:00

Policy adopted: 3-24-08
Policy revised: 12-15-14

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The Foxborough Public Schools will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the religious beliefs of students and staff.

Any student in the Foxborough Public Schools who is unable, because of his/her religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from such examination, study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study or work requirement which he/she may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon the Foxborough Public Schools. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his/her availing him/herself of this policy. No student's grade will be affected as a result of exercising this policy.

The school district's calendar shall be prepared so as to minimize conflicts with religious holidays of all faiths.

Policy reviewed, first reading: 10.07.91

Adopted: 11.05.91

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 151C:2B

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Foxborough School Committee has the responsibility to afford students the rights that are theirs by virtue of guarantees offered under the federal and state constitutions and statutes. In connection with rights, there are responsibilities that must be assumed by students.

Among these rights and responsibilities are the following:

1. Civil rights--including the rights to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination; the responsibility not to discriminate against others.
2. The right to attend free public schools; the responsibility to attend school regularly and to observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school.
3. The right to due process of law with respect to suspension, expulsion, and decisions the student believes injure his rights.
4. The right to free inquiry and expression; responsibility to observe reasonable rules regarding these rights.
5. The right to privacy, which includes privacy with respect to the student's school records.

It is the Foxborough School Committee's belief that as part of the educational process students should be made aware of their legal rights, and of the legal authority of the Foxborough School Committee to make and delegate authority to its staff to make, rules regarding the orderly operation of the schools.

Students have the right to know the standards of behavior that are expected of them, and the consequences of misbehavior.

The rights and responsibilities of students, including standards of conduct, will be made available to students and their parents through handbooks distributed annually.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37H; 71:82 through 71:86

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

As appropriate to the age of students, class or school organizations and school government organizations, such as student councils, may be formed to offer practice in self-government and to serve as channels for the expression of students' ideas and opinions.

The Committee will take into consideration student opinions in establishing policies that directly affect student programs, activities, privileges and other areas of student sensitivity.

Students will be welcomed at Committee meetings and granted privileges of speaking in line with the privileges extended to the general public.

School Committee Representative(s)

The school committee representatives are responsible for attending School Committee Meetings. Student representatives are expected to take detailed notes in order to report back to the full Student Council at meetings. This is important so that the high school student body remains aware of and involved in decisions that are made by the School Committee.

State Student Advisory Council to the Massachusetts Board of Education (Two students)

State Student Advisory Council is a council of students from the South Eastern region of the state that debates statewide education issues and advises the Board of Education on these issues. Student representatives are responsible for attending monthly meetings that take place during the school day at Wareham High School. Students need to provide their own transportation. For more information, go to: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sac/roles.html>

SOURCE: Student Handbook

Policy adopted: 11-3-08

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

The School Committee believes that all students deserve every opportunity to achieve academic success in a safe, secure learning environment. Good citizenship in schools is based on respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students will be expected to conduct themselves in a way that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. They will be required to respect constituted authority, to conform to school rules and to those provisions of law that apply to their conduct.

Each Principal shall include prohibited actions in the student handbook or other publication that is made available to students and parents.

Principals and staff shall not use academic punishment of any form as a consequence to inappropriate behaviors/actions by students.

The Principal may, as a disciplinary measure, remove a student from privileges, such as extracurricular activities and attendance at school-sponsored events, based on the student's misconduct. Such a removal is not subject to the remainder of this policy, law, or regulation.

Suspension

In every case of student misconduct for which suspension may be imposed, a Principal shall consider ways to re-engage the student in learning; and avoid using long-term suspension from school as a consequence until alternatives have been tried. Alternatives may include the use of evidence-based strategies and programs such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive behavioral interventions and supports.

Notice of Suspension

Except for emergency removal, a Principal must provide the student and the parent oral and written notice, and provide the student an opportunity for a hearing and the parent an opportunity to participate in such hearing before imposing suspension as a consequence for misconduct. The Principal shall provide both oral and written notice to the student and parent(s) in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English. The notice shall include: (a) the disciplinary offense; (b) the basis for the charge; (c) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension; (d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent to attend the hearing; (e) the date, time, and location of the hearing; (f) the right of the student and the student's parent to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate; (g) if the student may be placed on long-term suspension following the hearing with the principal: 1. the rights set forth in 603 CMR 53.08 (3)(b); and 2. the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the

Superintendent. To conduct a hearing without a parent present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent.

Emergency Removal

A Principal may remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption.

The Principal shall immediately notify the Superintendent or designee in writing of the removal including a description of the danger or disruption presented by the student.

The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal, during which time the Principal shall:

- Make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal, and the other matters required in the notice;
- Provide written notice to the student and parent as required above;
- Provide the student an opportunity for a hearing with the Principal that complies with applicable regulations, and the parent an opportunity to attend the hearing, before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Principal, student, and parent;
- Render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day, which meets the requirements of applicable law and regulation.

A Principal shall also ensure adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation prior to removal.

Principal's Hearing – Short Term Suspension of up to Ten (10) Days

The hearing with the Principal shall be to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction.

At a minimum, the Principal shall discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information.

The student also shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the Principal should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate as set forth in law and regulation.

The Principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the Principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

The Principal shall, based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, what remedy or consequence will be imposed.

The Principal shall notify the student and parent of the determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal, as required by law and regulation. The determination shall be in writing and may be in the form of an update to the original written notice.

If the student is in a public preschool program or in grades K through 3, the Principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

Principal's Hearing – Long Term Suspension of more than ten (10) days but less than ninety (90) days (consecutive or cumulative)

The hearing with the Principal shall be to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction.

At a minimum, in addition to the rights afforded a student in a short-term suspension hearing, the student shall have the following rights:

- In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- The right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense;
- The right to produce witnesses on his or her behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so;
- The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
- The right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal, and to receive a copy of the audio recording upon request.

If the student or parent requests an audio recording, the Principal shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.

The Principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the Principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

The Principal shall, based on the evidence, determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension as required by law and regulation, what remedy or consequence will be imposed, in place of or in addition to a long-term suspension. The Principal shall send the written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent.

If the Principal decides to suspend the student, the written determination shall:

- Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
- Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
- Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
- Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school as required by law and regulation;
- Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent or designee, but only if the Principal has imposed a long-term suspension.

Notice of the right of appeal shall be in English and the primary language of the home if other than English, and shall include the following information:

The process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five (5) calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the Superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven (7) additional calendar days; and that the long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in a public preschool program or in grades K through 3, the Principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension before the suspension takes effect.

Superintendent's Hearing

A student who is placed on long-term suspension following a hearing with the Principal shall have the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent.

The student or parent shall file a notice of appeal with the Superintendent within the time period noted above (see Principal's hearing – Suspension of more than ten (10) days). If the appeal is not timely filed,

the Superintendent may deny the appeal, or may allow the appeal in his or her discretion, for good cause.

The Superintendent shall hold the hearing within three (3) school days of the student's request, unless the student or parent requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, in which case the Superintendent shall grant the extension.

The Superintendent shall make a good faith effort to include the parent in the hearing. The Superintendent shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort if he or she has made efforts to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and Superintendent to participate. The Superintendent shall send written notice to the parent of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

The Superintendent shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, what the consequence shall be. The Superintendent shall arrange for an audio recording of the hearing, a copy of which shall be provided to the student or parent upon request. The Superintendent shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made of the hearing and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request. The student shall have all the rights afforded the student at the Principal's hearing for long-term suspension.

The Superintendent shall issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing which meets the requirements of law and regulation. If the Superintendent determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the Principal, but shall not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the Principal's decision. The decision of the Superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district with regard to the suspension.

Expulsion

Expulsion is defined as the removal of a student from school for more than ninety (90) schooldays, indefinitely, or permanently as allowed by law for possession of a dangerous weapon; possession of a controlled substance; assault on a member of the educational staff; or a felony charge or felony delinquency complaint or conviction, or adjudication or admission of guilt with respect to such felony, if a Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

Any student alleged to have committed one of these acts shall be afforded the same due process rights as for a long term suspension. Any student expelled from school for such an offense shall be afforded an opportunity to receive educational services and make academic progress.

Academic Progress

Any student who is suspended or expelled shall have the opportunity to earn credits, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of his or her removal from the classroom or school. The Principal shall inform the student and

parent of this opportunity in writing, in English and in the primary language of the home, when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The Principal shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students under the law.

The Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

For each student expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days, the school district shall document the student's enrollment in education services. For data reporting purposes, the school shall track and report attendance, academic progress, and such other data as directed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Reporting

The school district shall collect and annually report data to the DESE regarding short- and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals, access to education services, and such other information as may be required by the DESE.

The Principal of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status in accordance with law and regulation.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L 71:37H; 71:37H ½; 71:37H ¾; M.G.L. 76:21; 603 CMR 53.00 et al.

Policy Adopted: 3-24-08
Policy Revised: 12-15-14

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The responsibility for the dress and appearance of the students will rest with individual students and parents.

They have the right to determine how the student will dress providing that attire is not destructive to school property, complies with requirements for health and safety, and does not cause disorder or disruption. The administration is authorized to take action in instances where individual dress does not meet the stated requirements.

This does not mean that student, faculty, or parent groups may not recommend appropriate dress for school or special occasions. It means that students will not be prevented from attending school or a school function, or otherwise be discriminated against, so long as their dress and appearance meet the requirements set forth above.

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

The Foxborough School Committee and its staff share with students and parents the responsibility for student safety during transportation to and from school. The authority for enforcing Foxborough School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of students whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with regulations approved by the Foxborough School Committee.

Policy adopted: 9-8-08

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Within the school setting, students enjoy the constitutional right of freedom of expression, including the right to express their views in student publications, provided such expression does not cause, or threaten to cause by reasonable forecast by school officials, any disruption or disorder in the school. Additionally, such constitutional right of freedom of expression does not include expression which is obscene, defamatory, or advocates violence or illegality where such advocacy is imminently likely to incite the commission of such acts to the detriment of school security, or which can reasonably be forecast to cause substantial disruption or material interference with school activities.

The Foxborough School Committee will at least annually review their support of student publications, and encourage student publications not only because they offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism, but also because they provide an opportunity for students to express their views subject to the limitations as contained in this policy.

Student publications will be encouraged to comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Students shall affix their names to all articles or editorials written by or contributed to by them. The Superintendent will establish guidelines that are in keeping with this policy and provide for review of student publications prior to their distribution, to address matters that are not protected forms of expression.

Each student publication shall contain the following: "Pursuant to state law, no expression made by students in the exercise of such rights shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy and no school officials shall be held responsible in any civil or criminal action for any expression made or published by the students."

Distribution of Literature

The time, place and manner of distribution of literature will be reasonably regulated by the Principal.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:82

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

GANG ACTIVITY/SECRET SOCIETIES

The goal of the Foxborough School Committee is to keep Foxborough Public Schools and students free from the threats or harmful influence of any gang. For purposes of this policy, gang is defined as any group, secret society, organization or association that advocates drug use, violence, ethnic intimidation, or disruptive or illegal behavior. The Principal or his/her designee shall maintain supervision of school premises to deter intimidation of students and confrontations between members of different gangs.

The Superintendent shall establish open lines of communication with local law enforcement agencies so as to share information and provide mutual support in this effort within appropriate legal guidelines.

Symbols

The Foxborough School Committee finds that gang symbols are inherently disruptive to the educational process, and therefore prohibits the presence of any insignia, apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook or other school supply, or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute denotes membership in gangs. The Foxborough School Committee further prohibits any demonstration of gang membership through the use of hand gestures, graffiti, or printed materials. This policy shall be applied by the Principal or his/her designee as the need for it arises individual school sites. A student may be suspended or expelled for failure to comply with the provisions of this policy.

Prevention Education

The Foxborough School Committee realizes that students may become involved in gangs without understanding the consequences of such membership. Early intervention is a key component of efforts to break the cycle of such memberships. Therefore, gang violence prevention information shall be made available in the elementary, middle, and high schools as appropriate.

SECRET SOCIETIES

Fraternalities, sororities and/or secret societies shall not receive Foxborough Public Schools or building recognition in any manner.

A student may be suspended or expelled for failure to comply with the provisions of this policy.

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

PROHIBITION OF HAZING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 536 of the Acts of 1985, the Foxborough School Committee hereby deems that no student, employee or school organization under the control of the Foxborough School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing a student while on or off school property, or at a school sponsored even regardless of the location. No organization that uses the facilities or grounds under the control of the Foxborough School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing any person while on school property.

Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined, herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, or drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this section.

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such a crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Section 19. Each secondary school shall issue to every group or organization under its authority of operating on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. An officer of each such group or organization, and each individual receiving a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen shall sign an acknowledgement stating that such group, organization or individual has received a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each secondary school shall file, at least annually, a report with the Board of Education, certifying that such institution has complied with the provisions of this section and also certifying that said school has adopted a Disciplinary Policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

Discipline Response:

- Referral to police for possible prosecution
- 10 day out-of-school suspension
- A hearing before the principal to consider an out-of-school suspension of more than 10 days.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. Ch.536, 269: Sec. 17, 18, 19

SOURCE: Student Handbook

CROSS REFS.: AC Non-discrimination

JBA Student to Student Harassment

JICFB Bullying Prevention

Policy adopted: 9-8-08

Policy revised: 4-4-11

BULLYING PREVENTION

The Foxborough Public Schools is committed to providing all students and school staff a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying.

“Bullying” is the repeated use by one or more students or member of a school staff of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target’s property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself, or of damage to his/her property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying may involve but is not limited to:

1. unwanted teasing
2. threatening/intimidating behavior
3. stalking or cyberstalking
4. cyberbullying
5. physical violence
6. theft or destruction of school or personal property
7. sexual, religious, or racial harassment
8. public humiliation
9. social exclusion, including incitement and or coercion
10. spreading of falsehoods or rumors

“Cyberbullying” is bullying through the use of technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, and the Internet. It includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messages, text messages, Internet postings, or any other forms of social media. The legal definition of cyberbullying set forth in *M.G.L. c. 71, § 370* applies to this policy.

Bullying and cyberbullying may occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying and cyberbullying are alleged, the full cooperation and assistance of parents and families are expected.

For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used it is to denote either bullying or cyberbullying.

Bullying is prohibited:

- On school grounds;
- On property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- At school-sponsored or school-related activities;
- At functions or programs whether on or off school grounds
- At school bus stops;
- On school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or,
- Through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the Foxborough Public Schools.

Bullying and cyberbullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the Foxborough school district, and allegations of bullying will be investigated, if the act or acts in question:

- create a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- when it impacts a student's educational experience or affects the school environment.

Nothing contained herein shall require the schools to staff any non-school related activities, functions or programs.

The district understands that members of certain student groups, such as students with disabilities, students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning, and homeless students may be more vulnerable to becoming targets of bullying, harassment, or teasing. The district will take specific steps to create a safe, supportive environment for vulnerable populations in the school community, and provide all students with the skills, knowledge, and strategies to prevent or respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall oversee the development of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying prevention and implementation plan within his or her school.

Reporting

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff. The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report bullying.

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of suspected incidents of bullying. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report a suspected incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report to the school principal or designee any suspected incident of bullying which a staff member has become aware of or has witnessed.

Investigation Procedures

The Principal or designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall promptly contact the parents or guardians of any student who has been the alleged target of bullying. The Principal or designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall also promptly contact the parents of any student who is an alleged perpetrator of bullying. The actions being taken to prevent further acts of bullying shall be discussed.

The school principal or designee shall promptly investigate the report of suspected bullying, using a Bullying/Cyberbullying Report Form which may include interviewing the alleged target, alleged perpetrator, staff members, students and/or witnesses.

Support staff shall assess an alleged target's needs for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore a sense of safety for that student.

Confidentiality shall be used to protect a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or is witness to or has reliable information about an act of bullying.

If the school principal or designee determines that bullying has occurred he/she shall take appropriate disciplinary action and if it is believed that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator, the principal shall consult with the school's resource officer and the Superintendent to determine if criminal charges may be warranted. If it is determined that criminal charges may be warranted, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The investigation shall be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report. The parents or guardians shall be contacted upon completion of the investigation and informed of the results, including whether the allegations were found to be factual, whether a violation of this policy was found, and whether disciplinary action has or shall be taken. At a minimum the Principal or his/her designee shall contact the parents or guardians as to the status of the investigation on a weekly basis.

Disciplinary actions for students who have committed an act of bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with district disciplinary policies. Disciplinary incidents involving staff will be reported in alignment with the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Staff Code of Conduct.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying shall be prohibited.

Target Assistance

The Foxborough Public Schools shall provide counseling or referral to appropriate services, including guidance, academic intervention, and protection to students, both targets and perpetrators, affected by bullying, as necessary.

Training and Assessment

Annual training shall be provided for school employees who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting suspected incidents of bullying.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all K to 12 students.

Publication and Notice

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms.

Annual written notice of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention and intervention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in the school employee handbook.

The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the Foxborough Public Schools website.

REFERENCES: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Model Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

LEGAL REFS.: Title VII, Section 703, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended
Federal Regulation 74676 issued by EEO Commission
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
603 CMR 26.00
MGL 71:37O, MGL 265:43, 43A, MGL 268:13B, MGL 269:14A

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
ACAB, Sexual Harassment
JBA, Student-to-Student Harassment
JICFA, Prohibition of Hazing

JK, Student Discipline Regulations

Policy adopted: 3-24-08
Policy revised: 6-16-14

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG USE PROHIBITED

The Foxborough School Committee prohibits the use or consumption of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs on school property or at any school function.

A student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy or sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product, including vapor/E-cigarettes; marijuana; steroids, or any controlled substance.

Additionally, any student who is under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages prior to, or during, attendance at or participation in a school-sponsored activity, will be barred from that activity and may be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy shall be posted on Foxborough Public Schools' website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents of this policy in accordance with state law. Additionally, the Foxborough Public Schools shall file a copy of this policy with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in accordance with the law in a manner requested by DESE.

SOURCE: MASC March 2016

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:21; 71:96; 272:40A; 71:37H; 270:22

CROSS REF.: ADF Wellness
IHAM, Health and Wellness Education
IHAMB, Teaching About Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco
GBEC, Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Policy

REF: MIAA rules governing student athletes

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy revised: 4-4-11

Policy revised and approved: 9/19/16