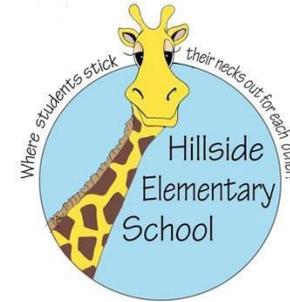


**HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**School and Family Handbook  
2022-2023**



**Hillside Elementary School  
507 Howellville Rd.  
Berwyn, PA 19312  
(610) 240 –1500**

**Website [www.tesd.net/hillside](http://www.tesd.net/hillside)**

**Hillside Elementary School  
School and Family Handbook  
2022-2023**

**Welcome to Hillside Elementary School!**

We hope that you find this handbook useful and informative in learning about the Policies, Practices, and Curricula that inform our work at Hillside and in the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District. Where noted, references to T/E District Policies and Regulations are indicated. Select Policies and Regulations are noted in the final section of this Handbook. You may find the full text of all Policies and Regulations by visiting [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net).

Thank you for being an essential and contributing member of the Hillside community. It is because of our teachers, staff, students, and families that we can collaborate to make the “Hillside Way” a reality for our students.

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# Hillside Elementary School Staff and Family Handbook

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Hours

**Grades 1 - 4** - School begins at **9:10 AM** and ends at **3:45 PM** for children in **Grades 1-4**. Students arriving after 9:10 AM must report to the lobby desk with a written explanation for the tardiness. Please do not transport children to school before 9:00 AM since there is no supervision of children before that time.

**AM Kindergarten** begins at **9:10 AM** and ends at **12:05 AM**. Bus transportation is provided to school and parents provide transportation home with pick-up at 12:05 a.m.

**PM Kindergarten** begins at **12:50 PM** and ends at **3:45 PM**. Parents provide transportation to school and children may begin arriving in the lobby after 12:40 PM. Bus transportation is provided at dismissal time.

**Half Day Sessions During Parent-Teacher Conferences** - When school is in session for a half day because of parent/teacher conferences, grades 1-4 dismiss at 12:45 PM. Kindergarten sessions are not held on these days.

### Emergency Delayed Openings and Closings

#### TE All-Call

The T/E School District uses TE All-Call, an automated phone notification system. TE All-Call allows the School District to send important messages quickly via phone to parents and guardians. This calling service will be used in the event of weather-related closings, late openings, early dismissals and any other unscheduled closings, cancellations or emergency situations.

In order to provide this service effectively, you will be asked in to provide three phone numbers that will be used as the contact numbers in the TE All-Call system. The system will call three numbers per child. For a list of

frequently asked questions on TE All-Call, please visit the T/E School District website at [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net).

#### Announcements about Delayed Openings or Closings

In addition to TE All-Call, closing information will also be broadcast on major television networks, displayed on TETV, Comcast Channel 14, and Verizon Channel 20. and recorded on the Information Hotline at 610-240-1970. For announcements on KYW radio, our School District Emergency Number is **Chester County 854**.

#### Early Dismissal Due to Emergency/Weather

The automated message sent by TE All-Call on early dismissal days will instruct parents to press "1" to confirm that the message was heard. It is important that parents listen to the entire automated message and then press "1" when the message is complete. The school office will use the information from TE All-Call to track parents who may not have heard the automated message. If parents do not press "1" when they receive the call on at least one of their three contact numbers, then they will receive an additional call from Hillside School confirming that they are aware of the early dismissal. **Parents are encouraged to make appropriate arrangements and review emergency procedures with their children prior to an early dismissal.** The school office is extremely busy on early dismissal days so, if possible, please refrain from calling the main office on these days.

#### Delayed Opening for Grades 1-4

In the event of a two-hour delayed opening, school begins at 11:10 AM. Classes will follow a revised two-hour delayed opening schedule with special attention to instruction in reading and math.

#### Modified Kindergarten

When there is a late opening due to weather, modified sessions are scheduled for kindergarten:

AM Kdg: 11:10- 1:05 (Children may be picked up at 1:05 p.m.)

PM Kdg: 1:50-3:45 (Children may be dropped off after 1:40 p.m.)

#### Dismissal

At the conclusion of the school day, children who are walkers, car riders, and those going to A Child's Place are dismissed first. **A child must have a note if they are going home any way other than the usual way.**

Parents wishing to pick up their children on any given day must write a note and send it to the teacher in the morning. Children who have notes to be picked up will be dismissed to the cafeteria. Parents may meet their children in the cafeteria and exit with their child from the back cafeteria door where there is a staff member on duty. No child will be dismissed to the parking lot. Parents are required to park their cars and come into the building to meet their children.

Children taking the bus will be dismissed from their classrooms. Bus passes are required for those wishing to take a bus other than their own. Bus passes may be obtained in the morning by writing a note requesting alternative transportation for that day.

## Bus Transportation

Parents are notified of their child's bus number and stop at the beginning of the school year via the Powerschool Parent Portal. Bus routes and schedules are also posted on the district's website. Children may not ride a bus other than their own bus without a bus pass. Written parental permission to take another bus or to exit the bus at a different stop is required. Long-term bus change requests may be made on a form that is available in the school office.

Questions or concerns about bus routes, stops and other bus information should be directed to the Transportation Department at **610-240-1680**.

## Absences

We request that parents call the School Attendance line at **610-240-1530** by 9:25 AM of the morning when their child will be absent. This line is accessible 24 hours a day. After attendance is taken in the classroom, the office verifies all student absences and calls to check on those who have not called in to report absences.

Absences are considered lawfully excused when a student is prevented from attendance for mental, physical, or other urgent reasons such as: illness, family emergency, death of a family member, medical or dental appointments, authorized school activities, educational travel with prior approval, pre-approved religious instruction (limit 36 hours per year), bona fide religious holiday, and for purposes of receiving tutorial instruction in a field not offered in the District's curricula.

Parents/guardians must provide the school with a written excuse explaining why their children were absent within three calendar days of an absence. All schools will accept hand-written notes, emails from parents'/guardians' designated email address, or faxes created and sent by parents/guardians. E-mail notes can be sent to [hesattendance@tesd.net](mailto:hesattendance@tesd.net). An excuse form is available on the Hillside Elementary School website [www.tesd.net/hillside](http://www.tesd.net/hillside) in the Student Attendance section. Phoning in does not take the place of a written note.

If a child will be out of school **for more than one day due to illness**, homework can be requested by calling the office. The teacher will prepare homework that will be available for pick up in the office 24 hours later.

Legal absences for student educational travel must be requested at least two weeks in advance of the travel. A form requesting legal absence may be obtained in the office. The Superintendent must approve trips greater than 5 days in length.

The full District Attendance Policy and Regulation 5113 are provided on the district's website at [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) and in the back of this Handbook.

## Tardiness

Students arriving after 9:10 AM are considered tardy. (PM kindergarten students are tardy after 12:50 PM). When students arrive late, they must report to the lobby desk to receive a tardy pass that admits them to class. Parents are required to send a written note to explain the tardiness. Tardiness is considered excused due to illness or a doctor's appointment.

## Nonresident Students (TESD Policy 5116)

The Tredyffrin/Easttown School District (TESD) operates for the benefit of resident children eligible for enrollment. Students are only eligible to enroll in TESD schools when they reside in the TESD at time of enrollment as determined by law. In this regard and by way of examples, the following do not establish residency:

1. Ownership or proof of future ownership of property (regardless of whether the property is residential, commercial or industrial) in the TESD without actual residency in the TESD at time of enrollment.
2. Residency with another family without complying with requirements established elsewhere in this Policy.

3. Residency with a parent who has less than 50% custody, without a court order specifically designating the TESD as the District of residence for school attendance purposes.

The TESD will only permit the enrollment of nonresident students when they are eligible for a specific reason as set forth in this Policy or as required by law. While the TESD's practice is not to enroll nonresident students on a tuition basis, nothing in this Policy shall preclude the TESD from assessing tuition charges to families whose children attend school in violation of this Policy and its accompanying regulation.

## Dress Code

Students should wear clothing that is appropriate for elementary school. A student's day can be filled with various activities that require physical activity, therefore, appropriate shoes should be worn to school. Sneakers are required for physical education class. Boots, warm coats, hats and gloves are recommended during cold weather so that children will enjoy outdoor recess on cold days. Please label all clothing with children's names.

## Dress and Appearance (TESD Policy and Regulation 5415)

Students have the right to determine their dress and appearance as long as it conforms to norms of decency and does not materially and substantially interfere with the educational process, threatens the school or community, depicts or encourages unlawful or otherwise prohibited activity, or interferes with another student's rights.

Clothing bearing or depicting messages, images, or advertisements relating to drugs, alcohol tobacco is not permitted. Clothing depicting violent or sexually explicit messages or images is also prohibited.

Each school's dress code policy shall be gender-neutral. Schools cannot enforce specific attire based on gender. Students have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity within the constraints of the dress codes adopted by the school. Gender-neutral dress code guidelines apply to regular school days as well as any school sponsored activities.

Students whose attire does not conform to the applicable standards will be asked to put on appropriate clothing. Students may be asked to change into appropriate clothing, if available at school, or the student's parent/guardian will be called and asked to bring appropriate clothing to school. Students with questions about the applicable dress code or the

appropriateness of particular attire/appearance shall direct such questions to the building principal.

## Lost and Found

A Lost and Found bin is located in the cafeteria. Parents and children are encouraged to check the Lost and Found whenever jackets, sweaters, or other items are missing. Periodically the contents of the Lost and Found are donated to a local charity.

## A Child's Place

An extended care enrichment program provides before and after school care for students through "A Child's Place".

**Before School Care:** 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM

**After School Care:** 3:45 PM to 6:00 PM

**Kindergarten Enrichment:**

**AM Session** 9:10 AM to 12:05 PM

**PM Session** 12:05 PM to 3:45 PM

For information on pricing and registration please call **610-687-1263**.

## HEALTH SERVICES

### Health Screenings and Vaccinations

The state mandated health program guides the T/E program. Under this program, pupils are required to have medical examinations upon their original entry into school. These exams are also required for any students who transfer into the school district. The physical examination form is available on the district website ([www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net)) Dental exams are suggested upon original entry into school and for all transfer students. The law provides for medical or religious exemptions.

Screening procedures are done regularly by the school nurse for vision, hearing, height, weight and basal metabolic index (BMI).

Written verification of the following immunizations are required:

4 doses of tetanus (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)

4 doses of diphtheria (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)

3 doses of polio

- 2 doses of measles (given after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday)
- 2 doses of mumps (given after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday)
- 1 dose of rubella (German measles - given after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or history of disease

## Communicable Diseases

Children suspected of having a communicable disease are excluded from school and may not attend until their condition is no longer contagious. To protect the health of each student, their classmates, and the school staff, all children should remain home for at least 24 hours after they have had any illness accompanied by vomiting, diarrhea, or fever. Children excluded because of the following infectious diseases may not return to school until the child is under treatment or has recovered:

### PA Dept of Health Communicable Disease Exclusion Regulations

- Chickenpox---Six days from the last crop of vesicles.
- Contagious Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) ---24 hours after start of appropriate treatment
- Diphtheria ---Two weeks from the onset or until negative culture
- Fifth Disease ---No Exclusion
- Impetigo ---Until judged not contagious by the nurse or physician
- Measles ---4 days from the onset of rash
- Mumps ---9 days from the onset or until subsidence of swelling
- Pediculosis (Lice) ---Until judged not contagious by the nurse/physician
- Pertussis ---4 weeks from onset or 7 days from start of antimicrobial therapy
- Pinworms ---Until first dose of treatment is given
- Respiratory Streptococcal infections ---Not less than seven days from the onset or 24 hours after start of (including scarlet fever) appropriate therapy
- Ringworm ---Until judged not contagious by the nurse/physician
- Rubella ---4 days from onset of rash
- Scabies ---Until judged not contagious by the nurse/physician
- Tonsillitis ---24 hours from start of appropriate therapy
- Trachoma ---24 hours from start of appropriate therapy
- Undiagnosed skin eruption, sore throat, cough, or eye condition: Until medically evaluated and determined not communicable

First Aid is given in school for pupils who are injured or who become ill while attending school. The school doctor recommends standard orders for first aid. Parents are expected to give information to the school to cover emergency situations, and to make transportation available when

needed. The school is not responsible for treating injuries that happen at home.

## Use of Medication (TESD Policy 5406)

### Administration of Medications to Students

Unless specifically authorized otherwise by Board Policy, the administration of medication to a student during school, at any school-sponsored activity, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activity, will be permitted only upon prior consent of the student's parent/guardian and at the direction of a licensed healthcare provider, in the following circumstances:

1. Where failure to take or make available such medication would jeopardize the health of the student or would prevent the student from attending school or participating in a school-sponsored activity; or
2. Where the administration of medication is part of a student's accommodation plan, service agreement, or Individualized Education Program (IEP), in accordance with applicable law.

A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5406 are available for review on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5406.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5406.pdf>, respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

### Emergency Medical Cards

Emergency Medical Forms are completed by parents at the beginning of each school year. The information is critically important in the event of illness or accident. Please complete the electronic form in the Powerschool Parent Portal prior to the first day of school. Any updating or change of information can be made by contacting the school nurse or school secretary.

## Cafeteria / Food Guidelines

### Breakfast

The cafeteria operates a School Breakfast Program that consists of (1) ½ pint of milk, (2) ½ cup servings of fruit or full strength vegetable or fruit juice and (2) 2oz of protein or 2oz. of bread or cereal or 1oz. each of protein and bread or cereal. Under the “offer vs. serve” option, a student may decline one item.

### Lunch

TESD cafeteria meals are planned according to federal regulations to provide 1/3 of the students' Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) and contain no more than 30 percent calories from fat and 10 percent calories from saturated fat averaged over the week. Our cafeteria operates under the National School Lunch Program. Lunch consists of five components: (1) a serving of high protein food, (2) ½ pint of milk, (3 & 4) two servings totaling ¾ cup of fruits and/or vegetables and (5) grain. Under the “offer vs. serve” option, students may choose to take three, four, or five of the components. In addition, milk, juice, snacks, desserts and other a la carte items may be purchased in the cafeteria.

Menus and prices are on the district website [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) under Departments—Food and Nutrition Services.

### Personal Identification Numbers

Each student has a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for the cafeteria. Parents may send in a check in any amount payable to the Hillside Elementary Cafeteria for each child's account. This account is a debit account, and each time a student purchases food from the cafeteria, the account is debited. Parents can restrict the number of snacks the child is permitted to buy by writing a note to the cafeteria. Allergy information can also be linked to the students account by writing to the cafeteria. The PIN number remains the same for each child from year to year.

### Food from Home

#### Wellness Policy Implementation (TESD Regulation 5402)

No food of any kind is permitted to be brought to school to be shared with students in connection with recognition of birthdays, celebrations

such as Halloween, holidays, Valentine's day, cultural events and end-of-the-year festivities.

### Eating with Students

Parents are permitted to visit and eat with their child **on an occasional basis**. Lunch is intended as an opportunity for students to interact socially with their peers. It is important that students be given the independence and support to socialize productively and meaningfully.

When visiting, please sign-in at the lobby before proceeding to the cafeteria. Visitors typically either purchase lunch from the cafeteria or bring a bag lunch from home. It is nice for the students to see that grownups also eat nutritious lunches. We advise that soft drinks or "fast-food" lunches not be brought in when parents visit for lunch. (The sale of soft drinks to students is prohibited in all TESSD schools during the school day.) We want to emphasize nutritional eating by the foods sold in the cafeteria. We ask that when you come to eat lunch with your child, you help us continue to model healthy, nutritious eating.

Parents who visit during lunch are not permitted to direct the activities of students who are not their child and should allow school personnel to make determinations about seating, peer groupings, and student behaviors.

### Snacks

All grade levels have a snack break during the school day. For children in K-2, snacks are provided from home. For children in grades 3-4, snacks are provided from home or can be purchased from the school cafeteria. For snacks from home, please do not include any foods that include peanuts, tree nuts, peanut or tree nut oils, peanut butter, or any peanut or tree nut products.

If you are providing a snack for your child, please make every effort to assure that it is healthy and nutritious.

### Celebrations

#### Classroom Parties

During the school year there are typically four classroom celebrations: Halloween, Winter, Valentine's, and End-of-the-Year parties. Homeroom

parents work with classroom teachers to organize the parties. No food of any kind is permitted to be brought to school to be shared with students in connection with recognition of birthdays, celebrations such as Halloween, holidays, Valentine's day, cultural events and end-of-the-year festivities.

### **Student Birthdays**

Students who choose to celebrate their birthdays in school may do so with a non-food item (pencil, sticker etc...). No food of any kind is permitted to be brought to school to be shared with students in connection with recognition of birthdays.

Please communicate with your child's teacher before sending any non-food item into the classroom for a celebration or birthday at least one week in advance.

## **HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

### **Contacting Teachers**

Communication between home and school is an essential component of our school. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher when they have a concern or a question. If a teacher receives a note, email or phone call that requires a response, teachers will make every effort to answer within 24 hours. All teachers have voice mail. We do not interrupt class time with phone calls, but teachers do check their voice mail daily and will respond to parent messages.

### **Hillside Elementary Website**

The TESD and Hillside website are great resources for parents and community members to learn more about the various facets of our school such as grade level curriculum, PTO information, and upcoming events. Please take the opportunity to periodically visit our site: [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net).

### **Email Guidelines for Parents**

A professional staff directory listing names and voicemail extensions can be found on the T/E website, [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net). If you choose to send an email message to a member of our professional staff, you may not get an

immediate reply as staff members will determine how best to contact you: by email, phone, or to schedule a personal conference.

When using email we ask that you follow these guidelines:

- Please do not send vital timely messages by this medium. Use the telephone to be sure your message is received and clearly understood. For example, do not use email to inform a teacher that your child is not to go home on the bus.
- Please do not share confidential information in an email message.
- E-mail is not the best way to fully discuss the details of a student's academic progress or behavior. These topics are best addressed through a phone conversation or by scheduling a conference.
- Please keep all contacts professional. Do not forward jokes, amusing or special stories, chain letters or commercial solicitations.

### **Newsletter**

The *Hillside Highlights* is published weekly by the Hillside PTO. It is sent to all families via e-mail and is also available on the Hillside PTO website [www.hillsidepto.org](http://www.hillsidepto.org). This newsletter contains information about upcoming events, community programs, and PTO sponsored events. The "Highlights" contains information about current curriculum and program at each grade level as well. Please inform the school office if you cannot retrieve the Highlights electronically and require a paper copy.

### **Visitors and Volunteers**

*Parents are encouraged to visit our school particularly for special activities and events. All visitors and volunteers must sign in with the lobby greeter when entering the building. A Visitor Pass will be provided at the time of sign-in. This pass must be worn during the building visit and returned when the visitor leaves the building. Although it takes an extra minute to sign in, this procedure is an important safety measure in our school. When visiting a classroom or volunteering, we ask that parent-teacher conferences not be held so that our teachers can give their full attention to the children in their class. During the school year, members of the school district's administrative staff may also visit classrooms.*

The school program is greatly enriched by the volunteer services of many parents. Volunteers play an important role in the quality of life in our school. The following guidelines have been developed to assist you in serving in this unique function. Offering to volunteer in our school assumes your understanding of these guidelines.

- Confidentiality: Information you see or hear can affect the lives and future of individual students. Volunteers must respect the privacy of this information and maintain the same in strict confidence.
- Attendance: School personnel depend upon and plan for the assistance of volunteers when scheduled. Volunteers are encouraged to notify the staff with whom they work as far in advance as possible if they are unable to help during their scheduled time.
- Cell Phones: When volunteering, please silence your cell phones to prevent distractions.

Please contact your child's teacher or the PTO Volunteer Chairperson if you would like additional information about volunteering.

#### **\* Notice Regarding Volunteer Clearance Requirements**

New amendments to the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) enacted on July 1, 2015, state that school volunteers with regular and repeated contact with students and who are responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or control of children will need background clearances. As of July 1, 2016, clearances must be received and processed by the School District prior to volunteering for activities requiring clearances. There is a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, some of which require clearances and some of which may not. You can view the summary of opportunities on the District website at [www.tesd.net/volunteers](http://www.tesd.net/volunteers). Teachers and principals will work together to determine whether or not clearances are required as volunteers are called upon for each specific event. For that reason, we recommend and encourage all parents get the clearances. The three clearances required are the (1) PA Criminal Background Check, (2) PA Child Abuse Clearance, and (3) FBI (federal criminal background check). Directions for completing these forms can be found at [www.tesd.net/volunteers](http://www.tesd.net/volunteers). There is no cost for the two PA clearances and the cost of the FBI check is \$27. If you have lived in PA for the entirety of the previous ten years, you may submit an affidavit form in lieu of the FBI check. The affidavit form, which must be signed and witnessed, is also available on the District website. All clearance forms should be sent to the TESD Human Resources Office, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1700, Wayne, PA 19087. They may also be emailed to

[volunteerclearances@tesd.net](mailto:volunteerclearances@tesd.net). Renewal of clearances will be required every five (5) years.

## **Dropping Off Materials for Students**

Materials that need to be dropped off for students should be left at the lobby desk and will be delivered to or picked up by students. We value instructional time and ask that parents and visitors respect our teachers' need to focus on the children in their classroom without interruption.

## **Electronic Devices**

**At the elementary level we recommend that students do not bring electronic devices to school.** In unusual circumstances when a student's family feels the need to have their child bring an electronic device (i.e. cell phone), the device must be turned off during the school day so that it does not cause any disruption to the education program. Individual teacher discretion is used to plan for the use of electronic devices. If families choose to send an electronic device, the school cannot be responsible for missing or damaged items.

# **INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

## **T/E School District Mission Statement**

To inspire a passion for learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence, and social responsibility in each student.

## **Philosophy**

The elementary program focuses on the education of the whole child while preparing students to become productive members of a diverse community. Using current research, best practices, as well as state and national standards as regulatory guidelines, the program strives to differentiate instruction to meet each student's individual needs. Critical thinking and intellectual curiosity are developed as students are encouraged to access, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information from various resources and points of view.

The goal is to foster a resilient and culturally competent student body by cultivating learning habits and tools for independent life long learning. In order to meet the needs of the global community, the elementary school practices will continuously evolve as influenced by technological and societal demands.

The elementary school program recognizes the importance of promoting healthy academic, social, physical, and emotional growth in all students. The elementary school program upholds the District's strategic planning mission statement, "To inspire a passion for learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence, and social responsibility in each student." The students, staff, families, and community work together to support a caring and nurturing learning environment.

Grouping students for instruction at the elementary level places an emphasis on individual student progress leading to the development of the maximum potential for learning. In order to accomplish this goal, it is essential that children have opportunities to be intellectually challenged in skill areas and given opportunities to learn and share with children of varying abilities. In the process of grouping students, consideration is given to formation of groups that will enhance and foster interdependence among learners, promote independent thinking, build positive self-concept and provide a stimulating learning environment for each student.

## **Teams**

Each elementary school is comprised of five grade level teams (Kindergarten through Fourth Grade), a Special Area Team (Art, Music, Physical Education, Library), and a Support Team (Guidance, Reading, Math Support, Learning Support, ESL, Nurse, Speech, and other support personnel.)

## **Core Class**

Students in Grades 1 through 4 are assigned to a Core class. Core time is the majority of a student's day in which all subjects other than math are taught. In this setting, subject areas are meaningfully integrated. The design of integration can include independent, small group, whole classroom, or grade level instructional activities. Core classes are designed to include students of more than one achievement level. Language arts instruction will occur in the core classroom.

## **Homework**

The length of time spent on homework can vary from child to child. Generally, time spent on homework each night would be as follows:

Kindergarten: (second half of the Year) 10 minutes

First grade: 10-15 minutes

Second grade: 15-20 minutes

Third grade: 25-30 minutes

Fourth grade 30-40 minutes

Homework assignments reinforce the skills and concepts taught in the classroom. Additional time should be spent reading nightly and routinely practicing basic math facts. Reading to children, at every age, is highly beneficial and valued.

## **Recess**

Recess is an important part of the school day. It affords the children a time for recreation and social interaction in an unstructured, supervised setting. Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

## **Curriculum**

### **Language Arts**

The District's Language Arts Learning Competencies provide the framework for language arts learning in eight key areas. Using these competencies as a foundation for spiraling skills development, teachers enrich the reading program with the most valuable aspects of a balanced literacy approach. This balanced approach accommodates the individual learning needs of each student and stimulates teacher creativity while providing a strong, consistent level of reading instruction across the District.

Language Arts Learning Competencies:

- Reading comprehension: Learning strategies (Example: main idea, sequence)
- Reading comprehension: Thinking skills (Example: inference, compare/contrast)
- Reading: Investigating language patterns (Example: word analysis, decoding, phonics)
- Speaking and writing (Example: writing process, grammar, spelling)
- Study skills
- Research skills

- Response to various genres (Example: fiction, biography, poetry)
- Lifelong reading

### **Reading**

Reading instruction in the T/E School District is an organized, sequential program which includes a balanced use of whole group, small group, and direct instruction utilizing a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts.

### **Writing**

Writing begins with the student's initial school experience. The use of the writing and reflecting process (brainstorming, pre-writing, drafting, revising, conferencing, editing and publishing) continues throughout the grades. Writing is not an isolated experience but is integrated throughout the school day in various curricular areas. Teachers introduce and reinforce the components of good writing at each grade level. Students and teachers use the portfolio as a vehicle for the development of skills in composing, revising and reflecting on writing throughout the grades.

### **Listening/Speaking**

Communication skills are an integral part of the learning experience. Early modes of learning center around kinesthetic and visual activities. Listening and speaking skills develop as the child progresses through school. Learning these skills enables the student to become an active participant in the learning process.

### **Spelling**

Beginning in kindergarten, students experiment with letters and sounds and learn how those letters build words. Emergent writers may have difficulty spelling words within their oral vocabularies. Rather than interrupt the flow of thought, invented spelling is encouraged. As students progress in their writing abilities, the purpose of the spelling curriculum is to help learners master conventional spelling. The formal spelling program focuses on spelling patterns and words student frequently misspell. Students also learn to use tools such as the dictionary, collaboration with peers, and technological devices.

### **Handwriting**

In the early elementary grades, students learn the strokes which form the basis of manuscript letters. Handwriting instruction focuses on the development of letter formation skills and the application of these skills throughout the curriculum. Cursive handwriting is introduced in the third grade and refined in fourth. Students work with keyboarding and word processing, progressing in efficiency on an individual basis.

### **Study Skills**

The development of good organizational and study skills is an essential part of schooling. Such topics as how to manage time, plan for long and short term assignments, organize workspace and materials, and study for tests are taught and reinforced at the appropriate team levels.

### **Mathematics**

The T/E mathematics curriculum is based on a set of clearly defined learning objectives. Major concepts include: numbers and numerals, measurement, rational numbers, geometry, decimals, graphing, number theory, and probability. These concepts are developed through a balanced use of manipulative materials, various text-based instruction, and technology. Students are grouped for instruction beginning in first grade. This approach to teaching and learning accommodates the needs of students and provides students with appropriate challenge. Some factors that may be considered when grouping students by achievement include teacher recommendation from the previous year, district-developed placement tests, standardized testing data, on-going classroom assessment, and teacher monitoring.

*Math in Focus, Singapore Math* is used across the district to provide a consistent foundation for each child to develop strong mathematical skills. This series emphasizes a balance for concrete, pictorial, and abstract instructional strategies.

### **Science**

Science is best learned when students are engaged in practicing science. Hands-on activities encourage students to experience for themselves, through direct observation and experimentation, the process, joy and fascination of science. Through scientific experimentation, students answer their own questions and develop patience, persistence and confidence. T/E's elementary science curriculum in kindergarten is a hands-on, theme-based program. Grades first through fourth have adopted Science and Technology for Children which was developed by the National Academy of Science in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institute. Each elementary school provides both hands-on science instruction in a science lab and classroom science instruction where reading and writing are tools for learning. A full-time science aide assists and supports the classroom teacher in the preparation and implementation of lessons.

The units of study are as follows:

**Kindergarten** Senses/Properties, Weather, Insects, Seeds/Plants, Energy, Agriculture

**Grade 1** Comparing and Measuring, Weather, Rain Forests or Oceans, Organisms, Magnetism, Solar System, Sustainability

**Grade 2** Life Cycle of Butterflies, Balancing and Weighing, Changes, Soil, Sound, Solar System, Sustainability

**Grade 3** Chemical Tests, Rocks and Minerals, Plant Growth and Development, Land and Water

**Grade 4** Ecosystems or Animal Studies, Food Chemistry, Electric Circuits, Motion and Design

## **Social Studies**

The T/E social studies curriculum is designed to help students understand cultural diversity and their place in a global community.

Grade one focuses on the concept of "Our Global Village" and, in addition to units on Japan and Africa, includes a unit on communities, maps, and geography.

Grade two concentrates on exploring the concept of time and the use of a historical timeline. The cultures, geography and history of the United States are the thrust of the third and fourth grade programs.

Throughout the curriculum, students are encouraged to explore the following questions:

**Grade 1** Who Am I in the World? Units of Study: Our Global Village, Japan, Africa (Nigeria and Kenya)

**Grade 2** Who Am I in Time? Age of Dinosaurs and Early Man, Ancient China, Exploration and Immigration, Space

**Grade 3** Who Am I in My State? Units of Study: Native Americans, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Elections

**Grade 4** Who Am I in My Country? U.S. History: Geography, Early Settlers and Settlements/Colonies, American Revolution, America Grows

## **Health**

K-4 health is divided into four basic areas of study incorporating both factual knowledge and the development of positive attitudes and lifelong healthy behaviors.

**Safety:** Includes personal and group safety concerns involving, but not limited to, bus, bicycle, fire, playground and other grade appropriate issues.

**Drugs and Alcohol:** Incorporates Officer Friendly, Guidance and REACH (Responsible Adolescents Concerned and Helping) to encourage the child to make appropriate decisions based on factual information.

**Family Life:** Focuses on information, self-concept, interpersonal relationships and positive decision making. Please note: An alternate to the Family Life curriculum is available upon parental request.

**Care of the Body:** Provides children with activities that enable them to understand the value of maintaining good health through acquiring information and encouraging supportive health habits.

## **Art**

Students have a regularly scheduled art class with an art teacher in Kindergarten and in grades 1, 3 and 4 once per cycle. In grade 2, students have two scheduled art classes per cycle. The classes range from 35 minutes in Kindergarten to 45 minutes in grades 1-4. All levels of the program include experiences designed to exercise and strengthen the pupil's ability to perceive, appreciate, perform and criticize. Provisions are made for each student to be involved with a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials and to gain understanding of our visual arts heritage. The activities are planned to promote the development of independent thinking and self-evaluation. The art curriculum follows a developmental scope and sequence and is a discipline-based approach to art education. Lessons are designed to provide instances for integration with elements of the core educational program.

## **Music**

### **Classroom Music:**

The goals of the music program are to provide the opportunity for every child to learn the basic skills of singing and reading music, to develop song repertoire, and to broaden listening skills. Once per cycle, in grades K, 2, 3 and 4, every class meets with the music teacher for a period of thirty to forty-five minutes for musical activities that include listening, singing, performing, moving, reading and creating. In grade 1, students

have two scheduled music classes per cycle. Through these activities, the students learn concepts dealing with the major elements of music which are rhythm, melody, form and harmony, tone, color, style and expressive qualities. In third grade, students are introduced to the "recorder" as an adjunct to the music reading program.

#### **Instrumental Music:**

When students reach the third grade, they have the opportunity to study a string instrument. At the fourth grade level, they may begin instruction on suitable band or orchestra instruments. Group instrumental lessons are scheduled for thirty minutes once per cycle and rotate from cycle to cycle so that the same subject is not missed in the regular classroom. Students are invited to join a string orchestra and/or band that meets before school for forty minutes each week. In this setting, students are provided with the opportunity to further develop performance skills and produce both winter and spring concerts for the school and surrounding community.

#### **Performance Groups:**

Students are provided with a variety of performing opportunities. All elementary schools provide three music performance organizations: string orchestra, beginning band and choral club. These groups rehearse before school once each week. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to rehearsals.

#### **Physical Education**

Physical education contributes to the well being of students through participation in activities designed to meet their physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs. It is a tool used to develop individual values of good citizenship and sportsmanship for real-life situations. As students move through the elementary grades, there is an increased degree of difficulty in skills and a greater emphasis on team play. The program is designed to provide equal opportunities for all students to participate in physical activities that promote self-confidence and the ability to work in coeducational groups. Our physical education program includes:

Kindergarten and Grade 1

- Locomotive skills
- Eye hand coordination
- Ball handling skills
- Stunts
- Game type activities
- Movement and posture education

Grades 2, 3 and 4

- Physical fitness, testing

- Start of formal exercise
- Stunts, tumbling, apparatus
- Rhythmics and dance
- Game program
- Sports program
- Individual/dual activities
- Citizenship/sportsmanship

#### **Library**

The library is a warm, friendly, and inviting place where we encourage children to become lifelong readers. Books may be checked out for a one or two-week period of time. Fines are not charged for late items, but we do send home reminder notices on a monthly basis. Children of all grade levels come to the library to enjoy rich literature and to receive direct instruction in the workings of the library and its many technological resources. Research has demonstrated that students who are exposed to a print-rich environment engage in voluntary reading, and those who read at home tend to develop the habit of reading. We encourage families to take advantage of the resources of our library and share the joys of reading together. We strongly encourage all parents to spend time reading with their child each day.

## **SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

### **Reading Support and BRIDGE**

Supplemental support in reading is provided by the Reading Support and BRIDGE programs. Under the direction of the Reading Specialist, students in need of support in literacy strategies work in small groups or individually with a Reading Support Paraprofessional. Assessment for eligibility includes teacher input, individual reading evaluation and performance on standardized tests. This program provides direct instruction in addition to the child's classroom reading program.

### **ELD (English Language Development)**

The goal of the ELD program is to increase proficiency levels for English language learners in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing,

grammar and vocabulary. Students acquire the academic language necessary to function comfortably in the American classroom. The ELD teacher acts as a liaison between school and home. Recognizing the diversity of T/E students, the ELD teachers foster each child's participation in the T/E schools while preserving the child's own language and cultural heritage.

## **Counseling**

The elementary guidance program serves children through counseling, consultation and coordination of services. The school counselor delivers the developmental guidance program. This program provides experiences that will assist each child in the development of a positive self-concept and an understanding of sound human relationships. The counselor works with children individually or in large and small group settings.

The counselor consults with parents, teachers, and community resource personnel to ensure that the needs of individual children are met. Acting as a coordinator, the counselor helps to plan meetings, share information and facilitate the process of accessing help for the child.

## **Math Support**

The math support teacher provides supplemental help in mathematics. Assessment for eligibility includes classroom observations by the regular mathematics teacher, progress monitoring within the math class, and performance on standardized tests. To receive this support, children may meet in small groups and/or individually with the math support teacher either inside or outside of the regular mathematics class time.

## **Learning Support**

The Learning Support program provides students with academic and/or behavior support to ensure that each child has the opportunity to be a successful learner. Students who participate in this program require specially designed instruction. This instruction is described in the child's Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.). Parents and teachers, working together, create this plan for the individual child.

## **Speech and Language Support**

Identification of children who may have articulation, voice, fluency, and/or language problems occurs through referrals by parents, classroom teachers, other school professional staff, the family doctor, or the child. Any parent with a question, concern, or whose child has had previous speech therapy is encouraged to contact the Speech and Language teacher or the counselor. Support services are provided once a child is determined to be in need of specially designed instruction. The plan for this support is developed in the child's IEP. Speech support services may be provided in the classroom, in small groups, or individually both formally and informally.

## **Challenge**

The Challenge program is an enrichment program for mentally gifted students. Students are identified on the basis of multiple criteria including standardized scores on aptitude and achievement tests, teacher and parent recommendations, academic achievement, and psychoeducational testing. Students in this program are involved in a variety of activities directed toward the goals of developing creative thought processes, higher level thinking skills, communication skills, group processes, decision making skills, problem solving, vocational and avocational interests and self-awareness/self-concept.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Chorus**

Students in fourth grade who enjoy singing may join the Chorus. The Chorus rehearses before the school day begins. During the spring the Chorus presents a concert along with the Hillside Elementary School Band and Orchestra.

### **Instrumental Music**

Third and fourth grade students may elect instruction on the violin, viola, or cello. Fourth grade students may receive instruction on string, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The orchestra and band rehearse before school. Students have the opportunity to perform in a concert during the school year.

## School Store

The school store is operated by fourth graders three mornings per week in the front lobby before the start of school. The store sells school supplies and provides a great opportunity for fourth grade students to learn the basics of operating a business while making it fun for all students to do some shopping on a small scale. School store parent volunteers help to run the store, train students, and maintain inventory.

## Clubs and After School Activities

The PTO sponsors a variety of after-school clubs during the course of the school year. In the past there have been clubs for a variety of topics such as: the LEGO Club, Computer Club, and Cooking Club. The District also funds the After-School Sports program for children in grades 2 through 4.

## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (P.T.O.)

### General Information

The Parent Teacher Organization is a vital part of Hillside Elementary School. Volunteers are active every day of the school year. Among other things, they serve as homeroom parents, media center volunteers, classroom volunteers, and field trip chaperones. The PTO raises funds to benefit the children of Hillside Elementary School.

### PTO Meetings

The PTO meets once a month throughout the school year. Meetings are held at Hillside, and the meeting dates and times are published in the T/ E District and Hillside School Calendars, and also in the *Hillside Highlights*. The PTO website (linked here) includes information about upcoming events and opportunities for families-- <https://hillsidepto.org/> .

### Hillside Highlights Newsletter

The *Hillside Highlights* is sent out to all families via e-mail throughout the school year. PTO volunteers, the principal and school staff contribute articles and information to the Highlights. This newsletter will keep you up to date with activities and events at Hillside.

## PTO Committees

There are over 30 committees in the PTO. Parents are encouraged to help in the manner they enjoy best. Cultural Arts programs are funded by the PTO and a week-long *Arts Express Week* is a school highlight. Fundraising efforts support the purchase of a wide range of wonderful extra pieces of equipment and resources to benefit the children and program. The PTO also helps to welcome new families, plans family social events like Cultural Heritage Night, and runs the Spring Fair each year.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### Philosophy/Mission

- The development and maintenance of self-discipline is an integral aspect of learning.
- Each professional staff member, as a part of the normal teacher-learning process, shall develop and emphasize self-disciplinary procedures with students.
- Each staff member is responsible for contributing to the maintenance of these standards of behavior which are conducive to learning not only in the classroom but in corridors, the cafeteria and throughout the school site.

(From TE District Regulation 5401)

The goal of each elementary school in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District is to provide the highest quality of educational programs for our students. The cornerstone of school discipline lies in the development of responsible behavior in each child. All five schools utilize the Batsche "Pro Social Skills" model which emphasizes the responsibility of students to make proper choices for their behavior. When a choice is made, a student must reflect and evaluate it with an awareness of direct consequences. To facilitate these skills, guidelines are established which are consistent at all grade levels. All school staff members are trained to employ this model when a confrontation occurs.

Student behavior on buses, in hallways, cafeteria and recess areas is expected to comply with established guidelines. In addition, rules for behavior are in effect at school sponsored events during or after school hours, on or off the building premises.

We believe that a climate conducive to learning is established through the consistent application of disciplinary guidelines, staff expectations and parent support. The Elementary School Code of Conduct reflects a strong sense of community and partnership exemplified through the responsible behavior and academic excellence of our elementary students.

### **Pro-Social Skills Overview**

The Pro-Social Skills Program includes a five-step system that provides language to help children control impulses and make constructive choices. The following is a list of the five steps and the rationale for each.

#### **1. STOP AND THINK**

Teachers say “Stop and think” to students behaving inappropriately. This message interrupts negative and impulsive behaviors. This prompt also aids self-control as students internalize and apply it themselves. For adults, “Stop and think” is calm, rational, consistent response to challenging behaviors. It serves as an alternative to emotional responses such as yelling or being drawn into arguments with children.

#### **2. GOOD CHOICE OR BAD CHOICE**

Teachers ask, “Are you going to make a good choice or bad choice?” This question places responsibility for decisions squarely upon children. Power struggles and win or lose situations that are generated by child defiance are defused. It is made clear that consequences are derived from choices made by children.

#### **3. CHOICE OR STEPS**

Implementation of this part of the sequence varies according to need. Some children are helped to explore alternative choices. In other cases, children are taught social skills essential for school and interpersonal success. These steps are concrete and specific. For example, steps for ignoring are Break (the gaze), Turn (your body), and Move (out of the area). These steps are verbalized to reinforce the controlling capacity of language.

#### **4. JUST DO IT!**

Teachers say, “Just do it!” This message is intended to activate children and eliminate excessive verbiage regarding events and behavioral expectations.

#### **5. HOW DID I DO?**

This step is used for self-monitoring and self-evaluation. Children reflect upon the results of their choices and consider behavioral alternatives when needed.

*Based on the work of Dr. George Batsche*

## **BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

All five schools hold discipline expectations for students, which are consistent among all staff members regardless of the location or grade level in the building. A primary goal of the school is to nurture the concept of self-discipline and respect for others. The following guidelines are to be reviewed by students and their parents annually at the beginning of school and referenced frequently throughout the year:

### **HALLWAYS**

1. Students should always walk when traveling to and from classes.
2. Quiet voices are to be used.
3. Students must keep their hands to themselves.
4. Students are not to linger in bathrooms.

### **OFFICE AREA**

1. Students should be considerate of those working and wait their turn to speak.
2. The office telephones are not to be used unless it is an emergency.

### **CAFETERIA**

1. Students should enter and exit quietly.
2. Students should remain seated unless following routines of trash disposal, snack or bathroom use.
3. Students shall demonstrate appropriate table manners.
4. Nothing should ever be thrown in the cafeteria.
5. Running is not permitted at any time.
6. Students should respect others' space.
7. When finished eating, students should leave the area clean.

8. Students should not lend or borrow money from each other.
9. Students must be silent for announcements and follow directions of the cafeteria monitor.

### PLAYGROUND

While each grade level constructs specific rules for recess behavior, the following are common in all schools:

1. Students must play safely only in designated areas and remain within playground boundaries.
2. Fighting or games involving body contact are not permitted at any time.
3. Students should use equipment and supplies in a safe and appropriate manner.
4. Any serious problem involving equipment or injury should be reported to the teacher on duty immediately.
5. Students may not play on ice or throw snowballs.
6. When hearing the bell, students should line up quickly and quietly.
7. A request not to participate in outdoor recess due to health reasons requires a note from a parent for one day or from a physician for an extended amount of time.

### INDOOR RECESS

1. Students must remain in the classroom unless given permission by the teacher on duty to leave the room.
2. Activities and equipment should be appropriate for an indoor setting and approved by each grade level team.

### BUS

1. The same conduct that is expected in the classroom should be observed on the bus.
2. Students should walk on and off the bus.
3. Quiet voices should be used.
4. Students must remain seated and keep their hands to themselves. Head, hands, and feet must be kept inside the bus.
5. Students should not eat or drink while riding the bus. Nothing is to be thrown out of windows.
6. No profane language is permitted at any time. The bus should be kept clean and students should not tamper with any equipment.
7. Students should ride only on the assigned bus and disembark at the assigned stop unless given prior approval through the principal's office.

## Disciplinary Measures

To ensure the rights, privileges, and safety of all elementary students, the following guidelines are in place to some degree in each school. The listing is not inclusive but meant to be a guide for fair and equitable treatment of students. The administration will exercise its discretion in making judgments regarding behavioral issues not listed within these guidelines. (The complete T/E School District Student Discipline **Policy and Regulation #5401** are available on-line.)

The Elementary Code of Conduct, General Behavior Guidelines, and Disciplinary Measures exist to ensure the safety of each child in our schools. These protective measures are in effect during school hours, field trips, on bus routes, at after-hours school, and PTO-sponsored events.

<u>OFFENSE</u>		<u>MINIMUM RESPONSE</u>	
1	Disruptive behavior in classroom, library, assemblies, fire drill, field trips, social events or other school sponsored events	1	Warning Given
		2	Time Out
		3	Parent Contact
		4	Suspension
2	Physical injury caused by fighting	1	Parent Contact
		2	After School Detention
		3	Suspension
3	Possession of weapons	1	See Policy #5114.2
4	Destruction of student or school property	1	Parent Contact
		2	Restitution in Some Manner
		3	Possible Suspension
5	Bus Offenses	1	Warning
		2	Written Notification
		3	Parent Contact
		4	Bus Dismissal 3 Days
		5	Bus Dismissal 5 Days by Approval of the Superintendent
6	Threats	1	Parent Contact
		2	Report to Administration
		3	Possible Suspension
7	Bullying	1	Warning
		2	Parent Contact
		3	Loss of Privilege
		4	Possible Suspension

## SCHOOL CLIMATE

Our Hillside school community is committed to fostering a positive, warm, safe, and caring environment where children are encouraged to learn and develop their potential. This accomplished through several avenues:

- The Hillside Pledge
- PATHS: Promoting Alternative Thinking Skills
- Olweus Bullying Prevention program
- Developmental Guidance

Students and staff recite the **Hillside Pledge** daily:

I make this pledge with all my heart  
To try my best and do my part  
A kid for character I will be  
To make Hillside better for you and me.

**PATHS Program:** PATHS, which stands for Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies, is designed to help elementary children to develop better thinking skills, more mature and responsible ways of behaving, and improved academic performance. PATHS lessons are taught on a weekly basis in all grades. The goals of the PATHS program include:

- Increasing children's abilities to think and solve problems for themselves
- Increasing children's abilities to use their thinking skills to act responsibly and maturely
- Improving children's understanding of themselves and others
- Improving children's feelings about themselves and others
- Increasing children's abilities to learn more effectively in the classroom environment

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### Olweus Bullying Prevention Program

Our elementary schools use the research based Olweus Bullying Prevention Program as the foundation for creating a safe environment for children. This program presents a clear definition of the term "bullying". "A person is bullied when he/she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more persons."

This program provides a structured approach to the prevention of bullying. It promotes increased understanding of the issues involved with "bullying" behaviors and provides a coordinated plan for addressing these issues. It also includes strategies for bystanders to use when they observe bullying behaviors. The goals of the program are:

- To reduce (and ideally eliminate) existing bully/victim problems among children.
- To prevent the development of new problems
- To achieve better peer relations at school

There are four essential rules that we teach:

We will:

1. Not bully others
2. Help students who are bullied
3. Include all students who are left out
4. Tell an adult at school and home when someone is bullied

### Developmental Guidance Program

The developmental guidance program introduces "I-Care" Rules in kindergarten and these are reinforced through the grades. The program reinforces getting along with others and teaches resiliency.

I-Care Rules:

1. We listen to each other.
2. Hands are for helping, not hurting.
3. We use I-Care language.
4. We care about each other's feelings.
5. We are responsible for what we say and do

## **POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

Please see <https://www.tesd.net/site/default.aspx?PageID=50> for a complete list of Policies and Regulations.

### **MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES WITH STUDENTS (P5461 and R5461)**

All District Adults shall be expected to maintain professional, moral and ethical relationships with District students that are conducive to an effective, safe learning environment. "District Adults" means all District employees, coaches of recognized club sports, volunteers, student teachers, and independent contractors, including the employees of independent contractors who interact with District students or are present on District grounds.

A copy of School Board Policy 5461 and Administrative Regulation 5461 are available at

<https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5461.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5461.pdf>, respectively. Select excerpts and summary information from this Policy and Administrative Regulation are also presented below.

In order to maintain professional boundaries, District Adults shall ensure that their interactions with students are appropriate. Social interactions and electronic communications by District Adults with students shall be for legitimate educational reasons only, unless an exception applies as outlined in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5461. District Adults shall be prohibited from entering into or attempting to form romantic or sexual interactions with any student enrolled in the District, regardless of the student's age. Students of any age are not legally capable of consenting to romantic or sexual interactions with District Adults. All electronic communications conducted by District Adults with a student must relate to educational or extra-curricular programs or activities. Authorized methods of electronic communication are the following:

1. District-provided email;
2. District-sponsored web site (including school and teacher web pages);
3. Telephones (not including texting, unless otherwise permitted under number 4 below); and
4. Other electronic communication methods that are authorized by the administration in support of educational or extra-curricular programs or activities.

When available, all employees, including extra-duty employees such as coaches and activity sponsors, shall use District-provided email or other District-provided communication devices when communicating electronically with students. The use of District-provided email or other District provided communication devices shall be in accordance with District policies and procedures. District employees are prohibited from using personal email, text messaging, instant messaging, and social-networking accounts, websites, and any other applications for communicating with parents and students that are not specifically authorized. District employees shall not follow or accept requests for current students to be friends or connections on personal social networking sites and shall not create any networking site for communication with students other than those provided by the District for this purpose, without the prior written approval of the building principal. An example of allowable communications in this context includes where the adult is a family relative of the student.

If an employee plans to communicate electronically with students through the use of

text messages, the employee must obtain permission to do so from their building principal using the form attached as Attachment A to R5461. Also, if permission from the building principal is received, the employee must also obtain written parental/guardian permission to do so.

Policy 5461 applies to conduct committed on or off school property and extends beyond the workday. However, this Policy is not intended to interfere with appropriate personal relationships between District Adults and students and their families that exist independently of the District or to interfere with participation in civic, religious or other outside organizations that include District students.

An emergency situation or a legitimate educational reason may justify deviation from professional boundaries set out in Regulation 5461. The District Adult shall be prepared to articulate the reason for any deviation from the requirements of this Regulation and must demonstrate that they have maintained an appropriate relationship with the student.

Administrative Regulation 5461 includes examples of conduct that could or may violate District Policy regarding maintaining professional boundaries with students. District Adults shall be informed of conduct that is prohibited and the disciplinary actions that may be applied for violation of Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, rules and procedures.

Any District Adult or student who has concerns about or is uncomfortable with a relationship or interaction between a District Adult and a student or who is aware of or suspects a violation of Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 5461 shall immediately, or as promptly as possible thereafter under the circumstances, notify the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, principal or other administrator. The District's Title IX Coordinator is the Director of Equity and Public Programs. Contact information for the Title IX Coordinator is available in Administrative Regulation 5461. Individuals who make good faith reports of potential or actual violations of Policy or Regulation 5461 shall not be subject to retaliation, discipline or other adverse action. Allegations of inappropriate conduct shall be promptly investigated in accordance with the procedures utilized for complaints of prohibited harassment of students.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE (P5401 and R5401)**

In order to maintain a safe school climate that encourages learning for all students, teachers and administrators shall respond to actions or situations that disrupt this learning process. Discipline measures may include warnings, detentions, suspensions, expulsions or other appropriate responses to the circumstances. Violations of this Policy and Administrative Regulation shall be reported to local law enforcement in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding in effect between the District and the local law enforcement agency and any applicable Board Policy. Offenses committed on school grounds, in school vehicles or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises or that have some other legally recognized nexus to the school that are considered to be of an extremely serious nature and may result in either suspension or expulsion, include but are not limited to the following:

1. Inappropriate physical contact, attack, fighting, bullying, hazing, harassment, threatening behavior or threats;
2. The use of, distribution of, or possession of, any substance subject to Policy 5405 (Student Substance Abuse) or 5411 (Tobacco Products: Possession and Use). Aiding or abetting any of the above actions regarding substances subject to Policy 5405 or 5411 shall be treated in the same way;

3. The use, possession, or transfer of any item which could be considered a weapon or which is dangerous in nature, as outlined in Policy 5410 or in accordance with applicable law;
4. Destruction or defacing of school property;
5. Infraction of school rules that carries the consequence of suspension or expulsion, as outlined in the applicable Student Handbook, Code of Conduct or otherwise in Board Policy or an accompanying Administrative Regulation;
6. Conduct adversely affecting the school routine or otherwise endangering the safety, morals, health or welfare of others;
7. Inappropriate physical contact, attack, threatening behavior, threat or other retaliatory conduct directed at school staff members, their property, or their families.

When a suspendable offense occurs, the principal or designee will meet with the student, at which time the student will have the opportunity to offer an explanation of the infraction. After that meeting the principal or designee may suspend the student from school. Parents/guardians will be notified.

When a suspension exceeding three (3) school days is under consideration, the principal or designee shall offer the student and student's parents/guardians an informal hearing, as required by law. After such hearing the principal or designee may extend the suspension for a period of up to ten (10) total school days. Parents/guardians will be notified.

When discipline is to be imposed upon a student with disabilities, District employees are required to follow the additional procedures outlined in the District's Administrative Regulation (R5401) and applicable law.

Policy and Administrative Regulation 5041 are available in their entirety on the District's website at

<https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5401.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5401.pdf>,

respectively. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to review these documents carefully in their entirety.

#### **HAZING, BULLYING, DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT, THREATS, THREATENING BEHAVIOR (P5401 and R5401)**

**Bullying** shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or a series of acts which meet the following criteria:

1. directed at another student or students;
2. occurs in a school setting;
3. is severe, persistent or pervasive; and
4. has the effect of doing any of the following:
  - a. substantially interfering with a student's education;
  - b. creating a threatening environment; or
  - c. substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

**School setting** shall mean in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the District.

**Hazing** occurs any time a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a student's membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a student to do any of the following:

1. Violate Federal or State criminal law.
2. Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the student to a risk of emotional or physical harm.

3. Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements.
4. Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment.
5. Endure brutality of a sexual nature.
6. Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

**Aggravated hazing** occurs when a person commits an act of hazing that results in serious bodily injury or death to the student and:

1. The person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the student; or
2. The person causes, coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student.

**Organizational hazing** occurs when an organization intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates hazing.

**Student activity or organization** means any activity, society, corps, team, club or service, social or similar group, operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the District, whose members are primarily students or alumni of the District.

**Bodily injury** shall mean impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

**Serious bodily injury** shall mean bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

**Discriminatory harassment** means verbal, written, electronic, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status, or handicap/disability when such conduct:

1. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student's educational performance or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment; and/or
2. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's educational performance; and/or
3. Adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Discriminatory harassment includes, but is not limited to, slurs, jokes, bullying, hazing or other verbal, written, electronic, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status, or handicap/disability. Discriminatory harassment also includes sexual harassment, as defined below.

**Sexual harassment** is a specific form of discriminatory harassment which means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, gestures of a sexual nature, or display of materials which evoke responses not in keeping with the atmosphere intended for the classroom or the school environment.

**Title IX sexual harassment** is a specific form of sexual harassment which means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the District conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal

access to the District's education program or activity; or

3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

**Sexual assault** means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**Dating violence** means violence committed by a person:

1. Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
2. Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - a. The length of the relationship.
  - b. The type of relationship.
  - c. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

**Domestic violence** includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

**Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

1. Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or
2. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

**Threat** means a communication of intent to harm another individual or property or behavior suggesting intent to harm an individual or property.

**Threatening behavior** shall mean a physical, verbal or written threat to (1) commit violence with intent to terrorize, injure or damage another or others, (2) cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of transportation, or (3) otherwise cause serious public inconvenience with reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.

**Title IX Coordinator** means the District's Director of Equity and Public Programs, whose contact information is included in Administrative Regulation 5401.

**Transient threat** means there is no sustained intent to harm.

**Substantive threat** means the intent of the threat is present (or not clear) and therefore requires protective action.

**Behaviors targeting others** means bullying, hazing, harassment, threatening behaviors, and threats collectively.

It is the Policy of the Board to maintain a safe, positive and respectful environment for students and staff that is free from bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats. Any form of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats that is a part of a school sponsored or student activity or organization is prohibited.

No student, coach, activity sponsor, volunteer, District employee, administrator, representative, agent, or contractor shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, engage in, tolerate, condone, ignore, or fail to properly report any known instances of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats.

Students who believe they or others have been subjected to bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to a building administrator, teacher and/or school

counselor. Students are also encouraged to report allegations of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Students, administrators, coaches, activity sponsors, volunteers, District employees, representatives, agents, and contractors shall be alert to incidents of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats and shall promptly report such conduct to their supervisor or the building principal. Individuals are also encouraged to report allegations of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Complaints of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats shall be promptly investigated, and appropriate discipline shall be administered to any individual who violates the District's prohibitions against bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats, in accordance with applicable Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and any applicable Code of Conduct. Appropriate corrective and preventative action shall be taken when allegations are substantiated.

Reports of alleged bullying or hazing that could be interpreted to also constitute discrimination and/or discriminatory harassment shall be handled in coordination with the Title IX Coordinator. Reports of alleged sexual harassment must be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/domain/1894> in the document titled "Grievance Process with Exhibits." Complaints of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats may also be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation, as required by law or in accordance with Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

No reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment threatening behavior or threats. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the District's legal and investigative obligations.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES (P6141 and R6141)**

The District will provide an equal opportunity, for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered by the District without discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status or handicap/disability, as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. Furthermore, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups, as required by law.

The District shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities. The equitable distribution of District resources is one means the District shall use to ensure all students receive a quality education. The District shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations. The District shall comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both. The District's Title IX Coordinator is the Director of Equity and Public Programs, whose contact information can be found in Administrative Regulation 6414. Depending on the specific allegations raised in a complaint received pursuant to this Policy, the Superintendent may designate additional individuals to assist the Title IX Coordinator in carrying out their responsibilities.

Students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to discrimination are encouraged to promptly report such alleged incidents in accordance with Policy and Administrative Regulation 6141, which are available on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P6141.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R6141.pdf>, respectively. Additional information regarding the investigation and disposition of complaints can be found in the Policy and Administrative Regulation referenced above.

#### **POSSESSION OF WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOLS (P5410)**

Possession of a weapon or weapons on District property (as defined in this policy) or at school-sponsored activities is specifically prohibited. In addition, with very limited exceptions, Pennsylvania law *requires* public schools to report to police, and expel, for a minimum of one year, any student found in possession of any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting bodily injury on District property.

#### **SEARCHES (P5412 and R5412)**

Authorized school officials are permitted to conduct searches of students, including their persons, lockers, motor vehicles, and other possessions, when there is a reasonable suspicion that such a search will uncover evidence of a violation of Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or local, state or federal law on the part of the student. In order for the requisite level of reasonable suspicion to exist, the school official must be able to point to a "particularized suspicion" for conducting a search. Searches that arise out of generalized concerns or merely suspicious behavior, where the school official is not looking for any object in particular, have been struck down as illegal. The scope of any search must be reasonable under the circumstances, taking into consideration the student's age, the intrusiveness of the search, and the immediacy of any threat prompting the search. A copy of School Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5412 are available at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5412.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/r5412.pdf>, respectively, and contain additional information and procedures for the various types of searches (including, but not limited to, systematic suspicionless testing) to which student may be subjected. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this information and procedures.

#### **STUDENT RECORDS (P5225 and R5225)**

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the collection, retention, disposition and security of student records. The Board further recognizes its duty to maintain the confidentiality of such records as required by law. Parents/Guardians and eligible students shall be notified upon initial enrollment and annually thereafter of their rights concerning student records. The notice shall be modified to accommodate the needs of the disabled or those whose primary language is other than English. Notice of the rights of parents/guardians and eligible students with respect to student records, as well as other District guidelines governing the collection, retention, disposition and disclosure of student records is available for review in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5225, which are available at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5225.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5225.pdf>, respectively.

#### **PARTICIPATION OF FINANCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PUPILS IN CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (P5312 and R5312)**

No student shall be denied the opportunity of participating in curricular programs and activities, including field trips, because of an inability to pay necessary fees for participation or costs of materials. For students wishing to participate in extracurricular programs and activities who are unable to pay the necessary fees or costs to participate, the District will make a good faith effort to identify funds to cover the fees or costs for such students, but cannot guarantee that such funds will always be available in all cases.

#### **STUDENT CONDUCT ON DISTRICT-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION (P5413 and R5413)**

No student shall be permitted to engage in conduct that could endanger that student's safety or the safety of others. Discipline will be imposed as the situation warrants, in accordance with Board Policy, applicable Administrative Regulations, this Student Handbook, and the Code of Student Conduct.

#### **RECORDING IN SCHOOLS AND ON SCHOOL BUSES/VEHICLES (P8070 and R8070)**

In order to promote a safe school environment for all stakeholders, the interior and exterior of schools and other District property may be equipped with video recording devices. The Superintendent is authorized to provide law enforcement with access to live images captured by video recording devices in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of student, staff, and other individuals. The Board of School Directors has also authorized the use of video and audio recording on school buses and vehicles while transporting students for school-related purposes for disciplinary and security purposes. Students and, when applicable, school bus passengers will be notified as to the presence and possible activation of any video recording devices. Additional information can be found in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8070, which are available on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P8070.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R8070.pdf>, respectively.

#### **STUDENTS' FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (P5400 and R5400)**

Freedom of expression is a right guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Students have the right to express themselves in accordance with law; however, expression that materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens serious harm to the school or community, encourages unlawful activity, or interferes with another individual's rights is prohibited.

#### **DRESS AND APPEARANCE (P5415 and R5415)**

Students have the right to determine their dress and appearance as long as it conforms to norms of decency as set forth below and does not substantially and directly endanger physical health or safety, damage property or substantially disrupt activities. Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes or in activities such as music performances and athletics. A student may not be disciplined or excluded from regular instruction because of their appearance if style, fashion, or taste is the sole criterion for such action. Students are expected to dress appropriately for weather conditions and in accordance with Board Policy.

Student attire or appearance that materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens the school or community, depicts or encourages unlawful or otherwise prohibited activity, or interferes with another student's rights is not permitted.

Clothing bearing or depicting messages, images, or advertisements relating to drugs, alcohol tobacco is not permitted. Clothing depicting violent or sexually explicit messages or images is also prohibited.

Absent an administrative exception to the contrary, students are expected to dress in accordance with Board Policy and the guidelines established in the applicable Student Handbook during school hours and at school-sponsored events.

Each school's dress code policy shall be gender-neutral. Schools cannot enforce specific attire based on gender. Students have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity within the constraints of the dress codes adopted by the school. Gender-neutral dress code guidelines apply to regular school days as well as any school sponsored activities.

Students whose attire does not conform to the applicable standards will be asked to put on appropriate clothing. Students may be asked to change into appropriate clothing, if available at school, or the student's parent/guardian will be called and asked to bring appropriate clothing to school.

Students with questions about the applicable dress code or the appropriateness of particular attire/appearance shall direct such questions to the building principal or assistant principal.

Serious or repeated violations of the dress code will be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **STUDENT ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES – TREATMENT AND REPORTING (P5422 and R5422)**

The Board has created procedures for students who suffer injuries at school or during school events, including students who suffer brain injuries or cardiac arrest. The Board requires that brain injuries or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest to student-athletes be taken extremely seriously and with the short- term and long-term health of the student-athlete kept uppermost in mind. Regulations which have been established with regard to this policy are available in the Athletic Office or Main Office and in the Athletic Handbook.

#### **FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES – STUDENT MEAL CHARGE POLICY (R8120)**

##### School Meal Account Procedures / Meal Charging Policy

A student's meal status is always kept confidential. All students have accounts to purchase their meals and are treated the same at the register.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their student's cafeteria food purchases and are expected to maintain payments on any outstanding account balance for cafeteria food purchases. Parents/guardians may request in writing that the District restrict their child's purchase of a la carte food items and/or meals at any time.

The procedures for notifying parents/guardians of low and negative balances and collecting negative balances are detailed below. However, students will be permitted to charge meals (breakfast and/or lunch), and will not be denied a meal because of the insufficient funds in their student meal accounts. In addition to purchasing a meal, students are permitted to charge a la carte food items, even if their individual student meal accounts lack sufficient funds, as long as their balance is not negative \$50 or more. In any event, the District will initiate procedures to restrict a la carte purchases when the student's negative meal account balance exceeds \$50 and the student will only be permitted to purchase a breakfast and

lunch meal.

Students may not be publicly identified or stigmatized, or required to perform chores or other work when they cannot pay or have a negative student meal account balance. Schools will not require a student to discard a school meal after it has been served to the student, even if the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative student meal account balance.

##### Low & Negative Account Balance Notification

If a student has an account balance of \$5.00 or less, the parent/guardian will be notified at least weekly by email or a notice distributed in homeroom or in student folders that are brought home to the parent/guardian. The envelope containing this notice should be marked "confidential – to be opened by addressee only." If the student's outstanding account balance due reaches or exceeds five (5) school meals, including breakfasts and/or lunches, a request for payment letter will be mailed or emailed to the student's parent/guardian, which shall also include a request that the parent/guardian apply to participate in the school food program. In addition, a school official will contact the parent/guardian to resolve the outstanding account balance due by one or more of the following methods: telephone, electronic communication, certified letter, and again request that the parent/guardian apply to participate in the school food program. These contacts will continue until the outstanding account balance due is satisfied or has been determined to be uncollectible.

If the student's outstanding account balance due is in excess of \$50.00 and remains unpaid for more than 30 days, the parent/guardian may incur additional collection charges on the outstanding balance. If a good faith effort is not made towards payment of the outstanding balance due, then a referral to an outside authority or agency may be made.

Parents/guardians experiencing economic hardships may request payment arrangements from the District.

##### Additional Information

The Principal or designee shall notify Food and Nutrition Services regarding departing students so that account balances can be rectified prior to their departure. Information on meal prices, menus, how to apply for free or reduced priced meals, how to check a school meal account balance or add funds to such accounts can be found on the District's Food and Nutrition Services webpage.

##### Delinquent School Meal Account Debt

After taking reasonable steps to collect delinquent school meal debt, which shall include at least two written correspondences, as outlined above, to the student's parent/guardian, unrecovered/delinquent debt at the end of each school year shall be referred to the Business Manager for appropriate action. Such unrecovered/delinquent debt shall be considered bad debt and non-federal funding sources must repay the Food Service Fund for the total amount of such unrecovered/delinquent debt. Delinquent school meal debt shall not be classified as bad debt for write off purposes until after reasonable steps have been taken to collect such delinquent school meal debt.

From time to time, parents/guardians or other individuals may choose to donate funds to the District. Donated funds may not be co-mingled with food service funds from federal or state sources or food sales. Instead, donations must be made to the District's General Fund, and transferred to the Food Service Fund at the appropriate time to offset unrecovered/delinquent student meal debt. Donated funds will not be applied to individual student meal account balances, but instead as an overall reduction of the amount of funds that would otherwise need to be transferred from the

General Fund to the Food Service Fund at the end of the school year to repay the Food Service Fund for unrecovered/delinquent debt.

#### Distribution

This Administrative Regulation, detailing the District's local meal charge policy, shall be provided in writing to each household at the beginning of the school year, and during the school year to households who transfer to the District during the school year.

#### **STUDENT WELLNESS (P5402 and R5402)**

A copy of the District's Student Wellness and Nutrition Policy and Administrative Regulation are available for review on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5402.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5402.pdf>, respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully, as they contain important information about fundraisers in school involving the sale of food and regulations regarding bringing outside food into school.

#### **Safeguards for Students with Food Allergies**

No food of any kind is permitted to be brought to school to be shared with students in connection with recognition of birthdays, celebrations such as Halloween, holidays, Valentine's Day, cultural events, and end-of-the-year festivities at the grades K-4 level.

#### **TOBACCO PRODUCTS – POSSESSION AND USE (P5411 and R5411)**

The possession, distribution and/or use of tobacco products by students is prohibited in all buildings owned by the District, on school grounds, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises. The foregoing is a total ban, for all students, on all possession, distribution and/or use of tobacco products in any District building, on any District property, in any District vehicle and/or during any District-sponsored activity. The definition of "tobacco products" is outlined in detail in Policy 5411, which is available on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5411.pdf>. Students who violate this Policy will be subject to school-based discipline.

#### **STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE (P5405 and R5405)**

Students are prohibited from using, distributing, possessing, or being under the influence of controlled substances in any of the buildings owned by the District, on District property, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off District property. Students who are found to be in violation of this prohibition shall be suspended from school and disciplined in accordance with Board Policy and the applicable student handbook. Aiding or abetting any of the above-mentioned prohibited conduct shall be treated in the same manner. The definition of "controlled substances" is outlined in detail in Policy 5405, which is available on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5405.pdf>. Violations of this Policy shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies in accordance with applicable law or regulations, Board Policy, and the Memorandum of Understanding in effect with local law enforcement. The District reserves the right to enforce this Policy and the accompanying Administrative Regulation with respect to off-campus conduct to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The District, recognizing the need to address the problem of substance abuse on a District-wide basis, supports the maintenance of a Student Assistance Program. The purpose of the Student Assistance Program is three-fold: (1) to identify students who are having problems because of substance abuse or due to mental health problems, (2) to intervene when appropriate either by personal contact or through support groups, and (3) with the involvement and approval of parents/guardians, to refer those students for appropriate help. Additional information regarding the Student Assistance Program and procedures for students to seek help for themselves or on behalf of another student with a drug, alcohol, or substance abuse problem can be found in Administrative Regulation 5405, which is available on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5405.pdf>.

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS (P5406 and R5406)**

Unless specifically authorized otherwise by Board Policy, the administration of medication to a student during school, at any school-sponsored activity, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activity, will be permitted only upon prior consent of the student's parent/guardian and at the direction of a licensed healthcare provider, in the following circumstances:

1. Where failure to take or make available such medication would jeopardize the health of the student or would prevent the student from attending school or participating in a school-sponsored activity; or
2. Where the administration of medication is part of a student's accommodation plan, service agreement, or Individualized Education Program (IEP), in accordance with applicable law.

A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5406 are available for review on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5406.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5406.pdf>, respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

#### **FIELD TRIPS (P6153 and R6153)**

Students may have the opportunity to participate in supervised, school-sponsored field trips. Students are reminded that all rules and regulations of the District remain in effect. In the event that a trip is cancelled for any reason, the District shall not be responsible for monetary deposits lost due to such cancellation.

#### **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (P8012)**

When pesticide applications are planned and scheduled in school buildings and/or on school grounds, the District will provide notification including: (1) posting a pest control sign in an appropriate visible area, (2) providing the pest control information sheet to all individuals working in the school building, and (3) providing required notice to all parents and guardians of students or to a list of parents or guardians who have requested notification of applications of pesticides. Records of the District's chemical pest control treatments for the past three (3) years are available to the public at the District's administrative office.

#### **COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE DISTRICT (P1122 and R1122)**

Complaints concerning the District's programs or operations should be directed to the staff member or the administrator immediately in charge of the area in which the

complaint arises. Complaints received anonymously by the District, by the Board or by its members will not be recognized as formal correspondence; and therefore, typically will not be given a response.

The Superintendent shall promulgate Administrative Regulations detailing the process and procedures District personnel will follow for handling complaints received by the District. Special procedures provided by law or other District Policy for handling complaints in certain areas such as discrimination, sexual harassment, and resolving issues of concern for non-contract staff shall supersede the provisions of this Policy and its accompanying Regulation.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (P5113 and R5113)**

Students of compulsory school age are required to attend school. Regular, timely attendance will ensure every student has the opportunity to achieve. Many of the rules and procedures governing tardiness, absences and truancy are mandated by Pennsylvania law and school code. The District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation governing student attendance are available on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5113.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5113.pdf>, respectively. It is important that students and their parents/guardians review these documents and familiarize themselves with the District's procedures.

#### **Electronic Devices (P5414 and R5414)**

Electronic devices include all devices that can take photographs; that can record, store, transmit, receive, reproduce, initiate, or display audio or video data, calls, messages, images, or any other form(s) of communications; or that can connect to the internet. This definition includes all devices with voice, data, text, and/or navigation capabilities, those that perform word processing functions, and those that support computer and online applications (apps).

The District has the right to regulate the use of electronic devices in accordance with applicable law. Students may possess electronic devices in buildings owned by the District, on school grounds, in school vehicles, and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities, subject to the conditions contained in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5414 and any additional regulations imposed by the building principal or designee.

The use of electronic devices is subject to the following restrictions:

1. Electronic devices may not be used to conduct any activities that violate applicable law, Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or any applicable student handbook or code of conduct.
2. Electronic devices may not be used in any manner that interferes with, or is disruptive to, educational or extracurricular activities or events of the District.
3. Unless authorized by a teacher or building administrator for use in connection with an activity related to the curriculum or other District-sponsored activity, electronic devices must be turned off or set on silent mode when students are in classrooms and other locations where instruction is taking place.
4. Use of electronic devices in restrooms, locker rooms, and other areas where individuals would have a similar expectation of privacy is expressly prohibited.
5. Without prior permission from an administrator or teacher, students may not use electronic devices in school to capture videos, photos or audio.
6. The District is not responsible for any damages or theft that may occur to electronic devices.
7. Personal electronic devices must be used in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080 (Acceptable Use of Technology).

Notwithstanding the rules set forth above, electronic devices may be used at any time for the purposes of reporting an emergency situation or a violation of Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or any applicable student handbook or code of conduct to an appropriate school official when such violation constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of members of the school community. Electronic devices may also be used in accordance with a student's IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement. Violations of Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 5414, including any regulations imposed on the use of electronic devices by individual building principals, may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement.

A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5414 are available for review on the District's website at <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P5414.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5414.pdf>, respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

#### **Acceptable Use of Technology (P8080 and R8080)**

The Board recognizes the need to establish rules and regulations for the use by students, staff, and other authorized users of District-owned or issued technology resources, consistent with the educational and operational goals of the District. District owned or issued technology resources (referred to hereafter as "District technology resources") shall mean:

1. All networks, servers and telecommunications systems maintained or operated by the District;
2. All District-owned or issued resources and hardware devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, telephones, cellular phones, drones, fax machines, printers, copiers, scanners, etc.;
3. All web-based and cloud-based storage; and
4. Web and cloud-based applications provided by the District through a third party.

The use of District technology resources shall at all times be in accordance with applicable law and other Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

The use of District technology resources is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct or violation of the terms outlined in Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080.

District technology resources shall be used primarily for school, District employment, or approved educational-related activities only. Limited incidental personal use is permitted, so long as such use otherwise complies with Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080, and further provided that such limited incidental personal use does not interfere with and is not disruptive to District or school operations or another user's use of District technology resources.

The District reserves the right to prevent unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal use of District technology resources, and to administer appropriate discipline to users who violate Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080. Discipline could include, but is not limited to, usage restrictions, loss of access privileges, suspension, expulsion, termination, restitution, referral to law enforcement, and/or any applicable consequence outlined in any student handbook, collective bargaining agreement, or Board Policy/Administrative Regulation, as appropriate under the circumstances. Users of District technology resources shall have no expectation that their activity on the District network, including files, communications, and internet activity, will be private, regardless of whether activity takes place on or away from school property. Files, communications, and internet activity on District technology resources are subject to review and may be deleted without notice.

The availability of information on District technology resources does not imply endorsement by the District of such content, nor does the District guarantee the accuracy of such content.

The District shall not be responsible for any information lost, damaged or unavailable while using District technology resources or for any charges or fees resulting from such use.

The District will fully cooperate with local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to alleged illegal activities of any individuals misusing District technology resources.

Users of District technology resources shall immediately report any violations of Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080 to their building principal, immediate supervisor, or the Director of Technology or designee.

The rules, regulations, and procedures that form the District's Acceptable Use of Technology Policy are outlined in detail in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080. A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080 are available for review on the District's website at

<https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/P8080.pdf> and <https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R8080.pdf>,

respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.