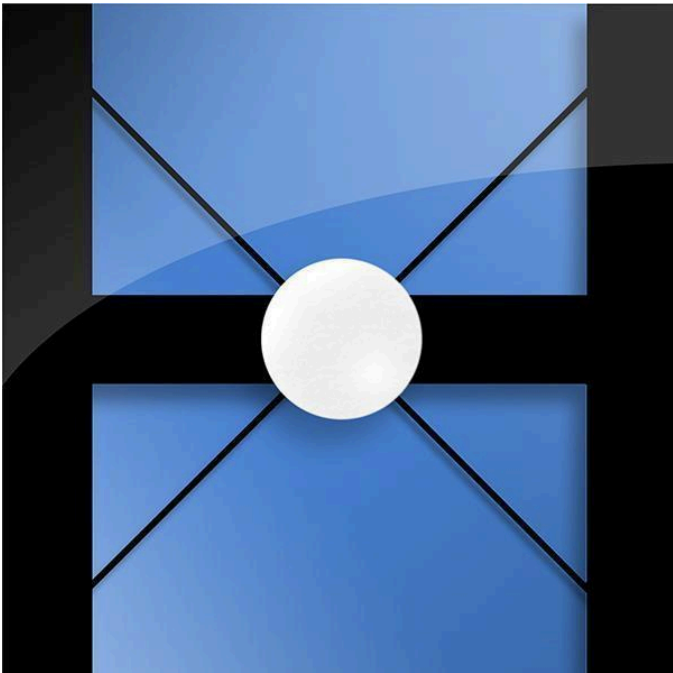


**STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK**  
2025-2026 Policies and Procedures

<b>Chula Vista</b>	<b>Mesa</b>	<b>North County</b>	<b>Point Loma</b>
<b>High Tech Elementary Chula Vista (HTeCV)</b> 1949 Discovery Falls Dr Chula Vista, CA 91915 Phone: (619) 591-2550 Fax: (619) 591-2553	<b>High Tech Elementary Mesa (HTe Mesa)</b> 5331 Mt Alifan Dr Bldg. 200 San Diego, CA 92111 Phone: (619) 510-4620 Fax: (619) 510-4621	<b>High Tech Elementary North County (HTeNC)</b> 1480 W San Marcos Blvd San Marcos, CA 92078 Phone: (760) 759-2785 Fax: (760) 759-2788	<b>High Tech Elementary (HTe)</b> 2150 Cushing Rd San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 564-6700 Fax: (619) 564-6757
<b>High Tech Middle Chula Vista (HTMCV)</b> 1949 Discovery Falls Dr Chula Vista, CA 91915 Phone: (619) 591-2530 Fax: (619) 591-2533	<b>High Tech Middle Mesa (HTM Mesa)</b> 5331 Mt Alifan Dr, Bldg. 400 San Diego, CA 92111 Phone: (619) 510-4600 Fax: (619) 510-4601	<b>High Tech Middle North County (HTMNC)</b> 1460 W San Marcos Blvd San Marcos, CA 92078 Phone: (760) 759-2750 Fax: (760) 759-2779	<b>High Tech Elementary Explorer (HTeX)</b> 2230 Truxtun Rd, 1st Floor San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 795-3600 Fax: (619) 795-3090
<b>High Tech High Chula Vista (HTHCV)</b> 1945 Discovery Falls Dr Chula Vista, CA 91915 Phone: (619) 591-2500 Fax: (619) 591-2503	<b>High Tech High Mesa (HTH Mesa)</b> 5331 Mt Alifan Dr, Bldg. 900 San Diego, CA 92111 Phone: (619) 795-1810 Fax: (619) 795-1811	<b>High Tech High North County (HTHNC)</b> 1420 W San Marcos Blvd. San Marcos, CA 92078 Phone: (760) 759-2700 Fax: (760) 759-2799	<b>High Tech Middle (HTM)</b> 2359 Truxtun Rd San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 814-5060 Fax: (619) 814-5088
			<b>High Tech Middle Media Arts (HTMMA)</b> 2230 Truxtun Rd, 2nd Floor San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 398-8640 Fax: (619) 758-9568
			<b>Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs High Tech High (HTH)</b> 2861 Womble Rd San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 243-5000 Fax: (619) 243-5050
			<b>High Tech High International (HTHI)</b> 2855 Farragut Rd San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 398-4900 Fax: (619) 398-4939
			<b>High Tech High Media Arts (HTHMA)</b> 2230 Truxtun Rd, 3rd Floor San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 398-8620 Fax: (619) 224-1198
<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.hightechhigh.org">www.hightechhigh.org</a></p>			

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The policies and procedures described in this Student & Parent Handbook (“**Handbook**”) are applicable to all High Tech High (“**High Tech High**” or “**HTH**”) schools detailed in Section II.A below unless specifically directed to one school or village in particular. Throughout this Handbook, references to “HTH” shall mean and include all HTH schools. The Parent/Student Handbook offers information about our school policies and procedures in order to help parents and students have a successful school year. The policies contained in this Handbook are not exhaustive. HTH has the discretion to supplement and modify policies noted here from time to time. The most current version of the Handbook posted on the High Tech High website at: [www.hightechhigh.org/handbook/](http://www.hightechhigh.org/handbook/) Additionally, HTH staff is readily available should you have any questions pertaining to our handbook.

## II. ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### A. Attendance Hours

The following are the school hours for each of the HTH schools. Students must be on time and present for all of their classes. Students must remain on campus during these hours unless on an approved field trip or participating in a school-sponsored internship program.

School Name	Times
The Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs High Tech High	8:40 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.
High Tech High International	8:35 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.
High Tech High Media Arts	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
High Tech High Mesa	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
High Tech High Chula Vista	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
High Tech High North County	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
High Tech Middle	9:05 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
High Tech Middle Media Arts	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

High Tech Middle Chula Vista	8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
High Tech Middle North County	8:50 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
High Tech Middle Mesa	8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
High Tech Elementary Explorer	9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
High Tech Elementary	9:05 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
High Tech Elementary Chula Vista	8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
High Tech Elementary North County	8:15 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.
High Tech Elementary Mesa	8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

## **B. Absences**

Every child between the ages of six and eighteen years of age is subject to full-time education. (Education Code section 48200.) To that end, every student is expected to attend school for a full day on a daily basis unless there is valid justification for their absence. Moreover, student attendance is vital for student achievement. The project-based nature of the HTH program makes daily attendance extremely important. Significant absences, repeated absences or tardiness may lead to academic and disciplinary consequences.

### **i. Scheduling Appointments and Vacations**

Appointments and other activities should be scheduled during non-school hours whenever possible. Likewise, HTH requests that families schedule vacations or special programs during school holiday breaks as attendance is vital in a collaborative project based environment. In particular, the final two (2) weeks of any semester are critical, as they culminate in the student exhibitions and presentations upon which faculty base their assessments.

### **ii. Notification to School of Absences and Excused Absences**

In the event of a necessary absence, please email or leave a voicemail with your school's Site Manager to advise the school that your child will be absent. While this alone will not excuse the absence under this policy, the call allows the school the opportunity to track your student's attendance. Student absences will be verified.



Absences may be considered excused for the following reasons:

- Illness or injury of student
  - Quarantine
  - Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services
  - Attending the funeral of an immediate family member e.g., mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, brother, sister, or any relative living in the immediate household of the student (one day within the state, three days outside the state)
    - Illness or medical treatment of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent
    - Spending time with a family member called to duty for, on leave from, or just returned from active military duty in combat zone (immediate family member; maximum three days)
    - Attending student's naturalization ceremony
    - Justifiable Personal Reasons, which means that the student's absence has been requested in writing by the parent and approved by the principal or designee.
- Absences that fall into this category include, but are not limited to:

- o Appearance in court
- o Attendance at a funeral service (extended days)
- o Attendance at a religious retreat (shall not exceed four hours per semester)
- o Medical exclusion or exemption
- o Observance of religious or cultural holiday, ceremony, or secular historical remembrance
- o Religious instruction (attend a minimum school day no more than four days per school month)
- o Revoked suspension through appeals procedure
- o Pre-arranged mental health services (Mental Health Day Treatment)

If a student will be out of school for three (3) or more days due to illness, the student must provide a note from a doctor or nurse specifying the amount of time excused. If documentation is requested to verify an absence, it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide documentation to verify an absence. Failure to provide accepted documentation may result in absences remaining unexcused.

### **iii. Excessive Absenteeism**

As a school, we firmly believe in the importance of students being at school on time, every day. Research has shown that chronic absences from school may be connected to lower reading proficiency, lower test scores, higher dropout rates, and lower college persistence. Excessive absences not only impact a student's work, but they can have long-term effects on a student's future academic success.

Students with excessive absences include, but are not limited to:

1. Students who have missed 10% or more of the school year to date; or,
2. Students who have been absent from school for ten (10) consecutive

school days or more, and the student's parents or guardians have not contacted the school with an explanation for the absences, or otherwise expressing their intent to have their student attend the school.

Students with excessive absenteeism will be required to:

1. Meet with their school administrators, and their parent(s)/guardian(s), to discuss the absenteeism, and appropriate next steps for addressing the issues; and,
2. Sign a written agreement and obtain parent/guardian signatures to the agreement acknowledging and re-affirming their commitment to the terms of the HTH Attendance Policy.

If the situation continues, the school may, at its discretion, deem a student to have voluntarily dropped from school enrollment. The school may also address the matter through further actions including the disenrollment process and referring the student back to the home school district in accordance with applicable law.

For more information about the HTH Attendance Policies, please contact your school's main office.

### **C. Tardies**

If your student will be late for school, an advance call from a parent/guardian is preferred. Students who arrive late to school or are returning from an appointment must:

- Check in with the school's front desk
- Provide a note or an email from their parent/guardian or health care provider regarding their tardy
- Receive a tardy slip/pass from the front desk prior to proceeding to their classroom

Students with excessive tardies will be required to meet with their school administrators and parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss their punctuality and appropriate steps to address this matter.

### **D. Truancy**

A student who is absent from school without a valid excuse will be marked unexcused for the day. These types of absences are also called Truancies. Any student who is absent from school for 3 days or more without a valid excuse, or tardy in excess of 30 minutes or more is truant.

Students who are deemed chronically tardy or chronically absent may not be permitted to receive credit for the course(s) in which they have been chronically tardy or absent, or may jeopardize their position and privileges associated with attending any HTH

school. Students and their parents will have an opportunity to meet with school administration to discuss potential consequences to address chronic tardiness and/or absenteeism.

#### **E. Early Dismissal**

While we encourage families to schedule appointments before or after school, we understand that sometimes missing school cannot be helped. However, in general, students cannot leave campus during the school day without consent from their parents or guardians. Students 18 years of age and older also cannot leave campus during the school day without the school's permission as described below. For parents/guardians of students in grades 7-12, inclusive, please note that school authorities may excuse any student from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian.

An early dismissal slip is required for students to leave school before the end of the day. If your student needs to be excused early, please provide the school office with advance notice before the appointment, either by an email, a signed note or a call to your school's Site Manager. Your student will be given an early dismissal slip to be excused from class. In addition, we ask that parents please provide us with a doctor's note supporting the early dismissal, which can be brought in the following school day.

#### **F. Contracts for Independent Study**

HTH does not offer a "full time" or regular independent study or distance learning program as part of its curriculum. HTH does offer the opportunity for short-term Contracts for Independent Study, for up to 14 days per school year, at the discretion of the school director and if pre-approved by the school.

#### **G. School Calendars and Activities**

Academic year calendars, daily class schedules, significant school events, and extended services information (if applicable) for each HTH school may be found on school webpages directed from the HTH website located at: [www.hightechhigh.org](http://www.hightechhigh.org).

#### **H. Homeless Students**

Each HTH school has designated a staff person as the School Liaison for Homeless Students pursuant to HTH's Homeless Youth Policy and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent or guardian. In the case of an unaccompanied minor, status is determined by the School Liaison. Please contact your school Site Manager for information regarding your School Liaison, and for further information about HTH's policy regarding homeless youth, and supports available for homeless students.

### **III. CAMPUS POLICIES**

## A. Closed Campuses

Despite the open feeling in the schools, HTH campuses are closed campuses in order to provide safe and secure schools. Students must remain within the immediate vicinity of their respective schools during all school hours with the following general exceptions:

### i. Point Loma Schools

- ***Liberty Station:*** In general, Liberty Station may be considered to be on campus when **students are accompanied by faculty or staff during class hours for a specific school purpose.**
- ***Liberty Station Retail Area and Lunch Breaks:***
  - **High School Students:** High school students may walk over to a defined section of the Liberty Station Retail Area, located within the quadrangle defined by the following streets: Womble, Historic Decatur, Roosevelt and Truxtun Roads. High School students are permitted to patronize the Liberty Station stores located within the Liberty Station Retail Area before school, during lunch and after school. Students are not permitted to be in the Liberty Station Retail Area during class time. Moreover, students may not travel to any other off campus sites during school hours without the supervision of a teacher. Additionally, students who are absent or tardy to class, or who otherwise violate school policies, may have their privileges to visit the Liberty Station Retail Area revoked. By the receipt of the policies and procedures in this Handbook, parents/guardians expressly acknowledge and agree that their high school students may go to the Liberty Station Retail Area as identified above.
  - **Middle and Elementary School Students:** Due to the age range of our middle and elementary school students, middle and elementary school students must stay within the immediate vicinity of their schools. Middle and elementary school students are not permitted to walk to or from the Liberty Station Retail Area or any other stores during school hours unless in the company of a teacher during the course of a school activity. Middle and elementary school students are not permitted to buy lunch from these stores and must stay in the current designated lunch areas near their schools. Students enrolled in the before and after school program also are not permitted to go to these stores during the Before and After School Care Program hours.

### ii. All Schools

- With a signed Walking Permission Slip on file, students at all HTH schools **may participate in walking excursions within a one-mile radius from campus when accompanied by faculty or staff, during school hours for specific school purposes.** Examples of such walking excursions include a trip to Exploration Falls Park (for Chula Vista schools), an exercise walk in the neighborhood, or a walk to a neighboring canyon for project-related fieldwork. **Other than faculty and/or staff chaperoned excursions, students must remain on campus during school hours.**

#### **A. School Dances**

School dances are held throughout the year. High school students may bring one (1) guest to most high school dances provided that:

- The guest is enrolled in a high school or is still under the age of 21;
- A completed guest form is submitted to the Dean of Students at least three (3) school days prior to the dance and approved by the Dean of Students;
- The HTH student must stay with his/her/their guest throughout the event and accept responsibility for the actions of their guests; and
- HTH policies, procedures and rules must be observed by both the guest and the HTH student.

#### **B. Student Visitors**

In general, HTH does not permit students to have visitors on campus. However, HTH recognizes that there are certain events, such as dances, where HTH students may want to invite non-HTH students as guests. In such cases, non-students or students from other schools must complete a guest form and submit it to the Dean of Students or School Director for prior approval. Visitors permitted in these circumstances will be expected to abide by HTH policies and guidelines.

Please see Section IV “Volunteer/Visitor Policies” for HTH’s general policies.

#### **C. Lost and Stolen Items**

High Tech High is not responsible for any lost, stolen and/or damaged belongings. Students’ personal property is solely their responsibility. Students should avoid leaving personal belongings unattended and take reasonable precautions to protect their personal property. You may report lost, stolen, and/or damaged personal property to your school Dean or Director.

#### **D. Student Drivers and Parking Expectations**

Driving to school is considered a privilege. Students who drive their own vehicles to and from school must comply with the following rules. Failure to follow these rules may result in an immediate disciplinary meeting and/or action.

**i. Student Driver Information**

Students who drive to and from school will be asked to provide the following information to their school's front desk:

- Student's name and signature
- Student's Driver's License number
- Parent/guardian's name and signature
- Car make and model and license plate number of each vehicle the student may be driving
- Automobile Insurance Policy Number and expiration date

**ii. Students Driving Students: Rules For Field Trips, Events, and Internships – Limited Circumstances Only**

As a general rule, students who drive to and from school may not drive other HTH students in their vehicle during the school day. There is a limited exception for students who follow the guidelines related to student drivers on field trips and internships.

If parents/guardians desire to have their students carpool with student drivers, student drivers, their passengers, and their respective parents/guardians, must review and sign the permission forms, and submit the required paperwork to their school Site Manager(s) in advance of driving other students to field trips and internships. A student may only drive other students if:

- Students are eligible to drive other students under applicable law and HTH policies, **and**,
- In advance of any such driving, parents/guardians of the student driver have submitted signed parent/guardian permission forms (available at the school front desk), **and**
- In advance of any such driving, parents/guardians of the passenger student(s) have signed and submitted consent forms to the student driver's school Site Manager, **and**,
- Site Manager or his/her/their designee approves the student driver after reviewing required permission forms and paperwork, **and**,

- Students conduct themselves in accordance with the law and HTH policies.

### **iii. Driving onto and near Campus, Parking Lot Conduct and Expectations**

The following rules apply to all drivers who come onto or near our campuses including students, parents/guardians, family members, caregivers, and visitors.

- All drivers coming onto and near our campuses must observe all traffic rules, parking lot rules, and speed limits. There are many people who walk around campus. Traveling at greater speeds than allowed endangers others.
- All drivers coming onto and near our campuses must observe parking lot rules, and park solely within parking spaces that are designated for visitors. Drivers may not park in areas that are designated as no parking zones by either signage, red curbs, or staff members on drop off/pick up duty.
- Students may only be dropped off and picked up at designated drop off/pick up zones.
- Drivers may not obstruct the flow of traffic at any time.
- Drivers must enter parking lots through entrances, and may not enter through areas designated as exits.
- Drivers dropping off and picking up students must be civil, courteous and respectful of others.
- While driving on campus, drivers may not play music in their cars at high volume.
- Students may not sit in vehicles or gather in the parking areas before school, during school hours, or after school.
- When students enter and start their vehicles at the end of the school day, they must depart immediately.
- Student and school community safety is a priority for HTH. Drivers who do not observe rules and/or other standards of conduct, may have their parking privileges and/or campus access privileges limited or revoked.

### **iv. High Tech High Point Loma Village Parking**

HTH has an allocation of parking spaces at the Point Loma Village parking lot and students must obtain permission to use one of those spaces. Forms, parking permits, and ID tags for student drivers may be obtained from the school's Dean of Students.

Students will be issued parking permits for High Tech High Village parking spaces based on space availability and must display the parking permit prominently in the vehicle. Students who drive to school and park elsewhere must obtain an HTH identification tag that must be displayed in the vehicle when parking at Liberty Station or in off campus areas for other High Tech High students. HTH Point Loma Village seniors are given priority registration for available spaces and all students may apply for parking permits beginning on the first day of the school year.

Due to the high demand for parking at the High Tech High Point Loma Village, parking on campus is considered to be a privilege. Failure to obey traffic laws and regulations while at Liberty Station, as well as failure to adhere to High Tech High rules and expectations noted in this Handbook, may result in a parking permit being revoked. Students are expected to drive and park safely and courteously.

#### **v. High Tech High Chula Vista Village Parking**

Due to the high demand for parking at HTHCV, parking is only available to staff, vendors and visitors.

#### **vi. High Tech High North County Village Parking**

HTHNC has a limited allocation of parking spaces, and students must obtain permission to use one of those spaces. Forms and parking permits for student drivers can be obtained from the Dean of Students. Students will be issued parking permits for HTHNC parking spaces based on space availability and must display the parking permit prominently in the vehicle. HTHNC seniors are given priority registration for available spaces, and all students may apply for parking permits beginning on the first day of the school year. Students without permits are not permitted to park on campus, and will need to park off-site. Adjacent streets with unrestricted street parking are: Pacific Street and Discovery Street.

Due to the high demand for parking at HTHNC, parking on campus is considered to be a privilege. Failure to obey traffic laws and regulations while on HTHNC property or easements, as well as failure to adhere to HTHNC rules and expectations noted in this Handbook, may result in a parking permit being revoked. Students are expected to drive and park safely and courteously.

#### **vii. High Tech High Mesa Parking**

HTHM has an allocation of parking spaces, and drivers must obtain permission to use one of those spaces. Forms and parking permits for student drivers can be obtained from the Dean of Students. Students will be issued parking permits for HTHM parking spaces based on space availability and must display the parking permit prominently in the vehicle. After HTHM reaches the point of serving grades 9-12, HTHM seniors will be given priority registration for available spaces. Drivers may apply for parking permits beginning on the first day of the school year.



Due to the high demand for parking at HTHM, parking on campus is considered to be a privilege. Failure to obey traffic laws and regulations while on HTHM property or easements, as well as failure to adhere to HTHM rules and expectations noted in this Handbook, may result in a parking permit being revoked. All drivers are expected to drive and park safely and courteously.

### **viii. Skateboards and Bicycles**

The following rules apply to bicycles and skateboards while on campus:

#### **Skateboards:**

- **Point Loma Campus (Liberty Station):**
  - The HTH schools in Point Loma are situated in the midst of Liberty Station, adjacent to a public business district with several public thoroughfares between school buildings.
  - There are legal restrictions to the use of skateboards in such public spaces.
  - Based on these facts, and our experience with the common, shared public spaces surrounding our schools, we have concluded that in order to maintain a safe environment, skateboards will not be allowed on the Point Loma campus.
  - All skateboards must be checked in and stored in the designated area.
  - If a student brings a skateboard onto campus, the skateboard may be confiscated by the school administration, and students may be subject to disciplinary action.
- **Chula Vista Campus:**
  - In order to maintain a safe environment, students may not ride skateboards onto or on campus.
  - All skateboards must be checked in and stored in the designated area.
- **North County Campus:**
  - In order to maintain a safe environment, students generally may not ride skateboards onto or on campus.
  - Commuters:
    - Students who commute by skateboard may bring

skateboards on campus in a safe and orderly manner.

- If a student brings a skateboard onto campus, he/she must **carry it onto campus** as students may not ride onto campus.
- All skateboards must be stored properly as directed by faculty and staff members.
- If a student violates these rules, the student's skateboard may be confiscated by the school administration, and the student may be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Bicycles:**

- Students commuting to schools by bicycle should take precautions to park their bicycles in appropriate designated places.
- Students are responsible for wearing appropriate gear, including helmets, and securing their bicycles with their own locks.

### **Point Loma Only – Area Between HTH and HTM:**

- Area Between HTH and HTM: In order to maintain a safe environment and public thoroughfare between HTH and HTM, students may not play soccer or football in the area between the two schools. Students wishing to engage in these sports may do so on the grassy field to the south of HTH.

## **IV. STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICIES**

### **A. Medication at School (Prescribed or Over-the-Counter)**

HTH does not have a nurse on staff at each school site. Each school's main office staff members will have first aid kits and will be your health center point of contact.

The primary responsibility for the administration of medication rests with the parent/guardian, student and medical professional. HTH staff may assist in the administration of medication during school hours only if determined by a physician to be necessary. Designated school personnel will keep records of medication administered at the school with the assistance of school personnel per the instructions of physicians, as applicable. All medication will be kept in a secure and appropriate storage location and any assistance provided by staff shall be provided consistent with the physician's instructions by designated staff. Designated school personnel will return all personal, surplus medication to the parent/guardian upon completion of the regimen or prior to

summer holidays.

*Assistance with Prescription Medication:* In order for a student to be assisted by designated school personnel in taking prescription medication, including insulin shots, parents/guardians must provide HTH with: (1) a written and signed statement from a physician detailing the name of the medication, method, amount, and time schedule by which the medication is to be taken **and** (2) a written statement from the parent/guardian of the student expressing his/her/their intent that the school assist the student with the administration of the medicine. These statements must be updated at least annually. Designated staff members will establish emergency procedures for specific medical conditions that require an immediate response (i.e. allergies, asthma, and diabetes), consistent with instructions from the parents/guardians/physicians.

Certain medications may be carried by students as noted below:

- **Students in grades 6-12:** Students in grades 6-12 may keep physician prescribed inhalers for asthma conditions, auto-injectable epinephrine (“EpiPens”) (see below for rules), and certain over-the-counter medicines (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin, and supplements like glucose tablets) in their possession. Students are prohibited from sharing any medications, whether prescribed or over-the-counter, with any other students. HTH will not be responsible for any adverse reactions to medications self-administered or otherwise administered by students.
- **Students in grades K-5:** Unless otherwise prescribed by a doctor, students in grades K-5, must keep their medications, including inhalers, locked at the front office with the Site Manager. Medication will only be administered according to the physician’s instructions, as described in this section.

*Assistance with EpiPens:* In order for a student to carry and self-administer prescription EpiPens, parents/guardians must provide HTH with: (1) a written and signed statement from a physician detailing the name of the medication, method, amount, circumstances during which the medication should be administered, a confirmation that the student is able to self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine, **and** (2) a written statement from the parent/guardian consenting to the self-administration, providing a release for designated school personnel to consult with the health care provider of the student regarding any questions that may arise with regard to the medication, and releasing HTH and school personnel from civil liability if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administering medication. These statements must be updated at least annually.

Additionally, the designated school personnel who have volunteered may use EpiPens to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, an anaphylactic reaction. HTH will ensure it has the appropriate type of EpiPens on site (i.e., regular or junior) to meet the needs of its students. HTH will ensure staff properly store, maintain, and restock the EpiPens as needed. HTH will

ensure any school personnel who volunteer are appropriately trained regarding the storage and emergency use of EpiPens based on the standards developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. HTH will distribute an annual notice to all staff describing the request for volunteers who will be trained to administer an EpiPen to a person if that person is suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, anaphylaxis. The annual notice shall also describe the training the volunteer will receive.

## **B. Control of Communicable Diseases**

HTH works to cooperate with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency to prevent and control communicable diseases in school-age children. When there is good reason to believe a student has a contagious or infectious disease, the parent/guardian will be contacted and the student sent home. The student may return to school when well and/or released by a physician. If there is reason to believe a student is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the student will be excluded from school until school officials are satisfied that the student no longer has the contagious or infectious disease.

## **C. Health Screening**

HTH contracts with nurses from Rady Children's Hospital San Diego to provide hearing and vision screenings as required by state law. You may contact the school at the time of the health screening if you would prefer that your child be excluded. Screenings are offered in grades K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10

## **D. Immunization Requirements**

State law requires that all students, kindergarten through grade 12, be immunized against certain diseases. At the time of the first day of attendance, the school is required to have proof that each student has received all currently due immunizations.

### Students Transferring to HTH Schools

For a student transferring from another school in the United States whose immunization record has not been received by the new school at the time of admission, the school may admit the child for up to 30 school days. If the immunization record has not been received at the end of this period, the school shall exclude the student until the parent or guardian provides documentation of compliance with the requirements

### Personal Belief Exemptions (PBEs)

PBEs will no longer be recognized for new incoming students. Pre-existing PBEs filed at a California K-12 school before January 1, 2016 are only valid until the student enrolls in the next grade span, typically at kindergarten or 7th grade (middle school entry) only where the student:

1. Had a physician-issued, written exemption on file prior to January 1, 2016;
2. At a California K-12 school (child care and preschool are not recognized for this purpose, however, qualified Transitional Kindergarten programs may be recognized for this purpose);
3. In which the student was then-enrolled (Exempt Student).

However, even Exempt Students are subject to rules requiring proof of immunization at kindergarten and seventh grade transitions. At the kindergarten and seventh grade registration points, Exempt Students must demonstrate proof that all required immunizations for the relevant grade level have been administered unless a valid, legal exemption applies (e.g., the student has a medical exemption that meets all legal requirements) and documentation has been provided to the school.

### Medical Exemptions

Starting July 1, 2019, a parent or guardian must submit a signed, written statement from a physician (MD or DO) licensed in California which states:

- The specific nature of the physical condition or medical circumstance of the child for which a licensed physician does not recommend immunization.
- Each specific required vaccine that is being exempted.
- Whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary.
- If the exemption is temporary, an expiration date no more than 12 calendar months from the date of signing.

Starting on January 1, 2021, instead of the written statement referenced above, HTH may only accept evidence of a medical exemption that is submitted on a statewide form and transmitted from the student's physician using California Immunization Registry (CAIR). This form will come from the Student's physician.

### **D. Wellness and Food**

HTH has adopted a Wellness Policy in keeping with its participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) that discusses food service, sales and distribution on HTH campuses. The following guidelines based on the Wellness Policy apply to school-based activities:

1. To the extent food sales are conducted, school-based groups including parent associations, other parent groups, booster clubs, associated student body, student groups, clubs and teams, and teaching teams should abide by HTH health and wellness policies.

2. Fundraising events involving food must be done after regular school hours. This means that food sales should not take place while any neighboring HTH village school may be in session. Please note that several HTH schools offer breakfast to students. Accordingly, any fundraising events involving food may not be conducted before school.
3. Parents/guardians, volunteers, staff members and students should consider nutritional quality when selecting snacks for school events, sales, and parties.

Commencing in the 2022-2023 school year, all students have the option to eat two school meals (breakfast and lunch) free of charge, regardless of their eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal.

The California's Universal Meals Program is designed to build on the foundations of the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). HTH participates in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program ("NSLP"). Free or reduced ("FRL") price meal applications are provided to all families. Schools notify families when FRL applications become available, and these are made available both online and in hard copy at the school's front desk. Generally, these applications first become available each year sometime in late July or early August of the summer preceding the school year, and are available throughout the year as needed.

## **V. ACADEMIC POLICIES**

### **A. HTH Academic Program**

HTH schools offer a unique, project-based academic program. The mission of all HTH schools, whether at the elementary, middle or high school level, is to provide students with rigorous and relevant academic and workplace skills, preparing its graduates for postsecondary success and productive citizenship. HTH schools all embody the design principles of equity, personalization, authentic work, and collaborative design. For more information about your school's particular program visit your school website at: [www.hightechhigh.org](http://www.hightechhigh.org).

HTH students enrolled in grades K-12 have access to participate in their school's available extracurricular programs, including clubs and athletics. There are no additional admissions criteria for college preparatory, career & technical education ("CTE"), or extracurricular programs or activities.

### **B. High Schools: HTH Curriculum and Transferability of Credits**

All HTH high school level core courses are approved or are in the process of being approved by the University of California ("UC"). HTH high school students also

participate in the CTE program as part of their required course of study. We have seen that courses offered at HTH are as transferable as those of a traditional high school districts to other schools, and are recognized as such by colleges and universities.

However, HTH does not offer the same courses or the same sequence of courses, as do many other schools. In some instances, this has caused 11th and 12th grade HTH students transferring to other schools to need to make-up courses that were not offered in the traditional sequence, or at all, at HTH. For example, HTH does not offer a high school course or credit for Physical Education (P.E.).

**Students and parents/guardians are advised to take HTH's unique academic program into account when making decisions to enroll at a HTH school and to transfer to other schools.**

HTH requires that students receive a C- or higher in all core academic courses. Consistent with UC entrance requirements, students must earn a grade of C- or higher to receive credit for a course.

### **C. Code of Academic Integrity**

HTH requires all students to demonstrate honesty and to be mindful of the values underlying an honest and true education, and the challenges posed by a continuously evolving world and, in particular, the immediate access to resources found on the Internet. HTH students agree to accept personal responsibility for honorable behavior in all of their academic endeavors, to assist one another in maintaining and promoting personal integrity and ethical standards, and to follow the principles and standards set forth in this Code of Academic Integrity.

Violations of the Code of Academic Integrity may take several forms. Plagiarism and cheating are two examples of violations of the Code of Academic Integrity. Plagiarism is typically described as duplication of another's work without full acknowledgement of the debt to the original source; however, it also includes any of the following<sup>1</sup>:

- Direct duplication by copying (or allowing to be copied) another's work, whether from a book, article, Web site, another student's assignment, etc.;
- Duplication in any manner of another's work during an exam;
- Paraphrasing of another's work closely, with minor changes but with the essential meaning, form and/or progression of ideas maintained;
- Piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole;

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<sup>1</sup> HTH has adopted principles and procedures modeled after other educational institutions, such as the University of Notre Dame including those found in the Notre Dame, "Code of Honor," n.d., [www.nd.edu](http://www.nd.edu) (15 September 2013) and, "Guidelines for Plagiarism," n.d., [www.services.unimelb.edu](http://www.services.unimelb.edu) (15 September 2013).

- Submitting one's own work which has already been submitted for assessment purposes in another subject; and/or,
- Producing assignments in conjunction with other people (e.g. another student, tutor), which should be your own independent work.
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Cheating results in a loss of integrity on the part of the individual committing the act and on the educational process that is undermined by the act of cheating. It is a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity for any student to attempt to gain or gain an unfair advantage over another student by unfair or dishonest means.

If you are unclear about an assignment, the methodology for the same, or the permissible bounds of assistance for completing your work please speak to your teacher(s) and ask for clarification.

Consequences for not following the academic code of conduct may include receiving a zero on the assignment, failing the course, and/or disciplinary action including the possibility of suspension and/or expulsion from school.

#### **D. Intellectual Property Statement**

Students have the rights to intellectual property they have created, unless the property is also owned by others in the school, or if that creation arose out of, or in the course of, classwork, and/or if it was developed with funds and facilities administered by HTH.

### **VI. SAFETY POLICIES**

#### **A. Emergency Procedures Overview**

HTH staff members receive training in order to provide for the safety of students, staff and visitors during times of emergency. Emergency preparedness planning takes place at various times during the school year.

Staff members and students must respond to alarms and Notification Lights according to emergency procedures and protocols. Failure to follow emergency procedures or the willful attempt to compromise emergency preparedness at HTH are grounds for severe consequences, including possible suspension and expulsion.

Each campus has its own Comprehensive Safety Plan. If you would like to see a copy of your campus' Comprehensive Safety Plan, please contact your school's main office.

#### **Student Release Procedures**



The following student emergency release procedure is designed to ensure that parents/guardians know where to go to pick up their children in the event of a school-wide emergency or an event that causes students to be released at an unplanned time.

IN CASE OF A DECLARED EMERGENCY BY THE DEAN OR DIRECTOR DURING SCHOOL HOURS, ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO REMAIN AT SCHOOL OR AN ALTERNATE, SAFE SITE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SCHOOL STAFF:

1. Until regular dismissal time and then released only if it is considered safe, OR
2. Until released to an adult authorized by the parent or legal guardian whose name appears on school records only if it is considered safe by the school Director or Dean.

### **Parent Notification of School Emergency**

In the event of a school-wide emergency, the school will send out a phone or text message through our messenger system. It should also be noted that phones may not be answered at the school in the event of an emergency.

## **B. Internet Safety Policy**

### **i. Introduction and Definitions**

It is the policy of HTH to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act ("**CIPA**").

Key terms are as defined in the CIPA:

**MINOR.** The term "minor" means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.

**TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE.** The term "technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. **OBSCENE**, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. **CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. **HARMFUL TO MINORS.** The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
  - Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
  - Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect

to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

- Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

4. **SEXUAL ACT** and **SEXUAL CONTACT**. The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

## **ii. Access to Inappropriate Material**

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet Filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

## **iii. Inappropriate Network Usage**

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the HTH online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking”, and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

## **iv. Education, Supervision and Monitoring**

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the HTH staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the CIPA, the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of HTH IT Administrators or designated representatives.

The HTH IT Administrators or designated representatives will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the HTH Internet facilities. The training provided will be

designed to promote the HTH commitment to:

- a. the standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the High Tech High Internet Safety Policy;
- b. Student safety with regard to:
  - i. safety on the Internet;
  - ii. appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking websites, and in chat rooms; and
  - iii. cyberbullying awareness and response.
- c. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the CIPA.

### **C. Campus Supervision Policy**

#### **Overview**

High Tech High's Campus Supervision Policy is established to ensure the safety and supervision of all students while on campus between the regular school day hours, based on school schedule, Monday through Friday.

- i. High Tech High staff will be responsible for the supervision of students at all times while inside each High Tech High school building and during school hours while students are outside for breaks, lunch, class, and project work time.
- ii. High Tech High shall NOT be responsible for the supervision of students outside High Tech High school buildings or outdoor learning spaces after 4pm unless the student is actively enrolled in an after school academic, enrichment, or athletic program.
- iii. All High Tech High staff are trained in: First Aid and CPR and all staff will refer injuries to the school Dean of Students, Aftercare Director, or Site Manager. Campus incidents will be recorded on a School Injury Report and will be followed up by school Directors or other staff where appropriate.
- iv. The High Tech High Campus Supervision Policy will be reviewed annually by the school administration team and the Director of Student Services as part of a review of the Parent and Student handbook and ratified by the High Tech High Board of Directors.

## **VII. COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND CONDUCT POLICIES**

### **A. Dress Code**

Students and their parent/guardian hold the primary responsibility in determining the student's personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items (e.g. backpacks, book bags). Schools are responsible for ensuring that student attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items do not interfere with the health or safety of any student and do not contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment for any student.

### **Core Value**

In relation to student dress, the district's core values are the following:

- Students should be able to dress and style their hair for school in a manner that expresses their individuality without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming;
- Students have the right to be treated equitably. Dress code enforcement will not create disparities, reinforce or increase marginalization of any group, nor will it be more strictly enforced against students because of racial identity, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity, sexual orientation, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity;
- Students and staff are responsible for managing their personal distractions; and
- Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.

### **Universal Dress Code**

Students must wear:

- Top (shirt, blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, tank, etc.);
- Bottom (pants, shorts, skirt, dress, etc.); and
- Footwear.

This policy permits additional student attire requirements when necessary to ensure safety in certain academic settings (e.g. physical activity, science or makerspace). Additionally, this policy allows for reasonable variation in required student attire for participation in sports teams such as swimming or wrestling.

Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, or personal items that:

- Are pornographic, contain threats, or that promote illegal or violent conduct such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia;
- Demonstrate hate group association/affiliation and/or use hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or other protected groups;
- Intentionally show private parts (nipples, genitals, buttocks). Clothing must cover private parts in opaque (not able to be seen-through) material;

- Cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable (except clothing/headgear worn for a religious or medical purpose); or
- Demonstrate gang association/affiliation.

Attire worn in observance of a student's religion are not subject to this policy.

This policy permits schools with a uniform policy to continue having a uniform policy provided that it is gender neutral and inclusive of attire worn for a religious reason.

### **Enforcement**

Directors are required to ensure that all staff are aware of and understand the guidelines of this policy.

Staff will use reasonable efforts to avoid dress coding students in front of other students.

Students shall not be disciplined or removed from class as a consequence for wearing attire in violation of this policy unless the attire creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment, poses a hazard to the health or safety of others, or factors into a student behavior rule violation such as malicious harassment or the prohibition on harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

### **Dress Code Violations**

Potential consequences for failure to adhere to the dress code range from wearing a school uniform to being required to change into dress code appropriate clothing. Parents/guardians may be called to deliver clothing. Following the dress code is one way that students show that they wish to be a part of the HTH community.

### **B. General Field Trip Policy**

1. Teachers will select field trips that are appropriate for students and enrich the academic learning in the classrooms.
2. Students will be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. No student should be allowed away from the group by themselves.
3. Students will abide by all school rules and procedures while on the field trip.
4. Parents may chaperone with an approved Volunteer application on file. Siblings and other family members, including pets, are prohibited from participating on a school field trip.
5. Parents or guardians of all students who take field trips shall sign a statement before the field trip waiving all claims against HTH for injury, accident, illness, or death occurring during or by reason of the field trip.

### **C. Computer, Electronic Mail, And Internet Usage Policy**

We are pleased to offer High Tech High students access to certain elements of school

computer equipment, computer network and systems, electronic mail service and user accounts, the Intranet and the Internet (collectively “HTH IT”). HTH IT is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others for school assignments.

Access to HTH IT is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege – not a right. Access entails responsibility. In addition to the Internet Safety Policy noted earlier in this handbook, students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines and policies applicable to the use of HTH IT. Students are also expected to use good judgment and treat other students with courtesy and respect when using the computer network, internet, electronic mail, and other forms of electronic communications while at school or using HTH issued devices. Students who violate these policies may be subject to disciplinary action.

HTH IT is shared and available to the HTH community. These resources may not be used in any way that disrupts or interferes with use by others.

Students must respect all copyrights and licenses to software and other online information, and may not upload, download, or copy software or other material through HTH IT.

The following are some of the actions that are not permitted, and violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action, including expulsion:

- Damage, vandalism or theft of equipment, systems or networks
- Use of the computer equipment, networks and systems for unlawful purposes, commercial purposes or personal gain
- Violations of copyright law
- Plagiarism
- Theft, piracy, improper downloading or modification of software
- Transmitting computer viruses
- Sending or retrieving information that violates school policies and/or applicable laws (e.g., sending and/or retrieving information that is pornographic, vulgar, racist, sexist, abusive, harassing, offensive or attacking)
- Any attempt to guess passwords, use another’s password, break in to other accounts, or gain unauthorized access to administrator accounts
- Trespassing in another’s portfolio, folders, work or files
- Concealing or misrepresenting one’s identity while using the system
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Any use which is unlawful under applicable State or Federal law
- Any use which HTH determines is objectionable in its sole discretion

#### **i. Communication using HTH IT**

Students are responsible for their own behavior on HTH IT just as they are everywhere in the school environment. Communications on HTH IT are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

It is presumed that users will comply with school standards. Aside from the clarification of such standards, HTH is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

## **ii. HTH and Access/No Expectation of Privacy**

HTH IT and all user accounts are the property of HTH. As such, HTH reserves the right to monitor and access information on the system and in users' accounts. Network storage areas may be accessed by HTH to review files and communications, maintain system integrity, to ensure that users are using the system responsibly and to ensure there are no violations of school policies.

There is no right to privacy nor should any user of HTH IT have any expectation of personal privacy in any matters stored in, created, received, or sent over HTH IT. These are subject to review by the schools at any time, with or without notice, with or without cause and without the permission of any student or parent/guardian.

HTH reserves the right to monitor access, retrieve, download, copy, listen to, or delete anything stored in, created, received or sent over school computer networks, computers, e-mail system or any other HTH IT, without notice and without the permission of any user.

Moreover, to protect the integrity of the HTH IT and the users thereof against unauthorized or improper use of these systems, HTH reserves the right, without notice, to limit or restrict any individual's use, and to inspect, copy, remove, or delete any unauthorized use of this technology upon authorization of the School Director or designee.

## **iii. Internet**

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Families are reminded; however, that HTH does not control the content of the Internet. Accordingly, HTH does not have control over the type of information accessible to students or the quality of the same, though HTH does use Internet filters, as described in the Internet Safety Policy. HTH cannot completely limit access to materials that a parent/guardian or family might consider inappropriate. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well.

HTH believes that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, HTH supports and respects each family's right to decide if their child should not have Internet access, and relies on the family to inform

HTH of that choice. Ultimately, appropriate use of this resource is the responsibility of the user.

#### **D. Community Code Of Conduct - Respect For Self And Others**

HTH students, parents/guardians and staff are expected to treat one another with respect, support teaching and learning, and to respect our environment and surroundings. This expectation extends how we respect ourselves, how we talk and interact with one another, and how we treat each other's property and personal space. In keeping with this code of conduct, certain norms should be observed including, but not limited to those found in this Community Code of Conduct section:

- **Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco:** Drugs, alcohol, and smoking materials (including, but not limited to, all forms of e-cigarettes, vaporizer pens, vaporizers, e-hookahs, etc.) are prohibited in the school, on the campus, and at off-campus school functions. Likewise, students are prohibited from being under the influence of drugs, alcohol and from smoking while at school, on campus and at off-campus school functions.
- **Vandalism:** All students and staff are required to treat school buildings and property with care and respect. No one is to injure, destroy, deface or trespass on school property. A clean environment is important to all; vandalism will be dealt with severely. Parents/guardians will be responsible for paying for any damage done to school property by their student. People with any information about damage done to the building or its contents shall report it to the Dean of Students or School Director.
- **Personal electronics:** High Tech High schools provide electronic devices for collaboration and communication for students to use in the classroom and throughout the school day. Personal electronic devices may not be used during the school day. If parents/guardians feel their student needs to have a personal electronic device, the device needs to be turned off or on silent mode and stored out of sight in backpacks, not in pockets, during the school day. The following expectations are in place at all K-12 schools in an effort to keep the focus on learning and reduce unnecessary distractions throughout the school day:
  - Cell phones, iPads, Smartwatches, and all similar electronic devices should be turned off, stored away, out of sight, and not used during school hours unless under the direct supervision of an adult staff member. Some HTH schools and classrooms will have specific "turn in" procedures for cell phones during class time.
  - Smart watches (Apple/Android Watch, etc) should be in "school time" or "airplane" mode.
  - Cell phones, iPads, Smartwatches, and all similar electronic



devices can be turned on at the end of the school day to assist in pick up, transportation, and carpool.

- If a parent needs to reach their child during school hours, they should email or call the front desk, not their child's personal electronic device.
- If a student needs to reach their parent during school hours, they will go to the front desk to call unless given express permission by a HTH staff member to use their personal electronic device.
- Headphones and earbuds may be used only when provided by and under the supervision of an HTH faculty member.
- Texting and videotaping are not permitted anytime during the school day.
- **Appropriate use of AI should follow guidelines of the AI-Use Policy,** as well as school and classroom expectations.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in confiscation of the phone or device and may result in disciplinary action. Specific consequences and specific policies will vary by campus and school site.

- **Computer games:** HTH provides technology and Internet access for the educational benefit of members of the community. Playing computer games or video games on campus during school hours is allowed only under the direct supervision of a HTH faculty member.
- **Free Speech on Campus:** The Supreme Court has referred to public schools as a “marketplace of ideas” where the protections of the First Amendment are particularly important. “The vigilant protection of constitutional freedoms is nowhere more vital than in the community of American schools.” *Shelton v. Tucker*, 364 U.S. 479, 487 (1960). At the same time, the law is clear that a student’s right of free speech is not unfettered and that the free speech/press protection does not prevent a school from imposing certain restrictions and/or imparting discipline for certain forms of speech that may be considered disruptive to the community, in violation of school policies and/or considered unlawful harassment, discrimination, bullying, threats and/or intimidation. In short, HTH reserves the right to place reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on speech where the faculty and/or administration determine that such a restriction is appropriate.

Examples of student speech that may be restricted include:

- Speech which creates or threatens danger, and/or unlawful acts;
- Speech which threatens or presents a violation of HTH rules and standards of conduct;

- Speech which creates or threatens a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school;
- Speech which impinges on the rights of others; and
- Vulgar, lewd, obscene, and plainly offensive speech or conduct.

## **E. Policies Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment**

### **i. Student Non-Discrimination Policy**

HTH maintains that it is critical that all members of the HTH community respect each other's rights, individuality, and differences. Courtesy, tolerance and mutual respect provide the platform for sharing, learning, innovation and personal development. HTH is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education.

HTH's programs and activities shall be free from harassment, intimidation, discrimination and bullying on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, gender identity, parental/family/marital status, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, age, immigration status or citizenship, race, traits historically associated with race, ancestry, nationality, national origin, color, religion, religious affiliation, creed, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, and any other basis protected by applicable law, including applicable provisions of federal law related to students with disabilities such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("**Section 504**"), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("**ADA**") and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 ("**IDEA**"). HTH shall promote programs that serve to eliminate discriminatory practices in school activities.

Students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) students are protected from discrimination, harassment, bullying, and hate violence under this policy. In accordance with this Policy as well as state and federal anti-discrimination laws, discrimination on the basis of gender, which includes transgender and gender nonconforming students, is prohibited. HTH will accept a student's assertion of their identity including preferred names and pronouns.

### **ii. Student Anti-Bullying Policy**

"Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or and including sexual harassment, prohibited hate violence, threats or intimidation directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing a reasonable student or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
- Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.

- Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with the student's academic performance.
- Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Prohibited bullying includes "cyber bullying" which includes any electronic act that includes the transmission of a harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts sounds, or images on the internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. This includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage their reputation. Prohibited bullying also includes "cyber sexual bullying" as defined in Education Code section 48900. Generally, this includes disseminating, soliciting, or inciting another to disseminate a nude or sexually explicit photo or visual recording of a minor to another student or school personnel, and has the same effects described above.

Bullying takes place in many forums. Including face-to-face bullying, it may also place via social media and in online forums including but not limited to internet websites:

- with free registration and ease of registration
- offering peer-to-peer instant messaging
- offering comment forums or sections
- offering image or video posting platforms

This policy also strictly prohibits hate violence, which means any act punishable under Section 422.6, 422.7, or 422.75 of the Penal Code.

Any student who engages in prohibited harassment, discrimination or bullying, including cyber bullying and cyber sexual bullying, of another student or anyone from HTH may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any employee who permits or engages in unlawful harassment, discrimination, bullying, including cyber bullying and cyber sexual bullying, of a student may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

When appropriate, HTH shall notify the parents/guardians of victims and perpetrators and may refer a victim, witness, perpetrator, or other student affected by an act of bullying to a school psychologist or other school support service personnel as appropriate. When appropriate and based on the severity or pervasiveness of the bullying, HTH may take any further remedial action as necessary, including contacting law enforcement.

Any student or parent/guardian who believes that unlawful harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or bullying has occurred should immediately contact the school Director or Dean. If HTH employees witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation,

or bullying, they shall take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Formal complaints alleging unlawful harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or bullying has occurred may be initiated pursuant to the HTH Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures, which are available here:

[CURRENT UCP LINK](#)

### **iii. Prohibition Against Student Sexual Harassment**

HTH is committed to making HTH schools free from sexual harassment. This means that HTH prohibits sexual harassment by someone from or in the educational setting. HTH prohibits sexual harassment and harassment based upon gender, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, or any other basis protected by applicable law.

Sexual harassment refers to behavior that, among other things, is not welcome, is personally offensive, or undermines or weakens morale. Sexual harassment can include such actions as:

- Unwelcome sexual advances, or
- Requests for sexual favors, or
- Verbal, electronic (including cyber sexual bullying), visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from or in the educational setting.

Sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination are further defined by Education Code section 230, which provides that harassment and other discrimination on the basis of sex include, but are not limited to:

- Exclusion from any academic, extracurricular, research, occupational training, or other program or activity on the basis of sex.
- Requiring different amounts or types of student financial aid, limitation of eligibility for student financial aid, or the application of different criteria to applicants for student financial aid or for participation in the provision of student financial aid by others on the basis of sex.
- Exclusion from participation in, or denial of equivalent opportunity in, athletic programs on the basis of sex.
- An educational institution may be found to have effectively accommodated the interests and abilities in athletics of both sexes within the meaning of Section 4922 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations as that section exists on January 1, 2003, using any one of the following tests:

- Whether interscholastic level participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments.
- Where the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes, whether the school district can show a history and continuing practice of program expansion that is demonstrably responsive to the developing interest and abilities of the members of that sex.
- Where the members of one sex are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes, and the institution cannot show a history and continuing practice of program expansion as required in paragraph (2), whether the school district can demonstrate that the interest and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.
- If an educational institution must cut its athletic budget, the educational institution shall do so consistently with its legal obligation to comply with both state and federal gender equity laws.
- Harassment or other discrimination on the basis of sex.
- On the basis of sex, the application of any rule concerning the actual or potential parental, family, or marital status of a person, or the exclusion of any person from any program or activity because of pregnancy or related conditions.

All students at HTH shall have the rights under Title IX and Education Code section 221.8:

- You have the right to fair and equitable treatment and you shall not be discriminated against based on your sex.
- You have the right to be provided with an equitable opportunity to participate in all academic extracurricular activities, including athletics.
- You have the right to inquire of the athletic director of your school as to the athletic opportunities offered by the school.
- You have the right to apply for athletic scholarships.
- You have the right to receive equitable treatment and benefits in the provision of all of the following (to the extent applicable to all students): equipment and supplies; scheduling of games and practices; transportation and daily allowances; access to tutoring; coaching; locker rooms; practice and competitive facilities; medical and training facilities and services; and publicity.
- You have the right to have access to a gender equity coordinator to answer questions regarding gender equity laws.
- You have the right to contact the State Department of Education and the California Interscholastic Federation to access information on gender equity laws.
- You have the right to file a confidential discrimination complaint with the United

States Office of Civil Rights or the State Department of Education if you believe you have been discriminated against or if you believe you have received unequal treatment on the basis of your sex.

- You have the right to pursue civil remedies if you have been discriminated against.
- You have the right to be protected against retaliation if you file a discrimination complaint.

HTH prohibits conduct on the basis of sex that has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the recipient's educational progress, academic performance, or personal security, or of creating or contributing to an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. HTH further prohibits sexual harassment in which a student's grades, benefits, services, honors, program or activities are dependent on submission to such conduct.

HTH will not condone harassment including bullying, harassment, discrimination, or intimidation, by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which HTH does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This policy applies to all employees, students, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender.

Formal complaints alleging unlawful harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or bullying has occurred may be initiated pursuant to the HTH Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures, which are available here:

#### [CURRENT UCP LINK](#)

Students who violate High Tech High's policies against discrimination and harassment shall be subject to discipline including the possibility of suspension or possible expulsion. Any employee who permits or engages in sexual harassment of a student may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. HTH prohibits retaliation against any participant in the complaint process. Each complaint shall be investigated promptly and in a way that respects the privacy of all parties concerned and insofar as is possible. HTH will take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

#### **iv. Formal Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures**

Students, parents or staff should report a claim of sexual harassment to the School Director, Dean, and/or designee. The School Director, Dean and/or designee may consult with and/or refer the matter directly to the HTH Compliance Officer, HTH Chief Operations Officer, HTH Title IX Coordinator or designee, who serve all HTH schools.

##### **a. Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures**

Complaints of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying may be filed in accordance with High Tech High's Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures which are available here:

#### [CURRENT UCP LINK](#)

Complaints shall be investigated and resolved by the school administration and/or the HTH Compliance Officer within sixty days (unless extended by written agreement with the complaint) and in a manner that protects the integrity of the process and the confidentiality of the parties to the extent possible, and protects the complainant from retaliation.

#### **b. Title IX Policy**

HTH has designated one to more individuals at each school site to receive complaints under this policy: the school Dean and/or other designee.

Complaints governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 are those alleging that a student, while in an education program or activity in which a HTH school exercises substantial control over the context and respondent, was subjected to one or more of the following forms of sexual harassment:

1. A HTH employee conditioning the provision of a HTH aid, benefit, or service on the student'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 student equal access to HTH's education program or activity; or
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 20 USC 1092 or 34 USC 12291.

High Tech High's Student Title IX Coordinator for all HTH

Schools is: Colleen Green, Title IX Coordinator  
420 W. San Marcos Blvd. San Marcos, CA. 92087  
Email: [cgreen@hightechhigh.org](mailto:cgreen@hightechhigh.org)  
Phone: (760) 759-2705

High Tech High's Title IX Complaint Procedures are available here:

[CURRENT TITLE IX LINK](#)

#### **v. Additional Resources for Students and Families**

Below are additional resources with additional information for students and families regarding their rights under Title IX:

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights  
Department of Education Building  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Telephone: 1-800-421-3481

Email: [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov)

[www2.ed.gov](http://www2.ed.gov)

Students may also file a harassment and discrimination complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) using OCR’s electronic complaint form at the following website:  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>.

California Department of Education, Office of Equal Opportunity

Sharon Felix-Campos, Director

Phone: 916-445-9174

Fax: 916-324-9818

[oeoinfo@cde.ca.gov](mailto:oeoinfo@cde.ca.gov)

[www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/)

Gender Equity/Title IX information published by the California Department of Education is also available

at: [https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/genequitytitleix.asp#:~:text=Title%20IX%20is%20a%20federal,sex%20\(including%20sexual%20harassment\)](https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/genequitytitleix.asp#:~:text=Title%20IX%20is%20a%20federal,sex%20(including%20sexual%20harassment)).

The California Department of Education has also published “Bullying Prevention Training & Resources” at the following link: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/se/bullyres.asp>.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

The Crisis Text Line, which can be accessed by texting HOME to 741741.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233.

## **F. Employee-Student Relations Policy: Leading by Example**

Because students are always observing the adults around them, we try to continually remind ourselves that every behavior models a value for students. We are aware that we are always modeling for our students how to be an adult, whether we intend to or not.

Part of modeling good behavior includes balancing your work in developing of solid, trusting teacher-student relationships, with drawing appropriate boundaries between adults and students. As incongruous as this balancing may seem, it is a critical aspect of your work.

You are expected to make responsible decisions regarding teacher-student or staff-student interactions, physical contact and conversation. This includes but is not limited to:

- Obtaining formal written approval (School and parental) to take students off School property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- Maintaining a professional approach to e-mails, text messages, phone conversations, and other communications to and with parents and students, and limiting such communications



to matters pertaining to School while using School-based technology and equipment whenever possible.

- Respectfully and gently correcting if students cross your own personal boundaries.
- Asking for advice from your immediate supervisor, the School Director, senior staff, or administrators, if you find yourself in a difficult situation, or find yourself having questions related to boundaries.
- Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students and/or coworkers.

You are expected to use good judgment and ensure you act responsibly in all interactions with current students as well as any future, visiting, and past students. Make every effort to maintain appropriate boundaries and avoid placing yourself in any situation with students that might carry the risk of seeming or being perceived as inappropriate. Examples of actions that should be avoided include, but are not limited to:

- DO NOT become involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior and/or an inappropriate romantic relationship.
- DO NOT involve students in non-educational or non-school related issues, including, but not limited to, the employee's employment or personal issues.
- DO NOT give gifts to an individual student that are of a personal and intimate nature. (This is generally a bad idea and is discouraged.)
- DO NOT make or participate in, sexually charged and/or inappropriate comments or jokes.
- DO NOT send e-mails or messages, text messages, instant messages, social media messages, or letters to students if the content is not about School activities and not in accordance with applicable School policies or in violation of the School's Social Media Policy.
- DO NOT send text messages, instant messages, social media messages, to students. Only use organization-approved messaging Apps to communicate with students.
- DO NOT use profanity with or to a student or otherwise engaging in any dialogue or conduct that violates school codes of conduct, rules, guidelines or norms.

When any employee becomes aware of facts that suggest that an employee, parent or student may have crossed appropriate boundaries, he or she must promptly report the suspicion to the School Director. Prompt reporting is essential to protecting students, employees, and the School community as a whole. Employees must also report to the School Director any awareness of, or concern about, student behavior that crosses boundaries or any situation in which a student appears to be at risk.

The School Director will promptly investigate any allegation of a violation of this policy. Throughout this fact-finding process, the investigator, and all others privy to the investigation, will protect the privacy interests of any affected student(s) and/or employee(s), including any potential witnesses, to the fullest extent possible. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and

including termination of employment. When appropriate, violations of this policy may also be reported to authorities.

### ○ **On Confidentiality and Student Issues**

As we work in school environments, we need to remind ourselves about the levels of confidentiality that we must observe. As HTH employees, if a student confides something to you that appears to have safety, health or legal ramifications, you must report the information to your School Director or supervisor. Working with the Compliance Officer, your School Director and/or supervisor, the collective group will make decisions as to the appropriate person to advise on a case-by-case basis.

### ○ **Child Abuse Reporting Requirements**

California law requires that HTH faculty and staff members adhere to child abuse reporting requirements. California Penal Code Section 11166 of the California Penal Code requires that as mandated reporters, faculty and staff members, report all known or reasonably suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to a child protective agency immediately, or as soon as practically possible. "Child" includes any person under the age of eighteen years.

#### Reporting Procedure:

- Mandated reporters shall as soon as practicably possible report by telephone any instance of known or suspected child abuse or neglect to the any police department or sheriff's department, county probation department, or San Diego County Child Welfare Services (CWS). The CWS child abuse hotline number is (858) 560-2191. A mandated reporter should make a note of the time and date of the call and the name of the person to whom the report was made. If the abuse is in progress, call 911.
- The mandated reporter shall also prepare and send a written report on form SS 8572 to the agency within thirty-six (36) hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. The mandated reporter may include with the report any non-privileged documentary evidence the mandated reporter possesses relating to the incident. Forms may be procured from your School Director or Compliance Officer. The address to send the written report to is Director, San Diego County CWS Agency, 1700 Pacific Highway, M.S. P501, San Diego, California 92101. Reports of suspected child abuse and all aspects of the reports are confidential.

Do not contact a parent/guardian of the child at issue following a report.

Note that it is not the job of the mandated reporter to determine whether the allegations are valid. If child abuse or neglect is reasonably suspected, or if a student shares information with a mandated reporter leading him/her to believe abuse or neglect has taken place, the report must be made. No supervisor or administrator can impede or inhibit a report or subject the reporting person to any sanction.

When two or more mandated reporters jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, and when there is agreement among them, the required reports may be made and signed by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement of the reporting team.

Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make the report.

Employees may but are not required to report such incidents to the School Director or other school officials. Reporting such incidents to the School Director does not relieve the employee of responsibility to also immediately report such incidents to the appropriate child protective agency by telephone and to send the required written report. However, employees may work cooperatively to report the incidents and to file one written report.

The identity of all persons who report suspected child abuse or neglect shall be confidential and disclosed as required by law. The identity of reporters will not be disclosed to HTH except with the employee's consent or by court order.

Any mandated reporter who fails to report known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect may be charged with a crime. The failure to report an incident known or reasonably suspected by the mandated reporter to be sexual assault may be filed at any time within five (5) years from the date of occurrence of the offense. An employee may also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination for failure to report known or reasonably suspected child abuse.

No mandated reporter shall be civilly or criminally liable for reporting a reasonable suspicion that child abuse has occurred, except in cases where the report was false *and* the person knew that the report was false, or the report was made with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the report. Any other person who makes a report of child abuse or neglect known to be false or with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the report is liable for any damages caused. No mandated reporter, nor any person taking photographs of a suspected victim of child abuse or neglect at the direction of the mandated reporter, shall incur any criminal or civil liability for taking photographs of a suspected victim of child abuse or neglect, without parental consent, or for disseminating the photographs with the mandated report, provided that the photographs are not used for any other purpose. Any person who, pursuant to a request from a government agency investigating a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, provides the requesting agency with access to the victim shall not incur civil or criminal liability as a result of providing such access.

If you have any doubt whether you should report something that concerns the health or safety of the school community, consult with your School Director or supervisor without delay.

○ **Teaching Staff and Instructional Support Staff:**

**Field Trips and Excursions with Students and Transporting HTH Students**

Trips are a part of the learning experience at HTH and some teachers may organize trips for educational purposes. All applicable HTH conduct standards as well as guidelines regarding trips must be observed. Proper insurance is needed and must be confirmed through the Business Office. Please see the current Trips Policy and supporting documents available from your Site Manager.

All adults, parents, or guardians of students who take field trips shall sign a statement waiving all claims against HTH for injury, accident, illness, or death occurring during or by reason of the field trip.

Anytime you transport a student in a vehicle, you must observe HTH guidelines regarding the

transportation of students. These guidelines speak to issues of required permission forms, licenses, insurance, and other related matters. Please see the current Transporting Students Policy and supporting documents available from your Site Manager.

Any employee who fails to comply with HTH policies regarding the trips and/or transportation of students may be deemed to have engaged in grossly negligent conduct beyond the course and scope of his or her employment. As a result, any employee who incurs any form of liability resulting from a violation of this policy may, to the extent allowed by applicable law, be solely responsible for any such liability. Finally, as with other conduct standards, violations of these policies may give rise to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

### **G. Search of Student Possessions**

HTH reserves the right to reasonably examine and/or search all student possessions when, in the judgment of HTH administrators and officials, there is reasonable suspicion that the student may be in possession of alcohol, drugs, weapons, stolen goods, or any other materials that may be harmful or disruptive to the school community or in violation of any school policy, rule or law. No HTH employee shall conduct a search prohibited by Education Code Section 49050.

## **VIII. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

### **A. Overview of Disciplinary Actions**

Other means of correction may include any one, a combination and/or all of the following depending on the circumstances, and at the school administration's sole discretion.

- Verbal and/or written warning to the student
- Loss of privileges or removal from extra-curricular activities
- Parent/guardian notification
- A written commitment by the student to improve his/her/their behavior and/or performance and/or to take certain affirmative actions to improve
- A meeting with the Dean of Students, School Director or designee
- Academic Consequences
- Denial of readmission
- Collaborative problem solving, restorative practices, positive behavior supports, and other means of correction that the school may determine appropriate

Discipline actions include:

- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Involuntarily removal from HTH, which means disenrollment, dismissal, transfer, or termination

## **B. Suspension and Expulsion**

The grounds for mandatory and discretionary suspension and expulsion are as follows:

1. Non-Discretionary Expellable Offenses. The following offense(s) represent grounds for mandatory suspension and mandatory recommendation for expulsion:
  - a. Possession of, use of, sale of, or otherwise furnishing any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had prior written permission to possess the item from the HTH School Director or Dean. The term “firearm” means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.
2. Discretionary Suspension and Discretionary Recommendation of Expulsion. The following offenses represent grounds that may result in suspension and/or suspension with a recommendation for expulsion:
  - a. The causation of serious bodily injury to another, including physical assault, sexual assault, other forms of assault, and including, but not limited to aiding or abetting in the same.
  - b. Arranging, negotiating, selling, or distributing a controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11350, 11360, and 11377, including possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell or distribute.
  - c. The threat of physical injury to self, other individual(s), and/or the school community involving a weapon or dangerous object, including, but not limited to, threats of sexual assault or school-wide violence involving a weapon or dangerous object.
  - d. Theft, robbery, attempted theft, and/or attempted robbery of school or private property, with a weapon or dangerous object.

- e. Sexual assault, including aiding or abetting in the same.
- f. Possession of, use of, offering, arranging and/or negotiating to sell or provide a knife, imitation firearm, other weapon, or item that could be construed and/or used as a weapon.
- g. Possession of, use of, being under the influence of, offering, arranging and/or negotiating to sell and/or distribute tobacco or nicotine, alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11350, 11377 and 11377.5, and/or intoxicants of any kind, including, but not limited to over-the-counter medication and/or prescription drugs.
- h. Possession of, or offering, or arranging, or negotiating to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
- i. The causation or attempted causation of physical injury to another, or one's self, including physical assault, sexual assault, other forms of assault, and including, but not limited to aiding or abetting in the same.
- j. The threat of physical injury to self, other individual(s), and/or the school community, including, but not limited to, threats of sexual assault, or school-wide violence.
- k. Disruption and/or defiance, including, but not limited to, disruption of school activities and/or willful defiance of the authority of school personnel. Except HTH practice and policy in relation to student discipline for willful defiance is limited as follows:
  - HTH will not expel students in grades Kindergarten and 1-12, inclusive, for disruption and/or defiance.
  - HTH will not suspend students in grades Kindergarten and 1-8, inclusive, for disruption and/or defiance.
- l. Theft, robbery, attempted theft, and/or attempted robbery of school or private property, including, but not limited to attempting to steal and/or receive stolen property, aiding or abetting in the same, and/or knowingly receiving stolen property.
- m. Destruction of, attempted destruction of, damage to, and/or attempted damage to school or private property.
- n. Extortion.
- o. Sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be

considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- p. Threatening, harassing, bullying, intimidating, and/or attempting to intimidate other members of the community including, but not limited to acts of "cyber-bullying" as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 32261 of the Education Code, directed specifically toward a student or HTH personnel.
- q. Obscenity/Profanity/Vulgarity, including the commission of an obscene act and/or engagement in habitual profanity/vulgarity, or sharing obscene videos or pictures.
- r. Violations of HTH academic policies, including, but not limited to plagiarism and/or cheating.
- s. **Violations of HTH Information Technology and AI-Use policies**, including, but not limited to transmitting computer viruses, using or attempting to use other's accounts, trespassing in another's portfolio, folders or files, concealing or misrepresenting one's identity while using the IT system.
- t. Violations of HTH community standards and conduct policies as articulated throughout this Handbook.
- u. Hazing or attempted hazing. "Hazing" means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- v. Encouraging, aiding, or abetting in the physical harm of another.

A student may subject to discipline for prohibited misconduct occurring (a) while on school grounds; (b) while going to or from school; (c) during the lunch period, whether on or off campus; (d) during, or while going to or from, a school sponsored activity; and, (e) during non-school time and while off campus if the school determines that there is a nexus between the action taken and the school community sufficient to warrant action by the school.

A student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom there is a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Act ("**IDEA**") or who is qualified for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of

1973 (“**Section 504**”) is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion and is accorded the same due process procedures applicable to regular education students except when federal law or special education local plan area (“**SELPA**”) policies require additional or different procedures.

### **C. Authority to Impose Discipline**

The School Director, Dean, or designee may conduct an investigation of the facts and circumstances presented in case of a disciplinary offense or infraction. The investigation may include search(es), a review of evidence, consulting the student and interviewing affected parties, and potential witnesses as well as the involvement authorities.

The School Director, Dean, or designee may consider the various disciplinary options available in any given set of circumstances, including whether alternatives to suspension or expulsion may be appropriate.

The School Director, Dean, or designee has the authority to determine whether or not to impose a suspension under this policy. Suspensions may be imposed: (1) Pending an investigation to determine whether further discipline, including expulsion, is warranted; or, (2) Companion to setting an expulsion hearing. The School Director, Dean, or designee has the discretion to determine which form of suspension may be imposed.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee’s use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff, or other person or to prevent the damage to school property.

### **D. Definitions**

As referenced herein, “days” refers to calendar days unless otherwise specified.

An “education rights holder” is an individual legally authorized to make educational decisions regarding the student. A student’s educational rights holder may be his/her/their biological parent(s), legal guardian(s), responsible adult who is appointed by the court, educational surrogate appointed by HTH, or caregiver.

### **E. Suspensions**

#### **i. Suspension Conference**

Absent an emergency, a suspension from school shall be preceded by an informal conference with the student. An “emergency” exists if a student presents a clear and present danger to the lives, safety, or health of students or HTH personnel.

At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the proposed disciplinary



action and an explanation of the evidence that supports the charges, and shall be given the opportunity to present the student's side of the story and evidence in defense of the student.

If a student is suspended without this informal conference, the school shall convene a conference within two (2) school days, unless the student's parent, guardian, and/or education rights holder requests postponement, the student waives this right, or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization.

No penalties may be imposed on a student for failure of the student's parent or guardian to attend a conference with HTH officials. Reinstatement of the suspended student shall not be contingent upon attendance by the student's parent or guardian at the conference.

## **ii. Notice to Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Education Rights Holder(s)**

At the time of the suspension, the School Director, Dean, or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the student's parent, guardian, and/or education rights holder shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If HTH officials wish to ask the student's parent, guardian, and/or education rights holder to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent/guardian respond to such requests without delay.

For student discipline, a foster child's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker and an Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker shall have the same rights a parent or guardian of a child has to receive a suspension notice, expulsion notice, manifestation determination notice, involuntary transfer notice, and other documents and related information.

## **iii. Missed Coursework and Assignments**

Academic make-up work is required during suspension. Return to school may be contingent upon submission of a written essay addressing the issue at hand and stating how the student intends to move forward and/or some other form of restorative process as the school may determine in its sole discretion.

Upon request by the parent, legal guardian, or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, teachers are required to provide a student who has been suspended from school for two or more school days the homework that the student would otherwise have been assigned and demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter. If the teacher is unable to grade any such assignment(s) before the end of the academic term, then the student's

grade shall not be impacted and the assignment(s) shall not be included in the calculation of the student's overall grade in the class.

## **F. Suspensions of 10 or More Schooldays/Recommendation for Expulsion**

### **a. Written Charges**

For suspensions of ten (10) days or more and all other exclusions for disciplinary reasons, including expulsion, the student shall timely be provided written notice of the charges against the student and an explanation of the student's basic rights. Such notice shall also include:

- Notification of the student's right to request a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer within ten (10) days at which the student has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the student has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate.
- A clear statement that failure to timely request a hearing constitutes waiver of the right to a hearing.
- A clear statement that if the student intends to bring legal counsel or an advocate to such hearing, the parent or guardian of the student shall notify HTH in writing at least five (5) days prior to the hearing.
- Notification that unless continued for good cause, such a hearing, if requested, shall be held within thirty (30) days.
- A clear statement that if a hearing is requested, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until a final decision regarding the action has been rendered.
- A clear statement that no student shall be involuntarily removed from HTH for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five schooldays before the effective date of the action.

Such notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian, or if the student is a homeless child or youth, or a foster child or youth, in the native language of the homeless or foster child's educational rights holder. In the case of a foster child or youth, the written notice shall also be provided to the foster child's attorney and county social worker. If a student is a Indian child, as defined in Section

224.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the written notice shall also be provided to the Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker.

Attached to or enclosed with the written notice of the charges shall be a card or paper, the signing and filing of which with the HTH School Director, Dean or designee shall constitute a request for hearing and a denial of all charges.

### **b. Extension of Suspension Pending Recommended Expulsion**

Upon a recommendation of Expulsion by the School Director, Dean, or designee, the student and the student's parent, guardian, education rights holder, or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the student should be extended pending the recommended expulsion. In such instances when HTH has determined a suspension period shall be extended, such extension shall be made only after a conference is held with the student or the student's guardian(s), parent(s), and/or education rights holder, unless the student and the student's guardian(s), parent(s), and/or education rights holder fail to attend the scheduled conference.

## **G. Expulsion Hearings and Appeals**

### **i. Expulsion Hearings**

If the School Director, Dean, or designee determines that consideration of expulsion is warranted, and the student or the student's parent(s), guardian(s), or representative(s) timely requests a hearing, HTH will convene an expulsion hearing where a neutral individual shall serve as the hearing officer ("Hearing Officer"). The Hearing Officer shall be an administrator employed by HTH who is not assigned to the student's School.

At the expulsion hearing, the student shall have a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses. The student may bring legal counsel or an advocate to the expulsion hearing but is not required to do so. If the student intends to bring legal counsel or an advocate to the hearing, the student's parent, guardian, advocate, or legal counsel of the student shall notify HTH in writing at least five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing.

The Hearing Officer shall consider evidence and/or testimony as appropriate and shall render a decision regarding the recommended expulsion.

If the Hearing Officer determines that a student is to be expelled, the Hearing Officer shall inform the student's parents/guardians of the Hearing Officer's factual findings and determination in writing, including the reasons for expulsion ("**Expulsion Determination Letter**"). The Expulsion Determination Letter shall also describe the student's appeal and due process rights in regard to the hearing officer's determination.

### **ii. Right to Appeal Hearing Officer's Determination**

The parents/guardians/education rights holder (or, if at least 18 years of age, the student) shall have ten (10) calendar days from the Hearing Officer's Expulsion Determination Letter to submit a written request of appeal to the Chief Executive Officer ("**CEO**") of High Tech High ("**Written Appeal Request**").

In response to the Written Appeal Request, the CEO of High Tech High shall convene a

committee of three (3), which shall include a HTH administrator, school director, or dean, from another one of the HTH schools (who did not serve as the Hearing Officer for the expulsion) and the CEO of HTH or designee. One member of the High Tech High Board of Directors may serve on the committee. The committee members appointed by the CEO will be knowledgeable about HTH's bases for expulsion and the procedures regarding expulsion. The committee shall have the right to rescind or modify the expulsion.

An appeal before such a committee is not a rehearing in which evidence is presented, but rather, a procedural review of the hearing conducted by the Hearing Officer to determine whether the student received a fair hearing. Unless postponed by agreement between HTH and the student's parent, guardian, or education rights holder, the committee shall convene a hearing on the appeal within ten (10) school days of receipt of a timely written request for an appeal.

At the hearing on the appeal, the student may bring legal counsel or an advocate, but is not required to do so. The committee will render a written decision, which shall be final.

## **IX. STUDENT INFORMATION POLICIES**

### **A. Annual Notification of Rights Under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("**FERPA**") affords parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("**Eligible Students**") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 business days after HTH has received a request for access. However, HTH adheres to the California standard and provides records within five (5) business days of requests when requests are made during the school year. Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the School Director a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The HTH official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

When a student moves to a new school/school district, records will be forwarded upon request of the new district within 10 school days.

In the case of divorce or separation, a school district must provide access to both natural parents, custodial and non-custodial, unless there is a legally binding document that specifically removes that parent's FERPA rights. In this context, a legally binding document is a court order or other legal paper that prohibits access to an education record, or removes the parent's rights to have knowledge about his or her child's education.

Student educational records maintained by HTH consist of any item of

information directly related to an identifiable student, including but not limited to subjects taken, grades received, standardized test results, attendance record, and health record. Student records are maintained at each school where the student is attending. The School Director or designee is responsible for maintaining each type of student record and the information contained therein. Additional records, such as special education records, are maintained with the special education office. *General notices, lunch menus, Parent Association information, announcement of teacher conferences, school pictures, and other similar information, are not “education records” as defined by FERPA. Therefore, HTH schools are not legally required to provide access to them under FERPA.*

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA. A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask HTH to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the School Director and clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If HTH decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, HTH will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent in writing to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

Disclosures Without Consent: As a general rule, FERPA requires HTH to obtain a parent/guardian written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from student education records. However, FERPA permits certain disclosures of student information without parent/guardian consent. One such exception permitting disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by HTH as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff); a person serving on the HTH School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, educational services vendor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. An HTH official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Moreover, upon request, HTH may disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in

which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

Directory Information: At its sole discretion, HTH may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, ***unless a parent/guardian has advised HTH to the contrary in accordance with this policy.***

"Directory information" is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Directory information may be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent/guardian's prior written consent. Outside organizations to which HTH may release directory information include, but are not limited to, governmental agencies such as the California Department of Education, the San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego Unified School District, Desert Mountain Special Education Local Plan Area ("**SELPA**"), and certain select private companies such as those that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

As part of the registration and re-enrollment processes, HTH enumerates the items designated as directory information and provides parents and guardians the opportunity to opt out of allowing HTH to provide designated directory information at HTH's consent. The following information is designated directory information that may be disclosed, in whole or in part, at HTH's sole discretion:

- Student's name
- Parent's/guardian's address
- Telephone listing
- Student's electronic mail address
- Parent's/guardian's electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's Social Security Number, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

Directory information does not include citizenship status, immigration status, place of birth, or any other information indicating national origin (except where HTH receives consent as required under state law). Notwithstanding the above-noted designation of directory information, HTH shall not release

directory information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes.

**If you do not want HTH to disclose directory information from your student's education records you must notify HTH at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment. Annual notices and a form allowing for this selection are included in the HTH enrollment and re-enrollment packets.**

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failure by HTH to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The contact information for the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of  
Education 400 Maryland  
Avenue, SW Washington,  
DC 20202-4605

## **B. Custody Matters**

Schools are not the forum to mediate custody disputes and other personal family matters. HTH personnel do not write letters for purposes of custody disputes or other personal family matters. Families must attend to their own custody matters and other family legal disputes independently, with the assistance of the courts. HTH schools do not have an independent legal basis to refuse a biological parent access to his or her child and the child's school records unless a valid, effective, clearly articulated and signed court order specifically setting forth limitations is on file at the school office.

## **C. Media Release**

HTH reserves the right to make, produce, reproduce, exhibit, distribute, publish, and transmit by means of live broadcast, videotape, photograph and print student's name, grade, voice, picture, likeness and actions as an individual in connection with school activities. Your student's image or likeness may appear in occasional candid photos without any type of name identification and the use of these candid photos of your student are permissible. HTH is frequently approached with requests for interviews and pictures by print and broadcast media outlets. For individual student interviews with outside organizations, parent/guardian permission will be obtained prior to publication.

Parents/guardians who prefer that their child not be photographed or video recorded for publication by the school (i.e. school website, newsletter or other school publication), need to indicate their preference annually during registration. Schools make every effort to ensure the wishes of the parent/guardian. Please be aware that photographing and video recording by devices such as mobile phones may take place without the knowledge of the teacher or school officials.

## **IX. VOLUNTEER/VISITOR POLICIES**

## **Volunteers**

Parents/guardians wishing to volunteer at HTH schools should review the volunteer information and application packets available at the school front desk from Site Managers. Parents/guardians wishing to volunteer will be asked to fill out volunteer forms, agree to a background check, and possibly submit to a tuberculosis ("TB") assessment in accordance with applicable law.

In addition, parents/guardians volunteering to drive for school field trips will be asked to fill out additional volunteer forms and provide additional information including:

- Parent/guardian name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Driver's License number
- Make of vehicle, model and number of seatbelts in the car
- Insurance Company, Policy Number and Expiration date
- Vehicle Registration document
- A waiver of liability for any injuries incurred while on the school field trip

We must point out that while the vehicle is being used to transport students, the insurance policy associated with the vehicle is the primary insurance for all costs associated with an accident.

By law the number of people in the vehicle may not exceed the number of seats and seatbelts with a maximum of ten (10) passengers, including the driver. Every passenger in the vehicle must use a seatbelt, and there are no exceptions.

## **Visitors**

Visits during school hours should first be arranged with the teacher and School Director. If a conference is desired, an appointment should be set and confirmed with the teacher during non-instructional time, and requested with a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours-notice whenever possible. Parents/guardians seeking to visit a classroom during school hours must first obtain the approval of the classroom teacher and the School Director.

All visitors should register in the Visitors Log Book and obtain a Visitor's Badge at the front desk immediately upon entering any school building or grounds during regular school hours. When registering, visitors shall be required to provide identifying information including name, address, age (if under 21 years old), purpose for entering school grounds, and proof of identity. If the visitor is a government officer/official (including but not limited to local law enforcement officers, immigration enforcement officers, social workers, district attorneys, or U.S. attorneys) the officer/official will also be asked to produce any documentation that authorizes school access.



School administrators, including the School Director, or designee, may refuse to register a visitor if it is believed that the presence of the visitor could cause a threat of disruption or injury to teachers, other employees, or students.

School administrators, including the School Director, or designee, may withdraw consent to be on campus even if the visitor has a right to be on campus whenever there is reason to believe that the person has willfully disrupted or is likely to disrupt HTH's orderly operation.

## **X. RESOLUTION PROCEDURES**

General concerns or complaints not subject to the HTH Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures or HTH's Title IX Complaint Procedures may be addressed according to the following resolution procedures. HTH encourages parents/guardians, community members, faculty, staff, and administration to work cooperatively to resolve issues. Parents/guardians, or community members with general concerns or complaints must notify the School Director for the school. Please refer to the second page of this Handbook for a school directory. You may also visit [www.hightechhigh.org](http://www.hightechhigh.org) for more information.

1. If the complaint is with a teacher or staff member, contact that teacher or staff member directly to set up a mutually agreeable time to discuss the complaint. Such meetings should not interrupt a teacher's instructional time. Complaints resolved at this level do not need to proceed further in the process.
2. Complaints not resolved directly with a teacher or staff member should be brought to the attention of the School Director or designee. The School Director or designee may call or meet with the complainant to discuss and address the concern(s). Complaints resolved at this level do not need to proceed further in the process.
3. Complaints relating to the administration and operation of HTH may be discussed informally with the School Director or designee. Complaints resolved at this level do not need to proceed further. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the School Director or designee, the complainant may contact High Tech High's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") or designee.
4. If contacting the CEO or designee does not resolve the complaint, the complainant may direct their complaint, in writing, to the High Tech High Board Chair.
5. The HTH Board Chair will determine if the matter will be handled directly by him/her/them or by a committee of the HTH Board. The HTH Board Chair or committee of the HTH Board will meet with the complainant, discuss the facts and circumstances for which the complaint is based and make a determination

as to how to best resolve the matter.

6. The decision of the Board Chair or committee of the Board is final.
7. These resolution procedures are intended to provide prompt and effective resolutions to complaints. HTH may utilize more formal procedures such as those under the Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures (“UCP”) or HTH’s Title IX Complaint Procedures depending on the nature of the complaint. If a complaint relates to the matters covered under UCP, please follow the procedures found at

[CURRENT UCP LINK](#)

HTH’s Title IX Complaint Procedures are available

here: [CURRENT TITLE IX LINK](#)