

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL TAX ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION/PROPERTY TAX
EXEMPTIONS****Senior Citizens**

Unless specifically exempted by law, real property used exclusively for residential purposes and owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or real property owned by husband and wife or by siblings, one of whom is 65 years of age or over, shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of percentum of the assessed valuation determined by the Board if the owners meet the criteria established annually by the Board.

The real property tax exemption of real property owned by husband and wife, when one of them is 65 years of age or over, once granted, shall not be rescinded solely because of the death of the older spouse so long as the surviving spouse is at least 62 years of age.

Disabled Citizens

Unless specifically exempted by law, real property used exclusively for residential purposes and owned by one or more persons with disabilities; or owned by a husband, wife or both, or siblings, at least one of whom has a disability; and whose income, as defined pursuant to law, is limited by reason of such disability shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of percentum of the assessed valuation determined by the Board if the owners meet the criteria established annually by the Board. The Board must adopt a resolution allowing such an exemption following a public hearing on this specific issue.

No exemption shall be granted unless the real property is the legal residence of and is occupied in whole or in part by the disabled person; except where the disabled person is absent from the residence while receiving health-related care as an in-patient of a residential health care facility as defined in Public Health Law.

A person with a disability is one who has a physical or mental impairment, not due to current use of alcohol or illegal drug use, which substantially limits such person's ability to engage in one or more major life activities, such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working; and who is certified to receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under the federal Social Security Act or is certified to receive Railroad Retirement Disability benefits under the federal Railroad Retirement Act, or has received a certificate from the State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped stating that such person is legally blind.

Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers

In accordance with law, the District, after a public hearing, may adopt a resolution allowing the full benefits of the real property tax law exemptions for enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service.

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SUBJECT: SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS

The District considers the safety of its students and staff to be of the utmost importance and is keenly aware of the evolving nature of threats to schools. As such, it will address those threats accordingly through appropriate emergency response planning. The District-wide school safety plan and the building-level emergency response plan will be designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents and emergencies and to facilitate the coordination of schools and the District with local and county resources in the event of these incidents or emergencies.

These plans will be reviewed by the appropriate team on at least an annual basis and updated as needed by September 1. Specifically, the Board will make the District-wide school safety plan available for public comment at least 30 days prior to its adoption. The District-wide school safety plans may only be adopted by the Board after at least one public hearing that provides for the participation of school personnel, parents, students, and any other interested parties. Additionally, the District-wide school safety plan will designate the Superintendent or designee as the chief emergency officer responsible for coordinating communication between school staff and law enforcement and first responders, and for ensuring staff understanding of this plan. Similarly, the Superintendent will be responsible for ensuring the completion and yearly updating of building-level emergency response plans.

District-Wide School Safety Plan

District-wide school safety plan means a comprehensive, multi-hazard school safety plan that covers all school buildings of the District, addresses crisis intervention, emergency response and management at the District level, and has the contents as prescribed in Education Law and Commissioner's regulations.

The District-wide school safety plan will be developed by the District-wide school safety team appointed by the Board. The District-wide team will include, but not be limited to, representatives of the Board, , teacher, administrator, parent organizations, school safety personnel, other school personnel, and possibly a student provided that no confidential information is shared with that student.

The plan will further address, among other items as set forth in Education Law and Commissioner's regulations, how the District will respond to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel as well as visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves (e.g., suicide).

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Students

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT ATTENDANCE**Statement of Overall Objectives**

School attendance is both a right and a responsibility. The District is an active partner with students and parents in the task of ensuring that all students meet or exceed the New York State Learning Standards. Because the District recognizes that consistent school attendance, academic success, and school completion have a positive correlation, the District has developed, and, if necessary, will revise this Comprehensive Student Attendance policy to meet the following objectives:

- a) Increase school completion for all students;
- b) Raise student achievement and close gaps in student performance;
- c) Identify attendance patterns to design attendance improvement efforts;
- d) Know the whereabouts of every student for safety and other reasons;
- e) Verify that individual students are complying with education laws relating to compulsory attendance; and
- f) Determine the District's average daily attendance for state aid purposes.

Description of Strategies to Meet Objectives

The District will:

- a) Create and maintain a positive school building culture by fostering a positive physical and psychological environment where the presence of strong adult role models encourages respectful and nurturing interactions between adults and students. This positive school culture is aimed at encouraging a high level of student bonding to the school, which in turn should lead to increased attendance.
- b) Develop a Comprehensive Student Attendance policy based upon the recommendations of a multifaceted committee that includes representation from the Board of Education, administrators, teachers, students, parents, and the community. The District will hold at least one public hearing prior to the adoption of this collaboratively developed Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy.
- c) Maintain accurate recordkeeping via a Register of Attendance to record attendance, absence, tardiness, or early departure of each student.
- d) Utilize data analysis systems for tracking individual student attendance and individual and group trends in student attendance problems.

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SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT ATTENDANCE (Cont'd.)

time upon the student's return from lunch. For purposes of APPR and Teacher-Student Data Linkages (TSDL), classroom attendance for all students K through 12 must be recorded on a subject by subject basis for Teacher of Record Determinations.

- b) For students in grades 6 through 12 or in departmentalized schools at any grade level (i.e., students pass individually to different classes throughout the day), each student's presence or absence will be recorded after the taking of attendance in each period of scheduled instruction.
- c) Any absence for a school day or portion of the day will be recorded as excused or unexcused in accordance with the standards articulated in this policy.
- d) In the event that a student at any instructional level from grades K through 12 arrives late for or departs early from scheduled instruction, the tardiness or early departure will be recorded as excused or unexcused in accordance with the standards articulated in this policy.

A record will be kept of each scheduled day of instruction during which the school is closed for all or part of the day because of extraordinary circumstances including adverse weather conditions, impairment of heating facilities, insufficiency of water supply, shortage of fuel, destruction of or damage to a school building, or other cause as may be found satisfactory to the Commissioner of Education.

Attendance records will also indicate the date when a student withdraws from enrollment or is dropped from enrollment in accordance with Education Law Section 3202(1-a).

At the conclusion of each class period or school day, all attendance information will be compiled and provided to the designated school personnel who are responsible for attendance. The nature of the ATED will be coded on a student's record in accordance with the established District/building procedures.

Student Attendance/Course Credit

The District believes that classroom participation is related to and affects a student's performance and grasp of the subject matter and, as such, is properly reflected in a student's final grade. For purposes of this policy, classroom participation means that a student is in class and prepared to work.

Consequently, for each marking period a certain percentage of a student's final grade may be based on classroom participation as well as the student's performance on tests, papers, projects, etc. as determined by the building administrator or classroom teacher.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Consistent with the importance of classroom participation, unexcused ATEDs will affect a student's grade, including credit for classroom participation, for the marking period.

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SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT ATTENDANCE (Cont'd.)**Notice of Students who are Absent, Tardy, or Depart Early Without Proper Excuse**

A designated staff member will notify by telephone the parent/person in parental relation to a student who is absent, tardy, or departs early without proper excuse. The staff member will explain the District's Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy, the District's/building level intervention strategies, and, if appropriate, the relationship between student attendance and course credit. If the parent/person in parental relation cannot be reached by telephone, the staff member will provide the notification by mail. Further, the District's Attendance Policy will be mailed to the parent/person in parental relation to promote awareness and help ensure compliance with the policy.

If considered necessary by appropriate school officials, or if requested by the parent/person in parental relation, a school conference will be scheduled between the parent/person in parental relation and appropriate staff members to address the student's attendance. The student may also be requested to attend this conference to address appropriate intervention strategies that best meet the needs of the student.

Attendance Incentives

To encourage student attendance, grade appropriate/building-level attendance incentives may be offered at the discretion of the building administration or classroom teacher.

Disciplinary Consequences

Unexcused ATEDs will result in disciplinary sanctions or corrective action as described in the District's *Code of Conduct*. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, in-school suspension, detention, and denial of participation in interscholastic and extracurricular activities. Parents/persons in parental relation will be notified by designated District personnel at periodic intervals to discuss their child's ATEDs and the importance of class attendance and appropriate interventions. Individual buildings/grade levels will address procedures to implement the notification process to the parent/person in parental relation.

In addition to the responsibilities of each staff member in terms of his/her attitude, the following procedures are to be followed:

- a) Unexcused absences of three or more school days in any ten-week period must be reported to the building principal on an Attendance Referral Form by the teacher responsible for maintaining the attendance register. A copy of each referral will be forwarded to the Associate Superintendent for Operations. The Associate Superintendent for Operations will report all referrals to the Suffolk County Department of Social Services, if appropriate.

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SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT ATTENDANCE (Cont'd.)

- c) Discuss strategies to directly intervene with specific element;
- d) Recommend intervention to Superintendent or his/her designee if it relates to change in District policy or procedure;
- e) Implement changes, as approved by appropriate administration;
- f) Utilize appropriate District and/or community resources to address and help remediate student unexcused absences, tardiness or early departures;
- g) Monitor and report short and long term effects of intervention.

Appeal Process

A parent/person in parental relation may request a building level review of his/her child's attendance record.

Building Review of Attendance Records

The building principal will work in conjunction with the building attendance clerk and other designated staff in reviewing attendance records at the end of each term. This review is conducted to identify individual and group attendance patterns and to initiate appropriate action to address any problem of unexcused ATEDs.

Annual Review by the Board of Education

The Board of Education will annually review the building-level student attendance records and if the records show a decline in student attendance, the Board will review this policy and make any revisions considered necessary to improve student attendance.

Community Awareness

The Board of Education will promote necessary community awareness of the District's Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy by:

- a) Providing a plain language summary of the policy to parents or persons in parental relation to students at the beginning of each school year and promoting the understanding of the policy to students and their parents/persons in parental relation;
- b) Providing each teacher, at the beginning of the school year or upon employment, the location of the policy for review; and

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Instruction

SUBJECT: INTERNET SAFETY/INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the District will ensure the use of technology protection measures (i.e., filtering or blocking of access to certain material on the Internet) on all District computers with Internet access. These technology protection measures apply to Internet access by both adults and minors with regard to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or, with respect to the use of computers by minors, considered harmful to students. The District will provide for the education of students regarding appropriate online behavior including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and regarding cyberbullying awareness and response. Further, appropriate monitoring of online activities of minors, as determined by the building or program supervisor, will also be enforced to ensure the safety of students when accessing the Internet.

Further, the Board's decision to utilize technology protection measures and other safety procedures for staff and students when accessing the Internet fosters the educational mission of the District, including the selection of appropriate instructional materials and activities to enhance the schools' programs and to help ensure the safety of personnel and students while online.

However, no filtering technology can guarantee that staff and students will be prevented from accessing any inappropriate sites. Proper safety procedures, as deemed appropriate by the applicable administrator or program supervisor, will be provided to ensure compliance with the CIPA.

In addition to the use of technology protection measures, the monitoring of online activities and access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet may include, but will not be limited to, the following guidelines:

- a) Ensuring the presence of a teacher and/or other appropriate District personnel when students are accessing the Internet including, but not limited to, the supervision of minors when using email, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. As determined by the appropriate building administrator, the use of email, chat rooms, as well as social networking websites, may be blocked as deemed necessary to ensure the safety of students;
- b) Monitoring logs of access in order to keep track of the websites visited by students as a measure to restrict access to materials harmful to minors;
- c) In compliance with this Internet Safety Policy as well as the District's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), unauthorized access, and other unlawful activities by minors are prohibited by the District and student violations of these policies may result in disciplinary action; and
- d) Appropriate supervision and notification to minors regarding the prohibition as to unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding students.

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Instruction

SUBJECT: INTERNET SAFETY/INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING (Cont'd.)**Notification/Authorization**

The District's AUP will be disseminated to parents and students in order to provide notice of the school's requirements, expectations, and student's obligations when accessing the Internet.

The District has provided reasonable public notice and has held at least one public hearing or meeting to address this policy prior to Board adoption. Additional public notice and a hearing or meeting is not necessary if and when amendments are made to this policy.

This policy must be made available to the FCC upon request. Furthermore, appropriate actions will be taken to ensure the ready availability to the public of this policy as well as any other District policies relating to the use of technology.

This policy is required to be retained by the school for at least five years after the funding year in which the policy was relied upon to obtain E-rate funding.

20 USC § 7131
47 USC §§ 254(h) and 254(l)
47 CFR Part 54
Education Law § 814

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7315 -- Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
District Code of Conduct

Adoption Date