

FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL
WILMINGTON



STUDENT HANDBOOK

2024 - 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL WILMINGTON	1
STUDENT HANDBOOK	1
2024 - 2025	1
Table of Contents	2
I. School Mission	10
Mission	10
Vision	10
Shared Values	10
Our Core Rules	10
II. General Information	10
Roles and Responsibilities	11
School Contact Information	12
Mailing Address:	12
Social Media:	12
Remind App:	12
School Hours	13
Staff List & Contact Information:	13
Administration Contact Information:	13
Organizational Chart	13
Link to School Calendar	13
III. Student Conduct	13
Board Policy 201: Code of Conduct	13
Purpose of the Code of Conduct	13
Code of Conduct Guiding Principle	13
Delaware Conduct Violations	14
Definitions	14
Corporal Punishment	14
Seclusion and Restraint Policy	15
Parental Notification of Use of Physical Restraint	15
Definitions	15
Board Policy 202: Formal Hearing/Expulsions	16
Parent and Student Rights	16
Parents Right to Withdraw	17
Board Policy 202D: Discipline of Students with Disabilities	17
Suspension from School	18
Changes In Educational Placement/Manifestation Determinations	18
Disciplinary Change of Placement	18
Manifestation Determination Process	19

Board Policy 203: Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace	19
Vision	19
Purpose	19
History	20
Definitions	20
Guidelines	20
Delegation of Responsibility	21
Procedure on Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy Supports for Students	22
New Student Orientation	23
School Year Programs	23
Procedure 201A: General Behavioral Expectations	24
Consequences	25
Conduct of Friends and/or Family	25
Dress Appropriately	25
Always Be Kind and Respectful	25
Expectations	25
The following actions conflict with our expectations and are unacceptable	25
Grounds Kept Clean and Neat	25
Expectations	25
The following actions conflict with our expectations and are unacceptable	26
On Time and Ready to Learn	26
Expectations	26
The following actions conflict with our expectations and are unacceptable	26
Safety First	26
Expectations	27
The following actions conflict with our expectations and are unacceptable	27
Procedure 201B: Interventions	27
Procedure 202A: Suspension/Reinstatement	28
Steps and Procedures for Suspension	28
Reinstatement Meetings	28
Procedure 202B: Hearing Process	29
Informal Hearings	29
Board Policy 204: Bullying and Cyberbullying	29
Bullying	29
Cyberbullying	29
Social Media and Electronic Media	30
Retaliation Prohibited	30
Consequences for Bullying	30
Criminal Activity	31
Board Policy 214: Anti Hazing	31

Definitions	31
Delegation of Authority	32
Guidelines	32
Athletics	33
Disciplinary Action and Penalties	33
Board Policy 215: Teen Dating Violence	33
Definitions	33
Sexual Assault	34
Teen Dating Violence	34
Youth-Produced Sexual Images	34
Confidentiality	34
Counselors, Mental Health, and Medical Professionals	34
Other School Employees	34
Communication with Medical Professionals	34
Reporting to the School	34
Retaliation and Immunity	35
Reporting to Law Enforcement and Outside Agencies	35
Documentation of Mandatory Reports	35
School Response	35
School-Based Stay-Away Agreement	36
Mandatory Report Required	36
Consequences for Sexual/Dating Violence	36
Staff Training	37
Health Curriculum	37
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council	37
Board Policy 121: Nondiscrimination	37
Overview	37
Definitions	38
Confidentiality	39
Retaliation	39
Board Policy 224: Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth	40
Board Policy 205: Reporting, Retaliation, and Safety	42
Mandatory Reporting policy	42
Policy on Reporting a Freire Community Member	42
Retaliation Policy	43
Search and Seizure Policy	43
Board Policy 117: Title IX	43
Overview	43
Scope	43
Role of the Title IX Coordinator	44

Board Policy 126: Code of Civility	44
Purpose	44
Definitions	45
Guidelines	45
Delegation	46
Board Policy 208: Student use of Technology	46
Procedure 208A: Student Technology	46
Acceptable Use	47
Unacceptable Use	47
Inappropriate Content	49
Chromebook Use	49
Zoom Expectations	51
Recording of Students	51
Board Policy 208B: Cell Phone & Electronics Policy	51
Procedure 208B: Student Cell Phones & Electronics	52
Daily Process	52
Leaving Campus at Lunch	52
Violations	52
Forgotten Pouch	52
Personal Property Liability	53
IV. Academic Policies	53
General Promotion Guidelines	53
Graduation Requirements	53
Credit Accumulation	53
Additional Graduation Requirements	54
Grading Policy	54
Midterm and Final Exams	54
Student Expectations for Exams	55
Midterm and Final Exam Weighting	55
Senior Exemption	55
Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences	55
Make-Up Policy	55
Academic Integrity Procedure	55
Consequences for Academic Dishonesty	55
V. General Policies & Procedures	55
Board Policy 252: School Family Involvement Policy	55
Policy 125: Abusive Conduct	56
Abusive Conduct in Schools	57
Reporting Abusive Conduct	57
Remedy for Abusive Conduct	57

Documentation	57
Definitions	57
Responsibility	58
Title I	58
Parent Rights Under Title I	58
Parent Family Engagement Policy	59
Parent Contact Information	60
Contract for Excellence (The Compact)	60
Academic Advisors	60
Emotional Support Team	60
Parent Concerns	60
Parent Conduct	61
Education for Our Educators about the Importance of Parents in Student Success	61
Understandable Communication	61
Contact Information	61
Other Important Parent Involvement Information	61
Foster Care Policy	62
Best Interest Determination	62
Transportation	62
Foster Care Point of Contact (POC)	62
Homeless Students Policy	62
Definitions	62
Homeless Students	62
Migratory Children	63
Delegation of Responsibility	63
The School Liaison shall coordinate with:	63
The School Liaison has the following responsibilities:	63
Best Interest Determination	63
PPRA Notice and Consent/Opt-Out for Specific Activities	64
Student Records Confidentiality	64
External Records Sharing with Online Platforms	64
Annual FERPA Notification	64
Students with Disabilities	65
Identification of Students with Disabilities	65
Parents of Students with Disabilities Council	66
Student Attendance	66
Missed Work & Make-Up Procedures	67
How do I make up work after I have been absent?	67
Pre-arranged absences	67
Unexpected absences	67

Lateness	67
Early Dismissal Procedure	67
Immediate Dismissal due to health emergencies	68
Communication During a Health Emergency	68
Virtual Parent Meetings	68
ID Cards Procedure	68
Locker Procedure	68
Extracurricular Programming	68
Athletic Eligibility	68
Breakfast and Lunch Procedures	69
Transportation Procedure	69
School Bus Transportation	70
Public Transportation	70
Private Transportation	71
After-School Transportation	71
Event Parking	71
Transportation Map	71
Emergency School Closings and Delayed Openings	72
Emergency Procedure	72
Telephone Calls	72
Outgoing Calls from Students	72
Incoming Calls to Students	73
Visitor Procedure	73
Parent Visitation	73
Field Trips	73
Lost and Damaged Property	73
School Property	73
Personal Property	74
Freedom of Expression	74
Health Services	74
Observing The Health and Safety Plan	74
Wellness Policy	74
Goals	75
School Nurse	75
Emergency Treatment Cards	75
Student Illness	75
Medical Emergencies & Accidents	75
Communication with Outside Medical Providers	75
Prescription Medication Administration Policy	75
Programs	76

Food Standards and Sales	76
Policy Review Process	77
Responsible School Official	77
Recordkeeping	77
Board Policy 213: Suicide Prevention Policy	77
Suicide Prevention Training for School Employees	77
Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee	78
Reporting of Suicide Warning Signs	78
Reporting by Employees	78
Reporting by Students and Other Community Members	78
Retaliation Restrictions	78
Communication Regarding Treatment of Students for Suicide Issues	78
Student Privacy	78
Treatment for Suicide Issues	79
Acknowledgement of Risk	79
Thermal Imaging, Temperature Checks, and Isolation	79
Appendices	80
Appendix A: Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy Acknowledgement	81
Appendix B: Annual Field Trip Permission Slip	82
Required Information	82
Medical Authorization	82
Permission and Release	83
Appendix C: Acknowledgement of The Health and Safety Plan and Virtual Learning Provisions	83
Observing The Health and Safety Plan	83
Acknowledgement of Risk	84
Immediate Dismissal	84
Thermal Imaging, Temperature Checks, and Isolation	84
External Records Sharing with Online Platforms	84
Recording of Students	84
Virtual Parent Meetings	84
Communication During a Health Emergency	84
Remind App	84
Appendix D: Student Chromebook Agreement	86
Chromebook Assignment	86
Fees	86
Care of Chromebooks	86
Bringing Charged Chromebook to School	86
Return of Chromebooks	86
Appendix E: Photography, Video, & Media Release	88
Appendix F: Student-Family-School Commitment to Excellence	89

Commitment to Every Student's Success	89
Student Commitment	89
Staff Commitment	90
Parent/Guardian Commitment	91
School Commitment	91
Appendix G: Code of Conduct & Student Policy Agreements	93
Code of Conduct & Student Handbook Agreement	93
General Behavioral Expectations	93
Locker Agreement	93
Appendix H: Off Campus Lunch Permission Form for Seniors	94
Appendix I: Transportation Selection	95

I. SCHOOL MISSION

MISSION

The mission of Freire Charter School Wilmington is to provide a college-preparatory learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking, and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of community, teamwork, equity, and commitment to peace.

VISION

Freire Charter School Wilmington is the power to build your future.

We can offer your child all of the tools needed for a bright future, but ultimately this success depends on your child taking full advantage of these tools themselves.

SHARED VALUES

For more than two decades, Freire Schools has developed, refined, and implemented its educational program based on current research on what is best for students. But we have learned over time that it is our values, more than any collection of program elements, that define who we are as a network of schools and make us a uniquely strong, creative, and collaborative Freire Family. At Freire Charter School Wilmington and in the Freire School Network, we believe:

- Love binds our Freire Family and drives everything we do.
- Every student has the power to build the future. Preparing all kids for college ensures their futures are limitless.
- A safe, supportive, and uplifting community must be a diverse and antiracist community.
- We are all works in progress, committed to our growth as individuals, as schools, and as a network.
- Safe and peaceful schools free our kids to take risks and dream bigger.
- Freire = Family.

The values and policies of Freire Charter School Wilmington are explained in detail through the Student & Family Handbook. All members of the Freire community are bound to the values, policies, and procedures found herein.

OUR CORE RULES

- All community members (students, staff, parents, board, and community) are learning.
- All community members are equals, but student success is at the center of everything we do and why we do it.
- All community members are safe and cared for.
- All students get to achieve their highest potential.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Ten Things You Need to Know About Freire Charter School

1. **Freire Wilmington serves any and all 8th - 12th grade students in Delaware.** Where there are too many students and not enough spaces, Freire uses a random lottery system to determine enrollment. We do not discriminate in admissions based on race, gender, creed, sexual orientation, academic ability – or anything whatsoever.

2. **The students who succeed at Freire Wilmington are the ones who take action to help themselves.** Students who see a bright future for themselves are willing to do whatever it takes (i.e. long nights of homework, studying on the weekends, going to the library on a sunny day) to get the best education available.
3. **We mean what we say at Freire.** Perhaps other schools tell you that if you break their Code of Conduct there will be consequences. Then, when it comes right down to it, many of these schools do not enforce their rules. At Freire, we enforce everything we say. Honestly. We do what we say we are going to do, and we expect you to do the same.
4. **We are a nonviolent and peaceful school.** We strive every day to be a nonviolent school, because we believe that the absence of violence and a universally held commitment to peace will enable the conditions required for deep and meaningful learning for everyone. As a result, acts of physical violence of any kind are not tolerated, and may result in a formal hearing with potential recommendation for expulsion to the school's Board of Directors.
5. **Freire Wilmington is a college prep school.** We prepare any student who desires to go to college to be successful when they get there. Your child will be happy with our rigorous educational program, if they are excited to learn, work hard, access support when they need it, and prepare for their futures everyday.
6. **Remaining a student at Freire Wilmington takes hard work, courage, honesty, and constant determination every day.** Getting into Freire means getting a space through our lottery. That's the easy part. The hard part is staying at Freire. We guarantee there will be challenges at Freire, and we will ask community members to do things they think are beyond their abilities. Those who succeed at Freire are the ones who never stop trying, and who are willing to work as hard as it takes to achieve excellence. No excuses.
7. **Freire teachers and staff are some of the most talented, dedicated, and caring in the country.** These professionals come to Freire to serve students and families to the best extent ever imagined in a school.
8. **Parents/Guardians must be involved and must participate in their child's education with us as equal partners.** We will expect and demand this of all our families. Freire students need support, family involvement and encouragement every step of the way through high school.
9. **Learning at Freire Wilmington is rigorous and joyous, challenging and exciting.** Learning happens everywhere – in classrooms, on school trips, at internships, on athletic fields, using the internet, planning school dances, eating healthy food before school, and doing homework at night.
10. **Freire Wilmington is a place to take risks, dream big, and then work hard every day to meet those dreams head on.** We strive for excellence in our community every minute of every day. Freire is a school for those who want to do and be their best all the time.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All Students Must:

1. Communicate honestly and openly with each other in order to build excellence into every part of Freire.
2. Support all other community members.
3. Act lawfully and responsibly and always with care for others.
4. Uphold the rules set forth in the Code of Conduct.
5. Arrive to school on time.
6. Follow all policies and procedures of the school.

7. DO YOUR BEST AT ALL TIMES.
8. Strive at all times to solve conflict in a peaceful way that emphasizes respect for all parties.
9. Report any potential bullying, harassment, or violent activities that you have knowledge of.

All Parents Must:

1. Communicate honestly and openly with each other in order to build excellence into every part of Freire.
2. Support other parents and community members.
3. Act lawfully and responsibly and always with care for others.
4. Help your child uphold the rules set forth in the Code of Conduct.
5. Make sure your child arrives to school on time.
6. Help your child follow all policies and procedures of the school.
7. Maintain accurate contact information with the school.
8. Help your child DO HIS/HER BEST AT ALL TIMES!
9. Assume an active role in furthering the success of all students.
10. Strive at all times to solve conflict in a peaceful way that emphasizes respect for all parties.
11. Report any potential bullying, harassment or violent activities that you have knowledge of.

Parent Code of Conduct:

1. All parents must sign in with the receptionist upon entering the building.
2. Parents will be given a visitor's pass which must be displayed at all times.
3. Parents are expected to model adherence to all school rules and policies, inclusive of the student Code of Conduct.
4. All parents must strive to work in a mutually respectful, collaborative effort with Freire staff and constituents.
5. Parents must check out in the lobby with the receptionist upon leaving the building.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS:

Freire Charter School Wilmington
201 West 14th Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Telephone: (302) 407-4800

Fax: (302) 380-7595

Website: www.freirewilmington.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Freire Schools uses social media to celebrate our students and our schools, as well as to relay important information. Please follow **@freireschools** on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and Freire Wilmington's accounts **@freirewilm** on Instagram and **@FreireWilmington** on Facebook.

REMIND APP:

Remind is a safe and free mobile messaging platform Freire uses to communicate with students and families. To sign up to receive class specific and schoolwide text messages and updates via Remind:

- 8th Grade: Text "@fcsw2029" to the number 81010
- 9th Grade: Text "@fcsw2028" to the number 81010

- 10th Grade: Text “@fcsw2027” to the number 81010
- 11th Grade: Text “@fcsw2026” to the number 81010
- 12th Grade: Text “@fcsw2025” to the number 81010

You can also choose to download the Remind app on a mobile device and “join a class” by using the same “@fcsw#” code.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are currently expected to run from 7:45 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. on all regularly scheduled days

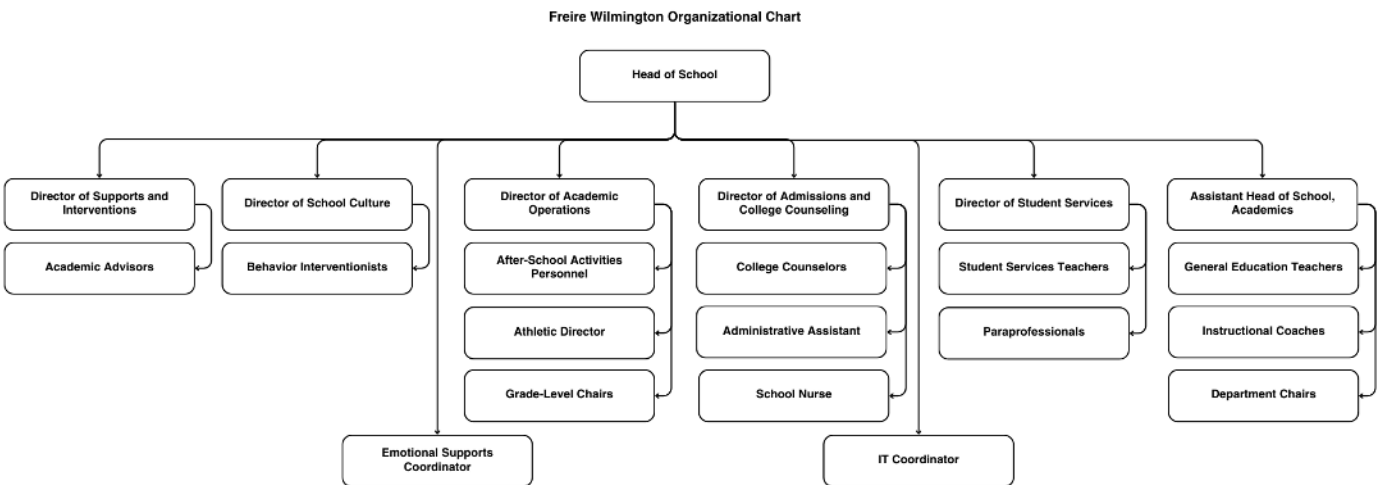
STAFF LIST & CONTACT INFORMATION:

A complete list of staff and how they can be contacted can be found on our website.

ADMINISTRATION CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Nate Durant, Head of School, nate.durant@freirewilmington.org
- Ruble Harris, Head of Climate, ruble.harris@freirewilmington.org
- Sean Hamilton, Assistant Head of Academics, sean.hamilton@freirewilmington.org
- Amy Lemon, Director of Student Services, amy.lemon@freirewilmington.org
- Tyron Hurst, Director of Discipline, tyron.hurst@freirewilmington.org

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



LINK TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

The School Calendar can be found on our website [HERE](#) and will be updated as necessary.

III. STUDENT CONDUCT

BOARD POLICY 201: CODE OF CONDUCT

PURPOSE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

We believe that it is important for FCSW to set forth the expectations of all community members. This Code of Conduct is designed to support FCSW’s mission to provide a college preparatory learning environment with a focus on the individual avenues of problem solving, freedom, and critical thinking, as well as the collective values of nonviolence, safety, community, and teamwork.

CODE OF CONDUCT GUIDING PRINCIPLE

As an educational institution, we recognize that it is our responsibility to educate students regarding nonviolence and the Code of Conduct in general. Our practice is based upon the belief that as students progress from one grade to the next they become more responsible for the rules and gain a greater capacity for independent decision-making.

DELAWARE CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

Delaware Regulation 14 Admin C 614 provides for uniform definitions of certain conduct that may result in expulsion or alternative placement. The full regulation may be accessed at <http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/600/614.shtml>. Parents may request a paper copy of this regulation at the front office.

DEFINITIONS

Student: A person enrolled in Freire Charter School Wilmington.

Parent/Guardian: The official caregiver of a minor child, including but not limited to mother, father, stepparent, grandparent or court-appointed guardian, including DHS workers and/or group home employees as identified at time of admission or amended in writing thereafter; or an emancipated minor (of which proof is required).

Staff: Any person employed by, or volunteering at, Freire Charter School Wilmington.

Community Member: Any Freire Charter School Wilmington student, parent, staff member, mentor, board member, volunteer, neighbor, or any other person a student may encounter while on school grounds (defined below). These integral parts join together to create a special community.

School setting: School setting means (1) in school; (2) on school grounds; (3) in school vehicles; (4) at designated bus stops; (5) at activities sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by Freire (e.g. field trips, sporting events, events where students are representing Freire Charter School Wilmington); or (6) in any other circumstance or location (on or away from school property) where Freire has jurisdiction over a student's conduct.

Intervention: A consequence assigned by the school as a result of a violation of the Code of Conduct. Repeated violations of the Code of Conduct will result in more severe interventions. Students who do not respond to repeated interventions and continue to behave in ways that violate the Code of Conduct and challenge the expectations of the community may be asked to leave the community.

Mediation program: A conflict resolution program where trained students and staff guide individuals who are in conflict toward a peaceful resolution. Every student has the opportunity to participate in mediation when there is a conflict with another community member so that the conflict can be resolved in a constructive, nonviolent manner. Mediation is to be used in a proactive manner PRIOR to an infraction of the Code of Conduct, not as a result of an infraction of the Code of Conduct.

Emotional Support Team: A team of trained mental health professionals, which may include social workers and master's degree level interns, that the school uses to provide services to students and families. Any student/family referred by Freire to participate in family therapy is encouraged to do so. Family therapy is provided free of charge and is a very important part of building and strengthening our community. In certain cases, mandatory meetings with a member of the emotional support team may be assigned by the school as a behavioral intervention.

Delegation of Authority: The Board authorizes school administration to develop procedures to implement this Policy, setting specific behavioral expectations and outlining interventions and consequences.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The physical punishment of students for infractions of the discipline policy is strictly prohibited.

Teachers and school authorities may use reasonable force under the following circumstances:

- To quell a disturbance
- To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects
- In protection of persons or property, or for the purpose of self-defense

SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT POLICY

Freire has seclusion and restraint standards and safety procedures in place to ensure the safety of all individuals. All Freire staff are prohibited from imposing any type of physical, chemical, or mechanical restraint and seclusion on students, except under specific conditions and in conformity with the standards established by 14 Del. Code § 4112 F. Staff shall receive annual training regarding the use of restraints and crisis prevention, provided by the Delaware Department of Education.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

If a student is restrained, the school shall notify the parents no more than 24 hours after the physical restraint is used. If physical restraint is included in a student's IEP, the IEP Team, including the parent, should determine a timeframe and manner of notification of each incident of physical restraint.

DEFINITIONS

Student: A person enrolled in Freire Charter School Wilmington.

Parent/Guardian: The official caregiver of a minor child, including, but not limited to mother, father, stepparent, grandparent or court-appointed guardian, including DHS workers and/or group home employees as identified at time of admission or amended in writing thereafter; or an emancipated minor (of which proof is required).

Staff: Any person employed by, or volunteering at, Freire Charter School Wilmington.

Community Member: Any Freire Charter School Wilmington student, parent, staff member, mentor, board member, volunteer, neighbor, or any other person a student may encounter while on school grounds (defined below). These integral parts join together to create a special community.

School setting: School setting means (1) in school; (2) on school grounds; (3) in school vehicles; (4) at designated bus stops; (5) at activities sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by Freire (e.g. field trips, sporting events, events where students are representing Freire Charter School); or (6) in any other circumstance or location (on or away from school property) where Freire has jurisdiction over a student's conduct.

Intervention: A consequence assigned by the School as a result of a violation of the Code of Conduct. The purpose of the intervention is so that students understand that their behavior was unacceptable. Repeated violations of the Code of Conduct will result in more severe interventions. Students who do not respond to repeated interventions and continue to behave in ways that violate the Code of Conduct and challenge the expectations of the community may be asked to leave the community.

Mediation Program: A conflict resolution program where trained students and staff guide individuals who are in conflict toward a peaceful resolution. Every student has the opportunity to participate in mediation when there is a conflict with another community member so that the conflict can be resolved in a constructive, nonviolent manner. Mediations are to be used in a proactive manner **prior** to an infraction of the Code of Conduct, not as a result of an infraction of the Code of Conduct.

Emotional Support Team: Our emotional supports team aims to provide support to students and families in need. Students and families referred by Freire for emotional support are encouraged to participate in family therapy. Family and individual therapy is provided free of charge to Freire students and their families. Counseling and therapy services are an integral part of promoting the overall health and well-being of the

Freire family. In certain cases, mandatory meetings with a member of the family therapy team may be assigned by the School as a behavioral intervention. Therapy services are available during regular school hours; evenings and weekend hours are available by appointment. Trained professionals work with students and families to resolve conflict, manage stress, anxiety, and depression, overcome grief and trauma, cope with symptoms of ADHD, manage difficult life transitions (divorce, separation, homelessness) and resist peer pressure. Students can request to visit Emotional Supports anytime throughout the day by asking their teachers. Parents, guardians, and family members can reach the Emotional Support Team by calling the main number (302) 407-4800.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who violate the Code of Conduct, or engage in inappropriate behavior, disruptive or prohibited activities and/or actions injurious to themselves or others, which would typically result in corrective action or discipline of students without disabilities, will be disciplined in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, School policy, and, if applicable, their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Behavior

Support Plan: When a determination to exclude a child from school constitutes a change in educational placement, Freire Charter School Wilmington shall first determine whether the student's behavior is a manifestation of his/her disability. A student with a disability whose behavior is not a manifestation of his/her disability may be disciplined in accordance with School policy, rules, and regulations in the same manner and to the same extent as students without disabilities.

Delegation of Authority: The Board authorizes school administration to develop procedures to implement this Policy, setting specific behavioral expectations and outlining interventions and consequences.

BOARD POLICY 202: FORMAL HEARING/EXPULSIONS

If a student is recommended for expulsion as a consequence of his/her actions, they have the right to request a formal expulsion hearing. This hearing must commence within 15 days of formal charges (unless mutually agreed upon by both parties).

- A formal hearing is **REQUIRED** in all expulsion actions.
- All students who are recommended for expulsion are entitled to a formal expulsion hearing.
- An expulsion hearing will be arranged and notification of the charges, all evidence, and the rights of students/parents shall be sent to the student's parents or guardians at least 3 days prior to the hearing. All information will be sent via regular and certified mail.
- The hearing will commence on the agreed-upon date with an independent Fact Finder presiding over the hearing.
- The School will present evidence, statements, and its case, giving the parent and student a chance to view all information.
- Parents and students will be given the opportunity to question witnesses and present their own information.
- The hearing shall be held in private unless the student or parent requests a public hearing.
- The Fact Finder will write a summation of facts that will be presented at the following Board meeting.
- Only the Board of Directors, through a majority vote of the entire Board, can determine whether a student will be expelled.
- Notice of a right to appeal the results of the hearing shall be provided to the student with the expulsion decision.

PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS

- In a case involving a possible expulsion, the student is entitled to a formal hearing.

- A formal hearing is required in all expulsion actions.
- This hearing will be conducted by an impartial Fact Finder.
- The Board of Directors is given a summation of facts by the Fact Finder and a majority vote of the entire governing Board is required to expel a student.
- The following due process requirements shall be observed with regard to the formal hearing:
 - Notification of the charges shall be sent to the student's parents or guardians by certified mail.
 - At least 3 days' notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given. A copy of the expulsion policy, notice that legal counsel may represent the student and hearing procedures shall be included with the hearing notice. A student may request the rescheduling of the hearing when the student demonstrates good cause for an extension. Otherwise the hearing will proceed as scheduled.
 - The hearing shall be held in private unless the student or parent requests a public hearing.
 - The student may be represented by counsel, at the expense of the parents or guardians, and must have the parent or guardians (as identified in the eSchool Plus database) attend the hearing.
 - The student has the right to be presented with the names of witnesses against the student, and copies of the statements and affidavits of those witnesses.
 - The student has the right to request that the witnesses appear in person and answer questions or be cross-examined.
 - The student has the right to testify and present witnesses on his/her own behalf.
 - A written or audio record shall be kept of the hearing. The student is entitled, at the student's expense, to a copy. A copy shall be provided at no cost to a student who is indigent.
 - The proceeding shall be held within 15 school days of the notification of charges, unless mutually agreed to by both parties. A hearing may be delayed for any of the following reasons, in which case the hearing shall be held as soon as reasonably possible:
 - Laboratory reports are needed from law enforcement agencies.
 - Evaluations or other court or administrative proceedings are pending due to a student invoking his rights under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1400-1482).
- Notice of a right to appeal the results of the hearing shall be provided to the student with the expulsion decision.
- The initial responsibility for providing the required education rests with the student's parents or guardian, through placement in another school, tutorial or correspondence study, or another educational program approved by the district's superintendent. Parents have 5 days to find the appropriate placement and notify the School.

PARENTS RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

Freire Charter School Wilmington is a school of choice for families. Parents may choose to voluntarily withdraw their child from the school at any time for any reason. The School cannot formally expel a student who is no longer enrolled at Freire. Should a parent choose to withdraw their child from Freire prior to potentially being expelled, any remaining procedures related to expulsion will cease. The student's academic record will reflect the withdrawal, not an expulsion. If a parent decides to withdraw their student, they must submit an Official Withdrawal Form.

BOARD POLICY 202D: DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Freire Charter School Wilmington will develop and implement positive Behavior Support Plans and programs for students with disabilities who require specific interventions to address behaviors that interfere with learning.

Students with disabilities who violate the Code of Conduct, or engage in inappropriate behavior, disruptive or prohibited activities and/or actions injurious to themselves or others, which would typically result in corrective action or discipline of students without disabilities, will be disciplined in accordance with requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), its implementing state and federal laws and regulations, and school policy.

SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

A student with a disability may be suspended for up to ten (10) consecutive and fifteen (15) cumulative days of school per school year, for the same reasons and duration as a student without a disability. Such suspension shall not constitute a change in the student's educational placement.

CHANGES IN EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT/MANIFESTATION DETERMINATIONS

A manifestation determination is required by IDEA (2004) when considering the exclusion of a student with a disability that constitutes a disciplinary change of placement.

In certain circumstances, students who have not been determined to be eligible for special education may assert the protections of IDEA 2004 if Freire had "knowledge" that the student was a student with a disability before the occurrence of the behavior that precipitated a disciplinary action. Freire will be deemed to have knowledge if: (1) the parent/guardian of the student expressed a concern in writing (unless the parent/guardian is illiterate or has a disability that prevents compliance with the requirements contained in this provision) to Freire that the student is in need of special education and related services; (2) the parent/guardian of the student has requested an evaluation of the student; or (3) the teacher of the student, or other Freire personnel, expressed a specific concern about the behavior or performance of the student to the director of special education or other supervisory personnel at Freire.

DISCIPLINARY CHANGE OF PLACEMENT

A disciplinary change of placement occurs when a student who is receiving special education services is excluded from school:

- For more than ten (10) school days in a row,
- When days 11-15 constitute a pattern of exclusion, OR
- When a series of removals constitutes a pattern, through consideration of factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student is removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another; OR
- For any length of time for a student with an intellectual disability*.

*For students with intellectual disability, any disciplinary suspension or expulsion is a change in educational placement and may not be made without parental consent or judicial approval.

The School may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for no more than forty-five (45) school days without a manifestation determination review under the following circumstances, and where the underlying conduct is at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of Freire:

- Carrying or possessing a weapon
- Knowingly possessing, using, selling or soliciting illicit substances
- Inflicting serious bodily injury upon another person

In addition, a student with a disability may be removed to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days if a hearing officer orders the change in placement after determining that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others.

On the date a decision is made to make a removal that constitutes a change of placement due to a violation of the Code of Conduct, Freire will notify the parent/guardian(s) of that decision and provide procedural safeguards to the family. A student with a disability who is removed from the child's current placement shall continue to receive educational services so as to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP (with services as determined by the Child's IEP team); and shall receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.

Note: IDEA 2004 does not prohibit Freire from reporting a crime committed by a student with a disability to appropriate authorities, nor does it prevent state law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal and state law to crimes committed by a student with a disability. Any such reports made by Freire shall comply with IDEA 2004.

MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION PROCESS

Within ten (10) school days of the decision to change the student's placement, the parent/guardian and members of the students' IEP team shall conduct a Manifestation Determination meeting to answer the following questions:

1. Was the behavior caused by, or directly and substantially related to, the student's disability; OR
2. Was the behavior a direct result of the failure to implement the IEP?

If the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, the IEP team will take one of the following actions:

- Conduct a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA), unless one was already conducted prior to the change of placement occurring, and implement a positive Behavior Support Plan for the student;
- OR
- If a positive Behavior Support Plan has already been developed, review and modify it as necessary to address the behavior; and return the student to the placement from which they were removed, unless the parent/guardian and IEP team agree to a change of placement as part of the positive Behavior Support Plan.

If the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability:

- The student may be disciplined in accordance with school policy, rules, and regulations in the same manner and to the same extent as students without disabilities.

BOARD POLICY 203: NONVIOLENCE AND COMMITMENT TO PEACE

VISION

AN ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE AND A COMMITMENT TO PEACE ENABLE THE CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR DEEP AND MEANINGFUL LEARNING FOR US ALL.

PURPOSE

The Board recognizes the importance of the concepts of nonviolence and a commitment to peace in the educational program, and strives to offer all students an educational environment free from violence. Violence of any kind deprives students and staff of a safe environment for learning. This policy is designed to preserve

the unique history of the formation of Freire’s nonviolence requirements and to outline how nonviolence and a commitment to peace interacts with other Board policies.

If the Board determines that this policy or any related procedures have caused undue harm to the Freire community, the Board will take appropriate corrective action to ensure that the policy remains responsive to community needs, and adequately protects students from undue bias or prejudice of any kind. In addition, the Board’s commitment is to provide sufficient opportunities for students to learn to de-escalate conflict and use conflict productively. We do so by teaching students and all members of the school community to communicate effectively and respectfully, in a way that honors self-expression, preserves respect for others, and, consequently, avoids violence.

HISTORY

Nonviolence has come to be a way of life inside Freire Charter School, driven in large part by the students themselves. When Freire first opened in 1999, students openly told stories of their experiences at previous schools. These stories were raw tales of the violence experienced at the hands of fellow students and even from teachers, and were filled with feelings of horror and fear. In the wake of these stories the students expressed the hope that Freire would be different, and would be a place where teachers could safely teach and students could securely learn.

During that first year, Freire students worked weekly with the school leadership to build the core elements of what Freire would one day later become. Students and staff committed to the values of non-violence and high academic achievement. At the end of the 1999-2000 school year, Freire students and school leadership created and approved the first version of Freire’s Nonviolence Policy. Students, staff, and parents may look to this Policy as evidence that Freire is committed to safety and that all community members are bound together in trust and mutual respect.

As part of our Commitment to Antiracist Action, the Freire Schools network went back to revisit the Code of Conduct and ensure equity, student voice, and fairness for all. Over the past three years, Freire Schools conducted a study of our nonviolence policy during which a group of Freire students, culture leaders, administration, and professional researchers interviewed students, families, staff, Board members, and alumni about how safe Freire Schools campuses feel, how safety compares to previous years, and how our culture compares to other schools. We learned the following: (1) our community does not want us to compromise our commitment to school safety, (2) we need to increase our efforts to prevent violence, including increasing visibility of our available student supports, and (3) we need to better define violence and communicate this clearly and frequently. This document reflects changes that came out of this study, and is one of the ways we communicate our definition of physical violence and our expectation that physical violence will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Our Freire community stands firm today in our value to preserve a safe, peaceful environment in which all of us can take risks, learn, and thrive.

DEFINITIONS

Code of Conduct means the policies, procedures, rules and regulations of Freire Charter School Wilmington governing the conduct of all students during the time they are under the jurisdiction of the school. Student disciplinary procedures are set forth in the Board Policy 201: Code of Conduct and Board Policy 202: Suspension and Expulsion.

School Setting means: (1) in school; (2) on school grounds; (3) in school vehicles; (4) at designated bus stops; (5) at activities sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by Freire (e.g. field trips, sporting events, events where students are representing Freire Charter School Wilmington); or (6) in any other circumstance or location (on or away from school property) where Freire has jurisdiction over a student’s conduct.

GUIDELINES

1. Freire students shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects a commitment to nonviolence. Students are expected to:
 - a. Act in a manner that affords all other students the opportunity to learn which is physically safe and free from distractions.
 - b. Admit mistakes, and take increased responsibility for their own learning and social actions.
 - c. Respect self and all others, and respect individual differences.
 - d. Behave appropriately while in school, on field trips, and in any forum where the student is representing the Freire community.
 - e. Avoid hurtful language.
 - f. Use appropriate channels to express concerns, fears, or complaints.
2. Physical violence occurs when an individual student harms, attempts to harm, or threatens another individual via physical force. It is a deliberate act. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Any type of striking or grabbing by one student or another person (punching, biting, kicking, hair pulling, etc.)
 - b. Fighting another student or in group of students, including joining a fight
 - c. Serious threat to cause harm to another via social media or other serious verbal intimidation.
 - d. Throwing objects
 - e. Structural violence such as the physical destruction of property that causes any function of the school to be temporarily suspended
 - f. Weapons possession
 - g. Sexual assault, as defined in Board Policy 117: Title IX Policy
3. Freire defines other types of violence as the harm or intent to cause harm in a non-physical way (e.g. mental or emotional). Examples include but are not limited to:
 - a. Invading an individual's personal space
 - b. Recklessly endangering other students, staff, or community members
 - c. Verbal intimidation or threats, including threatening to bring another individual to fight someone, or arranging for a non-student or non-community member to engage in harassment of another student (including threats made by text, video, or using any type of social networking site/app)
 - d. Abusive or derogatory language
 - e. Bullying, as defined in Board Policy 204: Anti-Bullying
 - f. Hazing, as defined Board Policy 214: Anti-Hazing
 - g. Unlawful harassment, as defined in Board Policy 115: Harassment
4. When Freire students are in a School Setting, the Code of Conduct and the procedures and timelines set forth therein shall apply. When a student engages in conduct that is prohibited in this Policy, it shall constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct. Violations may result in disciplinary consequences up to and including a recommendation that a student be expelled from Freire.
 - a. Unless leadership determines that there are extenuating circumstances requiring a different result, the disciplinary consequence for students who engage in physical violence (defined above) shall be referral for a formal expulsion hearing unless that student is protected under IDEA (34 CFR §300.530(d)(4)).

- b. Acts of violence where the intent is not to cause physical harm (defined above) may lead to a formal hearing. The school administration will evaluate the situation on a case by case basis and determine disciplinary consequences.
- 5. Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to abridge student rights to due process, including procedural and substantive rights, that are granted by law or another Freire Charter School Wilmington policy.
- 6. Some acts of violence, including those listed above, may also constitute violations of the law of the State of Delaware. In those instances, law enforcement may be contacted by the school.
- 7. Freire shall utilize restorative practices that respond to acts of violence, and shall also offer proactive supports to students to prevent violence and respond to it. Supports may include orientation for new students, peer mediation programs, instruction in conflict resolution, connecting students and families with community resources such as family therapy and counseling, restorative circles, and other programs.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

- 1. The Board authorizes school administration to develop procedures to implement this Policy.
- 2. The Board directs school administration to develop and issue a “Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace” acknowledgement of this Policy and which shall be included in the Student & Family Handbook signed by all Freire students and parents/guardians.
- 3. The Board authorizes school administration to develop a comprehensive system of supports to prevent violence at Freire Charter School Wilmington and to encourage and maintain a positive, peaceful school climate.

Chart of Possible Consequences (Consequences are determined on a case-by-case basis as stated above, and subject to any applicable protective procedures under IDEA as set forth in law or school policy)

Act	Likely Consequence
Unprovoked physical harm	Informal hearing leading to a formal hearing leading to board vote on expulsion
Provoked physical harm	Informal hearing leading to a formal hearing leading to board vote on expulsion
Direct threat to cause physical harm on-line	Informal hearing which may lead to formal hearing which may lead to board vote on expulsion
Volatile/aggressive behavior intended to intimidate or escalate a situation (examples include yelling, flipping a desk or chair, punching a wall, throwing objects)	Informal hearing which may lead to formal hearing which may lead to board vote on expulsion
Retaliation in legitimate self-defense (e.g. fighting back)	Informal hearing which may lead to formal hearing which may lead to board vote on expulsion
Verbal abuse/bullying with physical threat over social media/text/or otherwise	Informal hearing which may lead to formal hearing which may lead to board vote on expulsion
Verbal abuse/bullying without physical threat over social media/text/or otherwise	Informal hearing which may lead to formal hearing which may lead to board vote on expulsion
Bringing a weapon to school (gun, knife, etc.)	Informal hearing leading to a formal hearing leading to board vote on expulsion
Bringing a pellet gun, cap gun, or water gun to school	Informal hearing which may lead to formal hearing which may lead to board vote on expulsion

Bringing outside people (including relatives of any kind) to the school to fight	Informal hearing leading to a formal hearing leading to board vote on expulsion
Threats to bring outsiders (including relatives of any kind) to the school to fight	Informal hearing which may lead to formal hearing which may lead to board vote on expulsion
Blatant disrespect to others	Informal hearing which may lead to formal hearing which may lead to board vote on expulsion

NOTE 1: Your job as a student/member of this community is to use every resource you have NOT TO GET INVOLVED in a fight or any of the above.

NOTE 2: The behaviors listed above are not permitted in any way nor anywhere nor to anyone. In other words, these acts are not only not permitted on school property, they are not permitted anywhere or against anyone.

PROCEDURE ON NONVIOLENCE AND COMMITMENT TO PEACE POLICY SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS

Because the Freire Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy is unique and because Freire is an educational institution committed to supporting the growth and success of everyone in the community, Freire has created a comprehensive set of supports and structures for students as they enter the Freire culture. These supports are as follows:

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Any and all students entering the school must take a multi-day course in the summer about Conflict Resolution and Nonviolence. We dedicate time during summer clinic and orientation to work with incoming students around the following:

- **Conflict Resolution:** This training teaches students what conflict is and ways to resolve it, introduces the idea of win-win solutions, and explains body language and ways to interpret it. The training provides students the opportunity to role-play conflict resolution scenarios and find win-win solutions for all parties, and helps students understand emotionally why conflicts arise as well as what it feels like to be victimized by conflict.
- **Bullying:** The objective of this training is to define bullying, explore the reasons for bullying, explore how bullying affects people, identify ways to stop bullying, and explore the resources in the school that are there to help students who feel bullied.
- **Peer Mediation Training:** The objective of this program is to introduce students to the concept of peer mediation. In these seminars, students learn what mediation is, the rules of mediation, how mediation works at FCSW, how to become a trained mediator, and how to get help when you need it.
- **Nonviolence:** In this training, students learn what physical and verbal violence are and that they are not permitted under any circumstances at Freire. The nonviolence training involves the following additional components:
 - Students meet directly with the Culture and Discipline team to discuss the Freire Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy in detail and that there are “No Second Chances” around using violence at Freire.
 - In order to be a student at Freire, students must sign the “Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace ” form acknowledging that:
 - They understand Freire’s Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy
 - They agree to follow Freire’s Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy

- Parents of all incoming students also get a special meeting with the Culture and Discipline team to go over Freire's Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy, our Peer Mediation Program, and the "No Second Chances" rule.

SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS

The School offers the following programs and supports during the school year to prevent violence:

- **Peer Mediation**
 - Anyone in the community can fill out and submit a mediation request form, and the form can be submitted anonymously. The Culture and Discipline team and other staff also refer students to mediation when a problem between students is identified. The mediation will take place within 24 hours if the person requesting it indicates that the situation is serious and needs to be mediated immediately.
 - Once the mediation form is submitted to the mediation coordinator, the mediation is arranged.
 - Mediations are 100% confidential and led by other students that have passed Freire's mediation training program.
 - The Head of Climate, Ruble Harris and other staff also refer students to mediation when a problem between students is identified.
- **Teacher Training**
 - Each summer during professional development, teachers are provided with training on how to identify students who are in crisis and how to respond to those crises. This training goes over a comprehensive list of all the supports available to students and staff alike and how to get the appropriate support for a student in need.
 - All staff members are required to follow the Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy themselves, including participating in mediations when requested.
- **Anger Management**
 - Students who are identified as needing additional help with controlling their anger are referred for this program. The program is run by one of the counselors and aims to provide a safe, productive outlet for students and their anger. Recommendation for the program can come from staff members and parents, and students can also refer themselves.
- **Individual Counseling**
 - Students struggling with emotional issues (in school or out of school) can participate in counseling by scheduling an appointment with a member of the emotional support team. Our School therapist is a trained Marriage and Family Therapy clinician and is available during regular school hours and on evenings and weekends by appointment. Students can refer themselves for counseling or may be referred for counseling by a teacher, school administrator, member of the discipline team, or parent/guardians. The emotional supports team meets on a weekly basis to discuss individual cases and make sure that students are receiving supports that they need to succeed at Freire.
- **Family Counseling**
 - Families at Freire have access to individual and Family Therapy with the Marriage and Family Therapist or master's degree level interns free of charge. Appointments are available during regular school hours, before or after school, and in the evening or Saturday mornings. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting the Emotional Support team at (302) 407-4800.
- **Support Groups**
 - Throughout the school year various emotional support groups/programs may be offered to students on topics such as managing stress, managing emotions, eating disorders, sexual assault, healthy relationships (romantic and social), bullying, managing grief, suicide prevention, overcoming trauma. Participation is voluntary and students can sign up for programs as they

are offered throughout the year. Programs are typically offered during lunch break or after school in order to minimize interference with academic programs.

- **Support from the Culture and Discipline Team**

- As a part of our anti-bullying policy, the Culture and Discipline team, led by Head of Climate, Ruble Harris, is committed to taking every report of suspected bullying seriously. We thoroughly investigate every complaint. This investigation includes:
 - Interviewing the bullied student(s)
 - Interviewing the alleged student doing the bullying
 - Interviewing teachers
 - Interviewing any witnesses that have been identified
 - Reviewing any computer information (if applicable)
- Upon conclusion of the investigation the Culture and Discipline team determines the appropriate consequence.

PROCEDURE 201A: GENERAL BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Freire Charter School Wilmington will provide our students with skills that they need for the future. The teachers, counselors, administrators, and custodial staff at Freire are dedicated to the education and well-being of our students. In turn, Freire expects and requires all students to show respect and care for the staff, volunteers, visitors, the building, each other, and people of all cultures represented in the school. Freire also expects students to take care of the property within the school and in the community.

CONSEQUENCES

Students who do not adhere to these expectations will receive a consequence. This consequence will be assigned by the Culture and Discipline team and is expected to be completed.

Repeated or excessive violation of the same rule will result in more severe consequences.

CONDUCT OF FRIENDS AND/OR FAMILY

Students who bring outside guests to any school-sponsored function will be held accountable for their guests' behavior as if it was the student's own behavior.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY

Please see the Dress Code Policies section above.

ALWAYS BE KIND AND RESPECTFUL

Creating and maintaining a good relationship with the entire surrounding community both inside and outside of the school grounds is an important goal of our school.

EXPECTATIONS

Freire Charter School Wilmington expects students to treat others like scholars at all times. Community members are expected to act in the following manner:

- Speak to students, teachers, and neighbors with courtesy.
- Use considerate phrases such as "please," "thank you," and "excuse me."
- Help others in the school and community.
- Tell the truth.
- Be courteous of others on the sidewalks, at bus stops, and at local businesses.

- Encourage others.
- Be willing to listen openly to the opinions of others.
- Accept and be open to personal differences.
- Be open to the school's mediation program.
- Know all policies surrounding the Code of Conduct.
- Keep your hands to yourself and don't touch others.
- Refrain from any public displays of affection.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS CONFLICT WITH OUR EXPECTATIONS AND ARE UNACCEPTABLE

- Sexual activity or public displays of affection, including kissing, hugging and handholding.
- Making excessive noise when entering the building or leaving the building.
- The use of profanity (cursing) anywhere inside or outside of the building.
- Interrupting the learning environment.
- Speaking to or treating any community member in a rude/disrespectful manner.

GROUNDS KEPT CLEAN AND NEAT

EXPECTATIONS

Freire Charter School Wilmington expects students to act and think like college-trained professionals at all times. Community members are expected to act in the following manner:

- Use trash receptacles inside and outside of the school grounds.
- Keep desks, lockers, walls, and all other property free of graffiti, stickers, ink, and all other damage/destruction.
- Students are to use only the locker assigned to them.
- Return shared materials to the proper place in good condition (including laptops!).
- Leave things better than you found them.
- Dispose of gum and trash in appropriate locations.
- Gum is allowed. However, each teacher has the discretion to determine if gum is allowed in their particular classroom.
- Eat only in the cafeteria. Eating in classrooms is permitted only if there is adult supervision during lunch or special events, not during academic time unless authorized by an administrator.
- Clean up your own area (desk, floor, lunch area).

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS CONFLICT WITH OUR EXPECTATIONS AND ARE UNACCEPTABLE

- Littering anywhere on or near the school grounds – inside or outside.
- Sharing a locker – Students who share lockers will be held responsible if it contains any items deemed inappropriate or prohibited (all students using that locker will receive disciplinary action).
- Eating or drinking in any area except the designated areas – Eating can only happen in classrooms if there is adult supervision during lunch or special events, not during academic time unless authorized by an administrator.
- Possession of a glass bottle.
- Disposal of gum in a place anywhere other than trash cans.

ON TIME AND READY TO LEARN

The community believes that learning and maintaining an appropriate learning environment is essential for success.

EXPECTATIONS

Freire Charter School Wilmington expects students to study like college-trained professionals at all times in order to maintain an appropriate learning environment. Community members are expected to act in the following manner:

- Adhere to and follow your schedule. Make and keep appointments.
- Be prepared with materials; bring a charged chromebook and writing utensil to every class every day.
- Complete homework.
- Listen to others, wait your turn, raise your hand and follow directions at all times.
- Arrive to school on time.
- Carry an appropriate hall pass if you leave a classroom.
- Go to the appropriate authorities if you need to make an emergency phone call. If there is an emergency and a student needs to use their phone or a school phone, THEY MUST go to an administrator.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS CONFLICT WITH OUR EXPECTATIONS AND ARE UNACCEPTABLE

- Using school telephones without permission.
- Sleeping in class.
- Roaming the building without a pass.
- Disrupting the learning environment in any way.
- Playing cards or dice, or gambling in any way.
- Being tardy to class.
- Cheating and/or plagiarizing.

SAFETY FIRST

The community members of FCSW believe that having a clean, safe environment is mandatory and non-negotiable. Feeling safe to explore, to make mistakes, and to learn is essential.

EXPECTATIONS

Freire Charter School Wilmington expects students to act like college-trained professionals at all times in order to maintain a safe environment. Community members are expected to act in the following manner:

- Notify staff of dangerous or illegal weapons or situations inside or outside of school.
- Notify staff of strangers in and outside of the building.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact.
- If physical contact is necessary, make sure that it is neither aggressive nor sexual.
- Depart for home immediately after the last class of the day or completion of an after-school program.
- Carry a student ID at all times and produce it when requested.
- Follow all procedures and policies outlined in the appropriate sections of this manual.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS CONFLICT WITH OUR EXPECTATIONS AND ARE UNACCEPTABLE

- Not producing a student ID when asked.
- Participating in horseplay or play fighting. (Horseplay and play fighting are defined as rough, noisy, unruly, or rowdy play that may or may not involve physical contact.)
- Loitering on the street corners or sitting on the steps of surrounding buildings.
- Running down the stairs or hallways in the school, around school, or outside of the school.
- Throwing objects anywhere in the building (extreme circumstances could lead to recommendation for expulsion).

- Speaking to any community member in a way that makes them feel unsafe or violated (extreme circumstances may lead to suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion).
- Turning lights off in the gym, hallway, or classrooms without permission.
- Tampering in any way with school building systems or equipment (such as fire alarms or fire extinguishers).
- Being in areas of the buildings before or after school without the permission and presence of a staff member.

There are no second chances for violation of the Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy. Any act of violence is grounds for expulsion or removal from school. NO EXCEPTIONS.

PROCEDURE 201B: INTERVENTIONS

If a student chooses to act in an unacceptable way, the Culture and Discipline team will assign a consequence for the student's actions. **Each intervention is meant to be used as a warning that the student's behavior is unacceptable and therefore should NOT BE REPEATED.**

A student whose behavior does not change or intensifies will be subject to interventions of increased severity. All students and parents will receive a warning notification if unacceptable behavior continues, or the frequency of that behavior increases.

The following is a list of interventions that may be used by the Culture and Discipline team. This is not an exhaustive list but rather a sample of the interventions the Culture and Discipline team may use:

- Anger management support group
- Apology letter
- Community outreach/service
- Behavior contract
- Probationary contract
- Detention
- Saturday school
- Educational seminars
- Hours outside of school time
- Informal hearing
- Losing privileges to attend school functions
- Lunch detention
- Mandatory uniform (Freire polo shirt)
- Parent conference (by phone or in person)
- Personalized Improvement Plan (PIP)
- Public apology (written or verbal)
- Research project
- Support groups
- Teacher/Student Conference
- Teacher detention
- Therapy

PROCEDURE 202A: SUSPENSION/REINSTATEMENT

Suspension is defined as "taking away permission to attend classes, activities, and all other privileges of enrollment at Freire Charter School Wilmington." This includes but is not limited to dances, shows, athletics, field trips, and special events.

The following actions can result in a suspension from school activities:

- Jeopardizing the safety of another community member, including but not limited to any act of violence, pulling fire alarms, setting off alarm doors, or use of fire extinguishers except in life-threatening emergencies
- Active or passive participation in the destruction of property
- Possession of weapon, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal items
- Breaking the Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy
- Cutting class, leaving the classroom without permission, or being out of bounds in a location that students are not allowed

- Involving other community members (or your friends) in personal matters and situations that began in school
- Stealing
- Repeated disruption or disrespectful behavior inside of the classroom
- Sexual harassment, including creating or maintaining a sexually hostile environment and/or seeking or demanding any sexual 'quid pro quo', is forbidden on the part of students, faculty, staff, and all adults

STEPS AND PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION

- Student is informed of the reason for suspension at the time of suspension verbally and in written form.
- Student is given the opportunity to respond.
- School must notify the parent/guardian of suspension. Please note that a suspended student will not be sent home until the School is able to communicate with that student's parent/guardian.

If a student has been suspended, he/she will be prohibited from attending school, being on school grounds (including the bus and parent pick-up areas) or participating in or attending school activities.

Students are required to make up all class work and tests missed during a suspension.

During testing times, students may not be suspended at the discretion of the school administration. However, any infractions that accrue during that time may lead to a suspension once testing is completed.

REINSTATEMENT MEETINGS

If a student is suspended, they are required to attend a reinstatement meeting with their parent or guardian upon their return to school. Students may not return to school until this mandatory meeting occurs as permitted by law.

The reinstatement will serve as a warning to alert the student and their parent/guardian that he/she has seriously or chronically violated the school's Code of Conduct. It is further hoped that the student will realize the impact his/her behavior has had on his/her learning and that of his/her fellow students, and therefore make all necessary changes in his/her behavior while in school.

PROCEDURE 202B: HEARING PROCESS

INFORMAL HEARINGS

Informal hearings are held in cases where a serious infraction of the Code of Conduct has occurred. Informal hearings will follow the format described below.

- During the informal hearing the School will state the concerns and observed behaviors.
- The School will provide the results of any investigation should the incident have required one.
- Both parent and student will have the opportunity to provide their observations, comments and concerns regarding the incident.
- Upon conclusion of the meeting the School will determine the next action. School administration will recommend one of three consequences: recommendation for expulsion, removal from school, or a probationary behavioral or contract.
 - Recommendation for Expulsion – See Formal Hearing/Expulsion policy (see next section)
 - Removal from School – Placement in an alternative setting

- Behavioral or Probationary Contract – The administrator will review with the student the written warning, which states the student understands:
 - This is his/her final warning from Freire.
 - Student will be required to fulfill the conditions of the contract.
 - Failure to fulfill the conditions of the contract may result in a recommendation for expulsion from the School.
 - In order for a contract to be issued the student and parent must agree to follow the terms being presented by the Culture and Discipline team.
 - The contract will establish a time and date when the compliance of the contract will be reviewed.

NOTE: Contracts are non-negotiable. Students and parents must agree to follow all terms of the contract. Since contracts are issued in lieu of a recommendation for expulsion, if a parent/student does not agree to follow the terms of the contracts, then there is a possibility that the refusal could result in a recommendation for expulsion. Prior to this, a meeting to review the contract will be held by the Culture and Discipline team. This meeting will include the parent/guardian and the student.

BOARD POLICY 204: BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING

Implementation of this policy shall comply with all rules and regulations the Delaware Department of Education may promulgate to implement Title 14 Section 4112D of the Delaware Code.

BULLYING

Bullying refers to any intentional violent or hostile acts or actions through written, electronic, verbal or physical means against another student, school employee, or school volunteer. Violent or hostile acts or actions include: placing a student, employee, or volunteer in reasonable fear of substantial harm to his/her emotional or physical well-being or substantial damage to his/her property; creating a hostile, threatening, humiliating, or abusive environment due to the pervasiveness or persistence of actions or due to a power differential between the bully and the target; interfering with a student having a safe school environment that is necessary to facilitate educational performance, opportunities or benefits; or perpetuating bullying or inciting, soliciting, or coercing an individual or group to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional psychological or physical harm to another student, school employee, or school volunteer.

CYBERBULLYING

All forms of harassment in cyberspace, often called cyberbullying, are unacceptable. Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful email messages, instant messages (including text messages), or web site postings (including blogs). Often the author (sender or poster) of the inappropriate material is disguised (logged on) as someone else. Students who feel like they have been the victims of such misuses of technology should not erase the offending materials from the system. They should print a copy of the materials and immediately report the incident to the Director of Culture and Discipline. All reports of harassment in cyberspace will be investigated fully. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension, or a disciplinary hearing. Neither the School's network nor the broader Internet (whether accessed on campus or off campus, either during or after school hours) may be used for the purpose of harassment or demeaning and inappropriate interactions of any kind.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Social media refers to any electronic outlet of communicating with another person. Posting of speech on social media will be presumed to be available to a broad audience within the school community, regardless of privacy

settings or other limitations on those postings. Examples of social media include but are not limited to: TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, Pinterest, Secret, Vine, YikYak, Kik, WhatsApp, GroupMe, Burn Note, Whisper, Tumblr, Flickr, and similar types of applications. This list is NOT considered exclusive and any social media outlet or electronic communication, such as email, texting, or instant messaging, which allows for communications that may be viewed by the intended victim shall be considered as an electronic medium for the purposes of enforcing the electronic bullying aspects of the Freire Charter School Wilmington Bullying Prevention policy. Internet sites such as blogs that may be created or used by individuals for the specific purpose of bullying as defined above shall also be treated in the same manner as other publicly accessible Internet portals.

RETALIATION PROHIBITED

The School prohibits retaliation against any individual for reporting bullying information.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BULLYING

Bullying of any person on school property or at any school function is strictly prohibited. Depending upon the facts and circumstances, Freire Charter School Wilmington may define bullying as an act of violence and therefore a violation of the Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy. In these cases, the Culture and Discipline team may make a recommendation for expulsion if it is deemed necessary. If a recommendation for expulsion is made, the Culture and Discipline team will be required to review the reason for the decision with the student and parent, the Assistant Head of School, Ruble Harris, and the Board of Directors.

If bullying is reported, the School will take the following course of action:

- Students will be separated (as deemed necessary).
- All incidents of bullying reported to the School, regardless of whether they can be substantiated, are reported to the Delaware Department of Education within 5 working days. The School will notify the parents, guardians, or relative caregivers of **all students involved in the reported incident** when the report is made.
- A full investigation will be conducted by the Culture and Discipline team.
 - The School will make a determination of whether the target of the bullying was targeted or reports being targeted wholly or in part due to the target's race, age, marital status, creed, religion, color, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, or other protected status.
 - The School will conduct the investigation and make a determination of whether bullying occurred in a timely manner.
- In all cases in which bullying is substantiated, the School will notify the parents, guardians, or relative caregivers of **both the target(s) and person(s) who bullied** of the School's determination and provide them with a required form from the Delaware Department of Justice that describes the role of the DOJ's School Criminal Offense and Bullying Ombudsperson.
- If bullying is substantiated and the School determines that a student violated the Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy, the School will observe the Hearing Procedures described in the relevant section of this handbook.
- If bullying is substantiated but determined to not violate the Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy, the following events will occur:
 - Suspension for any student(s) who participated in the bullying
 - Reinstatement meeting with parent/guardian upon conclusion of the suspension
 - Behavior Contract (if deemed appropriate by the Culture and Discipline team) - the contract may include any or all of the conditions outlined below:

- A formal letter of apology written by the bullying student(s) to the victim and the victim's family, if appropriate.
- A supervised project on bullying.
- Counseling for the bullying student(s).
- Appearance before the Board of Directors for an official reprimand.
- Attendance at a bullying seminar.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

An incident may meet the definition of bullying and also the definition of a particular crime under state or federal law. Nothing in this policy prevents School officials from fulfilling all of the reporting requirements of 14 Delaware Code § 4112 D or any other reporting requirement under state or federal law. Consequences imposed by the School are independent of and in addition to any penalties imposed under the law.

Communication with Medical Professionals

Please see Communication with Outside Medical Providers in the Health Services section for the School's policy on this topic.

State of Delaware School Criminal Offense and Bullying Ombudsperson

State of Delaware - Department of Justice
 School Criminal Offense and Bullying Ombudsperson
 1-800-220-5414

If you or someone you know is a victim of bullying, please fill out [THIS FORM](#).

BOARD POLICY 214: ANTI HAZING

The Freire Charter School Wilmington (the "Charter School") stands firmly against Hazing. Hazing is contrary to the mission and vision of the Charter School, negatively affects the Charter School's culture and environment, and can be damaging to the Charter School community and/or its reputation.

In all of its forms, Hazing is prohibited at the Charter School and, pursuant to 14 Del. C. § 9303, is a crime. The Charter School Board (the "Board") directs that complaints of Hazing shall be investigated promptly, and that corrective action be taken when allegations are substantiated.

DEFINITIONS

Hazing means, regardless of whether it occurred on or off Charter School property, any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which wilfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher learning. The term shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any wilful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the admission or initiation

into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Head of School or designee shall be responsible for:

1. Addressing allegations of Hazing pursuant to this Policy, the Charter School’s Code of Conduct and/or other Board policies, as may be applicable;
2. Receiving reports/complaints of Hazing and arranging for their prompt investigation;
3. Referring allegations of Hazing which may constitute Title IX Sexual Harassment (as defined in Policy 117-118) to the Title IX Coordinator for prompt investigation;
4. Referring allegations of Hazing to law enforcement consistent with any Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with local police;
5. Providing students, parents/guardians, volunteers, all athletic coaches, and Charter School employees a copy of this Policy;
6. Informing students, parents/guardians, volunteers, and Charter School employees, through publication of information related to this Policy in student handbook(s) and on the Charter School’s public website, and by instructing teachers, coaches, and volunteers to remind students of this Policy at the beginning of each athletic season; and
7. Maintaining a report of all violations of this Policy on the Charter School’s public website.

GUIDELINES

Students who believe they have been subject to hazing are strongly encouraged to report the incident(s) to the Head of School, counselor, nurse, teacher, coach, or other trusted adult. Upon receipt of reports/complaints of Hazing, the Head of School or designee shall determine what, if any, measures should be put in place to protect students from further Hazing, bullying, discrimination, or retaliatory conduct related to the alleged incident and/or report. Measures may include, but are not limited to: suspension of any adult(s) involved, separation of alleged victims and perpetrators, and “no contact” orders.

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a report/complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, this Policy, and the Charter School’s legal and investigative obligations.

In the course of an investigation of alleged Hazing pursuant to this Policy, if potential incidences of Sexual Harassment (as defined in Policy #117-118 are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be notified immediately. Any complaints or allegations made under this Policy which could be construed as complaints of Sexual Harassment shall be handled in accordance with the applicable Board policy #117-18

Retaliation relating to reports of Hazing or participation in an investigation of allegations of Hazing is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

ATHLETICS

The function of coaches is to educate students through participation in interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic programs at the Charter School are designed to enhance academic achievement and not interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student shall be treated with the utmost respect and their welfare should be considered in decisions by coaches at all times. Therefore, coaches shall enforce Charter School policies regarding bullying, Hazing, and taunting (including this Policy) and never tolerate any of those actions by team members or others.

Participants in interscholastic athletics shall refrain from participating in or encouraging acts of bullying, Hazing, and taunting.

Officials at interscholastic athletic events are participants in the educational development of Charter School students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. Therefore, officials shall refrain from participating in or encouraging the acts of bullying, Hazing, and taunting.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND PENALTIES

Where allegations of Hazing are substantiated through an investigation, the Head of School or their designee may impose discipline upon the student(s) or organization(s) found to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this Policy.

Students found to have engaged in Hazing may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion from the Charter School, subject to the procedures in the Code of Conduct and this Policy.

In addition to the procedures and consequences set forth in the Code of Conduct, where a student is found to have engaged in act(s) violating this Policy, the Head of School or their designee may prescribe that the student attend training, counseling, or other remedial programs. The Board authorizes the Head of School or their designee to withhold Charter School privileges (e.g., attendance at graduation or other school-sanctioned events), diplomas, and/or transcripts, pending the student's compliance with Charter School rules or satisfactory completion of any remedial program.

Organizations found to have authorized or sanctioned Hazing in blatant disregard for Charter School rules may be penalized at the discretion of the Head of School. Penalties may include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on campus or other school property, or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the Charter School.

If you or someone you know is a victim of hazing, please fill out [THIS FORM](#).

BOARD POLICY 215: TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Implementation of this policy shall comply with all rules and regulations the Delaware Department of Education may promulgate to implement Title 14 Section 4112E of the Delaware Code. For more detailed explanations of terms and procedures, refer to the Guidelines for Responding to Teen Dating and Sexual Violence in Delaware Schools produced by the Child Protection Accountability Commission ("CPAC Guidelines").

DEFINITIONS

In this policy, "sexual/dating violence" refers to a situation where a Freire student is involved in one of the following:

SEXUAL ASSAULT

As used in this policy, "sexual assault" means any unwanted sexual behavior. Sexual assault may be committed by someone who is a stranger or is known to the victim. Behaviors that fall under this definition include but are not limited to the following, as defined under the Delaware criminal and judicial codes:

- Sexual harassment (see also Freire's Sexual Harassment Policy)
- Sexual contact
- Sexual intercourse
- Sexual penetration

- Child sexual abuse

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

As used in this policy, “teen dating violence” means assaultive, threatening or controlling behavior that a person uses against another person in order to gain or maintain power or control in a current or past relationship. The behavior can occur in both heterosexual and same sex relationships, and in serious or casual relationships. The abuser may cause fear, humiliation, or harm through harassment; stalking; or verbal, emotional, economic, sexual, or physical abuse. Bullying and cyberbullying, as defined in Freire’s Bullying and Cyberbullying Policy and the Delaware Code, constitute dating violence in the context of a current or past relationship. See the CPAC Guidelines for a complete definition of Teen Dating Violence.

YOUTH-PRODUCED SEXUAL IMAGES

As used in this policy, “Youth-Produced Sexual Images” are nude, sexually suggestive, or explicit images possessed and/or transmitted by way of cell phone or internet with the intent to cause harm. The taking or sending of such photographs of someone under the age of 18 can be considered child pornography.

CONFIDENTIALITY

COUNSELORS, MENTAL HEALTH, AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Such professionals are bound by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and required to maintain confidentiality except in the following situations:

- A student communicates an explicit and imminent threat to kill or seriously injure a clearly identified victim or victims (including themselves)
- Any suspicion of child abuse
- A student presents with serious burns, poisoning, or wounds from a weapon

OTHER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

These employees are not bound by HIPAA, and if they know of or reasonably suspect an instance of sexual/dating violence against a student must immediately report it to the Head of Climate, Ruble Harris, and the Head of School so that the school can investigate and keep the victim safe.

COMMUNICATION WITH MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Please see Communication with Outside Medical Providers in the Health Services section of Freire Charter School Wilmington’s Student and Family Handbook for the School’s policy on this topic.

REPORTING TO THE SCHOOL

Any Freire community member, including students and parents/guardians of students, may report incidents or suspicions of sexual/dating violence against a student to the Assistant Head of School, Ruble Harris and the Co-Heads of School. The reporting individual may request anonymity, in which case the School will keep the reporting individual’s identity confidential to the greatest extent practical. While reporting information ensures that the School will thoroughly investigate the situation, it does not guarantee disciplinary action will be taken.

RETALIATION AND IMMUNITY

The School prohibits retaliation against any individual for reporting sexual/dating violence against a student. In addition, a school employee, school volunteer, or student is individually immune from a cause of action for damages arising from reporting sexual/dating violence against a student, unless the act of reporting constituted gross negligence and/or reckless, willful, or intentional conduct.

REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES

When the School becomes aware of a potential incident of sexual/dating violence against a student, the Assistant Head of School, Ruble Harris will refer to the CPAC Guidance, “What Must be Reported and To

Whom” and comply with the law. The Assistant Head of School, Ruble Harris or his designee will be responsible for making any required reports. Depending on the circumstances, the School may be required to report an incident to the Wilmington Police Department and/or the Delaware Division of Family Services (DFS). Incidents which also constitute bullying will also be reported in accordance with the Bullying and Cyberbullying Policy in the Code of Conduct found in Freire Charter School Wilmington’s Student and Family Handbook.

An incident may meet the definition of sexual/dating violence and also the definition of a particular crime under state or federal law. Nothing in this policy prevents School officials from fulfilling all of the reporting requirements of 14 Del. Code § 4112, 16 Del. Code § 903 et seq., or any other reporting requirement under state or federal law.

Independent of and in addition to any penalties imposed under the law, the School may implement consequences of its own. Please see below.

DOCUMENTATION OF MANDATORY REPORTS

When a mandatory report is required, the School shall retain a record of the following in a Sexual/Dating Violence Complaint File that is kept separately from academic records:

- Basic facts about the incident, including names of the victim and alleged perpetrator, the nature of the incident, where and when it occurred, and the names of any known witnesses
- Schedules and extracurricular memberships of the victim and alleged perpetrator
- Response actions taken by the School (see School Response section below), including whether the victim accepts or declines supports offered by Freire
- Disciplinary measures implemented as a result of the incident
- Any related subsequent activity, such as victim’s use of outside services and future status reports

SCHOOL RESPONSE

The School will take the following actions when an incident is reported or observed:

- Immediately separate the victim and the alleged perpetrator
- If the incident involves youth-produced sexual images, confiscate the cell phones of both the victim and the alleged perpetrator **without viewing the content of either phone**
- Support the victim in the following ways, and maintain documentation of whether the victim accepts or declines offers made by the School:
 - Contact parents to inform them of the incident or alleged incident
 - Refer for counseling and support services
 - Advise of legal options including filing charges or seeking an order of protection
 - Advise of the option to file a sexual harassment complaint if applicable
 - When legally permissible, offer the victim a “School-Based Stay-Away Agreement” (see below)
 - Encourage to seek medical care if appropriate
 - Create a safety plan, considering such factors as class schedule, transportation, and extracurricular activities
 - Monitor the victim’s safety
- Increase supervision of the alleged perpetrator as needed
- Speak with witnesses or bystanders to get their accounts of the incident and encourage them to report future incidents
- Make every effort to protect the due process rights of the alleged perpetrator

SCHOOL-BASED STAY-AWAY AGREEMENT

This is a contract enacted by the School that is similar to an order of protection. It is generally to be used only if the offer is accepted by the victim. If sought as a result of an incident for which a mandatory report is required, it should not be implemented without approval of the investigating agency. The School may also wish to obtain the advice of legal counsel before offering such an arrangement. Under such an agreement, a student who is an alleged perpetrator of sexual/dating violence against another student may not approach, talk to, sit by, or have any contact with the victim at school, on school property, or at any school-sponsored event. Such an agreement must be administered in a conference between the School, the alleged perpetrator, and that student's parents and be signed by all parties. Such an agreement may require the alleged perpetrator to follow a modified schedule, use a different locker, or observe other similar changes.

MANDATORY REPORT REQUIRED

In a situation where the incident requires a report to law enforcement or DFS, **the School will not interview the alleged perpetrator until the School receives approval from the investigating agency.** If the agency gives School staff approval to meet with the alleged perpetrator, the School must contact the student's parents and advise both the student and his/her parents that any statements made may be used in future criminal or internal disciplinary proceedings. Once approval is received, the School will follow the procedures below under Consequences for Sexual/Dating Violence, subject to any changes advised by the investigating agency.

CONSEQUENCES FOR SEXUAL/DATING VIOLENCE

In a situation where a mandatory report is not required, or after receiving approval from the investigating agency in the event that a report is required, the School will conduct a full internal investigation. The School **will not** meet with the victim and alleged perpetrator together.

Depending upon the facts and circumstances, Freire Charter School Wilmington may define sexual/dating violence as a violation of the Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy. In these cases, the School will observe the Hearing Procedures described in the relevant section of the School's Student & Family Handbook. The Culture and Discipline team may make a recommendation for expulsion, and in this case will review the reason for the decision with the student and parent; Assistant Head of School, Ruble Harris and the Co-Heads of School; and the Board of Directors.

If sexual/dating violence is substantiated but determined to **not** violate the Nonviolence and Commitment to Peace Policy, the following events will occur for the perpetrator:

- Suspension
- Reinstatement meeting with parent/guardian upon conclusion of the suspension
- Behavior Contract (if deemed appropriate by the School), which may include any or all of the following conditions:
 - A formal letter of apology written by the student(s) to the victim and the victim's family
 - A supervised project on sexual/dating violence
 - Counseling
 - Appearance before the Board of Directors for an official reprimand
 - Attendance at an appropriate seminar

STAFF TRAINING

Freire will ensure that administrators, school counselors, and the school nurse receive teen dating violence and sexual assault policies and protocol training during their first year of assignment and at least once in every three-year period thereafter. The School will use the training materials developed and provided by the Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

HEALTH CURRICULUM

Freire will provide standard programming related to healthy relationships, based on the Health Standards adopted by the Delaware Department of Education in health education programs or related classes.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Pursuant to 14 Del. Code § 4112E (d), The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council has the authority to review and advise on the implementation of this policy.

BOARD POLICY 121: NONDISCRIMINATION

Freire Charter School Wilmington (Charter School) is committed to maintaining an education and workplace environment for all school community members that is free from all forms of discrimination, including harassment and retaliation. The members of the Charter School community include the Charter School's Board of Trustees, employees, administration, faculty, staff, school volunteers, parties under contract to perform work for or with the Charter School, and family members participating in school meetings or school-sponsored activities.

The Charter School does not exclude from participation, deny the benefits of the Charter School from or otherwise discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), age, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic background, marital status, pregnancy, disability, veteran/military status, or any other category protected by state or federal law in the administration of its educational and employment policies or in its programs and activities.

The Board also declares it to be the policy of this Charter School to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex.

Discrimination in any of its forms is inconsistent with the rights of students and the mission and educational goals of the Charter School and is prohibited at or during school-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities. Violations of this policy, including acts of retaliation as described in this policy, or knowingly providing false information, may result in disciplinary consequences under other Board policies or the Charter School's student or employee codes of conduct.

This Policy complies with applicable local, state, and federal law and regulations such as: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act, as amended ("VEVRAA"), and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, 14 Del. C. §§ 501, et seq., and 275 Del. Admin. C. §§ 1.0, et seq.

This declaration of policy shall be included in each student and staff handbook and shall be posted to the Charter School's website.

OVERVIEW

The Charter School prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment, including Bullying (Policy # 204), Hazing (Policy # 214), discriminatory harassment (this policy), and Title IX sexual harassment (Policy #117).

The Charter School shall promptly review and investigate all allegations of conduct which may be a violation of the above-mentioned policies. The scope of the investigatory process will be determined by law and the applicable policy.

The Charter School shall have the authority, in any investigation conducted pursuant to this policy, to assign one or more functions to an independent third party, such as an attorney.

DEFINITIONS

Complainant shall mean an individual who is alleged to be the victim.

Respondent shall mean an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of the alleged conduct.

Harassment – Unwelcome, inappropriate, or illegal physical, written, verbal, graphic, or electronic conduct that relates to an individual’s actual or perceived race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, age, genetic information, active military/veteran status, marital status, familial status, ancestry, ethnic background, national origin, or any other category protected by state or federal law, when such conduct:

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

Harassment may include but is not limited to slurs, jokes, bullying, hazing, or other physical, written, verbal, graphic or electronic conduct.

Sexual harassment – *(Note: the following definition applies only to allegations that have been determined by the Title IX Coordinator to not fall within the scope of Title IX sexual Harassment as set forth in Policy # 117, and/or which otherwise will be investigated pursuant to this policy.)*

Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate physical, written, verbal, graphic, or electronic conduct that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) an employee of the Charter School conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Charter School on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- (2) Unwelcome conduct which is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that a reasonable person in the complainant’s position would find that it unreasonably interferes with a person’s equal access to the Charter School’s education program; or
- (3) Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination on the basis of sex.

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

This includes any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the complainant, including instances where the complainant is incapable of giving Consent. Sexual assault may be one of the following categories:

Sexual penetration without consent - Any penetration of the mouth, sex organs, or anus of another person, however slight by an object or any part of the body, when consent is not present. This includes performing oral sex on another person when consent is not present.

Sexual contact without consent - Knowingly touching or fondling a person’s genitals, breasts, buttocks, or anus, or knowingly touching a person with one’s own genitals or breasts, when consent is not present. This includes

contact done directly or indirectly through clothing, bodily fluids, or with an object. It also includes causing or inducing a person, when consent is not present, to similarly touch or fondle oneself or someone else.

Statutory sexual assault – The age of consent for sexual activity in Delaware is 18. Minors under the age of 12 cannot consent to sexual activity. Minors aged 12-15 years old cannot consent to sexual activity with anyone who is 4 or more years older than they are at the time of the activity. From Delaware Code Title 11 Chapter 5 and Title 16 Chapter 9.

Dating violence means violence committed by a person:

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

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

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

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

Consent exists when all parties exchange mutually understandable affirmative words or actions indicating their agreement to participate voluntarily in sexual activity. Consent must be informed, voluntary, and actively given. Resistance by the complainant is not required. Consent does not exist if the sexual act was by forcible compulsion which is the use of physical, intellectual, moral, emotional or psychological force. Consent does not exist if a person is threatened, unconscious, incapacitated due to the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or suffers from a mental disability that makes them incapable of giving consent. Consent may be withdrawn by either party at any time. Once withdrawal of consent has been expressed through words or actions, sexual activity must cease. Delaware defines the age of consent as age sixteen (16) or above. Children under age twelve (12) cannot consent to sexual activity. Children between the ages of 12-15 cannot consent to sexual intercourse with a person four (4) or more years older than them.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a report, and the investigation related to any form of discrimination or retaliation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy, and the Charter School's legal and investigative obligations.

If a request for confidentiality is received, the Charter School will evaluate any such request in the context of its responsibility to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students. A request for confidentiality may limit the Charter School's ability to respond.

Based on the context of what is reported to the Charter School, all incidents that are required by law to be reported to law enforcement and/or the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Division of Family Services will be reported in accordance with the Charter School's legal obligations.

RETALIATION

The Board prohibits retaliation by the Charter School or any other person against another person for:

1. Reporting or making a formal complaint of any form of discrimination or retaliation.
2. Testifying, assisting, participating, or refusing to participate in a related investigation, process, or other proceeding, or hearing.
3. Acting in opposition to practices that the person reasonably believes to be discriminatory.

The Charter School, its employees, and others are prohibited from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or discriminating against anyone for actions described above. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator immediately if retaliation is believed to have occurred. Substantiated allegations of retaliation may result in the same disciplinary action applicable to one who engages in discrimination.

BOARD POLICY 224: TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING YOUTH

Purpose

The Freire Charter School Wilmington (Charter School) Board of Directors is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for all students, and ensuring that every student has equal opportunities and access to the Charter School's educational programs and activities.

The Charter School shall comply with Federal and state laws pertaining to discrimination, harassment (including Title IX sexual harassment), and retaliation.

This policy confirms that the full force and effect of each of this Board's policies prohibiting discrimination and providing for prompt investigation and response to incidents of discrimination shall apply equally to students and to staff regardless of an individual's sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity or expression.

This policy also reiterates that discrimination, in any of its forms, on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, shall be prohibited at the Charter School.

This policy sets out guidelines and expectations for addressing the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming students and is aimed at promoting their inclusion, privacy, and safety at all times. The Charter School recognizes that students have a choice as to whether to make public or keep private their transgender status or gender non-confirming presentation at school, and that it is the right of that student to have their choice respected. This policy does not anticipate every situation related to a student's sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, and gender identity or expression that might occur, and the needs of each student must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, the goal is to not exclude, separate, deny benefits to, or otherwise treat differently on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, any person in the Charter School's educational programs or activities, including extracurricular activities.

Guidance

Names/Pronouns: A student has the right to be addressed by the names and pronouns that they choose. At the student's request, their chosen name and pronouns shall be used in all interactions between them and Charter School staff and students, as well as on written records, where possible, unless otherwise directed by the student.

- **Official Records:** The Charter School is required to maintain a Cumulative Record File on behalf of each of its students ("Official Record") which includes a student's legal name and legal sex/gender. However, the Charter School is not required to use a student's legal name and legal sex/gender on

certain other Charter School records or documents. The Charter School will change a student's Official Record to reflect a change in legal name or legal sex/gender upon receipt of documentation that such change has been made pursuant to a court order. Students will be treated consistently with their asserted gender identity and chosen name and pronouns, even if their educational records or identification documents indicate a different name or sex/gender.

- Official Record is defined as:
 - Minimal Identifying Data (legal name of the student, date of birth, sex, race and ethnicity, address, and telephone number)
 - Delaware Emergency Treatment Card
 - School Health Record
 - Progress Report, Student Transcript (for students in grades 9 and above)
 - Discipline Record

- **Privacy:** Transgender and gender non-conforming students have a right to privacy. Students' personally identifiable information, including legal gender and sex assigned at birth, shall not be disclosed without student consent. Students have the right to discuss and express their gender identity and expression openly and to decide when, with whom, and how much private information they share, and when, with whom, and how much private information is shared on their behalf. Charter School personnel will not disclose information that may reveal a student's transgender status, sexual orientation, or gender non-conforming presentation to others (including other Charter School personnel or the student's parent or guardian) unless legally required to do so or the student has authorized such disclosure, or, in the determination of Charter School officials, it becomes necessary to protect the student's safety. Before making such a disclosure, a Charter School administrator shall make reasonable efforts to inform the student of the decision to disclose, the reason(s) for disclosure, and provide the student with the opportunity and resources they may need to make the disclosure themselves. Further, in situations where Charter School staff or administrators are required by law to use or to report a transgender or gender non-conforming student's legal name or gender assigned at birth, Charter School staff and administrators shall adopt practices to avoid the inadvertent disclosure of such confidential information.

- **Conversations with Parents or Guardians:** Our aim is to protect the privacy and safety of our transgender and gender non-conforming students. When contacting the parent of a student who is transgender or gender non-conforming, we will use the names and pronouns that the student feels most comfortable with in this situation.

- **Gender-Segregated Activities:** To the extent possible, the Charter School will reduce or eliminate the practice of segregating students by gender. In situations where students are segregated by gender, such as for selected health education classes, students will be able to choose and be included in the group that corresponds to their gender identity.

- **Restroom and Locker Room Accessibility:** Freire may provide separate restroom and locker room facilities on the basis of sex, but will permit transgender and gender-nonconforming students access to the facilities that are consistent with their gender identity. Any student who has a need or desire for increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason, will be provided access to a single user restroom. However, no student shall be required to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so.
- **Physical Education Classes & Intramural Sports:** Transgender and gender non-conforming students shall be permitted to participate in physical education classes and intramural sports in a manner consistent with their gender identity. Participation shall not be conditioned on legal or medical documentation.
- **Interscholastic Competitive Sports Teams:** A transgender or gender non-conforming student shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics in a manner consistent with the student's gender identity as asserted at the Charter School and when the student meets the minimum standards designated by the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association ("DIAA") Board of Directors. The Head of School or their designee shall communicate these minimum standards as designated by the DIAA Board of Directors, including if and when such standards change, to the district's high schools to inform athletes and coaches of eligibility requirements. Proper parental consent for athletic participation will be required.
- **Dress Code:** Students have the right to dress in a manner consistent with their gender identity or gender expression, as long as they respect the Charter School's uniform policy or dress code.
- **Discrimination/Harassment:** It is the responsibility of the Charter School to ensure that all students, including transgender and gender non-conforming students, have a safe school environment. This includes ensuring that any incident of discrimination, harassment, or violence is given immediate attention, including investigating the incident, taking appropriate corrective action, and providing students and staff with appropriate resources. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on a person's actual or perceived transgender status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, are to be handled in the same manner as other sex-based discrimination or harassment complaints.

BOARD POLICY 205: REPORTING, RETALIATION, AND SAFETY

MANDATORY REPORTING POLICY

State law obligates Freire Charter School Wilmington to report, and at times to prosecute, certain offenses enumerated in Title 14, Section 4112 of the Delaware Code. In any instance where a student or a parent/guardian is found to have committed or been a victim of one of the enumerated criminal offenses on school property or at a school function, the Assistant Head of School, Ruble Harris shall without reasonable delay, report the offense to police authorities. Staff with any good-faith suspicion of any neglect or abuse of a child on school property or at home must make a written report immediately to the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families in addition to providing confirmation to the Assistant Head of

School, Ruble Harris. In addition, the State Board of Education requires reporting of the additional incidents to the Department of Education.

POLICY ON REPORTING A FREIRE COMMUNITY MEMBER

Any member of the public or school community may report another community member for breaking the rules listed in the Code of Conduct. Students have the responsibility to inform a staff member if they become aware that a fellow student is in possession of illegal substances, firearms, weapons, or any items that could endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the school community or property. The office of the Assistant Head of School, Ruble Harris will follow up on all reports.

RETALIATION POLICY

It is the policy of Freire Charter School Wilmington that a positive, open environment be maintained at all times. Therefore, the School encourages all community members to report problems or concerns **without fear of retaliation or reprisal**. All reports will be promptly investigated. Freire is committed to doing whatever is necessary to protect students from retaliation resulting from a concern or complaint. Should the School determine that retaliation has indeed occurred, or that a community member is planning retaliatory action, disciplinary steps will be taken. The consequences could include any of the following:

- Community service
- Written apology
- Suspension
- Informal hearing
- Recommendation for expulsion
- Police notification

SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICY

Freire Charter School Wilmington reserves the right to search students and their belongings and/or lockers to find weapons, drugs, stolen property, and other contraband. In addition, students may be asked to empty pockets, purses, etc. If a student is found in the possession of items that are illegal, the student will be charged with the appropriate school offense, and the Wilmington Police Department will be notified; the student may be held for the police, and charges may be filed. Any student who refuses to cooperate with School authorities is subject to expulsion from Freire. All searches of a student's locker, belongings, or person will be done with at least two Freire staff members present.

BOARD POLICY 117: TITLE IX

OVERVIEW

Freire Charter School (the "Charter School") is committed to providing a safe, respectful and supportive learning and working environment, free from Sex Discrimination, in which all members of the The Charter School community can thrive and succeed.

The Charter School has adopted this Title IX Policy (the "Policy") in order to advance its goal of maintaining an environment free from Sex Discrimination, including Sex-Based Harassment, as well as related Retaliation. The Charter School encourages individuals who have been affected by Sex Discrimination and/or Retaliation to promptly make a Report to The Charter School using any of the reporting options described in this Policy. The Charter School will respond promptly and equitably to all Reports or Complaints of Sex Discrimination and/or

Retaliation, and will take appropriate steps to eliminate the behavior, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

The Charter School reserves the right to modify this Policy at any time to take into account changes to applicable local, state, and federal laws, rules, and regulations and/or directives from relevant government agencies. Information on changes, updates, or amendments to this Policy will be provided to Students, parents/guardians, and employees at the start of each school year or from time-to-time as needed.

SCOPE

The behavioral expectations of this Policy apply to all Charter School Students, employees, trustees, officers, Applicants for admission or employment, volunteers, independent contractors, and other individuals participating or attempting to participate in the Charter School's Education Program or Activity. The behavioral expectations of this Policy apply to any alleged Prohibited Conduct that impacts the Charter School community and/or the Charter School's Education Program or Activity wherever it occurs, including on campus, off campus, and online.

ROLE OF THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR

The Charter School has appointed a Title IX Coordinator to coordinate its compliance with Title IX. Any individual may make a Report of Sex Discrimination, including Sex-Based Harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator. In this Policy, when the term "Title IX Coordinator" is used, it should be understood to include any of the Title IX Coordinator's designees. The Title IX Coordinator may delegate authority under this Policy to one or more designees, while retaining ultimate oversight over the responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator role. The responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator include:

- Taking prompt and effective steps to ensure Sex Discrimination does not continue or recur, and to remedy its effects;
- Monitoring The Charter School's Education Program or Activity for barriers to reporting conduct that may constitute Sex Discrimination, and taking steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers;
- Facilitating the provision of a non-discriminatory environment and equal access to individuals experiencing Pregnancy or Related Conditions; and
- When notified of conduct that reasonably may constitute Sex Discrimination:
 - Treating Complainants and Respondents equitably;
 - Offering and coordinating Supportive Measures for the Complainant and, if an Informal Resolution Process or Grievance Procedures are pending, the Respondent;
 - Notifying Complainants or, if different, individuals making Reports, of the Informal Resolution Process and Grievance Procedures, as available and appropriate;
 - Notifying the Respondent of the Informal Resolution Process and Grievance Procedures, as available and appropriate, if a Complaint is made;
 - In the event of a Complaint, initiating the Grievance Procedures or, if available and appropriate and requested by all Parties, the Informal Resolution Process; and
 - In the absence of a Complaint made by a Complainant, or in the event of the withdrawal of any or all of the allegations in a Complaint, determining whether to initiate a Complaint.

Students have the right to file a Formal Complaint in accordance with Board Policy 116, Freire Charter School Wilmington's Title Full IX Policy. To request a copy of the full policy or for more information on how to file a Formal Complaint and the School's investigatory and decision-making process, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, Marley Luke (marley.luke@freirewilmington.org).

Appropriate counseling will be provided for any individuals impacted by sexual harassment or sexual assault.

If you or someone you know is a victim of Title IX Sexual Harassment or Retaliation, please fill out [THIS FORM](#).

The Full Title IX Policy and its procedures can be found on our website.

BOARD POLICY 126: CODE OF CIVILITY

PURPOSE

Freire Charter School Wilmington (the “School”) believes that maintaining an environment supportive of learning and free of disruptive conduct is important to the success of our children’s education. To further this goal, it is the intent of the School to promote, through this policy, mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct between and among Board members, school staff and administrators, parents/guardians, students, volunteers, coaches, and members of the public. It is also the intent of this policy to encourage positive communication and to discourage disruptive, volatile, hostile or aggressive communication or actions. Furthermore, this policy is intended to maintain, to the extent possible, a safe, harassment-free workplace for teachers, students, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians and the public.

The Board of Directors encourages its members, school staff and administrators, parents/guardians, students, volunteers, coaches, and members of the public to participate in maintaining a clear expectation of civil conduct and problem-solving throughout the School. The School is committed to support this expectation and will not condone or accept uncivil conduct (see definition) on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or in verbal, written or electronic communications whether by Board members, school staff and administrators, parents/guardians, volunteers, coaches, or members of the public.

While this policy may apply to incidents involving students, this policy is not intended to supplant the Charter School’s Student Code of Conduct, and nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit the Charter School’s response to student behaviors. The Student Code of Conduct, and the procedures thereunder, shall be used by the Charter School to investigate and/or impose disciplinary consequences for students engaging in behavior that would otherwise constitute a violation of this policy.

DEFINITIONS

A person will be deemed to have engaged in “Uncivil Conduct” when the person threatens the health, safety or welfare of any members of the school community, places another person in reasonable fear of imminent harm, disrupts the orderly operations of the School or in cases where the conduct affects a substantial Charter School interest or has continuing effects on Charter School Property or at a Charter School sponsored or related activity/event.

By way of example, “Uncivil Conduct” includes, but is not limited to, behaviors such as:

- directing vulgar, obscene or profane gestures or words at another individual;
- taunting, jeering, inciting others to taunt or jeer at an individual;
- repeatedly interrupting another individual who is speaking at an appropriate time and place or raising one’s voice in anger at another person;

- imposing personal demands at times or in settings where they conflict with assigned duties and cannot reasonably be met;
- using derogatory and/or personal epithets or slurs; gesturing in a manner that puts another in fear for his/her personal safety; or
- invading someone's personal space after being directed to move away, physically blocking an individual's exit from a room or location, remaining in a classroom or school area after a teacher or administrator in authority has directed one to leave.

It is not the intent of this policy to deprive any member of the school community of the right to free expression of ideas or the exercise of a right to which they are entitled. "Uncivil Conduct" does not include the expression of controversial or differing viewpoints that may be offensive to some persons, so long as: 1) the ideas are presented in a respectful manner and at a time and place that are appropriate, and 2) such expression does not materially disrupt, and may not be reasonably anticipated to disrupt, the educational process.

GUIDELINES

Individuals who perceive that they are being treated in a way that violates this policy are urged to resolve their concerns promptly through direct communication by respectfully (a) requesting that the person cease engaging in the Uncivil Conduct; and/or (b) notifying the Head of School, Assistant Head of School, and/or Freire School Network Office Administrator that the Uncivil Conduct is occurring.

Individuals reporting alleged violations of this policy may be asked to submit the report in writing to the Head of School.

Individuals who violate this policy may have restrictions imposed on their access to School including restrictions on their right to be present in the School building, on School property or to attend School events. Restrictions may also be imposed on interactions with school staff member(s).

Severe or persistent acts of Uncivil Conduct may violate other School rules or policies such as the policies against Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, Bullying, and Student Code of Conduct. Violation of such policies may result in further action as applicable. Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the ability of school administration to maintain order and discipline in the schools or to enforce school rules and applicable policies and laws.

DELEGATION

The Head of School or designee shall establish procedures consistent with the provisions of policy.

BOARD POLICY 208: STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Freire Charter School Wilmington provides students with computer equipment, computer services, the system network, and Internet access, and other technological equipment and resources. Freire Charter School Wilmington has the right to place reasonable restrictions on this privilege.

All access and rights are privileges granted by Freire Charter School Wilmington and students should have no expectation of privacy in the contents of personal files and access. The situation is similar to the rights you have in the privacy of your locker. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect privacy with regard to any files stored on school or cloud servers. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the Freire Charter School Wilmington system may lead to discovery that this policy, the Freire Charter School Wilmington Code of Conduct, or the law has been violated. In these cases, students will be held accountable to the expectations of the school and the law.

All users agree to abide by applicable federal, state, and local laws and Freire Charter School Wilmington rules when using Freire Charter School Wilmington technology. Freire Charter School Wilmington will not assume legal or other responsibility for any use deemed unacceptable or for any content students find online.

The use of Freire Charter School Wilmington technology is a privilege, not a right, and the purpose of this agreement is to define acceptable and unacceptable use of computer equipment, computer services, the system network, and the Internet, and other technological equipment and resources as defined by Freire Charter School Wilmington. Unacceptable use, as defined by this agreement, or at the discretion of the Technology Director, staff, or administration, may result in restriction or cancellation of access (even for required coursework) as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

PROCEDURE 208A: STUDENT TECHNOLOGY

Technology resources are defined as any electronic tool, device, program, or system that aids the academic environment for a student. Technology includes:

- All computer software and hardware including student chromebooks
- Cell phones, tablets, and smart watches
- Analog and digital networks (e.g., data, video, audio, voice, and multimedia)
- Email systems and communications technologies
- Servers, routers, hubs, switches, and Internet gateways
- Administrative systems, media systems, and learning information systems
- Smart Boards
- Related and forthcoming systems and new technologies

Acceptable Use

Acceptable use of Freire Charter School Wilmington technology is any use that is consistent with the educational objectives of Freire Charter School Wilmington and in accordance with the Freire Charter School Wilmington Code of Conduct. This includes academic work, college exploration and research, and employment exploration and research. For further clarification on uses not listed here, please refer to the Technology Director. All use is subject to review by the Technology Director, staff, and administration.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are on school grounds and in the community. Communications on the network are often public in nature and general school rules apply. Students must respect the rights of others in both the school community and in the global community.

Unacceptable Use

These rules provide general guidelines and examples of prohibited uses for illustrative purposes but do not attempt to state all required or prohibited activities by students. General examples of unacceptable uses which are expressly prohibited include but are not limited to the following:

- **Illegal Activity** – It is unacceptable use to promote or engage in any activities which are deemed criminal under federal, state or local laws.
 - Copyright Laws – It is a violation of copyright laws to copy, distribute, display, exhibit, or perform copyrighted works without authority of the owner of the copyright. A copyright notice is not required.
 - Students may not utilize peer-to-peer file-sharing applications or execute programs to facilitate the downloading or exchange of copyrighted or unauthorized music, movies, and other intellectual property, etc.
 - Students may not use the Freire Charter School Wilmington network to arrange for the purchase of illegal substances or alcohol, engage in criminal activity, or threaten the safety of any person(s).

- **Plagiarism** – Students may not plagiarize works that they find on the Internet or other resources.

- **Vandalism** – It is unacceptable to harm or destroy the hardware, software or data of another user, whether at Freire Charter School Wilmington or at any site connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the creation or spreading of computer viruses. **If a student breaks a piece of equipment while using it, the family of the student is responsible for replacing that equipment.**

- **Security** – Under no conditions should you provide your password to another person. Users are responsible for the security of their account. Users may be held accountable for actions performed under their account name if it has been determined that their account was negligently left accessible. It is also unacceptable to change individual or system passwords. If a user suspects their account security has been compromised they are required to immediately contact an administrator. It is unacceptable to trespass in others' folders, work, or files or to use or to attempt to use another's account, including the System Administrators' accounts. It is unacceptable to post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption.

- **Offensive Behavior and Harassment** – It is unacceptable to harass, insult, or attack others. It is unacceptable to send or receive any data, which is offensive and/or obscene according to the Freire Charter School Wilmington Code of Conduct. *Note that Freire may consider an action to be harassment regardless of whether it is considered harassment under the law. Any repeated or unwanted communication may constitute harassment. Any communication with the direct intention of harassing, threatening, implying, or otherwise causing harm to individuals and classes of individuals is a violation of school policy. Be sure to save copies of all harassing material. Provide hard copies to the Technology Director, staff, and/or administration. Harassment is taken very seriously at Freire Charter School Wilmington, and anyone who makes false accusations will be penalized. Kinds of Harassment include:*
 - Sending/forwarding unsolicited email, junk mail, or propagating chain letters.
 - Email “bombing,” spamming, etc.
 - Inappropriate images, text, audio, commentary, etc. that demeans based on ethnicity, race, religion, sexuality, sexual orientation, age, class, disability, etc.

- Forging electronic information.
 - Creating, altering, or deleting the attribution of origin (“from” in email, IP address headers, etc.).
 - Sending messages under someone else’s address or posing as another user in any way.
- **Respect for Resource Limits** – It is unacceptable to intentionally waste limited computer resources. It is unacceptable to download large files. It is unacceptable to post or forward chain letters, send “bomb” emails, or engage in “spamming.” Sending numerous or large email messages to one person is considered “email bombing.” Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.
 - **Respect for Privacy** – It is unacceptable to repost a message that was sent to you privately without permission of the person who sent you the message. It is unacceptable to post private information about another person.
 - **Personal Safety** – It is unacceptable to post personal contact information about yourself or other people. Personal contact information includes your address, telephone, work address, etc. It is unacceptable to agree to meet with someone you have met online for non-academic reasons. This is subject to review by the Technology Director, staff, or administration.
 - **Commercial Use** – It is unacceptable to offer, provide, or purchase products or services through FCS.
 - **System Tampering** – Any unauthorized alteration of operating systems, individual accounts, software, networking facilities, and/or other programs.
 - **Obscenity** – Students may not use the network to access material that is profane or obscene. This includes pornography, inappropriate music or text, etc.

Inappropriate Content

The policy above states that students may not access any obscene or inappropriate content, that students should have no expectation of privacy, and that system monitoring may lead to the school discovering violations. Freire takes this issue extremely seriously and will issue consequences for violations.

Students are monitored by a service such as Gaggle, which uses technology and trained professionals evaluate content 24 hours a day for potentially harmful content, messages, documents, images and more. If there is discovery of objectionable content or a potentially harmful situation, the monitoring service alerts the school. Programs such as Gaggle are also required by federal law to report suspected child pornography to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

If Freire’s automated monitoring system discovers that a student has accessed, stored or sent sexually explicit or inappropriate images, the school will impose discipline and parents and law enforcement will be notified if we suspect the student has committed a crime.

CHROMEBOOK USE

Freire Wilmington is issuing each student in grades 8-12 a Chromebook. This network-wide investment in student technology will enable us to facilitate student learning during times of prolonged virtual learning, while also enhancing our long-term ability to develop students’ 21st Century skills including technology literacy, critical and creative thinking, and problem-solving.

The computing device will allow students to direct their own learning and have a greater reliance on active learning strategies. Students will be able to transfer knowledge across disciplines. The increased access to technology will enhance instruction and provide more achievement opportunities for our students.

Software: Only legally licensed software/applications, media, or other data is permitted on the Chromebook. As this computer is the property of Freire Charter School Wilmington, we have the ability to install and uninstall software at our discretion and remotely. Students may not download software/applications, media (including songs, photos, videos) without a Freire Charter School Wilmington’s or Freire Schools Network Office employee’s prior approval.

- Students MAY NOT replace the provided operating system on the Chromebook with any custom software or applications.
- Students MAY NOT remove or modify any school-installed software/applications.

Privacy: The Chromebooks provided are Freire Charter School Wilmington property; therefore, any Freire Charter School Wilmington or Freire Schools employee may examine the Chromebooks and search their contents at any time for any reason.

Neither students nor parents/guardians have any right to privacy of any data saved on the Chromebook or in any Freire Charter School Wilmington network drives. Freire Charter School Wilmington and the Freire Schools Network Office has the ability to remotely monitor student activity on this Chromebook and will do so at its discretion. The School will never access the camera when the camera has not been activated by the student.

Furthermore, Electronic mail, network usage, and all stored files shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by designated Freire Charter School Wilmington or Freire Schools staff to ensure appropriate use. Freire Charter School Wilmington cooperates fully with local, state or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to violations of computer crime laws, and may give proper authorities access to email, files, and network usage data during the course of an investigation.

Saving Files: Students should not save files on the device. Freire Charter School Wilmington will provide students locations to save their school-related work. All files left on the Chromebook will be erased upon its return, and the school can take back the device at any time. Freire Wilmington and the Freire Schools Network Office accepts no responsibility for lost files. Therefore, students should never use the Chromebook to store information or files intended for personal use.

Remote Access: As these devices are being distributed during a school closure, there may be times with Freire School IT staff need to access your device remotely for installation of software or IT support. Students and parents are expected to comply with all requests for access. Freire Charter School Wilmington and the Freire Schools Network Office also has the ability to remotely access the Chromebook for purposes, such as locating a lost device, software or program updates, IT support, etc., and may do so without notice to you or your child.

School Rules: All rules, policies, and procedures of Freire Charter School Wilmington that apply to students in school apply while using the Chromebook. School administrators may develop additional rules regarding use of the device in the future.

Media Access & Safety: Students will have access to all available forms of electronic media (websites, videos, files, etc.) and communication which are in support of Freire Charter School Wilmington's educational goals and objectives. Some media and content have been blocked to better ensure the safety of our students. These filters do not replace the importance of parents/guardians in monitoring student Chromebook usage. Parents are expected to be partners in ensuring students' Internet safety.

Acceptable Use: All acceptable and unacceptable uses of technology outlined in the technology policies apply to student chromebooks.

Personal Use & Use by Others – The Chromebook is intended solely for the Freire student's educational use. Students are not permitted to use the computer for personal use. Family members and others are not permitted to use the Freire Charter School Wilmington computer for any reason except for assisting a Freire student with a school activity or using the device. Parent use to participate in a parent-school family meeting is acceptable.

Login Information: Students must log in only with their provided account information. Students may not provide their passwords to others. Users may be held accountable for actions performed under their account name if it has been determined that their account was negligently left accessible. If a user suspects their account security has been compromised they are required to immediately contact Freire Schools IT Support.

ZOOM EXPECTATIONS

All participants will be held to the following expectations during Zoom sessions:

- Participants will use appropriate language (no cursing, no derogatory language, no disrespect or yelling) during Zoom sessions.
- Participants will mute themselves when they are not speaking to limit background noise.
- Participants will be a positive contributor during the online environment
- Participants should dress appropriately during the session i.e. no revealing or obscene clothing.
- Participants should be in a quiet space; background noise from your home distracts others.
- Participants may not use personalized backgrounds; they may distract from learning.
- The chat feature in Zoom should be used appropriately and be focused on academic conversations. The teacher may disable this feature at her/his discretion.
- Participants will not be allowed to screen share unless given permission by Freire staff.
- Participants may not edit the shared screen of any zoom participant.

Please be advised that Zoom sessions may serve as a virtual classroom at times. All rules from your physical classroom inside of our Freire Charter School Wilmington building still apply to the virtual, at home classroom. Inappropriate language, defiance, disruption, and disrespect will and can result in removal from the Zoom learning experience. **The Code of Conduct applies to students any time during the Zoom call, whether it be on video or in the 'chat'. If a student is removed from the Zoom learning space, they will be required to meet virtually with either a Dean or a member from the Admin Team before reintegrating into the Zoom.** If the behavior continues, the student will be removed from the Zoom session for the remainder of the day and will have a follow-up conversation with their parents and guardians. At that time, it will be determined how the student can be best supported moving forward and reintegrated into future Zoom Session.

We are fully confident that our students will continue to breathe FIRE and uphold the Freire way in this new virtual setting. Please remember that we are a community that supports and lifts one another. Maintaining a safe and productive Zoom classroom is paramount to student success.

Please be aware that as with most software and websites, you are agreeing to Zoom's terms of use, including their privacy and data sharing provisions.

RECORDING OF STUDENTS

By having your child participate in audio/visual virtual learning or in-classroom learning where a teacher may be recording for virtual learning students, you give consent for their likeness, voice, and statements to be recorded as needed for educational purposes. Participation constitutes your consent under any applicable privacy laws, including the Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 2402(c)(4).

BOARD POLICY 208B: CELL PHONE & ELECTRONICS POLICY

Freire recognizes the importance of communication and collaboration and provides devices for students to be productive in the classroom. To keep the focus on academics and to reduce unnecessary distractions, the Head of School is authorized to develop a system of procedures and consequences related to topics including, but not limited to, cell phone use. See below for the School's Cell Phone & Electronics Procedures.

PROCEDURE 208B: STUDENT CELL PHONES & ELECTRONICS

Phones are not to be used during school. Every student is assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

DAILY PROCESS

As students Arrive to School and before proceeding to classrooms they will:

1. Turn their phone off.
2. Place their phone inside their Pouch and secure it in front of school staff.
3. Store their Pouch in their backpack for the day.

At the end of the day, or if a student is permitted to leave campus for lunch, students will open their Pouch, remove their phone, close their Pouch and put it in their backpack. Students must bring their Pouch to school with them each day. Upon reentering the school building, the cell phone must again be pouch.

*Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the Main Office.

LEAVING CAMPUS AT LUNCH

If a student is eligible to leave campus for lunch, they are able to unlock their pouch and retrieve their phone for use outside of the building only. Upon return from lunch, students have to “repouch” their phones in the presence of a staff member, similar to the process of arriving to school at the beginning of the day.

VIOLATIONS

Pouch Damage / Lost Pouch / Using Phone During School

If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home for:

- The Parent to come to the school and Pick Up their child’s phone or the phone may be confiscated overnight
- Additional Consequences may include: Community Service / In-School Suspension / Detention

Examples of damage:

- Ripped
- Cut
- Torn
- Pen/pencil marks
- Bent/cut pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap

FORGOTTEN POUCH

If a student forgets their Pouch, their phone will be collected and Admin will call home to remind the Parent of the policy. The phone will be returned to the student at dismissal.

If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it is considered lost and the student will need to purchase another pouch for \$30.

If a student loses or damages the pouch the student will need to purchase another pouch for \$30.

PERSONAL PROPERTY LIABILITY

Freire Charter School Wilmington is not financially responsible for students’ or community members’ personal property brought onto the school’s campus, or to any school activities regardless of location, in the event they are damaged, stolen, misplaced, or lost. Students and visitors are responsible for ensuring that their personal property is secured against theft or loss at all times. Valuables should never be left unsecured and unattended. While the School will take all necessary precautions to adequately secure all cell phones and other electronic devices confiscated pursuant to this policy, the School is not financially responsible for any property, including but not limited to cell phones and other electronic devices that a student voluntarily brings to school.

IV. ACADEMIC POLICIES

GENERAL PROMOTION GUIDELINES

- Students receive academic credit for each class passed with a grade of 75% or higher. Any final year grade under 75% earns no credit.

- Any student failing one or two classes in an academic year will be required to attend summer school at Freire for each class failed. Summer school attendance is mandatory.
- In order to enter 12th grade (senior year) at Freire, each student must have earned 18 credits by September 15th of senior year. Only students with 18 credits are eligible to participate in Senior Activities.
- Students will be retained (i.e., required to repeat a grade) in the following situations and at the discretion of the Head of School:
 - Any student who earns less than four credits (i.e. fails three classes) in an academic year will be retained. The student will be required to repeat the grade level in its entirety (i.e. take all 6 classes over again). At the discretion of the Head of School and if space permits, a student who receives above an 80% in any non-failed class may elect to take the next grade level of that class.
 - Any student missing a total of three or more credits by the end of the school year (June) will be automatically retained. One example of this would be a 10th grade student who never made up a 9th grade credit and then failed two classes during 10th grade—thus, missing three credits total now. The student will be required to repeat the grade level taking a mix of classes from their previous years at Freire.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

CREDIT ACCUMULATION

Students must earn twenty-four (24) credits in order to graduate. All credits must be earned in the following manner:

Mathematics	4.00 credits required Must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and 12th Grade Math
English	4.00 credits required Must include English I, English II, English III, and 12th Grade English
Science	4.00 credits required Must include Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, & 12th Grade Science
Social Sciences	3.00 credits required Must include World Cultures, U.S. History, and Peace & Social Change
World Languages	3.00 credits required Must include Spanish I, Spanish II, and Spanish III
Physical Education	1.00 credit required
Health	0.50 credits required
Career Pathway	3.00 credits required
Electives	1.50 credits required

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Any student who fails three (3) or more credits will be required to repeat their senior year in its entirety.

- All students have until September 15th of their graduation year to complete all graduation requirements. A student is no longer eligible to earn a diploma from Freire Charter School Wilmington after September 15th of their graduation year.
- The graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right.
 - In order to participate in graduation, you must pass all of your senior year classes and pass all Senior Project requirements. Any student with a failing grade in any class on their current schedule, or an incomplete Senior Project, will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony.
 - Students who have severely violated the Code of Conduct may be prohibited from participating in graduation ceremonies at the discretion of the Head of School. In the case of graduating students, receipt of diploma may be delayed until discipline matters have been settled.
 - All outstanding student fees must be paid in full.

GRADING POLICY

- Grades incorporate a student's work in the following areas:
 - Homework
 - Class Participation/Classwork
 - Major Projects, Tests, or Projects
 - Quizzes
 - Other forms of teacher-generated assessments
 - Midterm/Final Exams
- Grades must reflect the following percentage assignment: 70% demonstrated mastery of material and 30% effort (homework and participation).

Most courses count for one credit unit (C.U.). Other courses may be assigned less credit. How much credit a course is assigned varies depending upon how frequently the course meets, for how much time it meets, as well as the particular requirements for that course.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS

Freire teachers will give midterms at the end of the first semester and final exams at the end of the second semester. Freire will follow amended schedules during these testing days. There will be one exam make-up day for absent students.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS FOR EXAMS

During exams, all students must:

- Study hard and come prepared for their exams
- Report to each exam ON TIME
- Stay for entire testing period for final exams (no early dismissals)
- Take an exam for each subject

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM WEIGHTING

Midterm and final exams will count as 10% of the semester grade.

SENIOR EXEMPTION

Any Senior holding a 93% average in a class as of the last grade check prior to final exams will be exempt from taking the final exam for that class. **(12th grade ONLY)**

PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences are held in the fall so that students can use their teachers' feedback in order to directly impact their grade for the remainder of the year. All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to meet with every teacher, regardless of how successful the student's performance may be. In some cases, conferences are mandatory for parents/guardians.

Conferences during other times during the school year can also be arranged by contacting the teacher directly.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Please see the section on Student Attendance under General Policies and Provisions for the School's make-up policies.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PROCEDURE

Freire students are expected to create their own original work at all times. Any student who copies work from another student, another written source, or the Internet will not receive credit for that work. Students who copy work and students who allow their work to be copied will receive disciplinary action. Students who copy work from other students or allow theirs to be copied more than twice in one year may be brought to the Board for expulsion.

CONSEQUENCES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

- 1st Offense – Consequence assigned by the Head of School
- 2nd Offense – Parent meeting and academic contract
- 3rd Offense – Informal hearing and recommendation for expulsion

NOTE: Plagiarism is the practice of claiming, or implying, original authorship or incorporating material from someone else's written or creative work, in whole or in part, into one's own without adequate acknowledgment.

V. GENERAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

BOARD POLICY 252: SCHOOL FAMILY INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Freire Charter School Wilmington is fully committed to finding meaningful and mutually enriching ways for parents to participate in our school to serve as partners in improving the quality of teaching and learning for all of our students and at every level. The Board reviews this policy annually, updating as needed to reflect current circumstances.

- An annual parent survey to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools. This survey also asks parents to provide feedback on the following:
 - Barriers to greater participation in activities,
 - The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including with school personnel and teachers,
 - Strategies to support successful and family interactions.
- A minimum of two meetings annually where parents are invited to help develop the Title 1 Plan and revise Parent Engagement Policy. These meetings include time to:
 - Review parent survey results

- Review performance data
- Provide input into development of Title I plan including performance measures, spending plan/budget, and strategies for improving parent engagement.
- Numerous opportunities for parents to be involved in the activities of the school including:
 - New Parent Clinic
 - Back to School Night
 - Student-Parent-Teacher conferences
 - Family meetings/info sessions where a member of the Freire Charter School Wilmington staff presents on relevant topics such as college application process and Act 158 graduation requirements
- Strategies to engage families and communicate with them:
 - Family meetings for all students identified as needing additional supports, held either at the home of the student or at the school.
 - Each grade level has a dedicated academic advisor. This individual reaches out to the family of any student failing one or more classes at the conclusion of the first semester so that a family meeting can be scheduled and appropriate measures taken to support the student.
 - Freire's student report cards also offer information beyond the traditional content of grades, teacher comments, and attendance information. Our report cards provide parents with their student's progress on standardized tests, a record of their behavior, and information on their student's participation in extracurricular activities.
- Title 1 coordinator/network office federal programs manager attend conferences and trainings, meet annually with the school's academic leaders to plan and monitor implementation of parent engagement activities
- Freire Charter School Wilmington coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs including IDEA/Special Education parent training, annual notices for English learners, and the development of our schoolwide plans.

POLICY 125: ABUSIVE CONDUCT

Freire Charter School Wilmington (the "Charter School") believes that a safe, civil environment is essential to the success of its staff and students. The administration and staff are held to high standards with regard to the respectful treatment of parents/guardians and other members of the public and expect the same consideration in return. This Policy has been developed in addition to the applicable policies governing staff and student expectations of conduct. The Charter School is committed to maintaining a positive school environment for students, staff, and community members and will work to limit any Abusive Conduct that may occur towards any staff member/administrator by the School Community.

ABUSIVE CONDUCT IN SCHOOLS

If any member of the School Community engages in Abusive Conduct towards any Charter School Employee while on Charter School property, at a Charter School sponsored or related activity or event, or utilizing Charter School electronic communications/social media, the Charter School Employee may: (a) request that the person cease engaging in the Abusive Conduct; and/or (b) notify the Head of School, Assistant Head of School, Charter School Advocate, and/or Network Office Administrator that the Abusive Conduct is occurring. If so notified, the Head of School, Assistant Head of School, Charter School Advocate, and/or Network Office Administrator shall assess and determine if the behavior is Abusive and may: (a) take action to end the Abusive Conduct and prevent its recurrence including by requesting the person engaging in the Abusive Conduct leave Charter School property or the Charter School sponsored or related event (even if located off Charter School property); and/or (b) contact law enforcement. Nothing herein shall prevent any Charter School

Employee from directly and immediately contacting law enforcement to report Abusive Conduct or other safety concerns.

REPORTING ABUSIVE CONDUCT

The Charter School can respond to specific instances and allegations of Abusive Conduct only if it is aware of them and therefore encourages Charter School Employees who believe they have experienced Abusive Conduct to come forward promptly with inquiries, reports, or complaints.

REMEDY FOR ABUSIVE CONDUCT

Should any member of the School Community perpetuate Abusive Conduct towards any Charter School Employee, the Charter School may consider options to limit and monitor interaction and communications including, but not limited to: Directing that any necessary communications between the involved individuals be channeled through the Head of School, Assistant Head of School, Charter School Advocate, and/or Network Office Administrator; and removing the individual in question from Charter School property or from the Charter School sponsored or related activity or event (even if located off Charter School property).

DOCUMENTATION

This Policy will be posted electronically on the Charter School's website and the Charter School will make all efforts to distribute this Policy to members of the Charter School Community during the member's first encounter with the Charter School. However, receipt of this Policy by a member of the Charter School Community is not a prerequisite to the Charter School's ability to enforce the provisions contained herein.

When it is determined by a Charter School Employee that a member of the Charter School Community is in the process of violating or has violated any provision of this Policy, the Charter School Employee will immediately notify his/her supervisor and provide a written report of the incident.

DEFINITIONS

1. School Community means:
 - a. Former Charter School students involved in any Charter School sponsored or related activity or event;
 - b. Former Charter School Employees involved in any Charter School sponsored or related activity or event;
 - c. Parents and guardians of current or former Charter School students (if the parents or guardians of former students are involved in a Charter School sponsored or related activity or event);
 - d. Vendors (including any representative or employee thereof) doing business or engaging with the Charter School in any way;
 - e. Members of the Board of Directors;
 - f. Volunteers (or any representative or employee thereof) engaging with the Charter School in any way; or
 - g. Any member of the public involved in any Charter School sponsored or related activity or event.
2. Abusive Conduct means any conduct, speech, or actions directed towards a Charter School Employee which:
 - a. Based on their severity, nature, and frequency of occurrence, a reasonable person would determine are intended to cause intimidation, humiliation, or unwarranted distress, result in substantial physical or psychological harm, or exploit a Charter School Employee's known physical or psychological disability;
 - b. Are intended to cause distress and/or harm, exist in a relationship in which there is an imbalance of power, and are repeated over time;
 - c. Involve the use of obscene, discriminatory, and/or otherwise patently offensive language or gestures;
 - d. Are otherwise harassing, demeaning, or threatening;

- e. Involve use of the Internet, a cell phone, or another device to send or post text, video, or images with the intent or knowledge, or with reckless disregard for the possibility that the text, video, or image will hurt, embarrass, or threaten a Charter School Employee, regardless of whether the person against whom it is committed directs, consents, acquiesces, or voluntarily accesses the electronic communication; or Amount to unauthorized or prohibited entry onto Charter School property, or the failure to leave Charter School property when directed to do so.
3. Charter School Employee means:
 - a. A Charter School teacher;
 - b. A Charter School staff member;
 - c. A Charter School administrator; or
 - d. Any other individual who is employed, directly or indirectly, by the Charter School.

RESPONSIBILITY

Charter School Leadership and Administration shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this Policy.

TITLE I

Freire invites parents to attend an annual Titles I, II, and IV informational meeting, held in conjunction with back to school night. At this meeting, we explain the purpose and requirements of Title I programs, describe how Freire participates in the program, and detail how the school is spending its Title I funding in the current school year. School representatives review parents' right to be involved, provide the complaint procedure, and identify Freire's federal programs coordinator. At this time, we solicit feedback from parents on topics including how Freire is spending Title I funds, the quality of the school-parent compact, and this Family Involvement Policy. School administrators consider any feedback received when seeking to make improvements at the next relevant annual opportunity (e.g. policy updates, budgeting, program planning, etc.).

As the school creates, improves, and implements its Title I Schoolwide Program, the planning team takes into account parent feedback received at the annual Title I informational meeting, comments from regular monthly parent association meetings, survey results, and relevant informal suggestions made by parents.

School events that provide opportunities for parent involvement throughout the year are held at a variety of times, both during the school day and in the evening.

Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

PARENT RIGHTS UNDER TITLE I

Under Title I, Part A, Freire parents have the right to:

- Be involved in our Title I, Part A programs – Freire, with the help of its parents, will develop and implement a Title I Family Involvement Policy and a School-Parent Compact
- Request regular meetings – Requests for meetings to discuss Title I programs should be put in writing and submitted to the Federal Programs Coordinator.
- Know teacher and paraprofessional qualifications – Parents may request, and Freire then will provide, certain information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to their child. Requests should be put in writing and submitted to the Federal Programs Coordinator.

PARENT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Freire Charter School is fully committed to finding meaningful and mutually enriching ways for parents to participate in our school to serve as partners in improving the quality of teaching and learning for all of our students and at every level. As a recipient of Title I funds, Freire abides by a Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The policy is updated annually, with input from parents and students, distributed at parent meetings, delivered through our website, and is included in the student handbook. The policy describes the means for carrying out Title I Parent and Family Engagement Requirements [Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)].

This policy states how Freire involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I Plan and be partners in their child's education.

- An annual parent survey to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all school. This survey also asks parents to provide feedback on the following:
 - Barriers to greater participation in activities,
 - The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including with school personnel and teachers,
 - Strategies to support successful and family interactions.
- A minimum of two meetings annually where parents are invited to help develop the Title I Plan and revise Parent Engagement Policy. These meetings include time to:
 - Review parent survey results
 - Review performance data
 - Provide input into development of Title I plan including performance measures, spending plan/budget, and strategies for improving parent engagement.
 - Evaluate and amend school-parent compact
- Numerous opportunities for parents to be involved in the activities of the school including:
 - New Parent Clinic
 - Back to School Night
 - Student-Parent-Teacher conferences
 - Exhibition Nights
- Strategies to engage families and communicate with them:
 - Family meetings for all students identified as needing additional supports, held either at the home of the student or at the school.
 - Each grade level has a dedicated academic advisor. This individual reaches out to the family of any student failing one or more classes at the conclusion of the first semester so that a family meeting can be scheduled and appropriate measures taken to support the student.
 - Freire's student report cards also offer information beyond the traditional content of grades, teacher comments, and attendance information. Our report cards provide parents with their student's progress on standardized tests, a record of their behavior, and information on their student's participation in extracurricular activities.
- Support programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school, including sessions on financial literacy and FAFSA completion.

- Title I coordinator/network office federal programs manager attend conferences and trainings, meet annually with the school's academic leaders to plan and monitor implementation of parent engagement activities
- Freire coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs including IDEA/Special Education parent training, annual notices for English learners, and the development of our Consolidated Application.

PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION

It is essential that parents keep their contact information on file with the school up to date at all times. The school may need to reach parents in emergencies, to notify them of incidents involving their child at school, or for other important reasons. Parents must therefore contact the school any time there is a change to their address, phone number, or email address.

CONTRACT FOR EXCELLENCE (THE COMPACT)

From the students themselves to their parents/guardians, teachers, and support staff – each and every member of the school community has a critical role to play in supporting success for our learners. To make sure each individual knows their role in the process, all community members must agree to and sign the Freire Contract for Excellence which was developed jointly with parents.

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Each child has an Academic Advisor at Freire. The job of the academic advisor is to support students in their academic growth by following student progress on a regular basis, communicating with a student's parent/guardian in times of concern, helping to link students to the extra help and support centers Freire has available to all students, and helping to ensure that the staff at school and parents at home are doing all we can to support our students' academic success. When requested by parents, academic advisors will also facilitate regular meetings that provide parents with an opportunity to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM

Another fundamental way that we support parents in helping their children's achievement and potential soar is through our emotional support team. Freire's emotional support team serves all students in need of therapy on a regular basis. Students meet with either our in-house certified family therapist or one of the handful of graduate school interns studying the science of emotional support and working closely at our family therapist's direction. Any and all family members of a Freire student are also welcome to participate in emotional support therapy sessions.

PARENT CONCERNS

When parents/guardians have a concern about something going on in a classroom or at the school, the best thing to do is first contact their child's Academic Advisor or classroom teacher to discuss the matter. After that, if the situation still has not been resolved, the parent needs to contact either the Assistant Head of Academics (for any matters relating to teaching and learning in the school) the Head of Climate, or the Head of School (for any matters in the school not directly related to teaching and learning). If the concern is not resolved at the school level, or if a community member wishes to make a specific complaint to the Board, they can provide notice to the Head of School who can relay their concern to the Board and set aside time on a meeting agenda when appropriate. Parents and community members may attend any board meeting and present a statement during the public comment period, but are encouraged to share any specific concerns beforehand so that the board can best address them. The Board will review the complaint and come to a final decision as quickly as possible.

PARENT CONDUCT

All parents must represent Freire and Freire's values at all times. While this rarely, if ever, occurs at Freire, in the case that a parent/guardian comes to the school or to a school event and is not conducting him/herself appropriately or violating our school safety policies, that parent/guardian will be asked to leave the school property, and, if necessary, law enforcement may be called. Severe instances may lead to a parent/guardian being permanently prohibited from entering school property and/or school events.

EDUCATION FOR OUR EDUCATORS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Every Freire staff member participates in at least two trainings per school year on effectively partnering with parents to maximize student achievement. One of these trainings is held during our start of the year staff orientation, and the second at one of our regularly scheduled staff professional development sessions. Issues about differences in culture, expectation, communication styles, etc. are addressed.

Additionally, administrative personnel and school leaders participate in ongoing informal conversations regarding how to support parents and their students most effectively. One of the primary roles of our Academic Advisors is to serve as a liaison to and for parents with the school and to make sure to give voice to parent concerns, feedback, and positive experiences.

UNDERSTANDABLE COMMUNICATION

Freire has an accurate perception of the number of our parents for whom English is not their first language as a result of input provided on a Home Language Survey that parents are required to complete when a student first enrolls in the school. As a result, we are able to support these parents directly with a variety of resources including telephonic translation services provided by LanguageLine. Additionally, as part of a quarterly phone call held with parents of any ESL student the school, Freire is able to regularly check in with these parents to ensure that they fully understand communications from the school and provide additional support as needed. The school also maintains a relationship with a company called LanguageLine. This company provides translation services in approximately 170 languages and the school utilizes them when appropriate to ensure that the content of essential school communications can be understood by all parents.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tanza Pugliese, Compliance manager, Freire Schools Collaborative
1617 JFK Blvd Ste 580
Philadelphia PA 19103
(267) 583-4465
tanza@freireschools.org

OTHER IMPORTANT PARENT INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

At Freire, we are always working to form stronger, better partnerships with parents. Some of the ways in which we further this goal that have not been mentioned specifically above are:

- At least one parent serves on the school's Board of Directors.
- Parents receive a biweekly email newsletter updating them on school activities, events, issues, etc.
- Parents receive mailings frequently through the regular mail.
- Freire contracts with the SchoolMessenger service, which allows us to communicate information to parents via automated phone calls, text messages, and emails.
- Freire teachers are required to respond to every communication from a student's parents within a reasonable period of time.
- Freire teachers take the time to write comments on report cards thereby giving parents more specific information than just a grade.
- The interview process for hiring staff includes parent input when possible, and in particular when hiring senior administrative staff members.

FOSTER CARE POLICY

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Foster Care Provisions establish, enhance, and formalize collaborative working relationships between schools and child welfare agencies.

BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION

Freire ensures that foster students' best interests are in mind. This means that foster students shall remain at Freire (school of origin), unless it is determined that it is not in his/her best interest. If remaining at Freire is not in his/her best interest, immediate enrollment in a new school and the transfer of school records shall be carried out by Freire.

TRANSPORTATION

In collaboration with local child welfare agencies, Freire will develop written procedures for how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of a child's time in foster care.

FOSTER CARE POINT OF CONTACT (POC)

The Head of Climate, Ruble Harris, is Freire's Foster Care Point of Contact. The Foster Care POC will coordinate with state and local child welfare agencies, the State's Foster Care POC, and other school administrators regarding the following responsibilities:

- Facilitation of professional development and staff training of Title I foster care provisions and needs of foster students, as needed
- Best Interest Determination and documentation
- Transfer of student records, including immunizations, medical records, IEPs and Section 504 plans to ensure immediate enrollment
- Facilitation of data sharing and reporting, consistent with FERPA
- Development, implementation, and coordination of local transportation procedures
- Special education programming
- Ensuring the educational stability and safety of all foster students

HOMELESS STUDENTS POLICY

The Board of Directors ("Board") of Freire Charter School Wilmington ("School") recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other School students. The Board shall make reasonable efforts to identify children experiencing homelessness, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act and other federal and state law and regulations.

Specifically, Freire Charter School Wilmington shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children and youths.

The Board may waive policies, procedures and administrative regulations that create barriers for enrollment, attendance, transportation, and success in Schools of homeless students, based on the recommendation of the Head of Climate, Ruble Harris.

DEFINITIONS

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, and night-time residence, which include the following conditions:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.

- Living in emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations, or similar settings.
- Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
- Living as run-away children.
- Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents or caretakers.
- Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers if they have no other living accommodations.

MIGRATORY CHILDREN

The term “migratory children” means children who are, or whose parent or spouse are, migratory agricultural workers, including migratory dairy workers, or migratory fishermen, and who have moved from one school district to another in the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work, or to accompany a parent or spouse who is doing so.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Board designates the Head of Climate, Ruble Harris, or his designee to serve as the School's Liaison for homeless students and families.

THE SCHOOL LIAISON SHALL COORDINATE WITH:

- Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children, youth and families
- School districts on issues of records transfer, per pupil allocation, transportation and special education programs to ensure that homeless children who are in need of special education and related services are located, identified, and evaluated
- State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies

THE SCHOOL LIAISON HAS THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Identify homeless children and youth
- Inform parents or guardians of educational rights and related opportunities available to their children, and provide them with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children
- Disseminate public notice of the educational rights of homeless students where children and youth receive services under the Act and forms to such places as schools, family shelters, and food pantries
- Mediate enrollment disputes in accordance with the Enrollment Dispute section and ensure immediate enrollment pending resolution of disputes
- Inform the parent/guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, of all transportation options, including to the school of origin, and assist in accessing these transportation services
- Assist children and youth who do not have immunizations or immunization or medical records to obtain necessary immunizations or immunization or medical records
- Understand the Delaware Department of Education guidance issued for the education of homeless students in order to distribute information on the subject as well as to present workshops for school personnel, including office staff

BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION

The School ensures that the best interests of students and families experiencing homelessness are in mind. This means that homeless students shall remain at the School (school of origin), unless it is determined that it is not in his/her best interest. If remaining at the School is not in his/her best interest, the necessary transfer of school records shall be carried out by the School to ensure the student's immediate enrollment in a new school.

PPRA NOTICE AND CONSENT/OPT-OUT FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires Freire Charter School Wilmington to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

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

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

Freire Charter School Wilmington will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, notification of the surveys and activities. Parents will be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as an opportunity to review the surveys. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under state law.)

STUDENT RECORDS CONFIDENTIALITY

Freire Charter School Wilmington will comply with the guidance given in 14 Delaware Code § 4111 regarding disclosure of student records.

EXTERNAL RECORDS SHARING WITH ONLINE PLATFORMS

By participating in the 1:1 Chromebook program, as with most software and websites, you are agreeing to the terms of use and privacy and data sharing provisions, including those of G Suite, Google Classroom, Zoom, Edmentum (Study Island), IXL, GoGuardian, Gaggle, etc.

You can find the Terms of Service for these platforms below:

- G Suite: https://gsuite.google.com/terms/2013/1/premier_terms.html
- Zoom: <https://zoom.us/terms>
- Edmentum (Study Island): <https://www.edmentum.com/terms-of-use>
- IXL: <https://www.ixl.com/terms-of-service>
- GoGuardian: <https://www.goguardian.com/eula/>
- Gaggle: <https://cdn.gaggle.net/terms-of-service.html>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Head of School.

ANNUAL FERPA NOTIFICATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents 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 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Co-Heads of School a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Co-Heads of School, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. A few exceptions exist, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests or to any entity authorized to receive directory information as authorized by The Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESSA). With the exception of the parameters established in item 4 below, a school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent 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. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. In addition the school will release any and all information necessary to the Delaware Department of Education relating to student information either directory or not, that is necessary to ensure the proper operation of school functions and student safety. Also the school will provide authorized Military Recruiters access to directory information so that students can receive relevant information to future career opportunities.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Freire Charter School Wilmington is committed to complying with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title 14, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code.

IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Freire Charter School Wilmington provides and maintains special classes and facilities to meet the needs of our students with disabilities to the extent required by law. The School will identify, locate and evaluate, or reevaluate, any children with disabilities enrolled in the School, including children with disabilities who are homeless children or wards of the State, regardless of the severity of the disability, and who are in need of special education and related services.

PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES COUNCIL

Pursuant to 14 Delaware Code § 3125, parents of students with disabilities may form a council to advocate generally for students with disabilities and provide person-to-person support for individual parents and children. Such parents may also collaborate and coordinate with existing parent groups and other information and support groups, including those from other charter schools and school districts, to facilitate creation, maintenance, and effectiveness of a parent council. Such parents interested in forming such a council should contact the Co-Heads of School.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The State of Delaware imposes mandatory school attendance requirements for all public-school students. When a student accumulates excessive unexcused absences, Freire Charter School Wilmington must refer that student's case for prosecution and subsequent intervention by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families.

Only the following will be accepted as valid reasons for **excused absences** or tardiness:

1. Illness of the student – a physician's note will be required.
2. Scheduled appointments to a physical or mental healthcare provider, including, but not limited to, a physician, dentist, orthodontist, or psychologist (verified by a doctor's note).
3. Contagious diseases within the home of the student subject to regulations of the Division of Public Health and the Department of Health and Social Services.
4. Death in the family or of a close friend (verified by a funeral or death announcement).
5. Legal business requiring the student's presence.
6. Observance of religious holidays.
7. Remedial health treatment (verified by a doctor's note).
8. Absence, pre-approved by the administration, to participate in other educational experiences or authorized school activities.
9. Emergency situations as determined by the administration.
10. Suspension or expulsion from school.

A parental written note of explanation must be presented in order for any absence to be excused. All written notes must have a parent signature and must be received within three days of return to school. Notes may be faxed, handwritten, or emailed with a scanned signature. When applicable, formal documentation from a doctor's office, courthouse or other official that details the date of absence, reason for the absence, time of the appointment, and signature of the health care professional or other official need to be presented to explain the absence.

Absences for any other reason shall be considered unexcused.

If a student is absent for more than 50% of his or her total day's classes, the student may not participate in any school-sponsored after-school activities, except when excused by a building administrator or designee based upon documentation of a medical appointment or court date.

In order to be compliant with Delaware Code, these requirements apply at Freire Charter School Wilmington and include:

1. Following the **10th day of unexcused absence**, the school shall immediately notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) via phone call and mail.
2. Following the **15th day of unexcused absence**, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified by mail to appear at the school within 10 days of notification for a conference and counseling.
3. Following the **18th day of unexcused absence**, the school shall refer the case for prosecution at Magistrate Court. Following the completion of prosecution of the case and the subsequent failure of the student to return to school within five school days thereof, Freire shall immediately notify the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families requesting intervention services by the Department. The Department shall contact the family within 10 business days.
4. At the **20th day of excused or unexcused absence**, the school reserves the right to determine the student's status and deny course credit.

MISSED WORK & MAKE-UP PROCEDURES

HOW DO I MAKE UP WORK AFTER I HAVE BEEN ABSENT?

It is the responsibility of a student who has been absent to obtain missed work, homework, and assignments from the teachers.

PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCES

If a student knows ahead of time they will be absent or miss a class, they should make every effort to collect work from their teachers the day before and/or contact teachers or classmates about missed assignments before they return to school.

UNEXPECTED ABSENCES

- **Missed homework/class work policy:** Students who are absent must make up missed homework/class work assignments as soon as possible. The number of days a student is absent is equal to the number of days a student has to make up an assignment.
- **Missed quizzes/tests:** Students who are absent (excused or unexcused) on the day of a test or quiz will be expected to take the test or quiz on the day that they return to school, unless other arrangements have been made with their teachers. It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with a teacher to make up this missed test or quiz. Students who miss this make-up appointment will not be eligible to receive credit for this test or quiz.
- **Missed project/papers:** At a teacher's discretion, papers and other assignments that students knew about before being absent are due upon the student's return, or by email.

LATENESS

Any student who exhibits a pattern of habitual or excessive lateness will be required to attend a mandatory meeting. At this time the student will be placed on a contract with consequences to be discussed at the time of the meeting.

EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

- All students **MUST** be picked up personally by an authorized person if they need to leave prior to the end of the day.
- **THE ONLY EXCEPTION:** If your child has a prearranged medical appointment, they may be dismissed without being picked up **ONLY IF** they provide an official appointment card prior to the appointment. Otherwise, we will require an authorized person to come to the school to sign out the child.

- Please **DO NOT** call and request your child be released early, as we may not be able to comply with your request.
- **ONLY** adults listed as a parent, guardian or emergency contact may sign out a student for an early dismissal. Individuals NOT LISTED will not be allowed to pick up a student, **UNLESS** the parent/guardian provides permission via the phone.
- **ALL** adults must present proper identification (a valid photo ID) when requesting an early dismissal for a student dismissal. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Parent/Guardian **MUST** come into the building to request an early dismissal.
- A student **MUST** be present in second period (official attendance period) in order to be marked present for that day. Therefore, ANY student who receives an early dismissal prior to this time will be marked absent for the remainder of the day.

Please note: For safety reasons, the School will deny an early dismissal in the event that any of the above procedures are not followed.

IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL DUE TO HEALTH EMERGENCIES

In the event that there is a public health emergency and a student begins showing signs or symptoms of an illness, parents/guardians must be able to accommodate an immediate dismissal of the student from school.

COMMUNICATION DURING A HEALTH EMERGENCY

It is crucial that the School is able to get in contact with all Freire Charter School Wilmington students and parents/guardians, especially in the event of a global health emergency. It is critical that students and parents/guardians check and read their emails regularly and answer any texts or phone calls from the School in an all virtual environment. It is imperative that you do not block the phone numbers the school uses to communicate with you as that will prevent us from alerting you to an emergency in addition to missing important information.

VIRTUAL PARENT MEETINGS

It is important that parents/guardians are able to participate in virtual parent meetings when necessary. This has been made possible by providing Chromebooks and ensuring every student has internet access. We ask that parents/guardians make every effort to attend and engage in virtual parent meetings in the same manner as a meeting in which they previously would have been called into the school to meet.

ID CARDS PROCEDURE

Identification pictures will be taken at orientation and then again on a make-up day. Any student who is not present during either of these opportunities **WILL NOT** receive a picture ID. Students should carry their student ID cards with them at all times and produce them if requested by a staff member. A student's first ID card is provided free of charge. If the card is lost it can be replaced for a fee of \$5. IDs that become worn out will be replaced free of charge.

LOCKER PROCEDURE

All lockers are assigned at the discretion of the Head of Climate, Ruble Harris, for the convenience of each student and remain the property of Freire. All students who receive permission to use a locker must sign an agreement stating the terms and conditions for its use. Students are to only use the locker assigned to them. Sharing lockers is not permitted. As the School reserves the right to inspect lockers, students must open them upon request. All items found in lockers not assigned to that specific student, will be removed. The School reserves the right to periodically and randomly inspect lockers.

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMMING

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

A student who participates in interscholastic athletics at Freire Charter School Wilmington, which is a member of the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (D.I.A.A.), must adhere to the D.I.A.A. eligibility rules for student athletes.

To be eligible to participate in a sport, you must follow the guidelines below:

- **Academic/Behavioral Expectations:**
 - Must be passing 5 of your classes.
 - Must come to school on time.
 - Must submit a doctor's note to return to school and to participate in sports if absent for three days or more.
 - Must not be suspended or have any serious* discipline issues for the reporting period.
- **Assessment of Eligibility:**
 - Athletic participation lists will be generated on the 15th and the 30th/31st of each month. Any students who do not meet the expectations outlined above will not be able to participate for a 5-day period. After 5 days, the ineligible student's academic record will be checked again. If they meet the eligibility requirements, they will be cleared to play until the next eligibility period.
There will be no exceptions.
 - In accordance with D.I.A.A. regulations, any student who failed more than one course in the quarter on their most recent report card will not be eligible until the following quarter when new report cards are issued.
- **General Expectations for Student Athletes:**
 - Must be a leader inside and outside of the school.
 - Must get and complete all work covered and missed while away from school due to a game.
 - Must have a physical completed before joining the team.
 - Must have a parent permission form completed.

*Serious discipline issues are defined as a write-up for defiance, disrespect, or disruption.

Students who become 19 years of age on or after June 15th immediately preceding the school year shall be eligible for all sports during the current school year provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROCEDURES

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 7:10 – 7:40 a.m. Lunch is available during the 32-minute lunch period for each grade. Breakfast and lunch are free of charge for all students. There is no sign-up process required. Students simply have to present their school ID or student ID number to the cafeteria staff each day.

Students and parents may not order food to be delivered to the student at school. If a parent drops off food for a student, every effort will be made to get the food to the student during the lunch period. If food is delivered after the lunch period, it will be given to the student at the end of the day.

TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURE

Transportation is provided to all Freire Charter School Wilmington students. **All Freire Code of Conduct standards must be upheld while students are commuting to and from school regardless of their transportation method.**

Students walking through the neighborhood surrounding Freire from their designated drop-off area are expected to always be kind and respectful to others on the sidewalks, at bus stops, and at local businesses. Loitering, littering, or unruly behavior will not be tolerated in the neighborhood around the school.

Families will identify the method of transportation (school bus, public, or private) that works best for them and inform the school before each school year. If a change in transportation needs to be made during the year, please contact the school.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

School buses at hub stop locations will be provided for students living more than two miles from the school. All stops will be hub stops and any stops in developments will be at the front of the development. Bus transportation is a privilege, not a right.

Only Freire Charter School Wilmington students are able to board and ride buses contracted with our school. Parents or other unauthorized persons may not board the bus at any time. If you have a concern or issue about the bus, please contact the school so that it can be resolved appropriately.

Students may ride only on the buses they are assigned and must be picked up and dropped off at their assigned bus stop. A student's parent must contact the front desk to request that a student be permitted to depart at an alternative stop. If a student is going home to another student's house, authorization from both students' parents is required. Students will not be provided DART cards for this purpose.

Students should arrive at their bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time. The bus has to run on schedule and cannot wait for those who are tardy.

Students must follow the directions of the bus driver promptly and respectfully at all times. The driver is in full charge of the bus and students. Students must remain seated (backs to the seat, facing the front of the bus) and keep the aisles clear at all times while the bus is in motion.

Students must not stand or try to get on or off the bus until the bus has come to a complete stop.

The driver may assign each student a seat. This may be done for the entire bus, or specifically for students who are in need of increased supervision. The bus driver has the right to change seats at any given time, even during the route, to help limit distractions and ensure the safety of all bus riders. Refusal to move is considered a safety violation and will be handled accordingly.

Students should keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly. Food and drink are not permitted on school buses. Damage to the bus will result in the assessment of replacement costs and other disciplinary consequences.

Students bringing personal items onto the school bus do so at their own risk and the School is not responsible for damage, loss or theft of these items. Gym bags, sports equipment, band instruments or any school project shall not be placed in aisles or areas near the bus entrance or emergency door. Items of this nature are not allowed on the bus unless they can be safely secured without endangering the safety of other students. If they cannot be safely secured, the student must arrange alternative transportation.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Students may also elect to use public transportation to get to and from school. Students who choose to use DART will be provided a DART card for the appropriate number of rides within a given period of time. **DART cards are the student's responsibility and will not be replaced by the School if lost or stolen.** Students are to use their DART cards only for themselves and for a single ride to and from school. When a card is

completed or no longer has enough credit, the card should be returned to the school in order to receive a new one.

Students should arrive at the DART bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time. Students are responsible for paying attention to board the correct bus and signal the driver to depart at the correct stop.

Students must adhere to the Bus Riding Safety Practices as defined by DART First State. These include:

- Waiting until the bus has completely stopped before entering at the front door
- Waiting until the bus has completely left the stop before crossing the street
- Acting courteously and respectfully toward others
- Refraining from smoking, eating or drinking on the bus
- Refraining from rude language or unruly behavior
- Storing all their articles out of the aisle
- Keeping the volume of conversation or music devices low as to not disturb other riders

Neither DART nor the School are liable or responsible in any way for personal items that are lost or misplaced on a bus. DART First State maintains a Lost & Found Service as a courtesy for its riders. Found items forwarded to DART First State are held for a period of 30 calendar days from day of receipt.

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION

Students may also choose to arrive to school by parents driving them, or by walking. **All drop-offs and pickups must happen in the parking spaces on Market Street between 14th Street and 15th Street labeled for loading during morning and afternoon hours.** Parents who need to come into the school during the day beyond the loading zone hours must use the school parking lot. The school parking lot is located behind the school building and can be accessed via Orange Street. **Students may not drive to school. Parking will not be available for any student vehicles.**

Any students walking to and from school need to remain courteous of the neighboring areas. Loitering, littering, and unruly behavior will not be tolerated. All Freire standards of conduct still apply while walking to and from school.

AFTER-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

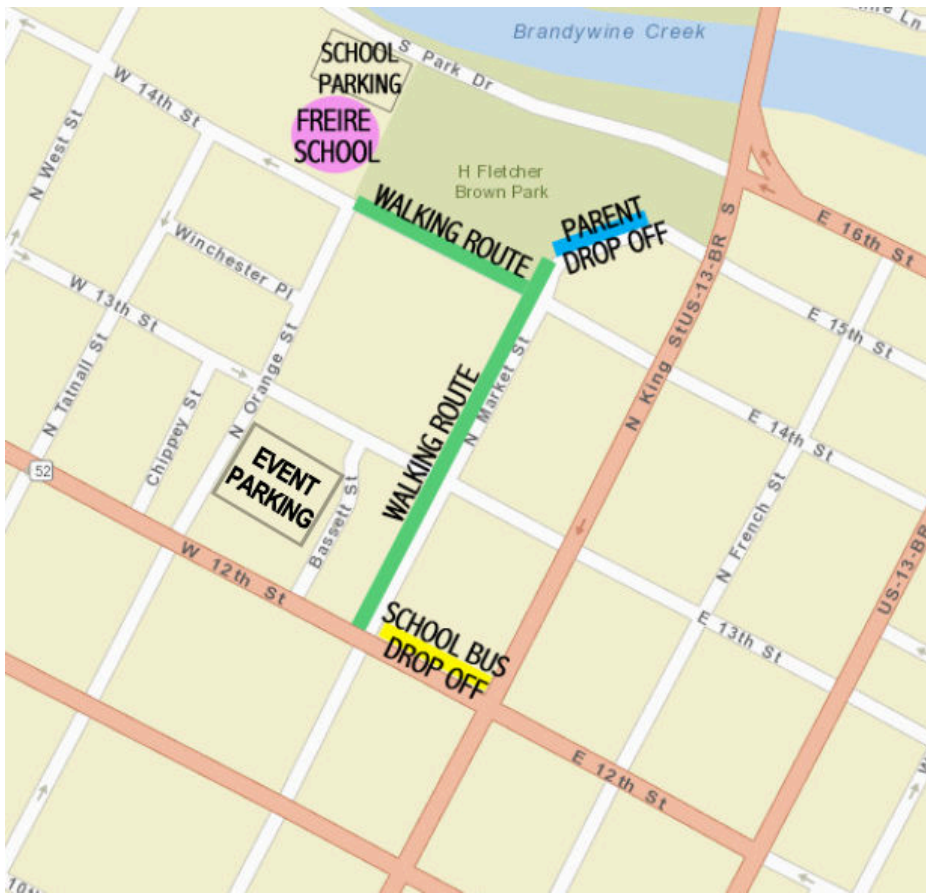
After-school activities are an important part of a student's high school career. Freire Charter School Wilmington provides a school bus for after-school transportation that makes limited stops based on our normal routes. Students may also use DART First State or have a parent pick them up when participating in after-school activities. DART cards will be provided for students participating in after-school activities who are not using DART as their primary means of transportation. The school building closes at 5:00 p.m.

EVENT PARKING

A parking facility near to the school (1200 N. Orange St) will be designated for use during school events (Back to School Night, parent-student-teacher conferences, exhibition nights, etc.). This parking lot is only to be used and will only be validated for specified events. Reminders about the parking location will also be included in communications prior to each event.

TRANSPORTATION MAP

Please review the transportation map below to locate the appropriate drop-off locations, walking routes, and school parking lot.



All drop-offs and pickups must happen in the parking spaces on Market Street between 14th Street and 15th Street labeled for loading during morning and afternoon hours. Parents who need to come into the school during the day beyond arrival and dismissal times must use the school parking lot. The school parking lot is located behind the school building and can be accessed via Orange Street. For a scheduled meeting during the school day, families may park in the lot located behind the school.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYED OPENINGS

All school closings (whether a closure or delayed start prior to opening or an early dismissal closure during the school day) will be listed on the Delaware notification website, <http://schoolclosings.delaware.gov>. Information will also be distributed through the SchoolMessenger and Remind text message systems (automated phone calls and text alerts). While information may be available from local TV and radio stations, the Delaware notification site is the official information source. We will make every attempt to inform parents of emergency closings and delayed openings before 6:00 a.m.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

The school maintains emergency procedures as part of its Comprehensive School Safety Plan that are available for review.

TELEPHONE CALLS

OUTGOING CALLS FROM STUDENTS

Students will be allowed to use the school phones for emergency reasons. Students who need to use the phone should approach the Administrative Assistant at the front desk or an administrator.

INCOMING CALLS TO STUDENTS

Students often receive emergency phone calls from parents with messages. We will not interrupt a class with these messages unless it is a dire emergency. If the situation is not deemed an emergency, a message will be taken and given to the student after class has ended. Any phone message received after 2:20 p.m. will be attempted to be communicated to the student but message relay cannot be guaranteed.

VISITOR PROCEDURE

All visitors to the School including parents, mentors, vendors, contractors, etc. should first sign in with the receptionist. Visitors will be given a name tag, which they must wear at all times while in the building. The name tag will say "VISITOR" and the date of the visit. **Any visitor who fails to adhere to this policy will be considered a trespasser. The administration will deal with trespassing by contacting the police.**

All visitors are required to follow the School's current health and safety plan. Any visitor who violates these health guidelines will be asked to leave the school building.

PARENT VISITATION

The administration and faculty of Freire Charter School Wilmington consider the parents/guardians as our partners in the educational journey of the students who attend our school. In order to make your visit to Freire better for you and us, and safe for all students, we ask the following:

- Please schedule your visit in advance. A phone call to the school will alert all staff of your presence.
- Classroom visits must be approved by the Head of School and scheduled through the respective teacher.
- If you desire a conference with a teacher, make an appointment through the office of the Head of School. Classes will not be interrupted for this purpose.

All visitors must abide by the above visitor policy or risk being denied entrance to the school.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an essential part of learning. At Freire, students are required to participate in field trips unless a parent gives notice as to why a child is not permitted to participate. In order to ensure student safety, the school requires that a student's parent/guardian complete a permission slip for field trips. Freire offers the option for parents/guardians to give consent for any and all field trips or educational activities that may occur outside the school building which are held during regular school hours and within New Castle County. There will be a parent communication prior to any field trip and parents will have the option to request that their child remain at school rather than participate in that field trip. Separate permission slips will be required for trips outside of New Castle County or which start before or end after regular school hours. The appropriate permission slip must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the School by the deadline, either on paper or through the school's online permission slip platform. **The school cannot accept verbal consent or any other form of parent/guardian authorization besides the fully completed and signed permission slip.** The School reserves the right to deny participation in field trips or activities at the discretion of school administration.

In addition, **STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT RETURNED THE APPROPRIATE PERMISSION SLIP PAPERWORK MAY NOT ATTEND THE TRIP. THE SCHOOL WILL NOT ACCEPT VERBAL PERMISSION FROM PARENTS.**

LOST AND DAMAGED PROPERTY

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are responsible for taking care of and returning school property provided for their use – including but not limited to books, lockers, lab equipment, laptops, sports uniforms, sports equipment, etc. Families will be billed for lost or damaged items. Students will be required to pay off all account balances prior to receiving transcripts or diplomas. If the student damages school property there may be disciplinary consequences.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Freire Charter School Wilmington is not responsible for students' or community members' personal property brought onto the school's campus or to any school activities regardless of location. Students and visitors are responsible for ensuring that their personal property is secured against theft or loss at all times. Valuables such as wallets and phones should be kept with you or locked at all times, never left unsecured and unattended.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The Constitution of the United States guarantees a student's right to freedom of speech. This right is guaranteed in school unless the right to express themselves causes one or more of the following consequences:

- a) Materially and substantially interferes with the education process
- b) Threatens harm to the school or community
- c) Encourages unlawful activity
- d) Interferes with another individual's rights

In these circumstances the School will take action necessary to protect the educational environment. Student publications, handbills, announcements, assemblies, group meetings, buttons, and other means of communication must conform to the following additional conditions:

- a) All posted, distributed or printed material must be presented to Marley Luke, Director of Academic Operations, or her designee for approval prior to distribution or posting
- b) Identify at least one student who is interested in posting or distributing the information
- c) The students must obey laws governing libel and obscenity

HEALTH SERVICES

OBSERVING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

It is important that every member of the Freire's community observes and follows the School's health and safety plan. These health and safety measures are subject to change as we learn new information and guidance is released by local, state, and federal health officials. Ensuring your student observes these health measures protects the health of your child and all others in the school building. Violating the safety measures inherently violates the safety of others in the school community and therefore it is considered a serious offense, which will be met with disciplinary action as outlined in the Student and Family Handbook.

To preserve public health and safety, parents/guardians are obligated to inform the School if a student has tested positive or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and attended school in-person while potentially contagious. Every member of the Freire Wilmington community is obligated to notify the school of any observed or potential violations of the health and safety plan.

Freire Charter School Wilmington's health and safety plan will be available on the School's website.

WELLNESS POLICY

Freire Charter School Wilmington is fully committed to doing anything and everything it can to provide for, facilitate, and maximize student achievement and success at Freire, in college, and throughout life. This commitment to student achievement and excellence is behind Freire's wellness policy. Ubiquitous research shows clearly that students who eat better do better in school. Research also shows that students who

participate in physical activity several times or more during the week outperform their peers who do not participate in frequent physical activity. This policy is in place in order to realize Freire's commitment to students and to comply with provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and its implementing regulations, specifically 7 CFR §210.31.

GOALS

In the coming years, as Freire continues to grow and to excel, so, too, will the level of student and staff wellness. Our overall goal is to promote healthy eating and living as well as help prevent and reduce obesity in our students. Our vision includes that one day, all students and staff will participate in safe, healthy physical exercise. Our specific program goals are that Freire students will:

- Be drawn to healthy practices.
- Be drawn to physical exercise and healthy eating.
- Demonstrate fundamental knowledge of health and nutrition.
- Know how to care for themselves.
- Demonstrate their knowledge of how to provide basic care for others through the life cycle.
- Monitor their own health and command strategies for addressing the health problems of others.

SCHOOL NURSE

A nurse is on duty every school day.

EMERGENCY TREATMENT CARDS

All students must turn in an emergency treatment card at the beginning of each year. If a student's emergency contact information, insurance information, or medical conditions change during the year, please contact the nurse to update the form.

STUDENT ILLNESS

If a student becomes ill in class and is no longer able to stay in class and work, a teacher will send him or her to the nurse with a hall pass. The hall pass must specify the nature of the complaint. The nurse will determine whether or not the student is able to return to class. If the nurse determines that a student needs to leave school, the nurse will contact a student's parent/guardian and request that they pick up their student. The nurse is the only person who has the authority to determine that a student must leave for the day due to illness.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES & ACCIDENTS

In the event your child has a medical emergency (defined as an incident that requires immediate medical attention), we will make him/her comfortable and begin appropriate first aid procedures. If your child needs to be transported to a hospital, an ambulance will be called. A school staff member will accompany your child to the hospital and stay with them until you arrive. If you cannot be reached, we will attempt to contact the emergency numbers you have listed as emergency contacts.

COMMUNICATION WITH OUTSIDE MEDICAL PROVIDERS

For a student who has not reached the age of 18, Release of Information forms shall be signed by the parent, guardian, or relative caregiver in order for a primary care physician or healthcare professional to communicate with School personnel regarding any treatment of a student. Notwithstanding the foregoing, communications between healthcare professionals and School staff regarding any treatment of a student may occur for any student 14 years or older who has provided consent for voluntary outpatient treatment in accordance with 16 Delaware Code § 5003. Students age 18 or older may sign releases for their own medical information. In accordance with HIPAA and FERPA guidelines, releases shall be signed before communication may take place. Communications without signed releases in emergency situations may occur in accordance with HIPAA and FERPA regulations and guidelines.

If a parent refuses to sign a release form, the School will explain the reasons a release would be advantageous to the student, for example in instances where a concern has been expressed regarding bullying or suicide warning signs.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICY

Ideally, the administration of medication should take place at home. However, students with health problems may require medication administration during school hours in order to function optimally in the classroom. If a physician determines that a student has such a need, Freire Charter School Wilmington will administer the medication under the following procedure:

- The student's legal guardian, in conjunction with the student's Physician, must fully complete a form designated by the School. This form is available upon request from the school nurse. This form **MUST** be returned to the school nurse.
- Upon receipt of the properly completed form, the school nurse will review and approve the document.
- The student's parent/guardian will supply the medication. The medication must be properly labeled and packaged by a Registered Pharmacist.
- All medications **MUST** be personally delivered by the parent/guardian to the nurse. The nurse will not accept medication from anyone but the parent/guardian.
- The medication will be kept in a locked and secure place at all times.
 - **EXCEPTION:** An exception will be made when the prescribing doctor requires the student to have medication on them at all times. This directive must be stipulated on the MED-1 form and should be required only when necessary. In these cases, a medication plan will be required. Examples of medications that may require an exception are:
 - Epinephrine auto injectors
 - Asthma inhalers
- The medication will be administered to the student per the Physician's instructions. Administration will be performed by the School Nurse or a senior school administrator in the absence of the Nurse. A written record of each administration will be made.
- When deemed necessary, as determined by the School Nurse, a medication plan will be established. This plan will be shared with all relevant staff, as well as the student and parent.
 - A personalized medication plan will be created for all students who require self-administration and possession of medications (i.e. epinephrine auto injectors, asthma inhalers, insulin).

PROGRAMS

Freire's graduation requirements include one credit of physical education and one-half credit of health. In health education, students will delve into sex education, body systems and maintenance, diseases and disease prevention, nutrition, exercise, drug and alcohol prevention, and overall wellness. Our physical education course promotes exercise as a part of maintaining good health.

Freire students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular athletic programs such as basketball, track & field, cheerleading, and yoga. In the future, the school may examine the idea of making participation in at least one sport per year a mandatory part of a Freire education.

FOOD STANDARDS AND SALES

All foods and beverages that Freire provides to students through the National School Lunch Program shall meet applicable standards and nutrition guidelines. In accordance with 14 Del. Code § 4136, Freire shall not serve or make available to students any food or beverage containing industrially produced trans-fat, before,

during, or after regular school hours. Freire uses the Community Eligibility Provision to provide school breakfast and lunch to any student free of charge. In order to promote inclusivity and comply with **federal regulations, Freire does not permit the sale of foods or beverages to students on school property until 30 minutes after the end of classes. All food and beverages available to students during the school day must be provided free of charge. Marketing of any food items at any time is strictly prohibited.**

Food and beverage items to be provided, but not sold, to students during the school day should not encourage unhealthy eating habits. Freire does not use food as a reward unless the reward promotes a positive message. We also encourage parents to send their children with healthy food to school or to participate in the school's healthy foods initiatives when offered.

In order to maximize attention, concentration, and learning potential, Freire encourages the selection of healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, granola bars, yogurt, dried fruit, and water. Such foods provide extended hours of energy for learning, whereas sugary snacks provide only short-term energy followed by a crash. We discouraged fried foods or those with high amounts of added sugar.

POLICY REVIEW PROCESS

Freire invites the wider school community to provide input and participate in the review and implementation of this policy. This includes students, their families, school board members, the general public, and school staff including administrators, physical education teachers, health professionals, and food service staff.

In order to make information about Freire's school wellness programs and to solicit public input, this policy will be posted on the school's website. Information describing any updates made to the policy will be posted along with the policy itself no less than annually.

As required under USDA regulations, once every three years Freire will conduct a community review of this policy ("triennial assessment"). Freire will make a good faith effort to include representatives from the school community as described above in the process. The review will:

- Assess the school's compliance with and measure the implementation of the policy
- Evaluate the school's progress toward meeting the goals defined in the policy
- Review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in developing specific goals
- Examine how Freire's policy compares to model policies

After conducting the review, Freire will create a report on the findings and update this policy in response to the findings. The report will be posted on the school's website along with the policy and description of updates.

RESPONSIBLE SCHOOL OFFICIAL

The school official responsible for the implementation and oversight of this policy to ensure Freire's compliance with it is the Head of School.

RECORDKEEPING

Freire will comply with all applicable recordkeeping requirements. This includes retaining a copy of this policy and triennial assessment reports. Requirements also include documentation of community involvement and the public availability of the policy and reports. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of records required. Changes to Freire's food standards or other areas of the wellness policy may create additional recordkeeping requirements. The retention period will be the longer of any requirement under school policy or state or federal regulation.

BOARD POLICY 213: SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

Freire Charter School Wilmington recognizes the serious problem of youth suicide and acknowledges that providing this policy for schools and districts related to youth suicide recognition and prevention is very important. The School also acknowledges that youth suicide is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by the School alone. This Suicide Prevention Policy outlines the School's suicide prevention program and meets the requirements of 14 Delaware Code § 4124, relative to Suicide Prevention.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Each employee of the School must participate in at least ninety minutes of training in suicide prevention within each contracted school year as provided in 14 Delaware Code §1305(e). The training materials will be evidence-based and approved by the Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. All School employees must provide evidence or proof of participation and completion to the School. The School will maintain a log to record that all staff have completed the appropriate training.

SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Freire Charter School Wilmington will establish a committee that will be responsible for coordinating the School's Suicide Prevention Program. The committee will include the Head of Academic Supports, Ruble Harris, the school counselor, and any other individuals deemed appropriate. The committee will determine what additional steps are warranted as part of a suicide prevention program beyond annual staff training and a procedure for reporting suicide warning signs.

REPORTING OF SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

REPORTING BY EMPLOYEES

Any Freire Charter School Wilmington Employee who notices a student demonstrating warning signs of suicide, suicidal ideation, or threatening, attempting, or acting on suicide or self-harm is required to report this observation to the Head of Climate or the Head of School immediately. This must be treated as a mental health concern and the employee must follow the School's emergency procedures. Head of Climate, Ruble Harris, will maintain a record of all such reports.

In the event of an active suicide attempt or another situation in which the student is in immediate danger, the staff member must treat the situation as a mental health emergency and immediately call the Head of Climate or a member of the Emotional Supports team. In these situations, it may not be possible for the School to protect that anonymity of the reporting staff member.

If the student is not in immediate danger but has demonstrated warning signs of suicide, this should still be reported immediately to the Head of Climate. This report should be made in person, by phone, or via e-mail. If the reporting staff member wishes to remain anonymous, the staff member must state this request when making the report. When requested, the School will take all practical steps to protect the identity of the reporting individual.

REPORTING BY STUDENTS AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Any student, volunteer, or other community member may report warning signs of suicide directly to Head of Climate or to any School employee. Employees who receive a report from another community member should immediately connect the individual directly to the Head of Climate if the reporting individual is willing. Otherwise the staff member must take a detailed report and immediately share all information with the Head of Climate. All reports from non-employee community members will be kept anonymous to the greatest extent practical.

RETALIATION RESTRICTIONS

No employee, School volunteer, or student shall be retaliated against for reporting a student thought to be demonstrating the warning signs of suicide. A School employee, School volunteer, or student is individually immune from a cause of action for damages arising from reporting warning signs of suicide in accordance with

these procedures unless that reporting constitutes gross negligence and/or reckless, willful, or intentional conduct.

COMMUNICATION REGARDING TREATMENT OF STUDENTS FOR SUICIDE ISSUES

Please see Communication with Outside Medical Providers in the Health Services section for the School's policy on this topic.

STUDENT PRIVACY

The School will follow all applicable privacy laws and regulations with regard to reports of students who were reported to exhibit suicide warning signs, communications regarding treatment of students for suicide issues, and all related records. Applicable laws may include but are not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

TREATMENT FOR SUICIDE ISSUES

After confirmation that a student has demonstrated suicidal ideation or suicidal behavior, the student will be evaluated by a licensed healthcare professional or a non-licensed healthcare professional working under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional.

The recommendations from the healthcare evaluation which are pertinent to managing the student's risk in school will be shared at a meeting between the student, parent/guardian, and an appropriate School administrator prior to the student's return to school. Recommendations will be shared with School personnel who are responsible for their implementation.

Emergency evaluations may be obtained from hospital emergency departments; a licensed healthcare professional; a physician; or nurse practitioner; or from the state's Child Priority Response Mobile Crisis Service if the student is under 18 years of age, or from the Adult Mobile Crisis Service if the student is between the ages of 18-21.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

The School has developed a health and safety plan in accordance with all local, state, and federal health guidance. However, the School cannot be the guarantor of health for all students and every individual family should make its own decision about their own health and abide by local guidelines and school rules. Students and families must comply with the School's health and safety plan, whether participating in virtual learning or in-person learning.

Families and students must notify the school of any observed or potential violations of such health guidelines. In order to preserve public health and safety, every member of the Freire community needs to observe the rules, which are subject to change in accordance with any changing guidelines.

THERMAL IMAGING, TEMPERATURE CHECKS, AND ISOLATION

In an effort to keep the Freire community safe, students may be subject to thermal imaging camera screenings, temperature checks and, if presenting symptoms of a highly contagious illness, be placed in an isolation room in the building until they are able to be picked up by a parent/guardian. All information collected will be kept confidential to the extent required by applicable law.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: NONVIOLENCE AND COMMITMENT TO PEACE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board of Directors of Freire Charter School Wilmington recognizes the importance of nonviolence and peacefulness in the educational program and strives to offer all students an educational environment free from violence. Violence of any kind deprives students and staff of a safe environment for learning. Nonviolence has come to be a way of life inside Freire Charter School Wilmington, driven in large part by the students themselves. We ask all students and parents to acknowledge Freire's commitment to nonviolence.

My child and I have read, discussed, and agree to the following:

1. The nonviolence policy applies in school; on school grounds; in school vehicles; at designated bus stops; at activities sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by Freire; and in any other situation where Freire has jurisdiction over a student's conduct.
2. Any act of violence is considered a violation of the code of conduct and may result in disciplinary consequences up to and including a recommendation that a student be expelled from Freire. Examples of acts of violence include hitting, fighting, destruction, weapons possession, intimidation, abuse, harassment, bullying, hazing, and sexual assault.
3. Unless leadership determines that there are extenuating circumstances requiring a different result, the disciplinary consequence for a student who engages in violence that causes physical harm to another individual will be a referral for a formal expulsion hearing.
4. Some acts of violence, including those listed above, may also constitute violations of the law of the State of Delaware. In those instances, law enforcement may be contacted by the school.
5. Freire offers proactive supports to students to prevent violence and uses restorative practices to respond to acts of violence. Supports may include orientation for new students, peer mediation programs, instruction in conflict resolution, connecting students and families with community resources such as family therapy and counseling, restorative circles, and other programs.
6. Freire students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects a commitment to nonviolence. Students are expected to:
 - a. Act in a manner that affords all other students the opportunity to learn which is physically safe and free from distractions.
 - b. Admit mistakes, and take increased responsibility for their own learning and social actions.
 - c. Respect self and all others, and respect individual differences.
 - d. Behave appropriately while in school, on field trips, and in any forum where the student is representing the Freire community.
 - e. Avoid hurtful language.
 - f. Use appropriate channels to express concerns, fears, or complaints.

I, _____ (parent) understand that Freire is a nonviolent community, meaning that we resolve conflicts without violence of any kind. I promise to do my part to maintain a peaceful environment at Freire.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I, _____ (student) understand that Freire is a nonviolent community, meaning that we resolve conflicts without violence of any kind. I promise to do my part to maintain a peaceful environment at Freire.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

APPENDIX B: ANNUAL FIELD TRIP PERMISSION SLIP

During the school year, your student will have the opportunity to participate in various field trips. By signing this form, you give your student permission to participate in all field trips held in the 2024-25 school year occurring in New Castle County and within regular school hours. Separate permission slips will be required for trips outside of New Castle County or which start before or end after regular school hours.

There will be a parent communication prior to any field trip and parents will have the option to request that their child remain at school rather than participate in that field trip. The staff members(s) planning the field trip will provide parents advance notice regarding the details of the trip including:

- Event Name and Description
- Destination
- Staff Member in Charge
- Date and Time of Departure
- Date and Time of Anticipated Return
- Location Students Dismissed from
- Method of Transportation
- Cost

If you do not wish your child to take a particular field trip, please notify the school in writing before the trip occurs.

The School reserves the right to deny participation in field trips or activities at the discretion of school administration.

This Permission Form will be kept on file by the school for the 2024-25 school year.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number: _____

Address:

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

Second Parent Name: _____ Second Parent Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact 1 Name: _____ Emergency Contact 1 Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact 2 Name: _____ Emergency Contact 2 Cell Phone: _____

Physician's Name: _____ Physician's Phone Number: _____

Allergies:

Significant medical conditions and treatment:

Needs to receive the following medication while on trip (please include the dose and time the medication must be administered)*:

*All medication needed will be obtained by the staff member in charge of the field trip or event from the student's supply kept by the School Nurse.

PERMISSION AND RELEASE

Please choose **one** of the following options:

- I DECLINE** to give consent for all field trips for the 2024-25 school year at one time. I request to be provided with **individual permission slips** for each proposed field trip.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

- I CONSENT** to my child participating in all field trips for the 2024-25 school year, and by signing below I agree that:

My student has my permission to participate in planned field trips and events during the 2024-25 school year. I understand that I will be notified in advance concerning all field trips and events. I have fully read this Permission Form and sign voluntarily.

In case of an emergency, I authorize Freire staff members, employees, contractors, or volunteers associated with or in attendance of any of the field trips or events covered by this Permission Form to seek out and secure medical attention as may be necessary for my student as a result of injuries or other events requiring emergency care. I hereby release said staff member, employee or volunteer from any and all liability on account of such selection or authorization for any and all damages which occur on account thereof.

I understand that my student will be required to strictly adhere to all rules, regulations, and instructions about safety and protection of the participants, and that failure to comply could result in my student's exclusion from this and future activities, as well as additional behavioral consequences. I represent that I have communicated this information to my student.

I understand that Freire is not the insurer of the safety of my student and cannot assume the responsibility for spontaneous, unforeseeable injuries that could not have been prevented through the exercise of reasonable care.

I agree to release and hold harmless Freire Charter School Wilmington, its Board of Trustees, partners, officers, faculty, staff, consultants, interns, and volunteers from any and all liability, loss, damages, claims or actions for bodily injury and/or property damage in accordance with current state and federal law arising out of the participation in this program.

I certify that I am the legal guardian of _____ and I understand that all school policies and procedures, including discipline and behavior policies and field trip and event policies as outlined above, will apply to my child while on school sponsored field trips.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

APPENDIX C: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN AND VIRTUAL LEARNING PROVISIONS

OBSERVING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

It is important that every member of the Freire's community observes and follows the School's health and safety plan. These health and safety measures are subject to change as we learn new information and guidance is released by local, state, and federal health officials. Ensuring your student observes these health measures protects the health of your child and all others in the school building. Violating the safety measures inherently violates the safety of others in the school community and therefore it is considered a serious offense, which will be met with disciplinary action as outlined in the Student and Family Handbook.

To preserve public health and safety, parents/guardians are obligated to inform the School if a student has tested positive or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and attended school in-person while potentially contagious. Every member of the Freire Wilmington community is obligated to notify the school of any observed or potential violations of the health and safety plan.

Freire Charter School Wilmington's health and safety plan will be available on the School's website.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

In the event that Freire returns to in-person learning, either in a hybrid model or full-time, the School has developed a health and safety plan in accordance with all local, state, and federal health guidance. However, the School cannot be the guarantor of health for all students and every individual family should make its own decision about their own health and abide by local guidelines and school rules. Students and families must comply with the School's health and safety plan, whether participating in virtual learning or in-person learning.

IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL

Maintaining the health and safety of every member of the Freire community is of utmost importance. I understand that in the event of a public health emergency, if my student begins showing signs or symptoms of an illness, I (parent/guardian) will do my best to accommodate the immediate dismissal of my student from school.

THERMAL IMAGING, TEMPERATURE CHECKS, AND ISOLATION

In an effort to keep the Freire community safe, students may be subject to thermal imaging camera screenings, temperature checks and, if presenting symptoms of a highly contagious illness, be placed in an isolation room in the building until they are able to be picked up by a parent/guardian. All information collected will be kept confidential to the extent required by applicable law.

EXTERNAL RECORDS SHARING WITH ONLINE PLATFORMS

By participating in the 1:1 Chromebook program, as with most software and websites, you are agreeing to the terms of use and privacy and data sharing provisions, including those of G Suite, Google Classroom, Zoom, Edmentum (Study Island), IXL, GoGuardian, Gaggie, etc.

You can find links to the Terms of Service for these platforms in the Student and Family Handbook.

RECORDING OF STUDENTS

By having your child participate in audio/visual virtual learning or in-classroom learning where a teacher may be recording for virtual learning students, you give consent for their likeness, voice, and statements to be recorded as needed for educational purposes. Participation constitutes your consent under any applicable privacy laws, including the Delaware Recording Law (Del. Code. Title 11, § 2402).

VIRTUAL PARENT MEETINGS

In the current health environment, it is important that parents/guardians are able to participate in virtual parent meetings when necessary. This has been made possible by providing Chromebooks and ensuring every student has internet access. We ask that parents/guardians make every effort to attend and engage in virtual parent meetings in the same manner as a meeting in which they previously would have been called into the school to meet.

COMMUNICATION DURING A HEALTH EMERGENCY

It is crucial that the School is able to get in contact with all Freire students and parents/guardians, especially in the event of a global health emergency. It is critical that students and parents/guardians check and read their emails regularly and answer any texts or phone calls from the School in an all virtual environment. It is imperative that you do not block the phone numbers the school uses to communicate with you as that will prevent us from alerting you to an emergency in addition to missing important information.

REMIND APP

The Remind App is a free service that lets school staff and teachers send quick messages via text, push notifications, or email to everyone involved in the class or group. The school will be able to stay in touch without revealing any personal contact information.

Communication is essential to ensure the Freire community remains connected. If you decline to participate, or do not check your alerts, you may miss important information.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

My signature below indicates that I have agreed to the terms above and have reviewed them with my child.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
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Student Name (Print)	Student Signature	Date
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APPENDIX D: STUDENT CHROMEBOOK AGREEMENT

In addition to the technology and chromebook policies outlined in the student handbook, the following policies apply:

CHROMEBOOK ASSIGNMENT

Students are assigned a specific chromebook with a unique serial number that they are responsible for. Students should not swap or borrow chromebooks from one another. If a student is found to be in possession of a chromebook that is not assigned to them, the chromebook will be returned to the school. If a student is no longer in possession of their originally assigned chromebook, they will be responsible for paying the fee associated with a lost/missing/stolen chromebook.

FEEES

If the following damages or losses occur, the parent/guardian is responsible for the following fees for repairs and/or replacements which must be paid according to the schedule determined by the school:

Chromebook Charger	\$15
Broken/Cracked Screen or Similar Repairs	\$50
Lost/Missing/Stolen Chromebook or Damage Beyond Repair	Replacement Cost of Chromebook (minimum \$100, not to exceed \$300)

Note: repairs due to defects or other technical issues will not incur charges or fees.

CARE OF CHROMEBOOKS

Students are responsible for the general care of the specific device they have been issued by the school:

- The device must remain free of any writing, drawing, stickers, other than any applied by Freire Charter School Wilmington.
- The student has responsibility for keeping the chromebook in their possession and supervision at all times. If the chromebook is lost or stolen, replacement fees will be charged (minimum of \$100 and not to exceed \$300). Lost, missing, or stolen chromebooks must be reported to IT Support immediately.

BRINGING CHARGED CHROMEBOOK TO SCHOOL

Students are expected to come to school each day with a fully charged Chromebook. If their Chromebook battery is dead or they forget to bring their Chromebook, they WILL NOT receive another Chromebook for the day. In rare cases for exceptional circumstances (state testing, etc.) a loaner chromebook may be given at the discretion of staff. The student takes responsibility for this chromebook and may be charged fees for damage/loss of this chromebook as if it were their original assigned chromebook.

RETURN OF CHROMEBOOKS

The school reserves the right to require the return of the Chromebook at any time. The Chromebook must be returned if a student is unenrolled voluntarily or involuntarily or graduates. Should you fail to return the device within 30 days of the designated return date or if the device is damaged, you agree to pay up to the replacement cost of the Chromebook (minimum \$100, not to exceed \$300).

Parent/Guardian Signature

My signature below indicates that I have agreed to the terms above and have reviewed them with my child.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

APPENDIX E: PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO, & MEDIA RELEASE

Throughout the school year, students and staff may have the opportunity for themselves or their work to be featured in the media or Freire promotional materials or social media accounts. The media is often interested in the work of our students, and students often desire the opportunity to be part of events that have a media presence. We think this provides great exposure and experience for students. Below, we're asking for you to provide permission for students to be photographed, video or audio recorded, or interviewed and for their image, likeness, voice, words, or work to appear on websites, social media (Instagram, twitter, Facebook, etc.), podcasts, television or radio programs, emails, letters, magazines, newspapers, or other publicly disseminated print or electronic media. Parental permission is required for these activities, so please express your wishes for the use of this student information (photos, video, testimony, work/achievements) below.

Please check the appropriate box:

- “I give permission for my child to be photographed, videotaped, or otherwise recorded and heard on the radio or shown on television, named or pictured in a magazine, on a website, on social media, in letters, emails, or other print or electronic promotional materials, in newspapers and/or appear in a public performance for activities, programs and other matters relating to Freire Charter School Wilmington.”**
- “I do not give permission for my student to be photographed or recorded” (except for teacher training purposes).**

Print Student's Name: _____

Print Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: _____

Date: _____

Commitment to Every Student's Success

Each one of us has a vital and critical role in fulfilling the Freire mission for every single student. Together, we believe that:

- **Love** binds our Freire Family and drives everything we do.
- Every student has the **power to build the future. Preparing all kids for college** ensures their futures are limitless.
- A safe, supportive, and uplifting community must be a **diverse and antiracist community**.
- We are all works in progress, committed to our **growth** as individuals, as schools, and as a network.
- **Safe and peaceful schools** free our kids to take risks and dream bigger.
- **Freire = Family**.

And together, we commit to support and foster the success of every student. This document sets forth what each of us commits to do in order to fulfill the Freire mission so that every student may access their full potential, go to and graduate from college, and build a strong future together. It is this document upon which we stand as a family and ensure love, learning and growth for us all.

Student Commitment

As a Freire student, I fully commit to:

Preparing Myself for College

- Aim toward college and take responsibility for doing the things that will help me get into college and prepare me for success there. This includes doing my homework every day, and getting involved in extracurricular activities, volunteering, and sports.
- Ask for help when I need it. Reach out to my teachers, academic advisors, peers, and also after school centers for academic help. Reach out to the Emotional Supports team if I need someone to talk to.
- Complete all work required of me, including any and all summer work.
- Take risks, ask questions until I understand, be brave, and learn – and help my fellow students do the same.
- Make sure my family has the information they need to support my success.
- Dream big and work hard to achieve those dreams.
- Commit to the Power of Yet. Approach each school year with the belief that I am capable of immense academic and personal growth with effort and perseverance.

Creating a Peaceful Freire School Community

- Protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals at Freire Schools.
- Tell the truth and accept responsibility for my actions.
- Treat all of my classmates with kindness and respect. Honor those who are similar and different from me by getting to know them, and reserving judgment.
- Solve differences with others in a peaceful manner and never physically harm another.

- Take part in peer mediations, mediations with staff, and generative conflict dialogues when there is conflict.
- Communicate with my parents/guardians and school staff, and address any concerns they might have with honesty and courage.

Doing the Things that Will Set Me Up for Success

- Attend school every single day I am able. I will only be absent for excused reasons (sickness, family emergency, legal issue, etc.), and I will call or email the school to let the staff know. Also, I will bring an official doctor's note, court notice, etc. when I return to school and promptly make up any work I missed.
- Be in class every day by 7:45 a.m. (Monday-Friday).
- Bring my Chromebook to school every day, charged and ready to go.
- Engage in class, and be an active participant in learning every day I am in school.
- Participate in discussions, share perspectives, and argue points of view respectfully, and as scholars.
- Put my cell phone away in school.

Staff Commitment

As a staff member, I fully commit to:

Guiding Students to Success

- Recognize that, as an educator, I must use my roles and relationships with students to amplify their possibilities to achieve, graduate from college, and be agents of positive change.
- Always teach and/or work in the best way I know how, and I will do whatever it takes for students to learn.
- Make myself available to students and parents, and address any concerns they might have.
- Support students in every way possible as they move toward college.

Creating a Peaceful Freire School Community

- Protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals involved with Freire Charter School Wilmington.
- Solve differences in a peaceful manner and treat others with respect at all times.
- Take part in peer mediations, mediations with students, and generative conflict dialogues when there is conflict.
- When harm has been caused, work with those involved to understand the cause of the harm and restore our peaceful community.

Being Fully Present

- Recognize that we only have a finite amount of hours to educate students each school year. Commit to being engaged and fully intentional during that time to support student success.
- Arrive at Freire Charter School Wilmington every weekday by 7:25 a.m.
- Remain at Freire Charter School Wilmington, or my designated location, until my obligations are complete (Monday-Friday).
- Make arrangements to attend Freire functions during times beyond the traditional school day.
- Ask questions if I do not understand something.

- Commit to bettering myself as an educator.

Parent/Guardian Commitment

As a parent/guardian of a current student, I fully commit to:

Supporting My Child's Success

- Make sure my child is in class every day by 7:45 a.m.
- Ensure that my child only misses school for excused reasons (sickness, family emergency, legal issue, etc.). If my student is going to miss school, I will notify the school as soon as possible.
- Encourage my child to attend Freire functions beyond the traditional school day, including clubs, athletic teams, academic support, and special events.
- Remain active in my child's education. This means I will:
 - Do whatever it takes to move my child toward college.
 - Attend Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences three times per year, on days stated in the school calendar or whenever necessary.
 - Make sure my child consistently completes their homework.
 - Allow my child to go on school field trips and participate in off-campus events.
 - Read any and all communications that the school sends me, including weekly digital newsletters.
 - Frequently check attendance and grades on Home Access Center (HAC).
 - Be proactive in contacting staff if there is a concern.
- Make myself available to my child and to the school, and be open to dialogue.
- Ask questions if I do not understand something.

Creating a Peaceful Freire School Community

- Understand that my child must follow Freire Charter School Wilmington rules and the Code of Conduct to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in our community.
- Encourage and expect my child to solve conflicts only in a peaceful manner.
- Take part in peer mediations and generative conflict dialogues when there is conflict.

Community Involvement

- Know that I am a welcome part of the Freire community at all times, and can be involved in a variety of ways. This could include participating in board meetings and committees, observing classes, joining a parent group, advocating for Freire Schools, and/or volunteering.

School Commitment

Freire Charter School Wilmington commits to the following:

Fostering a Supportive School Climate

- Support students, staff, families, and community members on a shared mission of student success.
- Provide a safe space for students to learn and grow, for staff members to teach, and for parents/guardians to get involved.
- Make space for students to take risks academically, and to grow from those risks.

- Field questions from students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members, and address them with care and respect.

Keeping Parents/Guardians Informed

- Involve parents/guardians in the planning, review and improvement of the school’s parental involvement policy in an organized, ongoing and timely way.
- Involve parents/guardians in the joint development of any school-wide program plan in an organized, ongoing and timely way.
- Hold an annual meeting to inform parents/guardians of the school’s participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of the parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs, including the right to request information related to the qualifications of their child’s classroom teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Provide to parents/guardians a description of the school’s curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- At the request of parents/guardians, the school will provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions, and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children.

We all – students, parents, teachers, and the school – have a part to play in the success of every Freire student. With these commitments in our minds, hearts, and actions, we can create the safe and supportive learning environment needed to prepare students for college and empower them to build the future.

Please sign below to demonstrate your commitment to excellence.

Failure to adhere to these commitments can lead to loss of privileges or removal from Freire.

_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name (Print)	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Student Name (Print)	Student Signature	Date

APPENDIX G: CODE OF CONDUCT & STUDENT POLICY AGREEMENTS

CODE OF CONDUCT & STUDENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct and the Freire Charter School Wilmington Student and Family Handbook. I agree to follow all the rules and regulations outlined in the Code of Conduct and the Student and Family Handbook that have been defined by the Freire Community.

GENERAL BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Please check below to indicate your agreement to each of the following:

- I understand that I must **D**Ress Appropriately.
- I understand that I must **A**lways Be Kind and Respectful.
- I understand that I must keep the **G**rounds Neat and Clean.
- I understand that I must be **O**N Time and Ready to Learn.
- I understand that I must be **S**afe myself and with others.

LOCKER AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the locker policy as set forth in the Code of Conduct and the Freire Charter School Wilmington Student and Family Handbook. I promise to keep my locker in good shape, as it is the property of the school.

Please check off each statement below to indicate your agreement:

- I understand that no one else may use my locker at any time.
- I understand I am responsible for the contents of the locker at all times.
- I understand that the contents of my locker may be searched at any time.
- I understand that if my locker is left unlocked, the contents will be emptied and I may forfeit my right to have a locker.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

APPENDIX H: OFF CAMPUS LUNCH PERMISSION FORM FOR SENIORS

Freire Charter School Wilmington allows seniors to earn an off-campus lunch privilege. This permission slip will allow your student the choice to go off-campus during their lunch earned—however, students will always have the option of partaking in the lunch program offered at Freire, which is free for all students. This permission slip will remain valid for the 2024-25 school year and may be revoked at parent and/or school discretion.

_____ (student) has my permission to go off campus during lunch when they earn the privilege.

I understand that school rules, regulations, and instructions still apply to my student during the school day and that failure to comply could result in the loss of off-campus lunch privileges as well as additional behavioral consequences.

I understand that Freire is not the insurer of the safety of my student and cannot assume the responsibility for spontaneous, unforeseeable injuries that could not have been prevented through the exercise of reasonable care.

In case of emergency, I give my approval and authorization for any medical treatment of the student named above by local physicians and/or hospitals, including first aid or any medical attention as may be necessary, including surgical procedures. I agree to accept responsibility for payment of all charges due to any medical treatment. I hereby release Freire staff members, employees, contractors, or volunteers from any and all liability on account of any medical selection or authorization from any and all damages which occur on account thereof.

I agree to release and hold harmless Freire Charter School Wilmington, its Board of Trustees, partners, officers, faculty, staff, consultants, interns, and volunteers from any and all liability, loss, damages, claims or actions for bodily injury and/or property damage in accordance with current state and federal law arising out of the student's participation in off campus lunch.

I certify that I am the legal guardian of the above-named student.

- I GIVE PERMISSION** for my child to leave campus during the lunch period.
- I DECLINE** to give consent for my child to leave campus during the lunch period.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

APPENDIX I: TRANSPORTATION SELECTION

If you wish to have your child participate in school programs at Freire, you must agree to how your child will travel home. Consistent activity attendance is of the highest priority to ensure quality. Please plan other commitments accordingly.

Dismissal/pick-up time is promptly at 4:30 p.m. every day for after school activities. Please choose ONLY ONE method of transportation for your student.

OPTION #1: PARENT PICK-UP AT 14TH AND MARKET

I agree to retrieve my student promptly at 4:30 PM every day the activity meets at 14th and Market Street. The adults authorized to pick up my student are:

Name: _____ Relation: _____

Name: _____ Relation: _____

OPTION #2: DART

I agree to permit Freire Charter School Wilmington to dismiss my student and allow my student to use a public mode of transportation without any adult supervision.

Bus/Route # and stop information:

OPTION #3: FREIRE SCHOOL BUS

I agree to let my child ride Freire's school bus and be dropped off at the following school bus stop.

School Bus Stop: _____

Bus/Route #: _____

OPTION #4: OTHER

I agree to permit Freire Charter School Wilmington to dismiss my student and allow my student to use an alternate mode of transportation without any adult supervision.

Explain: _____

As the guardian, I agree that the information I have provided is current and that I have reviewed and understand the above-stated considerations and conditions.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Potential Additions to the Appendices (from the Enrollment Packet)

Emergency Contact Information and Pick Up Information

- Name, relationship to student, cell, email

Emergency Treatment Card

- Each medicine needs to have an individual option to initial/sign