

501. 3

Compulsory Attendance

Parents who have enrolled their children in Choice Charter School under age sixteen by September 15, in proper physical and mental condition to attend school, will have the children attend the school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school a minimum of 1080 hours. Students not attending the minimum hours must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, referred to the county attorney. Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- are receiving independent private instruction; or are receiving competent private instruction.

It is the responsibility of the parent of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above. The principal will investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the principal is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the Board of Directors gives the principal the authority to refer the matter over to the county attorney. The board should be kept informed of the status of any truant students reported to the county attorney. The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The CEO will represent the school district in mediation. The school will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 259A; 279.10-.11; ch. 299; 299A (2011).
441 I.A.C. 41.25(8).
Iowa Code 299.15 1978 Op. Att'y. Gen. 379.

Cross Reference:
601.1 School Calendar

Approved _____ Reviewed _____

501.16

Homeless Children and Youth

Choice Charter School believes all students should have access to a free, appropriate public education. The school will ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as other children and youth. The term “homeless children and youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

- Children and youth who are:
 - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled up”);
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
 - Abandoned in hospitals.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

To help ensure that homeless children and youth have a full opportunity to enroll, attend, and succeed at school, the board shall:

- Designate the Curriculum Coordinator as the local homeless children and youth liaison;
- Provide training opportunities for staff so staff may help identify and meet the needs of homeless children and youth;
- Remove barriers, including those associated with fees, fines, and absences, to the identification, enrollment, retention, attendance and/or success in school for homeless children and youth;
- Ensure collaboration and coordination with other service providers;
- Ensure transportation is provided in accordance with legal requirements;
- Provide school stability in school assignment according to the child’s best interests;
- Ensure the privacy of student records, as provided by applicable law, including information about a homeless child or youth’s living situation;
- Engage in the dispute resolution process for decisions relating to the educational placement of homeless children and youth as provided by applicable law; and
- Prohibit the segregation of a homeless child or youth from other students enrolled in the district.

The CEO may develop an administrative process or procedures to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 6301.
42 U.S.C. § 11302.
42 U.S.C. §§ 11431 et seq.
281 I.A.C. 33.

Cross Reference: 503.3 Fines - Fees - Charges
603.3 Special Education

Approved _____ Reviewed _____

502.3

Student Expression and Student Publications (Regulations 502.3R1)

Student expression, other than student expression in student-produced official school publications, made on the school premises or under the jurisdiction of the school or as part of a school-sponsored activity may be attributed to the school; therefore, student expression must be responsible. Student expression must be appropriate to assure that the students learn and meet the goals of the school activity and that the potential audience is not exposed to material that may be harmful or inappropriate for their level of maturity.

Students will be allowed to express their viewpoints and opinions as long as the expression is responsible. The expression shall not, in the judgment of the administration, encourage the breaking of laws, cause defamation of persons, be obscene or indecent, or cause a material and substantial disruption to the educational program. The administration, when making this judgment, shall consider whether the activity in which the expression was made is school sponsored and whether review or prohibition of the students' speech furthers an educational purpose. Further, the expression must be done in a reasonable time, place, and manner that is not disruptive to the orderly and efficient operation of the school district.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary measures. Employees shall be responsible for ensuring students' expression is in keeping with this policy. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code 279.8; 280.22; 282.3

Cross Reference:

Approved _____ Reviewed _____

STUDENT EXPRESSION AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CODE

A. Student Expression defined: Student Expression is speech, action or other forms of expression which convey a student's beliefs, views or opinions.

B. Official school publications defined: An "official school publication" is material produced by students in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to students either free or for a fee.

C. Limitations to Student Expression

1. No student will express, publish or distribute publication material which is:

- a. obscene;
- b. libelous;
- c. slanderous; or
- d. encourages students to:
 - 1) commit unlawful acts;
 - 2) violate lawful school regulations;
 - 3) cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
 - 4) disrupt or interfere with the education program;
 - 5) interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
 - 6) infringe on the rights of others.

D. Responsibilities of students for official school publications.

1. Students writing or editing official school publications will assign and edit the news, editorial and feature contents of the official school publications subject to the limitations of the student publications code and the law.

2. Students will strive to achieve professional standards of accuracy, fairness, objectivity and thoroughness in each and every aspect of official school publications.

3. Students will strive to achieve professional standards of grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling for clarity and accuracy of official school publications.

E. Responsibilities of faculty advisors for official school publications.

Faculty advisors will supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech. Official school publications are produced under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors to students producing official school publications shall supervise the production of the student staff in order to maintain professional standards of English journalism. School employees acting within the scope of their professional ethics will not suffer adverse employment action or retaliated against for acting to protect a student for engaging in authorized student expression or for refusing to infringe on protected student expression.

F. School employee rights

Any School employee or official, acting within the scope of that person's professional ethics, if any, shall not be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, subject to termination or nonrenewal of a teaching contract or extracurricular contract, or otherwise

retaliated against for acting to protect a student for engaging in expression protected by law, or refusing to infringe upon student expression that is protected by law.

G. Liability Student expression, including student expression in an official school publication will not be deemed to be an expression of the school district.

The school, the board, and the employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students unless the employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

H. Appeal procedure

1. Students who believe they have been unreasonably restricted in their exercise of expression in an official student publication will seek review of the decision through the student grievance procedure, under board policy 502.4.

2. Persons who believe they have been aggrieved by a student-produced official student publication will file their complaint through the citizen grievance procedure, under board policy 213.1.

I. Time, place and manner of restrictions on student expression.

1. Student expression may be conveyed and official student publications may be distributed in a reasonable manner on or off school premises.

2. Student expression and distribution of official school publications in a reasonable manner will not encourage students to:

- a. commit unlawful acts;
- b. violate school rules;
- c. cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity;
- d. disrupt or interfere with the education program;
- e. interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
- f. infringe on the rights of others.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____

502.6

Weapons

The board believes weapons, other dangerous objects and look-a-likes cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees within the jurisdiction of the school. School online sites are not an appropriate place for weapons, dangerous objects and look-a-likes. Weapons and other dangerous objects and look-a-likes will be reported to school administration. Parents of students found to possess weapons, dangerous objects or look-a-likes during school sessions are notified of the incident. Possession or confiscation of weapons, dangerous objects or look-a-likes will be reported to law enforcement officials, and students will be subject to disciplinary

action including suspension or expulsion. Students bringing firearms to online classes knowingly possessing firearms during school sessions will be expelled for not less than one year. The CEO has the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for students on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes, but is not limited to, any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas, or otherwise defined by applicable law. Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials or other individuals specifically authorized by the board are exempt from this policy. The CEO may develop an administrative process or procedures to implement the policy.

Legal Reference: 18 U.S.C. § 921
Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.21B; 483A.27(11), 724
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

Cross Reference:

Approved _____ Reviewed _____

502.7

Smoking, Drinking, Drugs

The board prohibits the distribution, dispensing, manufacture, possession, use, or being under the influence of beer, wine, alcohol, tobacco, other controlled substances, or "look alike" substances that appear to be tobacco, beer, wine, alcohol or controlled substances by students while online; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school.

The board believes such illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials generally cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students or employees.

Violation of this policy by students will result in disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion. Use, purchase or being in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or tobacco products for those under the age of eighteen, may be reported to the local law enforcement authorities. Possession, use or being under the influence of beer, wine, alcohol and/or a controlled substance may also be reported to the local law enforcement authorities.

Students who violate the terms of this policy may be required to satisfactorily complete a substance abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved by the school board. If such student fails to satisfactorily complete such a program, the student may be subject to discipline including suspension or expulsion. The board believes the substance abuse prevention program will include:

- Age-appropriate, developmentally-based drug and alcohol curriculum for students in grades kindergarten through twelve, which address the legal, social, and health consequences of tobacco, drug and alcohol use and which provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use tobacco, drugs, or alcohol;
- A statement to students that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful; • Standards of conduct for students that clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use, being under the influence of or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students on school premises or as part of any of its activities.
- A clear statement that disciplinary sanctions, up to and including suspension or expulsion and referral for prosecution, will be imposed on student who violate the policy and a description of those sanctions;
- A statement that students may be required to successfully complete an appropriate rehabilitation program;
- Information about drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs available to students;
- A requirement that parents and students be given a copy of the standards of conduct and the statement of disciplinary sanctions required; and
- Notification to parents and students that compliance with standards of conduct is mandatory. It is the responsibility of the CEO, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code 123.46; 124; 279.8,.9; 453A
281 I.A.C. 12.3(9); .5(3)(e),.5(4)(e),.5(5)(e),.5(21)

CROSS REF.:

Approved _____ - Reviewed _____

503.1

Student Conduct

The board believes inappropriate student conduct causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment, interferes with the rights of others, or presents a threat to the health

and safety of students, employees, and visitors on school premises. Appropriate online classroom behavior allows teachers to communicate more effectively with students.

Students will conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age level and maturity and with respect and consideration for the rights of others while online or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Consequences for the misconduct will be fair and developmentally appropriate in light of the circumstances.

Students who fail to abide by this policy, and the administrative regulations supporting it, may be disciplined for conduct which disrupts or interferes with the education program; conduct which disrupts the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity; conduct which disrupts the rights of other students to participate in or obtain their education; conduct that is violent or destructive; or conduct which interrupts the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, removal from the classroom, detention, suspension, probation, and expulsion.

A student who commits an assault against an employee on school property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school; while on school-owned or school-operated chartered vehicles; or while attending or engaged in school district activities will be suspended by the principal. Notice of the suspension is sent to the board president. The board will review the suspension and decide whether to hold a disciplinary hearing to determine whether to impose further sanctions against the student which may include expulsion. In making its decision, the board shall consider the best interests of the school district, which shall include what is best to protect and ensure the safety of the school employees and students from the student committing the assault. Assault for purposes of this section of this policy is defined as, when, without justification, a student does any of the following:

- an act which is intended to cause pain or injury to, or which is intended to result in physical contact which will be insulting or offensive to another, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act; or any act which is intended to place another in fear of immediate physical contact which will be painful, injurious, insulting or offensive, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act;
- or intentionally points any firearm toward another or displays in a threatening manner any dangerous weapon toward another.

The act is not an assault when the person doing any of the above and the other person are voluntary participants in a sport, social or other activity, not in itself criminal, when the act is a reasonably foreseeable incident of such sport or activity, and does not create an unreasonable risk of serious injury or breach of the peace.

Removal from the online classroom means a student is to report to the principal. It is within the discretion of the person in charge of the classroom to remove the student.

Detention means the student's presence is required during non-school hours for disciplinary purposes. The student can be required to appear prior to the beginning of the school day, after school has been dismissed for the day, or on a non-school day. Whether a student will serve detention, and the length of the detention, is within the discretion of the licensed employee or the building principal, disciplining the student.

Suspension means; either an in-school suspension, an out-of-school suspension, a restriction from activities or loss of eligibility. An in-school suspension means the student will attend school but will be temporarily isolated from one or more classes while under supervision. An in-school suspension will not exceed ten consecutive school days. An out-of-school suspension means the student is removed from the school environment, which includes school classes and activities. An out-of-school suspension will not exceed ten consecutive school days. A restriction from school activities means a student will attend school and classes and practice but will not participate in school activities.

Probation means a student is given a conditional suspension of a penalty for a definite period of time in addition to being reprimanded. The conditional suspension will mean the student must meet the conditions and terms for the suspension of the penalty. Failure of the student to meet these conditions and terms will result in immediate reinstatement of the penalty.

Expulsion means an action by the board to remove a student from the school environment, which includes, but is not limited to, classes and activities, for a period of time set by the board.

Discipline of special education students, including suspensions and expulsions, will comply with the provisions of applicable federal and state laws. It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975).

Brands v. Sheldon Community School District, 671 F. Supp. 627 (N.D. Iowa 1987).

Sims v. Colfax Comm. School Dist., 307 F. Supp. 485 (Iowa 1970).

Bunger v. Iowa High School Athletic Assn., 197 N.W.2d 555 (Iowa 1972).

Board of Directors of Ind. School Dist. of Waterloo v. Green, 259 Iowa 1260, 147 N.W.2d 854 (1967).

Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 282.3, 282.4, 282.5; 708.1.

281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

Cross Reference: 603.3 Special Education

Approved _____ - Reviewed _____

503.2

Expulsion

Only the board may remove a student from the school environment. The removal of a student from the school environment, which includes, but is not limited to, classes and activities, is an expulsion from school.

Students may be expelled for violations of board policy, school rules or the law. It shall be within the discretion of the board to discipline a student by using an expulsion for a single offense or for a series of offenses depending on the nature of the offense and the circumstances surrounding the offense.

It shall be within the discretion of the CEO to recommend to the board expulsion of a student for disciplinary purposes. Only the board may take action to expel a student and to readmit the student. The principal shall keep records of expulsions in addition to the board's records. When a student is recommended for expulsion by the board, the student shall be provided with:

1. Notice of the reasons for the proposed expulsion.
2. The names of the witnesses and an oral or written report on the facts to which each witness testifies unless the witnesses are students whose names may be released at the discretion of the superintendent;
3. An opportunity to present a defense against the charges and provide either oral testimony or written affidavits of witnesses on the student's behalf;
4. The right to be represented by counsel; and
5. The results and findings of the board in writing open to the student's inspection.

In addition to these procedures, a special education student must be provided with additional procedures. A determination should be made of whether the student is actually guilty of the misconduct. A staffing team should determine whether the student's behavior is caused by the student's disability and whether the conduct is the result of inappropriate placement. Discussions and conclusions of this meeting should be recorded.

If the special education student's conduct is not caused by the disability, the student may be expelled or suspended for a long-term period following written notice to the parent and pursuant to the school district's expulsion hearing procedures. The special education student must be provided educational services. If the misconduct is caused by the disability and a change in placement is recommended, the change must be made pursuant to the placement procedures used by the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code 21.5; 282.3,.4,.5
281 I.A.C. 12.3(8)

CROSS REF.:

Approved _____ Reviewed _____

503.3

Fines, Fees, Charges

The Board believes students should respect school property and assist in its preservation for future use by others. Students may be assessed fines, charges, or fees for misuse of school property. The CEO may inform the board of the dollar amount to be charged to students or others for fines, charges, or fees annually. Parents of students meeting specific financial eligibility standards will be eligible for a waiver of student fees or a reduction of student fees based upon the request of the parent. It shall be the responsibility of the CEO, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy

Legal Reference: Iowa Code 256.7(20); 279.8; 280.10,.11; 282.6; 285.1; 301.1
281 I.A.C. 18

CROSS REF.:

Approved _____ - Reviewed _____

503.4

Good Conduct Rule

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and abilities in the students during their school years and for their lifetimes. Students who participate in school sponsored activities serve as ambassadors of the school throughout the calendar year, whether away from school or at school. Students who wish to have the privilege of participating in school sponsored activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities which are illegal, immoral or unhealthy. Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures. The principal shall keep records of violations of the good conduct rule. It shall be the responsibility of the CEO to develop rules and regulations for school activities. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity.

Legal Reference : Iowa Code 280.13,.13A

281 I.A.C. 12.3(8); 36.15(1)

CROSS REF.:

Approved _____ - Reviewed _____

504. 6

Student Activity Program

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interest and ability in the students during their school years and for their lifetime.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in a school activity unless the activity is not offered or the student cannot participate for disciplinary reasons.

Student activity events must be approved by the CEO unless they involve unusual travel expense, in which case the board will take action. The events must not disrupt the education program or other school operations. Participation in school-sponsored activities takes priority over non-school activities.

It shall be the responsibility of the CEO, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations for each school activity. These regulations shall include, but not be limited to, when physical examinations will be required, how and when parents will be informed about the risk of the activity, (forms and procedures for a waiver of liability from the parent and student in certain activities), academic requirements, and proof of insurance on the student participating in certain activities. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school for participation in the activity.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code 216.9; 280.13-.14
281 I.A.C. 12.6; 36.15

CROSS REF.:

Approved _____ Reviewed _____

505.1

Student Progress Reports and Conferences

Students will receive a report card at the end of each two-week grading period. Students who are doing poorly, and their parents, shall be notified at mid-term in order to have an opportunity to improve their grade. The board encourages the notification of students who have made marked improvement prior to the end of the grading period.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held at least twice each academic year at Choice Charter School. The first conference shall be during the first quarter, and shall supplement the student progress reports.

Parents, teachers, or principals may request a conference for students in grades nine through twelve in addition to the scheduled conference time. Parents and students are encouraged to discuss the student's progress or other matters with the student's teacher.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code 256.11.,11A; 280
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6),.3(7); .5(16)

CROSS REF.:

Approved _____ - Reviewed _____

505.5

Graduation Requirements

“Competency-based education” means that learners advance through content or earn credit based on demonstration of proficiency in competencies. Proficiency for this context is the demonstrated skill or knowledge required to advance to and be successful in higher levels of learning in that content area. Some students may advance through more content or earn more credit than in a traditional school year while others might take more than a traditional school year to advance through the same content and to earn credit. A student must meet the requirements of 12.5(14) to be awarded credit in a competency-based system of education.

A unit is a course which meets one of the following criteria: it is an equated requirement as a part of an innovative program filed as prescribed in rule 281–12.9(256).

English/LA - English 9 (2 units), English 10 (2 units), English 11 (2 units), English 12 (2 units) speaking; listening; reading; writing; viewing; and visual expression and nonverbal communication, language learning and creative, logical, and critical thinking, communication processes and skills; written composition; speech

Social Studies - American History (2 units), Government (1 unit), Economic (1 unit), and 1 of the following choices: Human Geography (1 unit), Psychology (1 unit), Sociology (1 unit), African American History (1 unit), Current Issues (1 unit), Financial Literacy (1 unit), World History (2 units), Applications, Perspectives and Exploration of Psychology (1 unit), Iowa History and Geography (1 unit), US Issues and Analysis (1 unit),

Mathematics - Pre-algebra (2 units), Algebra I (2 units), Geometry (2 units), Algebra II (2 units), Calculus (2 units), Transition Math (2 units), Financial Algebra (2 units), General Math (2 units), general math (2 units), consumer math (2 units), 4 sequential units in math algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, probability, and discrete mathematics problem solving, reasoning, and structure; language and symbolism to communicate mathematical ideas; and connections among mathematical topics and between mathematics and other disciplines.

Science - General Science (2 units), Biology (2 units), Physical Science (2 units), Chemistry (2 units), Energy for the Future (1 unit), Agronomy (1 unit), Animal Science (1 unit), Anatomy/Physiology (2 units), Astronomy (2 units), Botany (1 unit), Conceptual Chemistry (2 units), Earth Space Science (1 unit), Electricity/Electronics (1 unit), Entomology (1 unit), Environmental Science (2 units), Forensics (2 units), Genetics (1 unit), Herpetology (1 unit), Marine Science (2 units), Meteorology (1 unit), Microbiology (1 unit), Zoology (2 units)

Health - 1 unit

Physical Education - 2 units or excused based on academic/athletic program participation

Fine Arts - Art 1 (1 unit), Photography (2 units), Digital Art (1 unit), Drawing Fundamentals (1 unit), Theater (2 units)

Foreign Lang. - Spanish 1 (2 units) , Spanish 2 (2 units), Spanish 3 (2 units), Spanish 4 (2 units), Heritage Spanish (2 units),

Career Tech Ed - Introduction to Business (1 unit), Career Development (1 unit), Career (1 unit), Child Development 1 (1 unit), Child Development 2 (1 unit), Textiles and Clothing 1 (1 unit), Textiles and Clothing 2 (1 unit), Textiles and Clothing 3 (1 unit), Textiles and Clothing 4 (1 unit),

Work-based Experience Iowa WorkForce Development, Electrician/Plumber/Construction/Brick-Layers Unions, Central Iowa Works, and other business partners- collaborative J-term laboratory courses (1 unit each) TBD. Student in school-to-work is an “employee” for worker’s compensation law.

LEGAL REF.: Iowa Code §§ 256.11; 279.8; 280.3; 280.14
281 I.A.C. 12.2; 12.5; 41.12(6)(e).

CROSS REF.: 603.3 Special Education

505.6

Early Graduation

Students will be required to complete the necessary coursework in order to graduate from high school. Students may graduate prior to this time if they meet the minimum graduation requirements stated in board policy. Early graduation will be allowed at any time during the year. A student who graduates early will no longer be considered a student and will become an alumnus of the school. However, the student who graduates early may participate in commencement exercises. A diploma will be awarded as soon as available.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code 279.8; 280.3,.14
281 I.A.C. 12.2; .3(7); .5

CROSS REF.:

Approved _____ Reviewed _____

505.8

Parent involvement

1. Connect parents' high aspirations for their children's educational attainment with a clear pathway on how to get there. A survey by UNCF indicates that over 87% of parents have high aspirations for their children to graduate from both high school and college. Choice Charter School is committed to not only school performance; the high school is committed to sharing information with parents on what students are supposed to be learning at each grade level and subject. In a non-traditional educational setting like Choice Charter School will provide, it will be important for school staff to clearly articulate to parents the purpose of projects that are presented through design-based learning as well as the skills and knowledge students are expected to gain and practice along the way. In some cases, staff will also need to be clear on why those skills or knowledge may be important for students chosen career cluster.

2. Meet parents where they are with appropriate messaging and support.

School staff must confront the realities that students and their families may be facing. It is anticipated that a number of students at Choice Charter School will come from

low-income households. Families should be supported and the school should work to connect families to social services agencies and other organizations that will help them overcome barriers they face. Information will also be presented to families in a manner that puts their children's educational interests first and through various channels. These channels may include SIS connected to student work, online resources, community forums hosted online, and other community gathering centers, and parent-led information sessions.

3. Engage parents through voices that resonate with them. In order to engage parents in the school, the school cannot take a "top down" approach. Choice Charter School will engage community leaders and faith-based leaders who have already gained the trust and respect of the population the school intends to serve. These leaders will be engaged to assist the school in delivering key messages to parents, including the importance of educational success, ways in which they can effectively engage in their children's education and convey the magnitude for college and career readiness.

4. Strengthen the relationship between parents and the school. Choice Charter School will work with community leaders to make parents feel welcomed at the school and to facilitate opportunities to be involved in their children's learning. Finding interpreters and using staff members who are bilingual, communications with our parents will be seamless. Parent teacher conferences will be virtual and at times when parents are not working, so they do not need to take off work or find babysitters. Working with parents, Choice Charter School increases the likelihood of success for the students it serves.

By leveraging the support of community partners, and area faith based organization, the school will identify prospective students and families who are interested in enrolling in Choice Charter School. The school will create a prospective parent advisory board to listen and understand the needs and concerns of parents as well as their desires for how the school will feel and act. It is critical to understand what parents need to ensure that they feel the school is a welcoming place with their children's best interest at the forefront of all it does and a place where their children are safe.

Family-School Partnerships

There is widespread knowledge that parental involvement is one of the most critical factors that lead to a student's educational success and attainment. Choice Charter School is highly motivated to ensure that parents, families, and community partners have an active and engaged voice in the direction of the school. To that end, the Board plans to engage a variety of partners to actively engage families and to build and maintain strong family-school partnerships. For more information on the strategies that will be used to engage parents and families in the school and to develop strong family-school partnerships, please refer to the section above.

Any issues that are identified as concerns to parents will be raised at the parent advisory board and discussed so that the school has a clear plan for corrective

action.

Legal Reference : 20 U.S.C. 6318

CROSS REF:

Approved _____ Reviewed _____