



CHARLES H. WALSH SR.
ACADEMY & CAREER TECH HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027
Student & Parent
Handbook

Mission Statement

The mission of Walsh Academy is to provide authentic and experiential learning opportunities within a structured, caring and humanistic educational environment characterized by student-teacher and student-student relationships grounded in respectful reciprocity.

The mission of the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Program is to provide structured and supported employment training opportunities within the seven Career Clusters identified by ISBE: 1) Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources; 2) Arts and Communications; 3) Finance and Business Services; 4) Health Sciences and Technology; 5) Human and Public Services; 6) Information Technology; and 7) Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology, and Trades through an experiential learning process emphasizing the inherent reciprocity within academic study and job skills training. Paid work experience may be provided in various opportunities within the seven employment areas and career centered instruction is delivered within a classroom setting in order to strengthen our students' employability and technical skills to help them meet the Illinois Learning Standards, increase engagement, and facilitate learning contextualization.

Table of Contents

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Important Numbers**
- 3. Program Overview**
 - 3.1 Grading and Attendance**
 - 3.2 Credit Earning Schedule**
 - 3.3 Vocational Program**
- 4. Medical Administration**
 - 4.1 Medical Emergency**
 - 4.2 Epidemic / Pandemic Outbreak**
- 5. Student Information**
 - 5.1 Dress Code**
 - 5.2 Safety Checks / Lockers**
 - 5.3 Physical Management Policy**
 - 5.4 Electronic Device Policy**
 - 5.5 Student Rights and Responsibilities**
 - 5.6 Classroom Expectations**
 - 5.7 Internet and Computer Use**
 - 5.8 Substance Use / Abuse**
 - 5.9 Unauthorized Departures**
- 6. Experiential Education**
 - 6.1 Field Trips / Out of School Activities**
 - 6.2 Physical Activity**
- 7. Additional Information**
 - 7.1 Transfers, Withdrawals, and Requests for Records**
 - 7.2 Pet Therapy Release**
 - 7.3 Photo Release and Student Information**
 - 7.4 Damage to Property**
 - 7.5 Consents**
- 8. Policy and Procedure Updates**
 - 8.1 Gang Policy**
 - 8.2 Distribution Policy**
 - 8.3 Anti-Bullying Policy**
 - 8.4 Visitation Policy**
 - 8.5 Privacy and Dignity Policy**
 - 8.6 Suicide Prevention Policy**
- 9. School Calendar / Important Dates**

1.0 Welcome

Welcome to Walsh Academy! We are excited to have you and your family join our learning community. Your experience here will be 100% dictated by your willingness to engage and participate in the multitude of learning opportunities provided daily. You will get out what you put in – that is guaranteed.

Along with success, we expect mistakes to happen and challenges to present themselves. It is our promise to push you to perform at an academic, social and vocational level not yet achieved, or even thought possible. In every learning situation there must be failure. Without failure, you can never know success at a level greater than you presently know.

It is also important to note that Walsh Academy is committed to providing an educational environment free from discrimination for all students and staff. In order to provide equal educational opportunities to all students, decisions at Walsh Academy will be based on the student's merit, qualifications, initiative and abilities in conjunction with Walsh's educational guidelines and available resources. Walsh Academy does not discriminate in any aspect on the basis of race, color, religion, gender (including pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, disability, marital status, military service or status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other legally protected status.

Together, we can make change. Your failure and success will be yours to own. The entire faculty at Walsh Academy is committed to providing you with every opportunity to be successful, if you so choose. We are in this together. The relationships you build with the faculty will help us through the rough times and provide the community to celebrate your success. We look forward to watching you become the young person of your dreams.

It's All About You!

Ann M. Craig
Director of Educational Services/Principal

Heather Lischett
Assistant Principal-Student Services

Elizabeth LaMore
Assistant Principal-Voc. Ed. Services

***Not all rules of behavior can be written and inserted in a guidebook; however, we expect students to follow reasonable rules and not the rights of others.

2.0 Important Numbers

School Main Number:

(847) 390 – 3020

www.walshacademy.org

Please call to report a student absent/tardy by 8:20 AM

School Nurse:

Tracy Mullen – (847) 294-1896

*Please call Ms. Mullen if your child is sick or if there is a medical condition that requires your child to be absent from school.

Director of Educational Services/Principal

Ann M. Craig – (847) 390-3030

Assistant Principal – Student Services

Heather Lischett – (847) 294-1744

Assistant Principal – Vocational Education Services

Elizabeth LaMore – (847) 294-1728

School Hours: 8:30 am to 2:15 pm / CTE Extension 2:15 pm – 4:00 pm

Summer School: 8:00 am to 1:15 pm / CTE Extension 1:15 pm – 3:00 pm

Transportation

Transportation to and from school is provided by each individual school district. Parents/Guardians/Program staff are responsible for contacting their own school district regarding transportation concerns. Parents/Guardians are responsible for contacting the school district and bus/cab company, as well as notifying Walsh Academy personnel, to make alternate transportation arrangements as needed. **Walsh Academy personnel is not able to make, nor is responsible for, transportation arrangements.**

Student Pick-up

Should a student need to leave school at a time other than the designated dismissal time, the student must be picked up by his/her parent/legal guardian or program staff. The parent/legal guardian or program staff must notify Walsh Academy **IN ADVANCE** when such a pick-up is to take place or if an authorized person other than the parent or legal guardian is to pick up the student. This authorization must be provided in writing. This person must show a valid ID to have the student released to them. Parents/guardians must contact the main office for an early departure or late arrival. Notes from students will not be accepted.

Emergency School Closing / Early Dismissal

In case of an unplanned early dismissal due to weather and/or other emergency situation, the parent/guardian/program staff will be notified as soon as possible. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to notify the school of an "In case of emergency" designee in the event they are unable to be reached. It is the parent/guardian/program staff's responsibility to inform the school of all emergency phone numbers and any changes that occur throughout the year. It is extremely important that this information be kept up to date. In case of emergency situations (i.e. inclement weather, loss of electricity, etc.) in which school closure is necessary, Walsh Academy will contact district provided transportation.

3.0 Program Overview

Walsh Academy provides specialized academic and vocational opportunities for students experiencing academic, emotional, behavioral, or cognitive challenges that can potentially limit their life success. Students are served in uniquely designed classrooms to maximize effectiveness across the continuum of age and disability type. Students in grades 9-12 (14-22 yrs.) receive academic instruction with like-age students in self-contained classrooms. Classrooms are staffed with a Special Education Teacher, Paraprofessional and Social Worker/Counselor. The Walsh Academy curriculum is aligned with Illinois Learning Standards and meets public school district graduation requirements.

Walsh Academy tracks student progress towards goals and assigns grades based upon behavior in the classroom and amount of assigned work the student has completed during class. Student goals are addressed daily, and the classroom social workers/counselors keep a log to track data. Informal meetings are held regularly to discuss how each individual is progressing on their personal goals. The students are given the opportunity to advocate for themselves and to learn to do so in an appropriate manner. This process also gives our students an opportunity to examine their behaviors, both positive and negative, in a safe and structured environment. Goal progress is reported and shared in a formal way quarterly.

When students have unexcused absences, are chronically tardy, have an incident where they are aggressive or leave school early, or have been suspended, a meeting takes place. The meeting is a time for developing plans to aid the student in being successful in the future. It is not a time to rehash the incident or force the student to accept responsibility and/or consequences, but to give the student the opportunity to discuss the situation and inform others of how to better assist them. The student and necessary staff are present at the meeting. It also may be necessary for a parent or guardian to accompany a student to the meeting. Arrangements will be made the day prior to the meeting if a parent or guardian is needed. No plans are made for the students without their input and being able to discuss how they were feeling during the incident. This provides the student the opportunity to be an active participant in their behavior and academic plan. The plan is documented on a form and the student signs the form as an agreement to follow what they helped put in place.

3.1 Grading and Attendance

All grades will be based on a combination of daily work, class participation, homework, tests / quizzes, projects, and group work. Homework may be assigned if a student is significantly behind and needs to make up work either due to struggles during the school day or excused absences. Parents/guardians/program staff must call the school if a student is going to be late and/or absent. Calls must be received by 8:20 AM and a reason for absence must be provided to be excused. Calls should be made to Tracy Mullen, RN, at (847) 294-1896. When a student

is absent, the parent or guardian or program staff must provide a reason for the absence. If there is no contact from the parent or guardian or program staff, the absence will be unexcused regardless of the reason. A doctor's note must be provided if the student has been absent due to a potentially contagious infection (i.e. strep throat, pink eye, COVID-19, etc.) and/or if a student has 5 consecutive absences due to illness. A doctor's note is also required if a student incurs an injury stating any restrictions and then again when the student may return to normal activities. When students miss classes due to illness, including vomiting, fever, and/or diarrhea, the student must be symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medications prior to returning to school. Please contact the school nurse (847-294-1896) for further information. If there is no phone call, parents/guardians/program staff will be contacted.

Students who have an excused absence are responsible for getting the work from days missed and have as many days as they missed to complete the work. Students who are unexcused are not eligible to make up the missed work for credit. Prior approval from school administration is required regarding make up work for vacations, camps, etc.

Students are expected to be in attendance on all scheduled days. After five (5) consecutive absences, a letter of contact will be sent home to the parent/guardian addressing the attendance issues. The school district will also be notified of the absences. Attendance or lack of attendance will also factor into the grading process. Excessive absences can lead to course failure. Students in senior high school must be present for at least 85% of the class to be eligible to receive credit. If a student misses more than 15% of the scheduled school days per grading period, he/she will fail the class regardless of the academic scores.

Report cards will be issued at the end of each term. Progress reports will be issued at the halfway point in a term, detailing the student's current academic performance.

3.2 Credit Earning Schedule

Students in senior high school earn credits toward graduation at their home districts. All classes taught at Walsh Academy will transfer to the students' respective high school. During the First Semester, which includes 1st and 2nd quarter, students have the opportunity to earn credits for seven (7) total classes. In Second Semester, students can earn up to nine (9) classes; this includes 3rd and 4th quarter (7 classes) and May term (2 classes). The summer session, Extended School Year or ESY, is comprised of two (2) classes. At the end of each semester, grades are sent to the home district.

3.4 Vocational Program (*Eligible Senior High School Students*)

CTE – Career and Technical Education

Walsh Academy offers extensive CTE electives in the seven career clusters outlined by ISBE as part of the regular course offerings. Students can explore various careers at an introductory level or take more advanced courses in identified careers of interest as indicated by their individual transition plan in their IEP.

For students who are looking to get entry level job experience, there is a CTE Extension program. The CTE Extension program provides structured and supported employment opportunities through an experiential learning process emphasizing the inherent reciprocity within academic study and job-skills training. Placement in and removal from the CTE Extension program will be determined by the IEP team. CTE program hours are 2:15PM until 4:00PM, Monday through Friday, during the regular school year, and 1:15PM until 3:00PM, Monday through Friday, in the extended school year. Students will receive on the job training at on and off campus job sites depending on length of time in program and performance, as well as a

classroom component which will focus on job readiness skills, resume building, and budgeting. Students will receive a pay schedule and sign a contract when they begin CTE.

Walsh Academy also offers transition classrooms to assist students who have met or are close to meeting graduation requirements. These classes are designed to assist students with their post high school planning, whether that is applying to colleges/trade schools, applying for jobs, or learning how to create a budget. Placement in transition services will be determined by the IEP team.

4.0 Medical Administration

I. Legal Authority and General Principles

Charles H. Walsh Academy & Career Tech High School (Walsh Academy) will adhere to all applicable Illinois state laws and regulations pertaining to the administration of medication to students during regular school hours and school-related activities. This policy is strictly governed by **105 ILCS 5/22-30** (administration of medication and emergency stock supplies), **105 ILCS 5/10-20.14b** (compliance with the Illinois Asthma Episode Emergency Response Protocol), **105 ILCS 5/10-22.21b** (general school medication policies), and **23 Illinois Administrative Code 1.540**.

As a standard and regular practice, medication should be administered at home whenever possible. Unless absolutely necessary for a student's health, the administration of medication to students will be discouraged during school hours, while under the supervision of school personnel, or during school-sponsored activities. Walsh Academy staff will administer only medications that are "absolutely necessary for the critical health and well-being of the student".

Walsh Academy's School Nurse (RN), the Site Administrator, or an official designated by the Site Administrator will be responsible for medication administration. Teachers or other employees will not be required to administer medication. However, to allow students to fully participate in educational programming, trained staff members may be delegated medication administration authority in compliance with Section 50-75 of the Nurse Practice Act (**225 ILCS 65/50-75**), **68 Illinois Administrative Code 1300.20**, and pursuant to a comprehensive nursing assessment by the Licensed School Nurse/Registered Nurse. Walsh Academy will keep on file all records of medication administration training provided to delegated staff members. Any properly trained staff member—whether certified or not—may administer medication in an emergency.

II. Standard Procedures for Authorizing and Handling Medications

Should a student require medication during school hours, the following procedures strictly apply:

1. **Annual Review:** Walsh Academy's Registered Nurse (School Nurse) shall annually begin the process of reviewing any request from school staff and/or parents/guardians to administer medication. Parent requests and medical orders are valid for a maximum of one year from the date written.
2. **Mandatory Documentation:** Prior to any administration, Walsh Academy must receive a completed "Authorization for Administration of Medication Form" (covering both prescription and nonprescription items) signed and dated by both the parent/legal guardian and the licensed prescriber/attending physician.

3. **Right of Refusal:** The Site Administrator and/or School Nurse, in consultation with the student's health care provider, retain the right to decline to allow a medication to be administered by school staff. Any medical order that is declined must be communicated to the parent/guardian and the prescriber, along with the medical/nursing rationale and an offer to accommodate with a different medication or regimen.
4. **Direct Parental Administration:** Walsh Academy may elect, on a case-by-case basis, to allow a parent/guardian or adult family member to directly give the student a legal medication as if they were doing so at home. This must be preapproved by the Site Administrator in consultation with the School Nurse and scheduled to limit disruptions to the learning environment.
5. **Supply and Packaging:** Parents/legal guardians are responsible for providing a one (1) week supply of the medication to the school. Medication must be in its original, properly labeled container. Pharmacist labels must include contact information, and retailer labels must display the drug name, ingredients, dosage, and the student's name. Over-the-counter (nonprescription) medication will never be administered without a physician's order, parent authorization, and the parent providing the physical medication.
6. **Receipt and Verification:** Upon receiving the medication, the School Nurse will count all pills in view of a school administrator or designee and formally log the exact count and receipt date.
7. **Storage:** All prescription and nonprescription medication will be secured in a locked cabinet. Medications requiring refrigeration will be stored in a designated medical refrigerator inaccessible to students. The only exception to the locked cabinet rule is rescue inhalers for students who have approved asthma action plans on file.
8. **Logging Administration:** The School Nurse (RN/LPN), Site Administrator, or designated official administering the medication must log the exact date, time, dosage, and their staff initials immediately upon administration.
9. **Medication Changes:** Parents/legal guardians must immediately notify the School Nurse and provide a newly completed authorization form signed by the attending physician whenever any medication changes occur.
10. **Spilled or Destroyed Doses:** If a dose is spilled, dropped, or destroyed prior to administration, a new dose will be prepared. Parents/legal guardians must be notified in writing on the day of the occurrence that a dose was destroyed.
11. **Disposal and Destruction:** Unused medication must be picked up by the parent/legal guardian. If left unclaimed after a two-week period, the School Nurse will destroy the medication in view of a witness, logging the date, time, and signatures of the faculty involved. Parents will be notified prior to and upon disposal.
12. **Policy Violations:** Students attending Walsh Academy will be subject to disciplinary action for violating the school's medication policy.

III. Self-Administration and Self-Carry of Medications

A student may be permitted to carry and self-administer medication (e.g., asthma quick-relief medication or epinephrine auto-injectors) pursuant to an Asthma Action Plan, Individual Health

Care Action Plan, Illinois Food Allergy Emergency Action Plan, Section 504 Plan, or Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the following conditions:

1. The parent/guardian provides written consent for self-administration and/or self-carry.
2. A written statement/authorization is provided by a licensed medical prescriber (physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse) containing the name/purpose of the medication, the prescribed dosage, and the specific times or circumstances under which it is to be administered.
3. The prescription label affixed to the medication contains the student's name, medication name, dosage, and administration instructions.
4. The Site Administrator explicitly approves the arrangement on the Parent/Guardian Approval of Self-Administration of Medication Form.

Emergency Action Plans (EAP)

For any student approved to self-administer medication, a comprehensive, individualized Emergency Action Plan must be developed and approved by the parent/guardian, the student's physician, the School Nurse, and the Site Administrator. A separate plan is required for each approved medication and must specifically outline:

- The exact clinical actions to be taken if the student is incapacitated and cannot self-administer.
- Explicit situations in which Walsh Academy staff must immediately call 911.

Topical Sunscreen Product

A student may possess and use a topical, FDA-approved sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-sponsored event without a physician's note or prescription, provided the parent/guardian has approved its use.

Medical Cannabis

Walsh Academy allows the administration of a medical cannabis-infused product to a student who is a registered qualifying patient. A parent, legal guardian, or designated caregiver may administer the product subject to the restrictions in **105 ILCS 5/22-33**. Alternatively, a school administrator or designee may administer the product, or supervise a registered student self-administering the product, in accordance with state laws.

IV. Emergency Administration of Undesignated/Stock Medications

Walsh Academy-trained personnel are authorized to maintain and administer stock, undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors, opioid antagonists, and asthma medications (albuterol) to any individual on school grounds or under school supervision believed in good faith to be experiencing anaphylaxis, an opioid overdose, or acute respiratory distress, respectively.

Operational Protocols

- **EMS Activation:** Staff must immediately activate the EMS system (call 911) and notify the parent/guardian following any administration of an emergency epinephrine injector or opioid antagonist.

- **24-Hour Practitioner Notification:** Within 24 hours of administration, the school must notify the prescribing healthcare professional who provided the standing protocol and prescription of its use. For stock asthma medication, the parent/guardian must also be notified within this 24-hour window.
- **Storage:** All stock emergency medications will be safely stored in accordance with manufacturer instructions inside the School Nurse's office, remaining accessible to trained personnel during operating hours (8:30am – 4:00pm).

Mandatory Annual Training and Certification

Prior to administering any undesignated emergency medication, personnel must successfully complete an approved annual training curriculum (online or in-person) and demonstrate competency via a standardized test.

- **Epinephrine Training:** Covers recognition of anaphylaxis, device deployment, allergen exposure prevention, and emergency follow-up protocols. Must be certified via written signature by a licensed nurse or physician with expertise in allergies, who holds current CPR/AED certifications.
- **Opioid Antagonist Training:** Covers recognition of drug overdoses, rescue breathing, rescue resuscitation, and post-administration care. Must be certified via written signature by an individual familiar with opioid antagonists who holds CPR/AED certification.
- **Asthma Training:** Covers distinguishing respiratory distress from anaphylaxis, dosage, and delivery device mechanics. Must be certified via written signature by the Site Administrator, a nurse, or a physician knowledgeable in asthma emergency management.
- **CPR/AED Prerequisite:** All certification courses must be conducted by trainers certified by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent body. The Site Administrator or designee will maintain a centralized register of all trained staff and their specific certifications on campus.

Mandatory State Reporting (3-Day Window)

Within **three (3) business days** of administering any undesignated epinephrine injector, opioid antagonist, or stock asthma medication, the Site Administrator or designee **must submit a formal report to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)** detailing the recipient's age/type, symptoms, location, dosage count, administrator type, and clinical outcome.

Liability Protections

Pursuant to Illinois law, written notification of limited liability is sent to families upon enrollment and at the start of each school year, requiring a signed acknowledgment. Walsh Academy, its employees, agents, and the prescribing healthcare professional providing the standing protocol incur no liability or professional discipline—except for willful and wanton conduct—for any injury arising from the administration or self-administration of these medications, regardless of whether prior parental consent or a student-specific prescription was on file.

V. Illinois Asthma Episode Emergency Response Protocol

In strict compliance with **105 ILCS 5/10-20.14b**, Walsh Academy implements the mandatory Illinois State Board of Education protocol for managing asthma episodes.

- **Primary Weight to Student Reports:** Staff must give primary weight to a student's verbal report that they need their inhaler. Even if no physical symptoms (such as wheezing or coughing) are visible, the student must be permitted to use their prescribed medication or be provided immediate assistance.
- **Mandatory Staff Training:** Every two years, all school personnel who interact with students must complete an approved in-person or online training program on the management of asthma, prevention of symptoms, and emergency response protocols in the school setting.
- **EAP Collection:** Walsh Academy will actively request an individualized Asthma Emergency Action Plan from parents/guardians annually, keeping it on file in the School Nurse's office and distributing copies to relevant instructional staff.

Emergency Step-by-Step Response Matrix

Step	Condition / Symptoms	Required Operational Actions
1	<p>Asthma Episode</p> <p>Student exhibits signs like wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, OR makes a verbal report needing their inhaler.</p>	<p>1. Give primary weight to the student's report. Assist them with using their quick-relief inhaler immediately.</p> <p>2. Immediately call the School Nurse (RN) and alert the Site Administrator.</p>
2	<p>Severe Asthma Episode</p> <p>Very fast/hard breathing; nasal flaring; skin sucking over neck/ribs; unable to walk or speak; lips/fingernail beds turning blue.</p>	<p>1. Call 911 immediately.</p> <p>2. Call the School Nurse (RN) to the scene immediately.</p> <p>3. Administer emergency quick-relief asthma medication (student's own or school stock supply) immediately.</p> <p>4. Summon the Site Administrator and notify the parent/guardian.</p> <p>5. Move to Step 5.</p>
3	<p>Loss of Consciousness</p> <p>Student loses consciousness or the structural ability to participate in their own treatment.</p>	<p>1. Call 911 immediately.</p> <p>2. Call the School Nurse (RN) to the scene immediately.</p>

Step	Condition / Symptoms	Required Operational Actions
		3. Perform CPR/AED actions if indicated by training.
4	<p>No Quick-Relief Medication Available</p> <p>Student exhibits symptoms but does not have a personal quick-relief inhaler on person or on file.</p>	<p>1. Check for school stock supply: Does the school have an undesignated stock asthma medication protocol/supply?</p> <p>* If YES: Retrieve the stock medication and immediately proceed to Step 5.</p> <p>* If NO: Call 911 immediately, call the School Nurse (RN), summon the Site Administrator, and contact the parent/guardian.</p>
5	<p>Medication Administration & Support</p> <p>Student is conscious and quick-relief medication is accessible (personal or stock).</p>	<p>1. Assess respiratory status using a peak flow meter if available and clinically feasible.</p> <p>2. Provide/assist with the self-administration of the quick-relief medication (with delivery device) as authorized.</p> <p>3. Stay with the student; do not leave them unattended.</p> <p>4. Reassure the student: speak softly, remain calm, and encourage slow, deep breaths.</p> <p>5. Position the student comfortably in a seated upright position (indoors if possible); loosen tight clothing and remove outerwear.</p> <p>6. CRITICAL: Do not permit the student to lie down or fall asleep.</p>
6	<p>Improvement</p> <p>Student's breathing improves and stabilizes after receiving quick-relief medication.</p>	<p>1. Continuously monitor the student for 15–20 minutes.</p> <p>2. If stable, they may return to class.</p>

Step	Condition / Symptoms	Required Operational Actions
		<p>3. If mild symptoms return, repeat the quick-relief medication every 10–20 minutes (or as directed in their EAP) until fully recovered or higher medical help arrives.</p> <p>4. Document the incident and call the parent/guardian.</p>
7	<p>No Improvement</p> <p>No improvement within 10 minutes of medication administration, or symptoms acutely worsen into severe distress.</p>	<p>1. Call 911 immediately if not already activated.</p> <p>2. Call the School Nurse (RN) to the scene immediately.</p> <p>3. Administer a repeat dose of quick-relief medication while awaiting EMS.</p>
8	<p>Recording & Mandated Reporting</p> <p>Incident concluded.</p>	<p>1. Record all incident details in the student's permanent health file.</p> <p>2. Coordinate with parents to update or establish an individualized EAP.</p> <p>3. Stock Medication Rule: If undesignated stock asthma medication was deployed, the School Nurse/Site Administrator must complete and file the mandatory ISBE reporting form within three (3) business days.</p>

VI. Walsh Academy Allergen Reduction Plan

To minimize life-threatening exposure risks for students with severe allergies, the campus enforces the following environment controls:

- **Documentation:** All students with known severe allergies must submit a medical Emergency Action Plan form, maintained centrally by the Site Administrator and School Nurse.
- **Lunch Area Guidelines:** Food and drinks are strictly prohibited inside classrooms; eating is restricted to designated areas. Daily morning snacks and lunches are provided by the academy. Students are forbidden from sharing food. A separate, designated allergen-safe lunch table is provided for any student with documented food allergies.
- **Sanitation:** Campus spaces and lunch areas are cleaned by external cleaning services daily. Staff will clean lunch tables between shifts. Tables utilized by students with

documented food allergies must be sanitized using separate, dedicated cleaning wipes and materials to prevent cross-contact. Handwashing sinks, soap, sanitizer, and wipes are provided to students, who are encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.

- **Outdoor and Vocational Areas:** Walsh Academy does not offer a traditional recess period but provides outdoor spaces. Students participating in the learning garden and greenhouse are taught tool sanitation protocols and must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer immediately upon re-entering the building.

Revised 07/12/2018

Revised 02/21/2020

Reviewed 04/12/2020

Reviewed 8/10/21

Revised 03/2022

Updated and revised July 2023

Updated and revised February 2024

Reviewed and Updated to Ensure Full ISBE Compliance: June 2026

4.1 Medical Emergency

Walsh Academy has a full-time school nurse to assist in any medical concerns throughout the school day. In case of a serious emergency that the nurse feels requires immediate medical attention that cannot be provided within the school, the student will be transported to the nearest health care facility for treatment. The parent/guardian/ program staff will be notified at the time of this decision to meet school personnel at the health care facility. A member of the school staff will remain with the student until a parent/guardian/program staff arrives. Please make Walsh Academy aware of any medical issues, allergies, and medications taken, even if they are not taken at school, to ensure appropriate and safe medical treatment. Please also keep the emergency contact information up to date so that you can be kept informed of any emergencies. Walsh Academy accepts no responsibility, financial or otherwise, of emergency medical treatment.

4.2 Epidemic/Pandemic Outbreak

In the event of a disease outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic, to protect the health and safety of students and staff, Walsh Academy may perform daily temperature checks and health screenings at school as necessary in the sole discretion of school personnel. If this information is maintained, it will be considered a school student record and will be maintained in accordance with the *Illinois School Student Records Act*.

5.0 Student Information

5.1 Dress Code

Students at Walsh Academy are to wear a Walsh Academy uniform shirt, issued by the school, and either plain jeans or khakis of their own. Each student will be issued two (2) blue polo uniform shirts, two (2) long sleeved blue shirts, two (2) P.E. uniform shirts, two (2) pair of P.E. shorts, one (1) Walsh Academy sweatshirt (the only sweatshirt permitted to be worn in class), and one (1) pair of Walsh Academy sweatpants that can only be worn during P.E. Jeans must be free from rips, tears, holes/fraying and are not to be colors other than denim blue, grey, black, or brown. They are also not to have excessive designs or writing of any sort and cannot

have cargo pockets. Shorts may be worn when the predicted temperature is over 75 degrees between May 1 and October 1. Shorts are not to be worn at any other time. Jean shorts and cargo shorts are not permitted. Students may wear the long sleeved yellow, white or black long-sleeved shirts under their uniforms, as long as they are free from writing.

Students are expected to be in clean uniforms each day, free from any visible soils. Pants and shorts are to be worn at the natural waistline. Rubber bands, strings or other items are not to be used to tie the bottom of pant legs. Students may wear gym shoes; however, they must be clean and have laces that match the color of the shoes; white laces are always permitted. Shoelaces are to be tied at all times. Flip flops, slippers, crocs, or sandals are not permitted. Students will not be permitted in certain areas of the building or be able to participate in certain activities without proper footwear for safety reasons. Hooded sweatshirts are not to be worn in the classroom and need to be checked at the locker area. The Walsh Academy sweatshirt may be worn throughout the day; however, a student should wear their polo underneath in the event he/she would like to take off the sweatshirt.

A student's appearance, including dress and grooming, must not disrupt the educational process, interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety, and decency. While allowing diversity of taste, fashion, and individual preference, the school expects every student to dress in a manner that does not disrupt the educational process. All students are expected to observe basic standards of cleanliness, modesty, and good grooming. When the school deems that a student's appearance is disruptive to the educational process, the student will be directed to change his or her appearance. The school prohibits clothing, which depicts alcohol or other drugs, which has sexual or obscene connotations, which advocates violence, or which states ethnic or racial superiority. Clothing or accessories that may damage school property or be readily used as a weapon are prohibited.

Tattoos with content that is not appropriate for or a distraction from the educational environment (i.e. tattoos that have gang, drug, weapon, or sexual references) are to be covered at all times, including during P.E., regardless of the placement. Students must arrive to school with the tattoos covered (i.e. band-aids, socks, sleeves, gloves); band-aids or other items will not be provided by the school. Jewelry, including earrings, chains, necklaces, and rings that are disruptive to the learning environment or a safety hazard are not permitted, and any jewelry can be requested to be removed at any time if it may be a hazard in trades classes, P.E., CAAEL games, etc. Baseball hats, bandanas, do rags, head bands are not permitted in school. No hats are to be worn during school. Hairbrushes, combs, and picks are not permitted. Shaved lines should indicate a part on the top of the head and be no longer than 2 inches in length.

The first time that a student brings unapproved items, the student will need to check in any of the listed items (see section 5.2) at the beginning of school and will receive them back at the end of the school day. If the student continues to bring unapproved items to school, they will be confiscated and returned to the parent/guardian/program staff. During P.E. students are to wear the P.E. uniform issued by Walsh Academy. In order to earn full credit in P.E. class, students must be in full uniform. All items that are not within the dress code will be stored in the student's class electronics bag or in the main office. Items may be confiscated at the discretion of school personnel and turned into the Principal or designee. Students who are out of compliance with the dress code may not be permitted to participate in certain activities, such as field trips, and may be subject to disciplinary action.

ITEM	COST
Polo Shirts	\$22.00
Sweatshirt	\$19.00

Long Sleeve Shirts	\$10.00
Gym Shirt	\$10.00
Gym Shorts	\$23.00
Sweatpants	\$21.00

5.2 Safety Checks/Lockers

Searches are conducted at Walsh Academy on a daily basis to ensure that hazardous and contraband materials are not brought into the learning environment. Students are searched when they enter the building before beginning their school day. Additional searches may be conducted if school personnel feel that it is necessary. Walsh Academy may involve the Niles Police if the Principal or designee feels it is needed. Searches can include, but are not limited to; backpacks, purses, bags, jackets/coats, clothing, pockets, shoes, etc. A metal detector is utilized. Students refusing safety checks may not be permitted to enter the school building. Below is a list of unapproved items that students should not have at school, but staff would return to the student at the end of the day, and a list of contraband items that would not be returned to students under any circumstance. These lists are not all-inclusive, and all items brought to school must be turned in upon arrival during the safety check procedure. Staff will determine if items are safe to be returned. Items that are illegal are subject to police involvement.

Unapproved Items (can be returned to students)	Contraband (not returned to students)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewelry • Non-uniform clothing items • Fidgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food/Drink • Lighters • Weapons • Cigarettes • Vapes and Cartridges • Drugs • Gang paraphernalia

Lockers are provided for all students at the Walsh Academy for the storage of coats, purses, bags, backpacks, and other school equipment. Students are not permitted to put locks on the lockers. Students are expected to respect their privacy and the privacy of others and are not to be in any other person's locker at any time. All students are asked to surrender any electronic devices to school personnel upon arrival to be locked securely in assigned file cabinet. Walsh Academy reserves the right to perform locker searches when it is deemed necessary. Walsh Academy does not assume any responsibility for lost or stolen items, including money. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing money with them to school. No vending machines are available to students and the students are not to purchase any items during school hours.

5.3 Physical Management Policy

At times, it may be necessary to use physical management with students who are behaving in an unsafe manner. It is the philosophy of Walsh Academy that physical restraint is always used as a last resort and used only in the following situations:

- 1) The student is a danger to self.
- 2) The student is a danger to others (staff, students, etc.)

All staff members at Walsh Academy are trained to deal with students' inappropriate behavior through Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI). When a student engages in behaviors listed above, he/she may require the use of a physical management procedure. If a student is unable to gain control of his/her behavior through the combination of verbal intervention and physical management, a parent or legal guardian may be called to remove the student for the remainder of the day. Students who are chronically or severely aggressive may be subject to out of school suspension. For more information, refer to the Physical Management Policy in the consent packet. This policy will need to be reviewed and signed annually.

5.4 Electronic Device Policy

All electronic devices, such as cellular telephones, portable CD players, iPods, tablets, and video games are a disruption to the educational and therapeutic process at Walsh Academy. As a result, students must relinquish all electronic devices to school staff upon entering the school building. Such devices are labeled and stored in a locked cabinet and are returned to the student at the end of the scheduled school day. It is the responsibility of the student to present any such electronic device to staff when entering school. Electronic devices not presented to staff by students will be confiscated and retained by the school. Confiscated property will be returned to the student's parent/legal guardian or residential program.

Walsh Academy is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage of any electronic devices. Walsh Academy strongly encourages students to leave electronic devices at home.

5.5 Student Rights and Responsibilities

1. Students have the right to a free and appropriate education up to age 22.
2. Students have the right to instruction provided by certified school staff members.
3. Students have the right to appropriate learning materials.
4. Students have the right to a safe school environment.
5. Students have the responsibility to be on time and prepared for class each day.
6. Students have the responsibility to do their best to learn.
7. Students have the responsibility to let the teachers teach.
8. Students have the responsibility to let the other students learn.

5.6 Classroom Expectations

1. Respect the learning environment.
2. Use respectful and non-vulgar language.
3. Respect people and their personal space.
4. Be an active participant in your education.
5. Be prepared to learn everyday.
6. Ask for help when you need it. Offer help when you see someone else needs it.
7. Follow all school policies and procedures.
8. Let the teachers teach.
9. Let the other students learn.
10. Respect yourself and take responsibility for your actions.

5.7 Internet and Computer Use

Walsh Academy recognizes that technology is a tool for instruction which should facilitate and enhance the curricular goals. Internet access is one of the technology tools that can provide positive learning experiences for students across all domains of the school environment. Because of the unique nature of the Internet, the staff will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of that resource. Those responsible for student internet access

will monitor its use in person and via computer monitoring software, so that maximum instructional benefit may result. Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Computers and the internet are to be used for educational purposes only, including academics, social emotional learning, and vocational training, and are not to be used for personal social networking including personal email, Facebook, Twitter, etc. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. Along with access to the internet via computers/Chromebooks, Walsh Academy has a variety of other electronics available for student use when deemed appropriate by their classroom team. These technologies include but are not limited to 3D printers, vinyl cutters, Virtual Reality goggles, podcast equipment, and a state-of-the-art digital media lab. Any intentional misuse of Walsh Academy computers, internet, and/or electronic devices will result in mandatory 1:1 supervision for academic purposes only, and the loss of the privilege for all other purposes for a period of time determined by the classroom team. Further intentional misuse will result in the loss of the privilege to use such items entirely. An internet agreement must be signed by the student prior to using the computers.

5.8 Substance Use / Abuse

Students who are suspected of being under the influence of substances may be subject to additional searches. Parents/guardians and/or program staff will be notified if substance use is suspected either due to unusual or suspicious behavior, found paraphernalia/substances, and/or the setting off of vape sensors that are located in each Walsh Academy bathroom. Students who are found to be in possession of or under the influence of substances may be subject to police involvement. Tobacco and electronic cigarettes and paraphernalia fall under this policy. Students are not permitted to smoke on school grounds or in school vehicles, including cabs/busses to and from school. If students are observed dispensing any substances to any other students, they will have their items confiscated and may be subject to police involvement and suspension and/or discharge.

Walsh Academy Substance Abuse/Vaping Policy

1. Policy Statement:

The use, possession, and distribution of vapes/e-cigarettes (including all electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems) and all other illegal substances/contraband are strictly prohibited for all students at all times on Walsh Academy property and at school-sponsored events. "Illegal substances/contraband" includes, but is not limited to, drugs, alcohol, weapons, and drug paraphernalia.

2. Purpose:

This policy aims to:

- Protect the health and well-being of all students.
- Create a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment.
- Address substance use and vaping with understanding, education, and support, recognizing potential underlying needs.
- Ensure a consistent and predictable environment that enhances feelings of safety for all students.

3. Definitions:

- **Vape/E-cigarette:** Includes all electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS), and related products (e.g., e-cigarettes, vape pens, mods, e-hookahs), regardless of nicotine content.
- **Illegal Substances/Contraband:** Includes, but is not limited to, any controlled substance as defined by law, alcohol, weapons of any kind, drug paraphernalia (pipes, bongs, etc.), and any other items deemed disruptive or dangerous by school administration.
- **Walsh Academy Property:** All school buildings, grounds, athletic fields, parking lots, school buses, and off-campus locations during school-sponsored activities.

4. Addressing Policy Violations: A Tiered, Trauma-Informed Response

Walsh Academy will respond to violations of this policy with a tiered approach that prioritizes education, support, and understanding. Responses will be age-appropriate and consider individual circumstances. Any student suspected of using or possessing prohibited substances/contraband will not be allowed in the classroom until the substance/contraband is turned in and the incident is processed with a staff member. Students possessing contraband with the intent to distribute will be referred to the Niles Police Department.

Consequences for violating the Walsh Academy Substance Abuse/Vaping Policy will include one or more of the following:

- **Private Conversation:** A staff member will talk privately with the student, focusing on listening, educating about health risks and the policy, and exploring potential underlying factors (stress, peer influence, etc.).
- **Parent/Guardian Notification:** Parents/guardians will be informed.
- **Educational Resource:** The student may be required to complete an educational session about the specific substance involved (vaping, drugs, alcohol, etc.).
- **Additional Search Procedures:** During check-in, additional search procedures may be implemented (shoes, socks, bags, pockets, etc.).
- **Support Plan Meeting:** A required meeting will be held to explore underlying factors and develop a support plan (brief counseling, referral to support services, coping strategies).
- **Parent/Guardian Meeting:** A meeting with parents/guardians, counselor, and an administrator will be held.
- **Restorative Consequences:** Age-appropriate restorative practices (reflective writing, research project, presentation) and temporary loss of privileges may be implemented.
- **Support Plan Review:** The support plan will be reviewed and intensified, including referrals for community support and substance abuse evaluation and counseling.
- **Potential Police Involvement:** Police involvement may be considered, and a citation may be issued, particularly in cases involving illegal substances or distribution.
- **Alternative Learning Environment:** Instruction may occur in an alternative learning environment, outside of the regular classroom setting.
- **Suspension:** Continued violations or disruption of the learning environment will result in out-of-school suspension with a required re-entry meeting with the parent/guardian.

5. Support and Prevention Strategies:

- **Universal Education:** School-wide programs on the risks of substance use, including vaping, and healthy choices will be delivered in an engaging and non-shaming way.
- **Mental Health & Wellness Promotion:** Stress management workshops, mindfulness training, and positive school climate initiatives will be offered.
- **Staff Training:** Professional development will be provided on trauma-informed practices, substance use education, and policy implementation.

- **Accessibility of Support Services:** Easy student access to counselors, mental health professionals, and support services will be ensured.

6. Review:

This policy will be reviewed and revised annually, or as needed, with input from students, staff, and parents/guardians to ensure effectiveness and alignment with best practices.

5.9 Unauthorized Departures

Should a student attempt to leave the grounds without permission, school staff will attempt to engage the student verbally and prevent him/her from leaving. However, if the student decides to leave the school despite the verbal intervention of staff, school personnel will notify the student's parent/legal guardian or residential program, the police, and the student's probation officer (if applicable). The police will be asked to bring the student back to the school if he/she is located. A mediation will take place, and plans will be made for the remainder of the student's day. Electronic devices and other items rendered to staff upon arrival at school **will not** be provided to the student prior to his/her unauthorized departure. Electronic devices and/or other student property rendered to or retained by staff during a student search will be returned in person to the student's parent/legal guardian or residential program.

6.0 Experiential Education

6.1 Field Trips / Out of School Activities

Parents/legal guardians/residential staff will be required to provide written consent for the student to be eligible for field trips or out of school activities. The consent **MUST** be signed at the beginning of the school year and then notices will be sent home when a field trip is scheduled. Walsh Academy accepts no responsibility of the inherent risks on outings. Walsh Academy staff will provide supervision and transportation in a school vehicle. On outings and field trips, students are taken into the community to participate in activities which may include academic and recreational endeavors: golfing, bowling, movies, having meals at restaurants, vocational training, visiting museums, canoeing, ropes courses and attending practice games for extramural sports. All students must meet a set criterion in order to attend a field trip, outing or activity. Students who act out or engage in inappropriate behavior(s) while on a field trip, outing or in an activity, may be returned to the school by staff and possibly suspended from future trips. A student must attend at least ten (10) school days prior to becoming eligible for field trips. If a student is ineligible for a scheduled field trip, an alternate assignment will be provided.

6.2 Physical Activity

CAAEL – (*Chicago Area Alternative Educational League*), NSSEO Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center, YMCA, Outer Edge Team Course, Salt Creek Rural Park District.

Parents or legal guardians will be required to provide written consent for a student to be eligible for physical activities and extramural sports. Students have the opportunity to participate in extramural sports including, but not limited to, football, volleyball, softball, soccer and basketball through CAAEL. They may also have the opportunity to participate in ropes courses, kayaking, climbing walls, boating, cliffs and cables, and fishing. Students must meet a set criterion for participation in the activities. Walsh Academy is not liable, financially or otherwise, for any

injuries resulting from a student's participation in physical activities and extramural sports. Physical education classes and CAAEL will focus on fitness, health and wellness.

7.0 Additional Information

7.1 Transfers, Withdrawals, and Requests for Records

Parents/guardians/residential programs must report any student transferring or withdrawing from the school to the counselor/social worker as well as to the home school district. Requests for records should be made to the school district the student is registered in at the time of the transfer or withdrawal. Walsh Academy may only release records that originated at the school and is not able to release any records from other placements. Parents/legal guardians/residential staff are also required to inform the Principal and the home school district of any change in residence, especially if the move prompts a change in the home school district.

7.2 Pet Therapy Release

Through classroom pets, your child may learn the joys and responsibilities for caring for a pet. Other animals, such as dogs or cats, may be brought in to provide pet therapy. These animals will be certified as pet therapy animals.

7.3 Photo Release and Student Information

Photographs may be taken of students during school events, including award ceremonies and field trips. Photographs may be printed in a school newspaper, yearbook or secure website. Walsh Academy may be illustrated in photographic displays or student publications/projects. Names may appear in the publications but will be limited to the first name and first initial of last name. If you do not want your student to be photographed for any reason, please notify the Principal in writing immediately and mark the appropriate box on the Pet Therapy and Photo Release consent form.

7.4 Damage to Property

Any costs to repair or replace damage to the property of Walsh Academy or its staff will be the responsibility of the student's parent/legal guardian. Walsh Academy strongly encourages parents/legal guardians to allocate moral and financial responsibility for damage of property to the students, if at all possible. While arrangements for the payment of damages should be a group decision, parents/legal guardians are ultimately financially responsible for any/all damages. Students in the CTE Extension program and/or Transition Classrooms where they earn pay for job experiences will engage in an individualized contract detailing payment plans from money earned at Walsh Academy for damage to school property.

7.5 Consents

When beginning at Walsh Academy, parent/guardians/residential program staff will receive a packet of consents regarding their student's placement at the school. These consents are related to vital medical information, participation in school activities, communication with school districts and other providers. Having this information completed is imperative to a student's participation in programming at Walsh Academy; therefore, these consents are due no later than 10 days after the student's start date. If consents are not received by this time, Walsh

Academy will contact the school district and placement at the school can be placed on hold until the information is received.

8.0 Policies/Procedures

8.1 Gang Policy

GANGS AND GANG-LIKE ACTIVITY/BEHAVIOR PROHIBITED

Gangs and gang-like activities/behavior are prohibited on school property or at any school-related activity. The visibility of gang and gang-like activities/behavior causes substantial disruption and/or material interference to the educational process as well as school activities of Walsh Academy.

Gang and gang-like activities/behavior shall mean, but is not limited to, the following:

- Any conduct engaged in by a student (1) on behalf of any gang, (2) to perpetuate the existence of any gang, or (3) to affect the common purpose and design of any gang, including without limitation, recruiting students for membership in any gang and threatening or intimidating other students or employees;
- Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, tattoo, or other item which is representative of membership or affiliation in any gang;
- Demonstrating verbal or nonverbal behavior representative of membership or affiliation in any gang, such as:
 - Intimidating, recruiting, or congregating to illustrate solidarity;
 - Harassing;
 - Making gestures or handshakes;
 - Possessing or creating slogans or drawings;
 - Using inappropriate verbal expressions/comments.
 -

All violations will be referred to local police via principal/director. Consequences or interventions shall include, but are not limited to, one of the following:

- Formal warning
- Referral to outside community agencies
- Loss of privileges
- Removal from co-curricular and athletic activities
- Alternative to suspension
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Arrest for criminal offense

8.2 Distribution Policy

DISTRIBUTION OF OBSCENE OR LIBELOUS MATERIAL

Distribution in school of material that is obscene or libelous is prohibited. Distribution in school includes distribution on or adjacent to school property or at school-related activities. Obscene material is that which an average person, when viewing the material as a whole and applying community standards for children of a relevant age, would find to depict or describe sexual, political or scientific value. Libelous material is that which tends falsely to injure the reputation of

another. Students who distribute such material or who write or publish such material for distribution engage in gross disobedience and misconduct and will be disciplined in accordance with Walsh Academy and home school district discipline policy.

8.3 Anti-Bullying Policy

WALSH ACADEMY ANTI-BULLYING AND PREVENION OF AND RESPONSE TO BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, AND HARASSMENT

This Bullying Prevention Policy is created pursuant to and complies with Section 27-23.7 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7). Walsh Academy serves a unique population of students with disabilities; therefore, the Policy set forth herein is tailored to address the needs of Walsh Academy's student population.

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Therefore, preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are essential to Walsh Academy's goals.

Bullying based on actual or perceived academic abilities, race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, the status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of those mentioned above real or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, buses, or other school vehicles.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by a school Walsh Academy or home school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

This item (4) applies only in cases in which a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred, and it does not require the home school Walsh Academy staff or School to staff or monitor any non-school-related activity, function, or program. Definitions from Section 27-23.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7)

Bullying includes cyber-bullying and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or student's academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from a school's services, activities, or privileges.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation, one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive. 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7

Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of Walsh Academy.

Cyber-bullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. In addition, Cyber-bullying includes creating a web page or weblog in which the creator assumes another person's identity or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that one or more persons may access if the distribution or postings create any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Restorative measures mean a continuum of school-based alternatives to exclusionary disciplines, such as suspensions and expulsions in cooperation with the student's home school, Walsh Academy, that (i) are adapted to the particular needs of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in school and society, (v) serve to build and restore relationships among students, families, schools, and communities, and (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption by balancing accountability with an understanding of students' behavioral health needs to keep students in school.

School personnel means persons employed by, on contract with, or volunteer at Walsh Academy, including, without limitation, school administrators, teachers, school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, related services staff, school chefs, and paraprofessionals.

Bullying Prevention and Response Plan

The principal or designee shall develop and maintain a bullying prevention and response plan that advances the goal of Walsh Academy of providing all students with a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassment. Walsh Academy uses the definition of bullying as provided in this Policy. In addition, this plan must be consistent with the requirements listed below; each numbered requirement, 1-12, corresponds with the same number in the list of required policy components in 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(b) 1-11.

1. Bullying is contrary to State law and the Policy of this school. However, nothing in the Walsh Academy's bullying prevention and response plan is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or under Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.
2. Students are encouraged to report bullying immediately. A report may be made orally or in writing to that student's Principal, Assistant Principal, or designated school social worker. In addition, anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who have information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the Walsh Academy Principal or Assistant Principal. The Walsh Academy named officials and all staff members available for help with a bully or to make a bullying

report. Anonymous reports can be made to either Ann M. Craig at craiga@walshacademy.org or Heather Lischett at lischetth@walshacademy.org. The following staff have been identified as resources.

3.

<p><u>Compliant Coordinator</u> Ann M. Craig 6935 W. Touhy Ave, Niles, IL 60714 847-390-3030 craiga@walshacademy.org</p>	<p><u>Compliant Investigator</u> Heather Lischett 6935 W. Touhy Ave, Niles, IL 60714 847-294-1744 lischetth@walshacademy.org</p>
<p><u>Compliant Investigator</u> Kathleen Samuelson 6935 W. Touhy Ave, Niles, IL 60714 847-390-3020 samuelsonk@walshacademy.org</p>	<p><u>Compliant Investigator</u> Kristina Seidelman-Nickels 6935 W. Touhy Ave, Niles, IL 60714 847-390-3020 seidelmank@walshacademy.org</p>
 4. Consistent with federal and state laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the Principal or Designee shall promptly inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) of all students involved in an alleged incident of bullying and discuss, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures. Notification should occur within 24 hours without compromising the investigation.
 5. All reasonable efforts will be made to complete the bullying investigation within ten school days after the date the report of bullying was received. If the bullying investigation cannot be completed within ten school days, the investigator must promptly notify the Building Principal or designee, identify the reasons why the bullying investigation cannot be completed within ten school days, and establish a timeframe for completing the investigation.
 6. When investigating a report of bullying, the investigator will involve, if necessary, appropriate school support personnel and other staff with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention. The principal or designee shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying by, among other things:
 - a. Make all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within ten school days after the date the report of the incident of bullying was received and consider additional relevant information obtained during the course of the investigation about the reported incident of bullying.
 - b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.
 - c. Notifying the appropriate school staff of the report of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.
 - d. Consistent with federal and state laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents and guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the principal or designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.
- The principal or designee shall investigate whether a reported act of bullying is within the permissible scope of the Walsh Academy's jurisdiction and shall require that the Walsh Academy provide the victim with information regarding services that are available within the Walsh Academy and community, such as counseling, support services, and other programs.
7. The principal or designee shall use interventions to address bullying, including but not limited to, school social work services, restorative measures, social-emotional

- skill building, counseling, school psychological services, and referrals for community-based services.
8. Any reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying to determine consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
 9. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the Walsh Academy's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing false information will be treated as bullying to determine any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
 10. Walsh Academy's bullying prevention and response plan must involve various school stakeholders, including students and parents/guardians.
 11. The Principal or Designee shall post this Policy on the Walsh Academy's website under District information and included in the student handbook, and, where applicable, post it where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are currently posted. In addition, the Policy must be distributed annually to parents/guardians, students, and school personnel (including new employees when hired). It must also be provided periodically throughout the school year to students and faculty.
 12. The Principal or Designee shall assist the Board with evaluating and assessing this Policy's outcomes and effectiveness. This process shall include, without limitation:
 - a. The frequency of victimization;
 - b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school;
 - c. Identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs;
 - d. The types of bullying utilized; and
 - e. Bystander intervention or participation.

The evaluation process may use relevant data and information that Walsh Academy has already collected for other purposes. However, the Principal or Designee must post information developed as a result of the policy evaluation on the Walsh Academy's website, or if a website is not available, the data must be provided to school administrators, Walsh Academy Advisory Council members, school personnel, parents/guardians, and students.

13. The Principal or Designee shall fully implement the following procedures, including, without limitation, the following:
 - a. Uniform Grievance Procedure. A student may use this Policy to complain about bullying.
 - b. Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure. Any person may use this Policy to complain about sexual harassment in violation of Title IX of the Education Act of 1972.
 - c. Curriculum Content. Bullying prevention and character instruction are provided in all grades in accordance with State law.
 - d. Student Social and Emotional Development. As required by state law, student social and emotional development is incorporated into Walsh Academy's educational program. Each classroom has a certified school social worker or school counselor assigned as part of the teaching team.
 - e. Access to Electronic Networks/Internet use policy. This Policy states that using the Walsh Academy's electronic networks is limited to (1) support of education and/or research or (2) a legitimate business use.
 - f. Harassment of Students Prohibited. This Policy prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on identified actual or perceived characteristics as outlined in this document.
 - g. Teen Dating Violence. Prohibits teen dating violence on school property, school-sponsored activities, and vehicles used for school-provided transportation.

Any reports of bullying, intimidation, or harassment will be kept confidential to the extent possible, given the need to investigate the reported complaint. Students who make good-faith complaints will not be disciplined. However, after an investigation, any student determined to

have engaged in bullying, intimidation, or harassment will be subject to disciplinary consequences as provided in this handbook, including suspension and expulsion consistent with the school and Walsh Academy's discipline policy. Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students who have engaged in the above behavior will be notified.

Any student making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment may also be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Assigning Interventions and/or Consequences

Walsh Academy will respond to bullying in a manner tailored to the individual incident, considering the nature of the behavior, the student's developmental age, and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance. Staff will avoid using punitive discipline (suspensions) if any other method of consequence can be used with fidelity. Staff will review and follow protocols for students with Behavior Intervention Plans.

If bullying is determined to have occurred, the Principal/Designee shall explain the consequences in a non-hostile manner and shall impose any consequence immediately and consistently. The Principal/Designee shall keep communicating and working with all parties involved until the situation is resolved. Walsh Academy will not solicit an apology from the perpetrator to the target by any means or try to use any form of mediation that puts the perpetrator and target in contact with one another in an immediate attempt to resolve the bullying. Restorative measures may be helpful to repair relationships between the perpetrator and target, but only if used after other interventions have balanced the power differential between the perpetrator and target.

1. No Retaliation or reprisal will be tolerated against any person who reports an act of bullying.
2. Immediate disciplinary action will be instituted against a student/staff who engages in reprisal or retaliation. This includes a person found to have falsely accused another of bullying as a means of retaliation or as a means of bullying.
3. Any student determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in bullying, intimidation, or harassment will be subject to disciplinary consequences, including suspension.
4. Any student making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment may also be subject to disciplinary consequences.
5. Possible termination of employment or placement at Walsh Academy could occur for staff and students involved in bullying.

Parents/Guardians of students who have engaged in the above behavior will be notified. Professional development will be offered to all staff to implement this Policy. Internet safety will be addressed as part of the school curriculum for all students.

References:

105ILCS - 5/27-23.7- Bullying Prevention 23 Illinois Administrative Code 1.295

May 2017

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8.4 Visitation Policy

Parents and others are welcome at Walsh Academy. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must report first to the main office and must comply with all applicable school policies and procedures. When arriving on campus, all visitors will be required to show a form of photo identification.

The following definitions apply to this policy:

School Property-School buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for school athletic events, or other school sponsored event.

Visitor-Any person other than an enrolled student or employee.

During the school day, all visitors to school property are required to report to the main office. Visitors must sign a visitor's log, show photo identification, and wear a visitor's badge while on campus. Persons on school property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution. Except as provided in the following paragraphs, any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact the staff member by telephone or email to arrange an appointment as to not interfere with the educational setting.

Requests to access a school building, facility, and/or educational program, or to interview personnel or a student for purposes of assessing the student's special education needs, court mandated programming or other mandated visit through DCFS or other government agencies should be done in a manner which limits the disruption to the learning environment.

Representatives from governing agencies shall be afforded full access with proper identification. Walsh Academy's policy allows visitation at any time, with or without prior approval, by personnel from the Illinois State Board of Education or the contracting public school district of any enrolled student.

Walsh Academy expects mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among all people on school property or at a school event. No person on school property or at a school event (including visitors, students, and employees) shall perform any of the following acts:

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, a Board member, sports official or coach, student, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device unless specifically permitted by State law.
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
5. Damage or deface school property.
6. Violate any Illinois law, or town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products or electronic cigarettes.
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or illegal drug; be present when the person's alcohol or illegal drug consumption is detectable, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
9. Use or possess medical cannabis.
10. Impede, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using technology in a disruptive manner).
11. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for any purpose other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Principal or his/her designee.
12. Operate a motor vehicle in a risky manner and/or in excess of posted speed limit.
13. Engage in any behavior that could endanger oneself or another.

14. Violate other Walsh Academy policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or school employee.

It is unlawful for a child sex offender to be present in any school building or property or loiter within 500ft of school property without the permission of the School Principal unless the child sex offender is a parent of a child attending Walsh Academy, and the parent is on school grounds for one of the following reasons:

- To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the academic or social progress of his or her child;
- To participate in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to his or her child regarding special education;
- To attend conferences to discuss other student issues concerning his or her child such as retention and promotion.

8.5 Privacy and Dignity Policy

At Walsh Academy everybody can expect to be treated as a valued member of the school community. Walsh Academy will maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of the actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic origin, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, or gender which will strengthen students' confidence and promote learning. Walsh Academy will confront issues of discrimination and harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health and safety of any student, school employee or any other person who is lawfully on the school property or a school function.

At Walsh Academy we define dignity and privacy as:

Dignity means that everyone should be valued for his or her true worth. Privacy refers to freedom from intrusion and relates to all information and practice that is personal or sensitive in nature to the individual.

Walsh Academy does not accept students that require toileting or diapering.

In the event that a student has an accident, the student will be removed from the other students and Infection Control Procedures will be followed to deal with the incidence.

Infection Control Procedures include:

- Yearly staff trained using a training system covering Blood Borne Pathogens, AIDS/HIV Awareness, and Handwashing.
- Use of gloves, red/orange biohazard bags as appropriate and disinfection of the area using appropriate cleaners.

Walsh Academy will safeguard students' privacy and dignity at all times, including during activities of personal care.

8.6 Suicide Prevention Policy

WALSH ACADEMY'S POLICY ON SUICIDE AND DEPRESSION AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important Board goals.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all Walsh Academy students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. The school:

- a) recognizes that physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student's educational outcomes,
- b) further recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people,
- c) has an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide, and
- d) acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and on which helps to foster positive youth development.

Toward this end, the policy is meant to be paired with other policies supporting the emotional and behavioral health of students more broadly. Specifically, this policy is meant to be applied in accordance with the school's Child Find obligations.

Definitions

"At risk" A student who is defined as high risk for suicide is one who has made a suicide attempt, has the intent to die by suicide, or has displayed a significant change in behavior suggesting the onset or deterioration of a mental health condition. The student may have thought about suicide including potential means of death and may have a plan. In addition, the student may exhibit feelings of isolation, hopelessness, helplessness, and the inability to tolerate any more pain. This situation would necessitate a referral, as documented in the following procedures.

"Crisis team"-A multidisciplinary team of primarily administrative, mental health, safety professionals, and support staff whose primary focus is to address crisis preparedness, intervention/response and recovery. These professionals have been specifically trained in crisis preparedness through recovery and take the leadership role in developing crisis plans, ensuring school staff can effectively execute various crisis protocols, and may provide mental health services for effective crisis interventions and recovery supports.

"Mental health"-A state of mental and emotional being that can impact choices and actions that affect wellness. Mental health problems include mental and substance use disorders.

"Postvention"-Suicide postvention is a crisis intervention strategy designed to reduce the risk of suicide and contagion, provide the support needed to help survivors cope with a suicide death, address the social stigma associated with suicide, and disseminate factual information after the suicide death of a member of the school community.

"Risk assessment"-An evaluation of a student who may be at risk for suicide, conducted by the appropriate school staff (e.g. school psychologist, school counselor, or school social worker). This assessment is designed to elicit information regarding the student's intent to die by suicide, previous history of suicide attempts, presence of a suicide plan and its level of lethality and availability, presence of support systems, and level of hopelessness and helplessness, mental status, and other relevant risk factors.

"Risk factors for suicide"-Characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may try to take his or her life. Suicide risk tends to be highest when someone has several risk factors at the same time. Risk factors may encompass biological, psychological, and/or social factors in the individual, family, and environment.

"Self-harm"-Behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself. Can be categorized as either non-suicidal or suicidal. Although self-harm often lacks suicidal intent, youth who engage in self-harm are more likely to attempt suicide.

"Suicide"-Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior. Note: The coroner's or medical examiner's office must first confirm that the death was a suicide before any school official may state this as the cause of death.

"Suicide attempt"-A self-injurious behavior for which there is evidence that the person had at least some intent to kill himself or herself. A suicide attempt may result in death, injuries, or no injuries. A mixture of ambivalent feelings such as wish to die and desire to live is a common experience with most suicide attempts. Therefore, ambivalence is not a sign of a less serious or less dangerous suicide attempt.

"Suicidal behavior"-Suicide attempts, intentional injury to self, associated with at least some level of intent, developing a plan or strategy for suicide, gathering the means for a suicide plan, or any other overt action or thought indicating intent to end one's life.

"Suicide contagion"-The process by which suicidal behavior or a suicide influences an increase in the suicidal behavior of others. Guilt, identification, and modeling are each thought to play a role in contagion. Although rare, suicide contagion can result in a cluster of suicides.

"Suicidal ideation"-Thinking about, considering, or planning for self injurious behavior which may result in death. A desire to be dead without a plan or intent to end one's life is still considered suicidal ideation and should be taken seriously.

Scope

This policy covers actions that take place in the school, on school property, at school sponsored functions and activities, on school buses or vehicles and at bus stops, and at school sponsored out-of-school events where school staff are present. This policy applies to the entire school community, including educators, school staff, students, parents/guardians, and volunteers. This policy will also cover appropriate school responses to suicidal or high risk behaviors that take place outside of the school environment.

Prevention

1. School Policy Implementation-A suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the Principal. This may be an existing staff person. The school suicide prevention coordinator will be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy for the school. All staff members shall report students they believe to be at elevated risk for suicide to the school suicide prevention coordinator.
2. Staff Professional Development-All staff will receive annual professional development on risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, postvention, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention. The professional development will include additional information regarding groups of students at elevated risk for suicide, including those living with mental and/or substance use disorders, those who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide, those in out-of-home settings, those experiencing homelessness, American Indian/Alaska Native students, LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) students, students bereaved by suicide, and those with medical conditions or certain types of disabilities. Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention will be provided to school employed mental health professionals and school nurses. Staff will be trained to identify the warning signs of suicidal behavior in adolescents and teens along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques.
3. Youth Suicide Prevention Programming-Developmentally-appropriate, student centered education materials will be integrated into the curriculum of all K-12 health classes. The content of these age-appropriate materials will include: 1) the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, 2) how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, 3) help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for

help. In addition, Walsh Academy may provide supplemental small group suicide prevention programming for students. For all students, implementation shall incorporate Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)-recommended guidelines and educational materials for staff training and appropriate educational materials on youth suicide and awareness, if available pursuant to Ann Marie's Law on ISBE's website.

4. Publication and Distribution-This policy will be distributed annually and included in all student and teacher handbooks and/or training packets on the school website.

Assessment and Referral

When a student is identified by a staff person as potentially suicidal, i.e., verbalizes about suicide, presents overt risk factors such as agitation or intoxication, the act of self-harm occurs, or a student self-refers, the student will be seen by a school employed mental health professional within the same school day to assess risk and facilitate referral. If there is no mental health professional available, a school nurse or administrator will fill this role until a mental health professional can be brought in.

For youth at risk:

1. School staff will continuously supervise the student to ensure their safety.
2. The principal and school suicide prevention coordinator will be made aware of the situation as soon as reasonable possible.
3. The school employed mental health professional or principal will contact the student's parent or guardian and will assist the family with urgent referral. When appropriate, this may include calling emergency services or bringing the student to the local Emergency Department, but in most cases will involve setting up an outpatient mental health or primary care appointment and communicating the reason for referral to the healthcare provider.
4. Staff will ask the student's parent or guardian for written permission to discuss the student's health with outside care, if appropriate.

In-School Suicide Attempts

In the case of an in-school suicide attempt, the health and safety of the student is paramount. In these situations:

1. First aid will be rendered until professional medical treatment and/or transportation can be received, following Walsh Academy's emergency medical procedures.
2. School staff will supervise the student to ensure their safety.
3. Staff will move all other students out of the immediate area as soon as possible.
4. If appropriate, staff will immediately request a mental health assessment for the youth.
5. The school employed mental health professional or principal will contact the student's parent or guardian.
6. Staff will immediately notify the principal or school suicide prevention coordinator regarding in-school suicide attempts.
7. The school will engage as necessary the crisis team to assess whether additional steps should be taken to ensure student safety and well-being.

Re-Entry Procedure

For students returning to school after a mental health crisis (e.g. suicide attempt or psychiatric hospitalization), a school employed mental health professional, the principal, or designee will meet with the student's parent or guardian, and if appropriate, meet with the student to discuss re-entry and appropriate next steps to ensure the student's readiness for return to school.

1. A school employed mental health professional or other designee will be identified to coordinate with the student, their parent or guardian, and any outside mental health care providers.
2. The parent or guardian will provide documentation from a mental health care provider that the student has undergone examination and that they are no longer a danger to themselves or others.

3. The designated staff person will periodically check in with the student to help the student readjust to the school community and address any ongoing concerns.

Out-of-School Suicide Attempts. Parental Notification and Involvement

If a staff member becomes aware of a suicide attempt by a student that is in progress in an out-of-school location, the staff member will:

1. Call the police and/or emergency medical services, such as 911.
2. Inform the student's parent or guardian.
3. Inform the school suicide prevention coordinator and principal.

If the student contacts the staff member and expresses suicidal ideation, the staff member should maintain contact with the student (either in person, online, or on the phone). The staff member should then enlist the assistance of another person to contact the police while maintaining verbal engagement with the student.

In situations where a student is assessed at risk for suicide or has made a suicide attempt, the student's parent or guardian will be informed as soon as practicable by the principal, designee, or mental health professional. If the student has exhibited any kind of suicidal behavior, the parent or guardian should be counseled on "means restriction," limiting the child's access to mechanisms for carrying out a suicide attempt. Staff will also seek parental permission to communicate with outside mental health care providers regarding their child.

Through discussion with the student, the principal or school employed mental health professional will assess whether there is further risk of harm due to parent or guardian notification. If the principal, designee, or mental health professional believes, in their professional capacity, that contacting the parent or guardian would endanger the health or well-being of the student, they may delay such contact as appropriate. If contact is delayed, the reasons for the delay should be documented.

Postvention

1. Development and Implementation of an Action Plan-The crisis team will develop an action plan to guide school response following a death by suicide. A meeting of the crisis team to implement the action plan should take place immediately following news of the suicide death. The action plan may include the following steps:
 - a. Verify the Death-Staff will confirm the death and determine the cause of death through communication with a coroner's office, local hospital, the student's parent or guardian, or police department. Even when a case is perceived as being an obvious instance of suicide, it should not be labeled as such until after a cause of death ruling has been made. If the cause of death has been confirmed as suicide but the parent or guardian will not permit the cause of death to be disclosed, the school will not share the cause of death but will use the opportunity to discuss suicide prevention with students.
 - b. Assess the Situation-The crisis team will meet to prepare the postvention response, to consider how severely the death is likely to affect other students, and to determine which students are most likely to be affected. The crisis team will also consider how recently other traumatic events have occurred within the school community and the time of year of the suicide. If the death occurred during a school vacation, the need for or scale of postvention activities may be reduced.
 - c. Share Information-Before the death is officially classified as a suicide by the coroner's office, the death can and should be reported to staff, students, and parents/guardians with an acknowledgment that its cause is unknown. Inform the faculty that a sudden death has occurred, preferably in a staff meeting. Write a statement for staff members to share with students. The statement should include the basic facts of the death and known funeral arrangements (without providing details of the suicide method), recognition of the sorrow the news will

cause, and information about the resources available to help students cope with their grief. Public address system announcements and school-wide assemblies should be avoided. The crisis team may prepare a letter (with the input and permission from the student's parent or guardian) to send home with students that includes facts about the death, information about what the school is doing to support students, the warning signs of suicidal behavior, and a list of resources available.

- d. Avoid Suicide Contagion-It should be explained in the staff meeting described above that one purpose of trying to identify and give services to other high risk students is to prevent another death. The crisis team will work with teachers to identify students who are most likely to be significantly affected by the death. In the staff meeting, the crisis team will review suicide warning signs and procedures for reporting students who generate concern.
 - e. Initiate Support Services-Students identified as being more likely to be affected by the death will be assessed by a school employed mental health professional to determine the level of support needed. The crisis team will coordinate support services for students and staff in need of individual and small group counseling as needed. In concert with parents or guardians, crisis team members will refer to community mental healthcare providers to ensure a smooth transition from the crisis intervention phase to meeting underlying or ongoing mental health needs.
 - f. Develop Memorial Plans-The school should not create on-campus physical memorials (e.g. photos, flowers), funeral services, or fly the flag at half-mast because it may sensationalize the death and encourage suicide contagion. School should not be canceled for the funeral. Any school-based memorials (e.g. small gatherings) will include a focus on how to prevent future suicide and prevention resources available.
2. External Communication-The school principal or designee will be the sole media spokesperson. Staff will refer all inquiries from the media directly to the spokesperson. The spokesperson will:
- a. Keep the school suicide prevention coordinator informed of school actions relating to the death.
 - b. Prepare a statement for the media including the facts of the death, postvention plans, and available resources. The statement will not include confidential information, speculation about victim motivation, means of suicide, or personal family information.
 - c. Answer all media inquiries. If a suicide is to be reported by news media, the spokesperson should encourage reporters not to make it a front-page story, not to use pictures of the suicide victim, not to use the word suicide in the caption of the story, not to describe the method of suicide, and not to use the phrase "suicide epidemic" - as this may elevate the risk of suicide contagion. They should also be encouraged not to link bullying to suicide and not to speculate about the reason for suicide. Media should be asked to offer the community information on suicide risk factors, warning signs, and resources available.

9.0 School Calendar / Important Dates

Walsh Academy | 2026-2027 HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

18 First day of school/CTE Q1 begins

School 8:30AM-2:15PM
CTE Extension 2:15-4PM

FEBRUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

15 Staff Inservice Day
26 Inservice Day & Parent/Teacher Conferences

SEPTEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

7 Labor Day-No School

MARCH 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1 Q3 ends
2 Q4 begins
19 All students dismissed @ 2:15PM (no CTE)
22-26 Spring Break
29 Classes Resume

OCTOBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

12 Indigenous People's Day - No School
14 Q1 ends
15 Q2 begins
23 Inservice Day & Parent/Teacher Conferences

APRIL 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

23 Staff Inservice Day

NOVEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

3 Election Day - No School
25 No School
26 Thanksgiving Day
27 No School

MAY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

4 Q4 ends
5 MT begins
31 Memorial Day-No School

DECEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

16 Q2 ends
17 Q3 begins
18 All students dismissed @ 2:15PM (no CTE)
21 Winter break begins

JUNE 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

2 Graduation at 10:30AM
3-11 No School
14 ESY begins

School 8:30AM-1:15PM / CTE 1:15-3PM

JANUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

4 Classes Resume
18 M.L. King Day-No School

JULY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2-5 No School
4 Independence Day
21 ESY ends-All students dismissed @ 1:15 No CTE