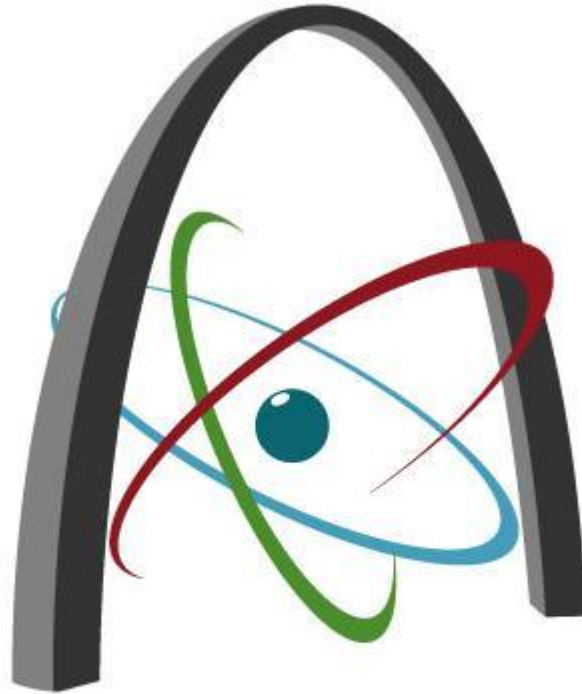


GSA POLICY MANUAL 2024-2025



GATEWAY SCIENCE ACADEMY
of
ST. LOUIS

Board approved – April 17, 2024.

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SECTION 1: BOARD GOVERNANCE

BY-LAWS OF GSA

ARTICLE I

OFFICES

Section 1.1 Registered Office and Registered Agent. The Corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Missouri a registered office and a registered agent whose office is the Corporation's registered office, as required by the Statute. The registered office may, but need not be, identical with the principal office of the Corporation in the State of Missouri, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors in accordance with applicable law.

Section 1.2 Principal Place of Business. The principal place of business of the Corporation shall be located in St. Louis, Missouri. The Corporation may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Missouri, as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of the Corporation may require from time to time.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERS

Section 2.1 No Members. As provided in the Articles of Organization, the corporation shall have no members.

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3.1 General Powers. The business, affairs and property of the Corporation shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors, and all corporate powers shall be vested in and exercised by the Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

Section 3.2 Number, Election and Term. The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than three (3) directors, with the exact number of directors to be fixed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Section 3.3 Election and Term. Such directors shall be elected by the directors then in office for a term of one year, and each such director shall hold office until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified, or until his or her death or until his or her resignation or removal in the manner provided in Section 3.4 or Section 3.5 of this Article III.

Section 3.4 Resignation. A director may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the Board of Directors, its presiding officer or to the President or Secretary. Any resignation shall take effect upon receipt of notice or at any later time specified in that notice. Unless otherwise specified in the notice of resignation, affirmative acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. If the resignation specifies a later effective date, a successor may be elected prior to such effective date to take office when the resignation becomes effective.

Section 3.5 Removal A director may be removed, with or without cause, by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the directors then in office.

Section 3.6 Annual Meeting. Unless otherwise determined by vote of a majority of the directors then holding office, the annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the second Saturday of August of each year for the purpose of electing directors and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. If the election of directors shall not be held on the day designated herein for any annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause a special meeting of the Board of Directors to be held as soon thereafter as may be convenient for the purpose of electing directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before a special meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 3.7 Regular Meetings. The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings, at a date, time and place fixed by these Bylaws or the Board, for the purpose of transacting such business as properly may come before the Board. The Board of Directors shall hold a minimum of six (6) regular meetings a year.

Section 3.8 Special Meetings. A Special Meeting shall be held at any time called by the President of the Board or the Secretary upon the written request of twenty percent of the Directors then in office. A majority of the Directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place.

Section 3.9 Notice. At least 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before any Board of Directors meeting, a notice of the meeting shall be posted at the meeting

place. The notice shall include time, date, place and tentative agenda of the meeting, and whether the meeting is open or closed. In case of a Board of Directors meeting by conference call or other electronic means, the notice shall specify the location where the public may observe and attend that meeting. If the Board of Directors meeting is held via Internet or other computer link, a notice shall be posted on the corporation's web site. Written notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be delivered personally to each director, or shall be sent by mail, electronic mail or next business day delivery service (such as Federal Express) or confirmed telecopier to each director's business address. Two (2) business days' notice shall be given if notice is sent by mail, and one (1) business day's notice shall be given if notice is delivered personally or sent by electronic mail, next business day delivery service or confirmed telecopier; provided, however, that if the designated meeting place is outside the State of Missouri, an additional one (1) day's notice shall be given. If by mail, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail with first class postage thereupon prepaid. If by electronic mail or next business day delivery service, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic mail or notice is delivered to the telegraph company or delivery service. If by telecopier, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when telecopy confirmation is received.

Section 3.10 Waiver of Notice. A director may waive notice of any meeting before or after the date and time stated in the notice, provided the waiver is in writing, signed by the director entitled to the notice, and filed with the minutes or the corporate records. A director's attendance at or participation in a meeting waives any required notice of the meeting unless the director, upon arriving at the meeting or prior to the vote on a matter not noticed in conformity with these bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation or the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act, objects to lack of notice and does not vote for or assent to the objected to action.

Section 3.11 Quorum. A majority of the entire Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or of any specified item of business. Except as otherwise provided by law or these Bylaws, the vote of a majority of the Board of Directors present at the time of a vote, if a quorum is present, shall be the act of the Board of the Directors.

Section 3.12 Manner of Acting. The affirmative vote of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

Section 3.13 Vacancies. If a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, including a vacancy resulting from a decrease in the number of directors, the directors remaining in office, even if such directors constitute less than a quorum of the entire authorized Board of Directors, may fill such vacancy or vacancies by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors remaining in office. The term of a director filling a vacancy expires at the end of the unexpired

term which such director is filling. A vacancy that will occur at a specific later date, by reason of a resignation effective at a later date, may be filled before the vacancy occurs, but the new director may not take office until the vacancy occurs.

Section 3.14 Compensation. No director shall receive any salary or other compensation for services rendered as a director, provided, however, that by resolution of the Board of Directors the directors may be paid their reasonable expenses incurred by them in carrying out their duties as director, if any, and for attendance at each meeting of the Board.

Section 3.15 Informal Action by Directors. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof, and included in the minutes filed with the corporate records reflecting the action taken. Such action shall be effective when the last Director signs the consent, unless the consent specifies a different effective date.

Section 3.16 Committees of Directors. The Board of Directors may, by resolution passed by a majority of the entire Board, designate two or more directors to constitute a committee. Any such committee, to the extent provided in the resolution of the Board of Directors, shall have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation; provided, however, that the designation of such a committee and of authority to the committee shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any member thereof, of any responsibility imposed upon the Board of Directors or any member thereof under Missouri law. Each committee shall keep regular minutes of its meetings and report the same to the Board of Directors when required.

Section 3.17 Attendance. Inadequate attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors, defined as unexcused absence from three (3) consecutive meetings or from at least fifty percent (50%) of such meetings within one (1) calendar year. Members of the Board of Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board by electronic or telephonic means or similar communications equipment whereby all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a meeting in this matter shall constitute presence in person at the meeting, and may take official action.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 4.1 Number. The officers of the corporation shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The same individual may simultaneously hold more than one office.

Section 4.2 Election and Term of Office. The officers of the corporation shall be elected each year by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting.

Section 4.3 Resignation and Removal. An officer may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the corporation. A resignation is effective when the notice is delivered unless the notice specifies a future effective date. An officer's resignation does not affect the corporation's contract rights, if any, with the officer.

Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors at any time, with or without cause. An officer's removal does not affect the officer's contract rights, if any, with the corporation.

Section 4.4 Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term. If a resignation is made effective at a future date and the corporation accepts the future effective date, the Board of Directors may fill the pending vacancy before the effective date if the board provides that the successor does not take office until the effective date.

Section 4.5 President. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the corporation. In the absence of resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors to the contrary, or where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these bylaws to any other officer or agent of the corporation or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed, the President of the corporation is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all actions and to execute any and all contracts, agreements, instruments, certificates, consents, deeds, mortgages, bonds and other instruments and documents on behalf of the corporation which the President deems necessary or desirable and in the best interests of the corporation. The President of the corporation is further authorized, empowered and directed to vote any stock or security owned by the corporation on behalf of the corporation and to exercise any other right or interest which the corporation may have therein or with respect thereto. The President may preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 4.6 Vice-President. In the absence of the President or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe.

Section 4.7 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall: (a) have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation, receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with Article V of these bylaws; (b) prepare and file with the State of Missouri all reports, notices and information required by state or other applicable laws; and (c) in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President or by the Board of Directors. If required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his or her duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Section 4.8 Secretary. The Secretary shall: (a) keep the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings in one or more books provided for that purpose; (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws and as required by law; (c) be custodian of the corporate records and (d) in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Section 4.9 Salaries. No officer shall be entitled to receive any salary for his or her services to the corporation.

ARTICLE V

CONTRACTS, LOANS, CHECKS AND DEPOSITS

Section 5.1 Contracts. The Board of Directors may authorize any officer, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 5.2 Loans. Unless authorized by The Board of Directors and expressly approved by the President, no loans shall be contracted on behalf of the corporation and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Board of Directors. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 5.3 Checks, Drafts, Etc. All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by the President of the corporation or by any officer, agent or agents, provided that each such checks draft or order for payment of money, note or other evidence of indebtedness has been specifically authorized by the Board of Directors; in each instance.

Section 5.4 Deposits. All funds of the corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the President may select.

Section 5.5 Gifts. The President may accept on behalf of the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the corporation.

ARTICLE VI

FISCAL YEAR

Section 6.1 Fiscal Year The fiscal year of the corporation shall be same as the fiscal year of the school year.

ARTICLE VII

BOOKS AND RECORDS

Section 7.1 Books and Records The corporation shall keep as permanent records a record of the minutes of meetings of the corporation's Board of Directors and a record of actions taken by committees of the Board. The corporation shall maintain appropriate accounting records.

ARTICLE VIII

SEAL

Section 8.1 Seal The corporation shall have no corporate seal.

ARTICLE IX

WAIVER OF NOTICE

Section 9.1 Waiver of Notice Whenever any notice is required or permitted to be given under the provisions of these bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation or the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act, waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Section 10.1 Amendments The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, amend, and repeal these bylaws and any additional and supplemental bylaws, at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, and notice of any such proposed additional or supplemental bylaws, or the proposed repeal or amendment of any bylaw need not be included in the call of said meeting.

ARTICLE XI

INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AGAINST LIABILITIES AND EXPENSES IN ACTION

Section 11.1 Indemnification with Respect to Third Party Actions. This corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation), by reason of the fact that such person (i) is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of this corporation, or (ii) is or was serving at the request of this corporation as a director, officer, employee, partner, trustee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, or (iii) is or was at the request of the corporation a guarantor of any debts of this corporation, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, taxes and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of this corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that such person did not act in good faith and in a manner which such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of this corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that such person's conduct was unlawful.

Section 11.2 Indemnification with Respect to Actions by or in the Right of the Corporation This corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of this corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of this corporation, or is or was serving

at the request of this corporation as a director, officer, employee, partner, trustee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of the action or suit if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of this corporation; except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of such person's duty to this corporation unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability and in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the court shall deem proper.

Section 11.3 Determination of Standard To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of this corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in Sections 1 and/or 2 of this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorney's fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

Any indemnification under Sections 1 and/or 2 of this Article (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by this corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee, partner, trustee or agent is proper in the circumstances because such person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in this Article. Such determination shall be made (1) by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to such action, suit, or proceeding, or (2) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or even if obtainable, if a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (3) by the shareholders.

Section 11.4 Payment of Expenses in Advance of Disposition of Action Expenses incurred in defending any actual or threatened civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit, or proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors in the specific case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee, partner, trustee or agent to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that such person is entitled to be indemnified by this corporation as authorized in this Article.

Section 11.5 Non-Exclusive The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under Section 537.117 RSMo, any other provision of law, the Articles of

Incorporation or any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in such person's official capacity while holding such office and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee, partner, trustee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

Section 11.6 Further Indemnity This corporation shall have the power to give any further indemnity, in addition to the indemnity authorized or contemplated under other sections of this Article, including Section 5, to any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent, or to any person who is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, provided that no such indemnity shall indemnify any person from or on account of such person's conduct which was finally adjudged to have been knowingly fraudulent, deliberately dishonest or willful misconduct. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to limit the power of this corporation under Section 5 of this Article to enact bylaws or to enter in agreements without shareholder adoption of the same.

Section 11.7 Insurance This corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of this corporation, or is or was serving at the request of this corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of such person's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of this Article.

Section 11.8 Definition of Corporation For the purpose of this Article, references to "this corporation" include all constituent corporations absorbed in a consolidation or merger as well as the resulting or surviving corporation so that any person who is or was a director, officer, employee, partner, trustee or agent of such a constituent corporation or is or was serving at the request of such constituent corporation as a director, officer, employee, partner, trustee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise shall stand in the same position under the provisions of this Article with respect to the resulting or surviving corporation as such person would if such person had served the resulting or surviving corporation in the same capacity.

Section 11.9 Certain Definitions For purposes of this Article, references to "other enterprise" shall include employee benefit plans; references to "fines" shall include any excise taxes assessed on a person with respect to an employee benefit plan; and references to "serving at the request of this corporation" shall include any service as a director, officer, employee or agent of this corporation which imposes duties on, or involves services by, such director, officer, employee, or agent with respect to an employee benefit plan, its participants, or

beneficiaries; and a person who acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries of an employee benefit plan shall be deemed to have acted in a manner “not opposed to the best interests of this corporation” as referred to in this Article.

Section 11.10 Extent of Indemnification This corporation shall, to the fullest extent permitted by Section 355.476 of the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act, as the same may be amended and supplemented from time to time, indemnify any and all persons whom it shall have the power to indemnify under said Section 355.476 from and against any and all of the expenses, liabilities or other matters referred to in or covered by said Section 355.476.

Section 11.11 Saving Clause In the event any provision of this Article shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate any other provision of this Article and any other provisions of this Article shall be construed as if such invalid provision had not been contained in this Article.

ARTICLE XII

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES

Section 12.1 Purpose The purpose of the conflicts of interest and disclosures policy is to protect the Corporation's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or Director of the Corporation. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.

Section 12.2 Definitions

(a) **Interested Person.** Any director, officer, employee, or candidate who has a substantial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

(b) **Substantial Interest.** Ownership by the individual, the individual's spouse, or the individual's dependent children, whether singularly or collectively, directly or indirectly of:

- (1) 10% or more of any business entity; or
- (2) an interest having a value of \$10,000 or more; or
- (3) the receipt of a salary, gratuity, or other compensation or remuneration of \$5,000 or more, per year from any individual, partnership, organization, or association within any calendar year.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature.

Section 12.3 Conflicts of Interest Procedures

(a) Conflicts of Interest. In connection with any actual or possible conflicts of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of his or her substantial interest and all material facts relating thereto to the Board of Directors and members of committees with Board- delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

(b) Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists. After disclosure of the substantial interest and all material facts relating thereto, and after any discussion thereof, the interested person shall leave the Board of Directors or committee meeting while the substantial interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Board of Directors or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

(c) Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest.

- (1) An interested person may make a presentation at the Board of Directors or committee meeting, but after such presentation, he or she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest.
- (2) The Chair of the Board or chair of the committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- (3) After exercising due diligence, the Board of Directors or committee shall determine whether the Corporation can obtain a more advantageous transaction or arrangement with reasonable efforts from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- (4) If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably attainable under circumstances that would not give rise to a conflict of interest, the Board of Directors or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested Directors whether the

transaction or arrangement is in the Corporation's best interest and for its own benefit and whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to the Corporation and shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement in conformity with such determination.

(d) Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy.

- (1) If the Board of Directors or a committee has reasonable cause to believe that a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- (2) If, after hearing the response of the member and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, The Board of Directors or committee determines that the member has in fact failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Section 12.4 Records of Proceedings The minutes of the Board of Directors and all committees with Board-delegated powers shall contain --

(a) Names of Persons with Substantial Interest. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a substantial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the substantial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the Board of Directors' or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

(b) Names of Person Present. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection therewith.

Section 12.5 Compensation Committees. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Corporation for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

Section 12.6 Disclosure Reports. Each Board Member and Executive Officer shall disclose in writing to the Board the following information by May 1 of each year if any such transactions occurred during the previous calendar year.

(a) For such person, and all persons within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity of such person, the date and the identities of the parties to each transaction with a total value in excess of five hundred dollars, if any, that such person had with the Corporation, other than compensation received as an employee or payment of any tax, fee or penalty due to the Corporation, and other than transfers for no consideration to the Corporation; and

(b) The date and the identities of the parties to each transaction known to the person with a total value in excess of five hundred dollars, if any, that any business entity in which such person had a substantial interest, had with the Corporation, other than payment of any tax, fee or penalty due to the Corporation or transactions involving payment for providing utility service to the Corporation, and other than transfers for no consideration to the Corporation.

Each Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Purchasing Officer for the Corporation shall disclose in writing to the Board the following information by May 1 of each year.

(c) The name and address of each of the employers of such person from whom income of one thousand dollars or more was received during the year covered by the statement; and

(d) The name and address of each sole proprietorship that such person owned; the name, address and the general nature of the business conducted of each general partnership and joint venture in which such person was a partner or participant; the name and address of each partner or co-participant for each partnership or joint venture unless such names and addresses are filed by the partnership or joint

venture with the secretary of state; the name, address and general nature of the business conducted of any closely held corporation or limited partnership in which the person owned ten percent or more of any class of outstanding stock or limited partnership units; and the name of any publicly traded corporation or limited partnership that is listed on a regulated stock exchange or automated quotation system in which the person owned two percent or more of any class of outstanding stock, limited partnership units or other equity interests; and

(e) The name and address of each corporation for which such person served in the capacity of a director, officer or receiver.

Section 12.7 Filing of Disclosure Reports. The disclosure reports described in Section 12.6 shall be filed with the Corporation and with the Missouri Ethics Commission. The reports shall be available for public inspection and copying during normal business hours.

Section 12.8 Annual Statements. Each Director, principal officer and member of a committee with Board-delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms that such person:

- (a) **Receipt.** Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest and disclosure policy.
- (b) **Read and Understand.** Has read and understands the policy.
- (c) **Agrees to Comply.** Has agreed to comply with the policy.
- (d) **Tax Exemption.** Understands that the corporation is a charitable organization and that, in order to maintain its federal tax exemption, it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Section 12.9 Periodic Reviews. To ensure that the corporation operates in a manner consistent with its charitable purposes and that it does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax, the corporation may conduct periodic reviews.

Conflict of Interest Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy establishes expectations for governing board member conflicts of interest.

Article I

Purpose

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (GSA) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the GSA or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable GSAs. As a charter school, certain special state conflicts of interest policies apply as discussed herein.

Article II

Definitions

1. Interested Person

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

2. Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the GSA has a transaction or arrangement,
- b. A compensation arrangement with the GSA or with any entity or individual with which the GSA has a transaction or arrangement, or

- c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the GSA is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Article III

Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, s/he shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

Under Missouri law, the following are conflicts of interest. The Board has no discretion on whether these items present a conflict of interest. No person shall be appointed to the board unless they meet the following requirements. Any board member who is in violation of any of these requirements is ineligible to serve and shall immediately forfeit their office:

- a. No member of the Board shall hold any other office or employment from the board while serving as a member of the board.

- b. No member of the board shall have any substantial interest (see section 105.450 RSMo for a definition) in any entity employed by or contracting with the board.
 - c. No member of the board shall be an employee of a company that provides substantial services to the charter school.
3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest
- a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, s/he shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
 - b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
 - c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the GSA can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
 - d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the GSA's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination, it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.
4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy
- a. If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
 - b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Article IV

Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

Article V

Compensation

- a. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the GSA for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the GSA for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the GSA, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

Article VI

Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d. Understands the GSA is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption, it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Article VII

Periodic Reviews

To ensure the GSA operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining,
- b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management GSAs conform to the GSA's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

Article VIII

Use of Outside Experts

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the GSA may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

Nepotism

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

Board members shall not debate or vote upon the employment of any person to whom they are related within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity. Provided the Board member does not debate or vote upon the employment, the Board may vote to employ a person related to a Board member.

Prohibited Expenditures

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

Section 1. No officer, employee, or agent of GSA may use public funds to advocate, support, or oppose the passage or defat of any ballot measure or the nomination or election of any candidate for public office.

Section 2. No officer, employee, or agent of GSA may direct public funds to any committee supporting or opposing a ballot measure or candidate.

Section 3. No officer, employee, or agent of GSA may use public funds to pay any debts or obligations of any committee supporting or opposing a ballot measure or candidate.

Sunshine Law (Chapter 610) Policy

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 610.023.1, RSMo, provides that a public governmental body is to appoint a custodian to maintain that body's records and the identity and location of the custodian is to be made available upon request; and

WHEREAS, Section 610.026, RSMo, sets forth that a public governmental body shall provide access to and, upon request, furnish copies of public records; and

WHEREAS, Section 610.028.2, RSMo, provides that a public governmental body shall provide a reasonable written policy in compliance with sections 610.010 to 610.030, FRSMo, commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, regarding the release of information on any meeting, record or vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1.** That the GSA Principal be and hereby is appointed custodian of the records of GSA and that such custodian is located at each school building main office.
- 2.** That said custodian shall respond to all requests for access to or copies of a public record within the time period provided by statute except in those circumstances authorized by statute.
- 3.** That the fees to be charged for access to or furnishing copies of records shall be as hereinafter provided.
- 4.** That it is the public policy of GSA that meetings, records, votes, actions and deliberations of this body shall be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law.
- 5.** That GSA hereby closes all public records to the extent authorized by law.
- 6.** That GSA shall comply with sections 610.010 to 610.030, RSMo, the Sunshine Law, as now existing or hereafter amended.

SECTION 2: BOARD FINANCE

Annual Operating Budget Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Budget Process

SECTION 1.1. The School Administrator will ensure that GSA follows a budgeting process that is consistent with the requirements of federal and Missouri statutes, State Board of Education Rules and Regulations and any other applicable laws or rules.

SECTION 1.2. Each year the Business Manager is required to submit to the Board for consideration a detailed annual budget showing estimates of income and expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year.

SECTION 1.3. Adoption. The Board shall formally adopt the budget in an open meeting held in accordance with the Board's bylaws by June 30, according to statutory provisions, and before the expenditure of any funds. By law the approved estimated expenditures for each fund cannot exceed the estimated revenues to be received plus the unencumbered beginning cash balance for the fund.

SECTION 1.4. Minutes. The Secretary of the Board or the Board's designee will record the adoption of the budget and any amendments in the Board meeting minutes in which the adoption occurs.

SECTION 1.6. Post-Adoption. After the beginning of the fiscal year, the School Leader and Business Manager shall review with the Board the adopted budget in relationship to the beginning cash balances for each fund.

SECTION 2. Fiscal Compliance

The Business Manager shall ensure that GSA complies with all state and federal laws and rules concerning the budget and related processes of the school.

Audit and Financial Statements

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Annual Audit.

SECTION 1.1. Annual Audit. Annually, the books and accounts of the School will be audited by an independent certified public accountant in conformance with the prescribed standards and legal requirements. The Business Manager shall place before the Board the matter of the retaining of a certified public accountant. The auditor shall be selected by the Board. The audit shall be presented to the Board for examination and approval.

SECTION 1.2. Board Action. Once the Board of GSA receives the final report, it must vote to accept the contents of the audit at either its next regularly called meeting or at a special meeting called in accordance with the Board's bylaws.

SECTION 1.3. Submission to Sponsor. The Business Manager shall ensure that a copy of the annual audit report is timely filed with the Sponsor. The audit report should include a certificate signed by the Chair of the Board that the Board voted to accept the contents of the audit. If the Board did not accept the contents of the audit report, that should be noted with the submission.

SECTION 2. Annual Financial Statement. The Business Manager shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, an annual financial statement for each fund subject to the authority of the Board during the fiscal year showing:

- a. the total receipts of the fund, itemized by source of revenue, including taxes, assessments, service charges, grants of state money, gifts, or other general sources from which funds are derived;
- b. the total disbursements of the fund, itemized by the nature of the expenditure; and c.
- c. the balance in the fund at the close of the fiscal year.

SECTION 2.1. The Business Manager shall ensure that the annual financial statement is submitted to the Sponsor in a timely manner pursuant to deadlines.

Authorized Signatures

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. The Board of GSA shall designate at least one current board member to be included as an authorized signature on all financial accounts of the school.

Section 2. The Board shall notify all financial institutions that serve the school of the board member who is to be included as an authorized signature on financial accounts.

Section 3. The Board of GSA shall annually certify to its sponsor that the financial institutions that serve the school have on file the authorization form for the board member who is to be the signature on all financial account.

Bonded Indebtedness

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1.1. Authority. The Board may issue bonds for any School expenditures as prescribed in state law.

Borrowed Funds

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1.1. Authority. State law authorizes the Board to borrow funds in anticipation of the collection of revenue in order to insure continuity in the operations of the School. The Board must approve in advance all applications for loan indebtedness. The amount borrowed and the repayment of notes payable shall be within guidelines as established by state law and rules and regulations of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Capital Assets Accounting

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1.1. Definition of Capital Asset. A capital asset is an asset that is tangible in nature; has a life that exceeds one year; of significant value (\$5,000 per unit or a lower amount designated by the board of directors); and reasonably identified and controlled through a physical inventory system. Examples include: land, buildings, machinery, and furniture.

SECTION 1.2. Documentation. The Business Manager shall ensure that GSA maintains accurate records of capital assets in accordance with applicable rules.

SECTION 1.3. Inventory. The Business Manager will ensure that a physical inventory of capital assets takes place once every two years.

SECTION 1.4. Annual Audit. The annual financial audit shall include an exhibit in the audit report identifying all capital assets and the ownership interest of local, state, and federal parties.

Cash Management Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Accounting for Cash Transactions

SECTION 1.1. Documentation. All cash transactions shall be recorded in writing, such as by handwritten receipt detailing from whom the money was and in what amount, which shall be signed and dated by Assistant Principal of Operation (APO) or his or her designee who has the authority to receive cash on behalf of GSA.

SECTION 1.2. Depositing Cash. The APO shall be responsible for depositing cash in GSA's bank account. The APO will only be responsible for depositing the cash into the bank account, and will be segregated from the duty of receiving the cash on behalf of the school. Deposits shall be made weekly at a minimum. All undeposited cash shall be kept in a secured location on school premises with limited access. A copy of the validated deposit slip shall be returned to the school on same day the deposit is made or the next day after the deposit is made.

SECTION 1.3. Expenditures. All expenditures of school funds, including cash expenditures, shall be documented and accounted for by daily receipts. As a general rule, cash shall not be used to make purchases except from petty cash, as described in Section 1.5. School checks shall not be made payable to "Cash".

SECTION 1.4. Segregation of Duties. The School Treasurer of GSA shall ensure that appropriate segregation of duties exists with regard to the handling of all money transactions including reconciliation.

SECTION 1.5. Petty Cash. Petty cash shall be maintained in a locked box in the School Leader's office in an amount not to exceed \$1000. All disbursements from petty cash shall be documented in writing, indicating the date, amount disbursed, the identity of the individual receiving the funds, and the reason for the disbursement. Receipts from purchases made with petty cash shall be remitted to the School Leader's office as soon as practicable. Petty cash funds shall not be used to cash checks.

Federal Fiscal Compliance Policy

The governing body of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Fiscal Requirements under Title I, Title II, and Title IV of ESSA

SECTION 1.1. Supplement not Supplant. GSA shall ensure that federal funds will be used to supplement, not supplant regular non-federal funds.

SECTION 1.2. Documentation. Documentation shall be maintained, or caused to be maintained, by the School Treasurer. The documentation must clearly demonstrate the supplementary nature of federal funds.

SECTION 2. Federal Grant Allowable Expenditures.

Prior to expending funds, the School Treasurer shall consult the appropriate OMB Circular (OMNI Circular) or other federal guidance to determine what costs are allowable under the grant awarded. The School Treasurer shall ensure that all grant funds are expended in accordance with the requirements in section 2.1 and the Circular or other applicable federal law or rule.

Section 2.1 Allowability.

To be allowable under a federal award, costs must meet the following general criteria and be documented that such criteria are met:

- Be necessary and reasonable for the performance of the Federal award and be allocable there to under these principles;
- Conform to any limitations or exclusions set forth in these principles or in the Federal award as to the types or amount of cost items;
- Be consistent with the policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally-financed and other activities of the non-Federal entity;
- Be accorded consistent treatment. A cost may not be assigned to a Federal award as a direct cost if any other cost incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances has been allocated to a Federal award as an indirect cost;
- Be determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP);
- Not be included as a cost or used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federally-financed program in either the current or a prior period;
- Be adequately documents; and
- Be net of all applicable credits.

SECTION 3. Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses (2 C.F.R. § 200.430, OMNI DESE Memo FAS-15-003 Time and Effort under the OMNI Circular, April 2, 2015)

Time and Effort: Records are required for all employees, including teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, and other staff that are paid with federal funds to document the time and effort they spend within the program. The portion of the federally paid salary should be reflective of the actual activity, not budgeted, the individual has put forth for that federal program. Time and effort reporting is required when any part of an individual's salary is charged to a federal program or used as match for a federal program.

Semi-Annual Certification: Where employees are expected to work solely on a single Federal award or cost objective, charges for their salaries and wages will be supported by periodic certifications that the employees worked solely on that program for the period covered by the certification. These certifications are required to be prepared at least semi-annually.

Monthly Personnel Activity Report (PAR): Where employees work on multiple activities or cost objectives, a distribution of their salaries or wages will be supported by personnel activity reports (PARs). Salaries and wages of employees used in meeting cost sharing or matching requirements of Federal awards must be supported in the same manner as those claimed as allowable costs under Federal awards.

Charges for salaries must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed. These records must be:

- Supported by a system of internal controls which provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated;
- Incorporated into the official records;
- Reflecting the total activity for which the employee is compensated, not to exceed 100%;
- Encompassing all activities (federal and non-federal);
- Compliant with established accounting policies and practices; and
- Distributed among specific activities or cost objectives.

SECTION 4. Charter Schools Program (CSP), ESSA Title IV, Part C

SECTION 4.1. Compliance. If GSA receives CSP grants, the School Treasurer shall ensure that GSA shall comply and use the federal funds in accordance with all statutes, regulations, and approved applications.

SECTION 4.2. Fiscal Control. The School Treasurer shall directly administer or supervise the administration of any projects funding through CSP funds, and shall use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, federal funds.

SECTION 4.3. Procurement. When using CSP funds to enter into a contract for equipment or services the School Treasurer shall comply with the applicable federal procurement standards.

SECTION 5. Use of Federal Grant Funds for Procurement

SECTION 5.1. Open and Free Competition. The School Treasurer shall ensure that all procurement transactions are conducted in a manner that provides open and free competition. Awards must be made to the bidder/offeror whose bid/offer is responsive to the solicitation and is most advantageous to GSA considering price, quality, and other relevant factors deemed appropriate by the school.

SECTION 5.2. Conflicts of Interest. Pursuant to the Conflict of Interest Board Policy, no employee, officer, or agent of, who has a real or apparent conflict of interest, will participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by federal funds. Employees, officers, and agents may also not solicit or accept favors, gratuities, or anything of monetary value from contractors or their agents.

SECTION 5.3. Solicitation of Bids or Offers

- a. The solicitation of bids or offers must provide a clear and accurate description of the requirements to be fulfilled by the bidder, technical requirements to be performed including the minimum acceptable standards and specific features of brand name or equal descriptions that bidders are required to meet;
- b. Positive efforts shall be made to utilize small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises whenever possible;
- c. The type of procurement instruments used (e.g. purchase orders) must be appropriate for the particular procurement;
- d. Contracts are made only with responsible contractors who possess the potential ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement;
- e. Procurement documents shall be made available, upon request, to appropriate government officials.

SECTION 5.4. Record Documentation. The School Treasurer shall ensure there is a cost or price analysis made and documented with every procurement action as well as appropriate documentation for the basis for contractor selection. The School Treasurer shall also ensure the evaluation of the contractor performance and document whether the contractor has met the terms, conditions, and specifications of the contract.

Section 5.5 All prequalified lists of persons, firms, or products which are used in acquiring goods and services must be reviewed and kept current and shall include enough qualified sources to ensure maximum open and free competition.

Section 5.6 The school shall utilize the most appropriate procurement method based on the particular procurement. The school utilize one of the following methods or any more restrictive method:

- Micro-purchases. Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of supplies or services which are up to \$10,000. This purchase may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations.
- Small purchase procedures. Small purchase procedures are those simple and informal procurements for securing services, supplies or other property that cost between \$10,001 to \$249,999. Price and rate quotations must be obtained from at least two qualified sources.
- Sealed bids (formal advertising). Bids are publicly solicited and a firm fixed price contract is awarded. This method is preferred for procuring construction.
- Competitive proposals. The technique of competitive proposals is normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer and either a fixed price or cost reimbursement type of contract is awarded.
- Noncompetitive proposals. This is the solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following applies:
 - The item is available only from a single source;
 - The public emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay;
 - The pass-through entity authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request; and/or
 - After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

SECTION 6. Travel Costs.

Travel costs are the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items incurred by employees who are in travel status on official business of the non-Federal entity. These costs are reimbursable with appropriate approval and documentation of expenses. Travel costs charged to Federal awards/funds must meet the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.474.

Section 6.1 Travel costs may be charged on an actual cost basis, on a per diem or mileage basis in lieu of actual costs incurred, or on a combination of the two, provided the method used is applied to an entire trip and not to selected days of the trip and results in charges consistent with those normally allowed in like circumstances in the school's non-federally-funded activities and in accordance with the school's written travel reimbursement policies.

Section 6.2 Cost incurred by employees for travel, including costs of lodging, other subsistent, and incidental expenses, must be considered reasonable and otherwise allowable only to the extent such costs do not exceed charges normally allowed by the school as a result of the school's written travel policy.

If these costs are charged to the Federal award, documentation must justify that (1) the Participation of the individual is necessary to the Federal award; and (2) the costs are reasonable and consistent with the school's travel policy. Document may include any or all of the following: an agenda; prior written approval; and/or written justification statement.

Section 6.3 The school shall not use its grant funds for temporary dependent care costs unless specifically permitted by the authorizing statute, regulation, and Department.

Section 7. Compliance with the Cash Management Improvement Act.

Section 7.1. In order to comply with the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will only make payments to the school for reimbursements. Reimbursements are only for funds "spent"—transactions that are recorded on the school's books and the funds delivered to the recipients.

Section 7.2. The school may only make requests for payment once an initial budget application for the grants has been approved and must only include actual cumulative expenditures up to the payment request submission date.

Section 7.3. The school must at least annually submit an accounting of any interest earned on any Federal funds to the federal Department of Health and Human Services through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The school may retain up to \$500 of earned interest annually on all combined Federal programs for administrative expenses. The school must document all administrative expenses in order to claim the interest offset. Under this section, the interest calculation is the amount of reimbursement times the annualized Federal interest rate for the fiscal year times the number of business days the funds were held until delivery. The federal interest rates may be found at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/cmia/index.html>.

Investment

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

I. Scope

This policy applies to the investment of all operating funds of the GSA.

Pooling of Funds

Except for cash in certain restricted and special funds, the GSA will consolidate cash balances from all funds to maximize investment earnings. Investment income will be allocated to the various funds based on their respective participation and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

External Management of Funds

Investment through external programs, facilities and professionals operating in a manner consistent with this policy will constitute compliance.

II. General Objectives

The primary objectives, in priority order, of investment activities shall be safety, liquidity, and yield:

Safety

Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The objective will be to mitigate credit risk and interest rate risk.

The GSA will minimize credit risk, the risk of loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer, by:

- Pre-qualifying the financial institutions, broker/dealers, intermediaries, and advisors with which the [entity] will do business.
- Diversifying the portfolio so that potential losses on individual securities will be minimized.

The GSA will minimize the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in general interest rates, by:

- Structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity.
- Investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities.

Liquidity

The investment portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated. This is accomplished by structuring the portfolio so that securities mature concurrent with cash needs to meet anticipated demands (static liquidity). Furthermore, since all possible cash demands cannot be anticipated, the portfolio should consist largely of securities with active secondary or resale markets (dynamic liquidity).

Yield

The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints and liquidity needs. Return on investment is of secondary importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above. The core of investments is limited to relatively low risk securities in anticipation of earning a fair return relative to the risk being assumed. Securities shall not be sold prior to maturity with the following exceptions:

- A security with declining credit may be sold early to minimize loss of principal.
- A security swap would improve the quality, yield, or target duration in the portfolio.
- Liquidity needs of the portfolio require that the security be sold.

III. Standards of Care

Prudence

All participants in the investment process shall act responsibly as custodians of the public trust. The standard of prudence to be applied is the “prudent investor” rule, which states, “Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived.”

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution and management of the investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial decisions. Employees and investment officials shall disclose any material interests in financial institutions with which they conduct business. They shall further disclose any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio. Employees and officers shall refrain from undertaking personal investment transactions with the same individual with which business is conducted on behalf of GSA.

Delegation of Authority

Authority to manage the investment program is granted to the School Treasurer and derived from the Missouri Constitution and state statutes. Responsibility for the operation of the investment program is hereby delegated to the investment officer, who shall act in accordance with the established written procedures and internal controls for the operation of the investment program consistent with this investment policy. Procedures should include references to safekeeping, delivery vs. payment, investment accounting, repurchase agreements, wire transfer agreements, and collateral/ depository agreements. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the procedures established by the investment officer. The investment officer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials.

IV. Investment Transactions

Authorized Financial Dealers and Institutions

A list will be maintained of financial institutions authorized to provide investment transactions. In addition, a list will also be maintained of approved security broker/dealers selected by creditworthiness as determined by the investment officer and approved by the governing body. These may include “primary” dealers or regional dealers that qualify under Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule 15C3-1 (uniform net capital rule).

All financial institutions and broker/dealers who desire to become qualified for investment transactions must supply the following as appropriate:

- Audited financial statements.
- Proof of National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) certification.
- Proof of state registration.
- Completed broker/dealer questionnaire.

- Certification of having read and understood and agreeing

An annual review of the financial condition and registration of qualified financial institutions and broker/dealers will be conducted by the investment officer.

Internal Controls

The investment officer/internal auditor/director of accounting is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure that will be reviewed annually with the [school's] independent auditor. The internal control structure shall be designed to ensure that the assets of the GSA are protected from loss, theft, or misuse and to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (1) the cost of control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits require estimates and judgments by management.

The internal controls shall address the following points:

- Control of collusion.
- Separation of transaction authority from accounting and record keeping.
- Custodial safekeeping.
- Avoidance of physical delivery securities.
- Clear delegation of authority to subordinate staff members.
- Written confirmation of transactions for investments and wire transfers.
- Development of a wire transfer agreement with the lead bank and third party custodian.

Delivery vs. Payment

All trades where applicable will be executed by delivery vs. payment (DVP) to ensure that securities are deposited in eligible financial institutions prior to the release of funds. All securities shall be perfected in the name or for the account of the GSA and shall be held by a third-party custodian as evidenced by safekeeping receipts.

Suitable and Authorized Investments

In accordance with and subject to restrictions imposed by current statutes, the following list represents the entire range of investments that GSA will consider and which shall be authorized for the investments of funds by the GSA.

- Open time deposits or certificates of deposit secured under the provisions of sections 110.010 and 110.020, RSMo;

- Bonds, redeemable at maturity at par, of the state of Missouri, of the United States, or of any wholly owned corporation of the United States;
- Short term obligations of the United States; or
- Any instrument permitted by law for the investment of state moneys.

VI. Investment Parameters

Diversification

The investments shall be diversified to minimize the risk of loss resulting from over concentration of assets in specific maturity, specific issuer, or specific class of securities. Diversification strategies shall be established and periodically reviewed. At a minimum, diversification standards by security type and issuer shall be:

- U.S. treasuries and securities having principal and/or
- Interest guaranteed by the U.S. government: 100%
- Collateralized time and demand deposits: 100%
- U.S. Government agencies, and government sponsored enterprises: No more than 60%
- Collateralized repurchase agreements: 50%
- U.S. Government agency callable securities: No more than 30%

Maximum Maturities

To the extent possible, the GSA shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Investments shall mature and become payable not more than five (5) years from the date of purchase. The GSA shall adopt weighted average maturity limitations that should not exceed three (3) years and are consistent with the investment objectives. Because of inherent difficulties in accurately forecasting cash flow requirements, a portion of the portfolio should be continuously invested in readily available funds such as in bank deposits or overnight repurchase agreements to ensure that appropriate liquidity is maintained to meet ongoing obligations.

VII. Reporting

Methods

The investment officer shall prepare an investment report at least quarterly, including a management summary that provides an analysis of the status of the current investment portfolio and transactions made over the last quarter. This management summary will be prepared in a manner that will allow the GSA to ascertain whether investment activities

during the reporting period have conformed to the investment policy. The report should be provided to the governing body of the GSA. The report will include the following:

- Listing of individual securities held at the end of the reporting period.
- Realized and unrealized gains or losses resulting from appreciation or depreciation by listing the cost and market value of securities over one-year duration (in accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 31 requirements). [Note, this is only required annually]
- Average weighted yield to maturity of portfolio on investments as compared to applicable benchmarks.
- Listing of investment by maturity date.
- Percentage of the total portfolio which each type of investment represents.

Performance Standards

The investment portfolio will be managed in accordance with the parameters specified within this policy. The portfolio should obtain a market average rate of return during a market/economic environment of stable interest rates. A series of appropriate benchmarks may be established against which portfolio performance shall be compared on a regular basis.

Marking to Market

The market value of the portfolio shall be calculated at least quarterly and a statement of the market value of the portfolio shall be issued at least annually to the governing body of the [entity]. This will ensure that review of the investment portfolio, in terms of value and price volatility, has been performed.

VIII. Policy Considerations Exemption

Any investment currently held that does not meet the guidelines of this policy shall be exempt from the requirements of this policy. At maturity or liquidation, such monies shall be reinvested only as provided by this policy.

This policy shall be adopted by resolution of the GSA's governing body. The policy shall be reviewed annually by the investment officer and recommended changes will be presented to the governing body for consideration.

Payroll Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1.1. Accurate & Timely Payroll. The Business Manager shall ensure that school employees are paid accurately and timely in accordance with applicable laws and rules.

SECTION 1.2. School employees shall be paid:

- a. In United States currency;
- b. By a written instrument (e.g. check) issued by the employer that is negotiable on demand at full face value for United State currency; or
- c. By the electronic transfer of funds to the employee's bank pursuant to a direct deposit agreement signed by the employee.

SECTION 2. Teachers Retirement System. As prescribed by Statute, all teachers at GSA shall be members of the St. Louis City Retirement System and subject to its requirements. The Board shall expend for teacher retirement and compensation for instructional staff an amount that reflects the requirements as outlined in Missouri State Statute and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations.

School Accounting System Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Fiscal Year

The School adopts a fiscal year that begins on the first day of July and ends on the thirtieth day of the following June.

SECTION 2. Financial Accounting

The School will adhere to the accounting guidelines of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

SECTION 2.1. Accounting records. The school shall maintain records that adequately identify the source and application of funds. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or sub-grant awards and authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays or expenditures, and income.

SECTION 2.2. Internal controls. The school shall maintain effective control and accountability of all state and local funds, federal grant and sub-grant cash, real and personal property, and other assets obtained with local, state or federal funds. The school shall adequately safeguard all such property and assure that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

SECTION 2.3. Source documentation. Accounting records must be supported by such source documentation as cancelled checks, paid bills, payrolls, time and attendance records, contract and sub grant award documents, etc.

SECTION 2.4. Budget control. The school shall compare actual expenditures or outlays of state or federal funds with budget amounts for each fund, grant or subgrant. Financial information must be related to performance or productivity data, including the development of unit cost information whenever appropriate or specifically required in the grant or subgrant agreement. Applicable federal cost principles, agency program regulations, and the terms of grant and subgrant agreements will be followed in determining the reasonableness, allowability, and allocability of costs.

SECTION 2.5. Account Code Structure

The school uses the account code structure as described in the Missouri Department of Education's Chart of Accounts.

State and Federal Projects

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1.1. Authority to Operate. With Board approval, the School may operate various specially funded programs that must be administered in accordance with particular federal and/or state laws, regulations and other conditions for use of such funds.

The Principal shall be the designated as the School official responsible for coordinating funded projects, administering programs and ensuring that the various departments operating these programs do so within the guidelines of the particular program. The administration shall keep accurate and separate records, as required by state and federal programs, to enable the School to verify program compliance and success. The Principal shall keep the Board fully informed.

Section 1.2. Staff Involvement. Staff involvement will be solicited by the administration in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programs authorized and approved within the guidelines of Title I of the Improving American Schools Act of 1994 and/or other significant legislative enactments. The vehicle for such involvement shall be determined by the administration, with the approval of the Board.

State Tax Sources

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1.1. Acceptance. All state funds will be accepted for the operation of the School as provided by entitlement by law and through regulations of the Missouri State Board of Education or Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Section 1.2. Reporting. The Principal or Business Manager is responsible for filing all required reports and forms to obtain state funds to which the School is entitled to receive according to developed rules and regulations.

SECTION 3: HUMAN RESOURCES

Background Checks and Fingerprinting

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

1. Any employee, member of the Board, volunteer, or individual otherwise authorized to have contact with students and prior to any individual having contact with students shall complete a criminal background check and a check of the family care safety registry.
2. In order to facilitate the criminal background, check and check of the family care safety registry, any employee, member of the Board, volunteer, or individual otherwise authorized to have contact with students and prior to any individual having contact with students shall complete a state and national fingerprint based criminal background check.
3. Prior to fingerprints being captured, the employee or volunteer must be provided a copy of the “Noncriminal Justice Applicant’s Privacy Rights” and the FBI’s “Privacy Act Statement.” When registering for fingerprinting through the MACHS portal, this information is provided and acknowledged during the registration process.
4. The School will ensure the information received is protected from receipt until destruction and will establish appropriate technical and physical precautions to secure such information.
5. If a security violation occurs with information provided by the fingerprint background check, whether malicious in intent or not, the violation will be reported to Gordon Parks Elementary School’s Local Agency Security Officer (LASO). The LASO will complete a MSHP SHP-71 Security Incident Report form and forward the completed form to the MSHP Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Unit.
6. The School designates the GSA district APO to act as the LASO.
7. To comply with Appendix J of the FBI CJIS Security Policy, basic security awareness training is required for all personnel who have access to Criminal Justice Information (CJI) within six months of initial assignment, and biennially thereafter. The School completes security awareness training via [hard copy, CJIS Online, etc.] and proof of completed and current security awareness training will be retained indefinitely for all personnel with access to information provided from the fingerprint background checks.
8. Only authorized personnel of the School may access, view, or otherwise use information provided from the fingerprint background check and check of the family care safety registry and shall not share such information from any individual not authorized to access, view, or otherwise use the information. If such information is printed on a hard copy

format, authorized personnel will ensure the information is stored in a secured environment and is not accessible by unauthorized personnel. The security combination and/or keys to the locks shall only be accessible by authorized personnel. If such information is stored in an electronic format, the electronic media will be treated the same as hard copy information and will be stored in a secure environment that is not accessible by unauthorized personnel. If the electronic media cannot be stored in a secure environment, such as being stored on a PC's local HDD or SSD, the electronic information must be password-protected or otherwise encrypted.

9. When hard copy information or information stored on optical media discs is no longer required, it must be destroyed in one of the following manners:
 - a. In-House Cross Shredder
 - b. Incineration
 - c. Contracted Document Destruction Company. If a contracted document destruction company is used, authorized personnel must accompany the CHRI to destruction.
10. When electronic copy information stored on HDDs, SSDs, or flash sticks is no longer required, the electronic media must be degaussed a minimum of three times.
11. The School will disseminate information to the applicant of record for personal review or challenge purposes only. The individual must make a request to view information in writing and the individual must appear in person, with identification, and sign a secondary dissemination log. Secondary dissemination logs will include, at a minimum: the date of secondary dissemination, the name of the subject of the record, the name of the person or agency requesting the record, a description of the shared record, the purpose of the request, how the dissemination occurred, and the name of the disseminator. The secondary dissemination log will be retained for at least 3 years or until a compliance audit can be conducted by the MSHP.
12. The School will ensure all MACHS portal access is current. Any user that no longer needs access will be removed immediately by the Agency LASO or the MACHS Administrator.
13. The School LASO will contact the Missouri State Highway Patrol, CJIS Division, Trainer/auditor for assistance with Administrator rights to the MACHS portal.
14. The School will ensure that Rap Back subscriptions are kept up-to-date and removed when the individual is no longer working or volunteering for the agency. Rap Back subscriptions and validations will be conducted by the MACHS administrator of the agency.

Communicable Diseases Policy

SECTION 1. Purpose of Policy

SECTION 1.1. The Governing Board intends to ensure that no individual has potentially harmful exposure to infection or diseases.

SECTION 2. Definitions.

SECTION 2.1. Communicable disease: a disease that can be directly or indirectly transmitted from one person to another.

SECTION 2.2. HIV infection: an infection in which the human immuno-deficiency virus is present.

SECTION 3. Protections

SECTION 3.1. No student shall be denied access to nor shall an otherwise qualified individual be denied employment in the educational programs of the Governing Board solely because he or she is infected with a communicable disease.

SECTION 3.2. A student or employee who is infected with a communicable disease will remain in his or her educational or employment setting unless he or she presents a significant risk of contagion as determined by the Governing Board after consultation with the student's or employee's physician, public health official knowledgeable about the disease and/or the Board's physician if in the judgment of the School Nurse it is necessary to consult a private physician.

SECTION 4. Prevention of Transmission

SECTION 4.1. Each year, the School Nurse shall provide educational opportunities and review of this policy for all employees to become informed concerning transmissions of communicable disease and HIV infection.

SECTION 4.1.1. Education and policy review shall include procedures to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV infection as well as other communicable diseases, including precautions to be taken in handling bodily fluids and blood whenever necessary. Handling blood and body fluids shall be in a manner consistent with the Center for Disease Control's Universal Precautions for Handling Blood and Body Fluids.

SECTION 5. Identification of Potential Risks

SECTION 5.1. Whether or not an infected individual presents a significant risk of contagion shall be determined based upon reasonable medical judgment given the state of medical knowledge about:

- The nature of the risk; i.e., how long the disease is transmitted;
- The duration of the risk; i.e., how long the carrier is infectious;
- The severity of the risk; i.e., the degree of potential harm to third parties; and
- The probability that the disease will be transmitted and will cause varying degrees of harm.

SECTION 5.1. Once the student's or employee's medical condition has been determined, the School Nurse shall consult with the student's or employee's physician, a public health official knowledgeable about the disease and/or a physician employed by the Governing Board at the option of the Board in order to determine whether reasonable accommodations will allow the student to perform in the classroom or other educational setting or the employee to meet the essential functions of his or her job.

SECTION 5.2. If an accommodation that does not impose undue financial hardship or administrative burdens can be made, then neither student nor employee shall be denied the right to participate in Governing Board programs or to be employed by the Board.

SECTION 5.3. In order that the Board may have time to obtain a reasonable medical judgment concerning the student or employee who is infected by a contagious disease, the School Nurse is authorized to remove the infected student or employee from Board programs or employment for a period not to exceed ten days during which time the Board shall make a decision as to whether the student or employee can be accommodated and does not pose a significant risk to others.

SECTION 5.4. The student or employee shall be excluded only if the Board determines after consultation as provided above that the communicable disease is of such nature or at a stage that the individual should not be in an educational setting.

SECTION 6. Privacy Rights

SECTION 6.1. Neither the Board nor its employees shall disclose medical information about a student or employee with HIV infection or other communicable disease without the consent of the employee or the student or his or her parent or guardian, whichever is applicable, or only as required by law or court order.

Drug Free Workplace Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy will summarize the provisions of ensuring a drug free workplace.

The unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of school activities is strictly prohibited.

Employees under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances while on duty are a serious risk to themselves, to students and to other employees. Employees who display physical manifestations of drug or alcohol use while on duty, may be subject to drug testing. Any employee who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination and referral for prosecution. Employees may also be required to satisfactorily participate in rehabilitation programs.

As a condition of employment, all employees must abide by the terms of this policy. Employees who are convicted of a drug offense which occurred on school premises or while on duty must notify the School leader of their conviction. Notification must be made by the employee to the School leader within five (5) days of the conviction. Within ten (10) days, the School leader will provide notice of such violation to the Impact Aid Program, United States Department of Education, or other appropriate government agency.

The School will institute a drug-free awareness program to inform employees of:

1. The dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace.
2. This policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace.
3. Available counseling and rehabilitation.
4. The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace.

On the basis of medical certification, employees with the illness of chemical dependency shall qualify for the employee benefits and group insurance coverages that are provided for under group health and medical insurance policies. The confidential nature of the medical records of employees with chemical dependency shall be preserved in the same manner as for all other medical records.

The School's responsibility for chemical dependency is limited to its effects on the employee's job performance. If the employee violates this policy, refuses to accept diagnosis and treatment, or fails to respond to treatment, and performance is adversely affected, the employee will be subject to employment action in proportion to the performance problem.

Implementation of this policy will not require or result in any special regulations, privileges or exemptions from the standard administrative practice applicable to job performance requirements. Upon the request of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or an

agency of the United States, the School shall certify that it has adopted and implemented the drug prevention program described in this policy, in the form required by such agency. The School shall conduct a biennial review of this policy to determine its effectiveness, implement necessary changes, and to ensure that the disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

This policy shall be distributed in writing to all present and future employees.

Employee Dress Code Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy will summarize the expectations of employee dress and appropriate attire.

SECTION 1. Purpose of Employee Dress Code

SECTION 1.1. The purpose of establishing an employee dress code is to provide an example of appropriate attire that:

- Clearly distinguishes staff from students;
- Models modesty and professionalism; and
- Is functional given the nature of the position

SECTION 1.2. All staff shall dress in a manner and style in accordance with administrative regulations described in the Personnel Handbook.

SECTION 2. Dress Code

SECTION 2.1. An employee who is inappropriately dressed, in the opinion of the School leader, may be sent home and required to return to work in acceptable attire. The employee shall not be paid for time away from work.

SECTION 2.2. Appropriate dress includes but is not limited to:

- Business suits/coordinated pants suits
- Collared shirts with and without ties
- Skirts
- Dresses
- Slacks
- Sweaters, blouses, knit tops, jackets
- Coordinated dress shorts ensemble with appropriate shoes and hosiery
- Sweatshirts and tee shirts with school-related insignia
- Appropriate shoes
- Attire in accordance with the environmental requirements for specific job assignments

SECTION 2.3. To ensure that employees are professionally attired, the following are considered unacceptable:

Shorts (except for physical education)

Jeans, including overalls, of any color (acceptable only for special projects or activities or related to specific job assignments)

Hats/head wraps

Immodest dress such as dress which is too short (more than three inches above the knees) or tight or otherwise revealing

Oversized tee shirts and undershirts

- Leggings/spandex
- Tank tops
- See-through clothing
- Sundress without a jacket
- Clothing that exposes the midriff
- Extremely low cut dresses and blouses
- Exercise/jogging suit
- Other attire as deemed inappropriate by the school leader

SECTION 2.4. The GSA Governing Board recognizes that there are occasions when individuals may need to wear specific garb due to medical reasons or as part of a bona fide personal religious practice. When such is the case, the employee shall provide documentation to the School leader of the medical necessity or the bona fide personal religious practice that gives rise to the need for deviation from the policy.

SECTION 2.5. In addition, some job functions necessitate attire that may otherwise be considered “inappropriate” (i.e., Physical Education teachers may wear exercise attire). Discretion of these instances is by the School Leader.

Employee Information Sharing

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

Section 1. The School Leader or his/her designee shall be permitted to respond to requests for information from public schools about former employees.

Section 2. Information Sharing

Section 2.1. The School shall provide information about a former employee to another public school upon request.

Section 2.2. The School shall share the following information: information regarding any violation of the published regulations of the Governing Board of the School by the former employee if such violated related to sexual misconduct with a student and was determined to be an actual violation by the Governing Board after a contested case due process hearing conducted pursuant to board policy; the results of a children's division investigation if the investigation involved allegations of sexual misconduct with a student and the children's division reached a finding of substantiated.

Section 3. All current and potential employees shall be given notice of this policy upon its adoptions.

Employment Status: Contracted Employment Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy will summarize the provisions of contracted employees.

SECTION 1. Employment Status.

SECTION 1.1. Employees of GSA are considered contracted employees.

SECTION 1.2. Employees shall execute an At-Will Employment Agreement or Contract demonstrating understanding of the conditions and expectations of employment at GSA.

SECTION 1.3. GSA shall follow all requirements of the Fair Dismissal Act or the terms of the agreed upon contract should termination be necessary.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy will summarize the provisions of Equal Employment Opportunity.

The School is committed to providing equal opportunity in all areas of education, recruiting, hiring, retention, promotion and contracted service. The School further commits itself to the policy that there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any person because of race, color, religion, disability, age, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation.

The School's equal opportunity policy extends to prohibitions against unlawful harassment of students or employees because of the individual's race, color, religion, disability, age, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation.

SECTION 1. Equal Opportunity Employment

SECTION 1.1. Non-Discrimination Against/Accommodation of Qualified Individuals with Disabilities

The Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) Board shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable state and local laws providing for non-discrimination in employment against qualified individuals with disabilities. The GSA Board shall also provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals in accordance with these laws. The Board shall ensure that that qualified individuals with disabilities are treated in a non-discriminatory manner in the pre-employment process and during active employment with GSA.

Qualified applicants or GSA employees with disabilities should make formal requests in writing for accommodations.

Family and Medical Leave Act

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy is limited to any rights or benefits contained in the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

SECTION 1. Eligible Employees

SECTION 1.1. Employees of the school/Board/management organization employed by the Board who have been employed for at least twelve (12) months and who have worked at least 1250 hours during the 12 month period immediately prior to requesting leave and are employed at a worksite where 50 or more employees are located within 75 miles of the worksite are eligible to take twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave under FMLA.

SECTION 1.2. An employee may request leave for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Birth of a child and to care for the newborn child;
2. Adoption or foster placement of a child with the employee;
3. To care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter or parent, if that person has a serious health condition;
4. Serious health condition of employee that prevents the employee from performing the job functions;
5. Because of a qualifying exigency (hereinafter defined) arising out of the fact that an employee's spouse, son, daughter or parent is a covered military member on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty status in the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation;
6. To care for a covered service member (hereinafter defined) with a serious injury or illness when the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin.

SECTION 2. Definitions

"Covered Servicemember" means a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is on the temporary retired list, for a serious injury or illness. A member of the Armed Forces would have a serious injury or illness if he or she has incurred an injury or illness in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces provided that the injury or illness may render the servicemember medically unfit to perform duties of the member's office, grade rank or rating.

"Instructional employee or other key position" means an employee whose school leader function is to instruct or directly support instruction of students in a class, a small group or an

individual setting or provide an essential function such as administration which would provide a disruption in the normal operations of the school.

"Parent" means a biological parent or one who acted in place of a parent when the employee was a child. The term "parent" does not include parent "in-law."

"Qualifying exigency" may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

"Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care facility or continuing treatment by a health care provider and has been duly documented by a health care provider.

"Son or daughter" means a biological, adopted or foster child, a step-child, a legal ward or a child for whom the employee acts as a parent. The son or daughter must be under age 18 or, if the son or daughter is age 18 or older, he/she must be incapable of self-care on a daily basis due to a documented mental or physical disability.

"Spouse" means a husband or wife.

SECTION 3. Amount and Type of Leave Taken

SECTION 3.1. Except as provided below, an employee may take a total of twelve (12) weeks during any twelve-month period. The twelve-month period shall be measured backward from the date the employee begins using any FMLA leave. In the event of the birth, adoption or foster placement of a son or daughter, all leave must be completed within twelve (12) months after the birth, adoption or foster placement.

SECTION 3.2. If both spouses work for the Board and both are eligible for FMLA leave, they are authorized to take only a combined total of twelve (12) weeks during any one twelve-month period to care for a newborn or adopted child, a child placed with the employee for foster care, or a parent with a serious health condition for twelve (12) weeks.

SECTION 3.3. Employees seeking to take Family and Medical Leave to care for a newborn or adopted child, a child placed with the employee for foster care, a parent, spouse, or child with a serious health condition, or because of their own serious health condition, must first exhaust any

personal leave, paid vacation, applicable accumulated sick leave, and any other applicable paid leave for their Family and Medical Leave.

SECTION 3.4. Intermittent or Reduced Leave

An employee may only take leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. The Board will require a certification, in the form described in Section 3.7 below, to document the medical necessity of such intermittent leave.

SECTION 3.5. Notification of Leave

If the need for FMLA leave is foreseeable, an employee requesting leave must provide at least 30 days advance notice to the School Principal. If such advance notice is not possible, the employee must give said notice as soon as practicable, ordinarily within one to two working days of learning of the need for leave. When planning medical treatment, the employee should make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so that any corresponding leave will not unduly disrupt the operations of the school or classroom instruction.

SECTION 3.6. Benefits and Return to Work

Employees taking FMLA leave will continue to accrue all benefits for which they are eligible that are provided by the school while on FMLA leave. The Board will pay the employer's portion, if any, of such benefits. The employee will pay the same portion, if any, of such benefits as the employee paid before beginning the leave. The employee will be billed for the employee portion of the benefits and shall timely pay required premiums in order to maintain active benefits coverage.

The Board may recover any health care benefit premiums paid on behalf of an employee if the employee does not return to work after the leave period has expired.

With the exception of paid vacation, personal, medical or sick leave required to be exhausted prior to taking unpaid leave under Section 3.3 above, the employee's absence during leave will not alter benefits which the employee accrued before taking leave.

Upon return from leave, the employee is entitled to be reinstated to a position equivalent to the one the employee held when he/she left on FMLA leave, with equivalent pay, benefits and other terms and conditions of employment. Upon proper notice, however, the Board may deny reinstatement under this policy to an employee whose salary is within the highest 10% of the employees employed by the school ("key employee") if such denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the school's operation, as determined by the Board. Employees will be notified if they are considered a key employee, if there is an intention to deny reinstatement, and of their rights in such instances.

SECTION 3.7. Required Certification and Reporting

The Board requires that a request for leave due to a serious health condition be supported by a certification issued by the appropriate health care provider of the eligible employee or of the son, daughter, spouse or parent of the employee on a form to be provided by the Board.

This certification must include:

1. The date on which the serious health condition commenced;
2. The probable duration of the condition;
3. If the purpose of the leave is to care for a son, daughter, spouse or parent ("family member"), a statement that the employee is needed to care for the family member and the estimated amount of time needed for such care;
4. If the leave is due to the employee's own serious health condition, a statement that the employee is unable to perform his or her job functions. The employer may require that the eligible employee obtain subsequent recertification on a reasonable basis as requested by the Board.

The Board, at its own expense, may obtain the opinion of a second health care provider of the Board's choice, if it should choose to do so. If a conflict exists between the opinion in the certification and the second opinion, the Board may, at its own expense, obtain a third opinion from a health care provider upon which the Board and the employee jointly agree. Such a third opinion as to the necessity for the leave is binding on both the Board and the employee.

Upon an employee's return after leave for his/her own serious health condition, the Board may require the employee to obtain certification from a health care provider that the employee is able to resume work.

The Board may require an employee on FMLA leave to report periodically to the School Principal on the employee's status and intent to return to work.

SECTION 3.8. Special Provisions

When an instructional employee or other key position essential to the function of the school seeks intermittent leave or leave on a reduced schedule in connection with a family or personal illness that would constitute at least 20% of the total number working days in the period during which the leave would extend, the Board may require the employee to elect to take leave in a block (not intermittently) for the entire period or to transfer to an available alternative position within the school that is equivalent in pay, for which the employee is qualified, and which better accommodates the intermittent situation.

If the employee begins leave more than five weeks before the end of a semester, the Board may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester if:

1. The leave will last at least three weeks; and
2. The employee would return to work during the three-week period before the end of the term.

An eligible employee is entitled to up to a total of 26 workweeks of unpaid, job protected leave during a single 12-month period to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness. The employee must be the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of the covered servicemember.

Exhibit 1

FMLA Description Of Serious Health Condition

A “Serious Health Condition” means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves one of the following:

1. Hospital Care
Inpatient care (i.e., overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility, including any period of incapacity or subsequent treatment ¹ in connection with or consequent to such inpatient care.
2. Absence Plus Treatment
A period of incapacity of more than three full consecutive days (including any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition), that also involves:
 - a) Treatment two or more times (within 30 days of the first day of incapacity, unless extenuating circumstances exist) by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician’s assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health services (e.g., physical therapist) under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider; or
 - b) Treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regiment of continuing treatment² under the supervision of a health care provider.

The requirements for treatment by a healthcare provider means an in-person visit to a healthcare provider. The first (or only) in-person treatment visit must take place within seven days of the first day of incapacity.

3. Pregnancy
Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care.
4. Chronic Conditions Requiring Treatments
A chronic condition which:

1 Treatment includes examinations to determine if a serious health condition exists and evaluations of the condition. Treatment does not include routine physical examinations, eye examinations, or dental examinations.

2 A regiment of continuing treatment includes, for example, a course of prescription medication (e.g., antibiotic) or therapy requiring special equipment to restore or alleviate the health condition. A regiment of treatment does not include the taking of over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, antihistamines, or salves; or bed-rest, drinking fluids, exercise, and other similar activities that can be initiated without a visit to a health care provider.

- a) Requires periodic visits (at least twice a year) for treatment by a healthcare provider, or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a healthcare provider;
- b) Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and
- c) May cause episodic rather than continuing period of incapacity³ (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy).

5. Permanent/Long-term Conditions Requiring Supervision

A period of incapacity⁴ which is permanent or long term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's, a severe stroke, or the terminal stages of a disease.

6. Multiple Treatments (Non-Chronic Conditions)

Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a healthcare provider, either from restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity⁴ of more than three full consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.) severe arthritis (physical therapy), or kidney disease (dialysis).

³ "Incapacity," for purposes of FMLA, is defined to mean inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment therefore, or recovery therefrom.

Exhibit 2:

FMLA Description of Qualifying Exigency

Eligible employees may take FMLA leave while the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent (i.e., the covered military member") is on active duty or call to covered active duty status as defined in 29 C.F.R.825.126(b)(2) for one or more of the following qualifying exigencies:

1. **Short-Notice Deployment**

Any issue that arises from the fact that a covered military member is notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty in support of a contingency operation seven or less calendar days prior to the date of deployment.

2. **Military Events and Related Activities**

Leave to attend any official ceremony, program or event sponsored by the military that is related to active duty or call to covered active duty status of a covered military member; or leave to attend family support or assistance programs and informal briefings sponsored or promoted by the military, military service organizations, or the American Red Cross that are related to the active duty or call to covered active duty status of a covered military member.

Childcare and School Activities

When necessary due to circumstances arising from the active duty or call to covered active duty status of a covered military member – leave to arrange for alternative childcare; to enroll in or transfer the military service member's child to a new school or daycare; or to attend meetings with staff at a school or daycare facility concerning the covered member's child.

3. **Financial and Legal Arrangements**

To make or update financial or legal arrangements to address the covered military member's absence, such as preparing and executing powers of attorney, transferring bank account signature authority, or preparing a living will or trust.

4. **Counseling**

To attend counseling provided by someone other than a health care provider for oneself, for the covered military member. Or for the child of the covered military service member provided that the need for counseling arises from the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member.

5. **Rest and Recuperation**

To spend time with a covered military member who is on short-term, temporary rest and recuperation leave during the period of deployment.

6. **Post-Deployment Activities**

To attend any official ceremony or program sponsored by the military for a period of 90 days following the termination of the covered military member's active duty status (i.e., arrival ceremonies or reintegration events); or to address issues that arise from the death of a covered military member while on active duty status.

7. Additional Activities

Other events that arise out of the covered military member's active duty or call to covered active duty status provided the employer and employee agree that such leave shall qualify as an exigency, and agree to both the timing and duration of such leave.

Exhibit 3:

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Request Form

To be completed by employee and returned to the [School Leader]

[School Name]

[School Address 1]

[School Address 2]

Employee Name

Job Title

Dated of Notification

Reason for Leave:

- Adoption of a Child
- Placement of a Foster Child
- Birth of a Child
- Serious Health Condition of Employee
- Serious Health Condition of Spouse, Child, or Parent
- Qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that your Spouse Son/Daughter Parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves
- You are the Spouse Son/Daughter Parent Next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness

Type of Leave Requested:

- Continuous

- Intermittent: Please explain: _____
- Reduced Hours: Please explain: _____

Length of Request for Leave:

Date leave to start: _____

Date of anticipated return to work: _____

Other Pertinent Information:

Signature of Employee

Date

Signature of (School Leader or other job title)

Date

**Exhibit 4:
Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**

Certification By Employee’s Health Care Provider for Employee’s Serious Illness

To be completed by employee’s health care provider and returned to the [School Leader]

Employee’s Name		
<p>Description of serious health condition (see attached description of “serious health condition” under FMLA.) Does the patient’s condition qualify under any of the categories described? If so, please check the applicable category. In all instances the information on the form must relate only to the serious health condition for which the current need for leave exists.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Care <input type="checkbox"/> Absence Plus treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Conditions Requiring Treatments <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent/Long-term Conditions Requiring Supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Treatments (Non-Chronic Conditions)</p>		
<p>Describe the medical facts and/or treatment that meet the criteria of the serious health condition checked above (medical diagnosis/prognosis is not required):</p>		
Date Condition Commenced:		
Probable Duration of Condition:		
Probable Duration of Present Incapacity (if different):		
<p>Will the employee require leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis for planned medical treatment (e.g., follow-up treatment) of the employee’s serious health condition, including pregnancy? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		
<p>If so, please provide an estimate of the dates and duration of such treatment and any period(s) of recovery:</p>		
Dates:		
Duration Per Episode:	Hour(s) or	Day(s):
<p>Will the employee require leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis for the employee’s serious health condition, including pregnancy, that may result in unforeseeable episodes of incapacity (e.g. flare ups)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		

If so, please provide an estimate of the frequency and duration of such episodes of incapacity (e.g., 3 times per 1 month lasting 1-2 days):			
Frequency;	Times Per	Week(s)	Months(s)
Duration Per Episode:		Hours(s)	Day(s)
<p>Is the employee able to perform the essential functions of employee's position?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe the physical restrictions placed on the employee, including the duration of such restrictions:</p>			
Health Care Provider's Name (please print):			
Health Care Provider's Signature:			
Date:			
Specialty/Type of Practice:			
Address:			
Phone Number:			
Fax Number:			

Exhibit 5:

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Certification by Employee’s Health Care Provider for Employee’s Family Member Serious
Illness

To be completed by employee’s health care provider and returned to the [School Leader]

Employee’s Name	
Patient’s Name	
Relationship to Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Child (under age 18 or if older and incapable of self care due to mental or physical disability)
<p>Description of serious health condition (see attached description of “serious health condition” under FMLA.) Does the patient’s condition qualify under any of the categories described? If so, please check the applicable category. In all instances the information on the form must relate only to the serious health condition for which the current need for leave exists.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Care <input type="checkbox"/> Absence Plus treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Conditions Requiring Treatments <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent/Long-term Conditions Requiring Supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Treatments (Non-Chronic Conditions)	
<p>Describe the medical facts and/or treatment that meet the criteria of the serious health condition checked above (medical diagnosis/prognosis is not required):</p> 	
Date Condition Commenced:	
Probable Duration of Condition:	
Probable Duration of Present Incapacity (if different):	
<p>Will the employee require leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis for planned medical treatment (e.g., follow-up treatment) of the employee’s family member’s serious health condition, including pregnancy? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>If so, please provide an estimate of the dates and duration of such treatment and any period(s) of recovery:</p>	

Dates:			
Duration Per Episode:	Hour(s) or	Day(s):	
Will the employee require leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis for the employee's family member's serious health condition, including pregnancy, that may result in unforeseeable episodes of incapacity (e.g. flare ups? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If so, please provide an estimate of the frequency and duration of such episodes of incapacity (e.g., 3 times per 1 month lasting 1-2 days):			
Frequency;	Times Per	Week(s)	Months(s)
Duration Per Episode:		Hours(s)	Day(s)
Is the employee able to perform the essential functions of employee's position? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, describe the physical restrictions placed on the employee, including the duration of such restrictions:			
Health Care Provider's Name (please print):			
Health Care Provider's Signature:			
Date:			
Specialty/Type of Practice:			
Address:			
Phone Number:			
Fax Number:			

Exhibit 6:

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Certification by Employee of Qualifying Exigency for Military Family Leave

To be completed by employee’s health care provider and returned to the [School Leader]

Employee’s Name:	
Name of Covered Military Member on Active Duty or Call to Active Duty Status:	
Relationship to Employee:	
Dates of Covered Military Member’s Active Duty Service:	
<p>Please check one of the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the covered military member’s active duty orders is attached.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other documentation from the military certifying that the covered military member is on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call to active duty) in support of a contingency operation is attached.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have previously provided my employer with sufficient documentation confirming the covered military member’s active duty or call to covered active duty status in support of a contingency operation.</p>	
<p>Description of Qualifying Exigency (see attached description of a “qualifying exigency” under FMLA.) Does the need for leave qualify under any of the categories described? If so, please check the applicable category.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Short Notice Deployment <input type="checkbox"/> Military Events and Related Activities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Childcare and School Activities <input type="checkbox"/> Financial and Legal Arrangements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Counseling <input type="checkbox"/> Rest and Recuperation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Post-Deployment Activities <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Activities</p>	
<p>Please attach any available written documentation which supports the need for leave; such documentation may include a copy of a meeting announcement for informational briefings sponsored by the military, a document confirming an appointment with a counselor or school official, or a copy of a bill for services for the handling of legal or financial affairs. Available written documentation is attached. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Available</p>	

Approximate date exigency commenced or will commence:			
Probable duration of exigency:			
Will you need to be absent from work for a single continuous period of time due to the qualifying exigency?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If so, estimate the beginning and ending dates for the period of absence:			
Will you need to be absent from work periodically to address this qualifying exigency?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Estimate the frequency and duration of each period of absence due to the qualifying exigency (e.g., 3x per month lasting 4 hours):			
Frequency; Per	Times	Week(s)	Months(s)
Duration Per Event:		Hours(s)	Day(s)
<p>Leave to Meet with a Third Party. Please complete this section if leave is requested to meet with a third party (such as to arrange for childcare, to attend counseling, to attend meetings with school or childcare providers, to make financial or legal arrangements, to act as the covered military member's representative before a federal, state or local agency for purposes of obtaining, arranging or appealing military service benefits, or to attend any event sponsored by the military or military service organizations). This information may be used by your employer to verify that the information contained on this form is accurate.</p>			
Name of the Individual or Entity with whom you are meeting:		Title:	
Organization:			
Address:			
Telephone:		Fax:	
Email:			
Briefly describe the purpose of the meeting:			
I certify that the information I provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:			
Signature of Employee:		Date:	

**Exhibit 7:
Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**

Certification by Service Member’s Health Care Provider for Caregiver Military Family Leave

Section 1. To be completed by the EMPLOYEE and/or the COVERED SERVICE MEMBER for whom the employee is requesting leave (This section must be completed before any of the below sections can be completed by a health care provider.)

Name of Employee Requesting Leave to Care for Covered Service Member:	
Name of Covered Military Service Member (for whom employee is requesting leave to care):	
Relationship to Employee:	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Son <input type="checkbox"/> Daughter <input type="checkbox"/> Next of Kin
Is the Covered Service Member a Current Member of the Regular Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please provide the Covered Service Member’s military branch, rank, and unit to which he/she is currently assigned:	
Is the Covered Service Member assigned to a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient or to a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients (such as medical hold or warrior transition unit)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please provide the name of the medical treatment facility or unit:	
Is the Covered Service member on the Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Describe the care to be provided to the Covered Service Member and an estimate of the leave needed to provide the care:	

Section 2. For completed by: (1) a United States Department of Defense (“DOD”) Health Care Provider or a Health Care Provider who is either (2) a United States Department of Veterans’ Affairs (“VA”) health care provider, (3) a DOD TRICARE network authorized healthcare provider; or (4) a DOD non-network TRICARE authorized private healthcare provider. If you are unable to make certain of the military-related determinations contained below in Part B, you are permitted to rely upon determination from an authorized DOD representative (such as a DOD recovery care coordinator). [Please ensure that Section 1 above has been completed before completing this section.] Please be sure to sign the form on the last page.

Health Care Provider’s Name (please print):	
Health Care Provider’s Signature:	
Date:	
Specialty/Type of Practice:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Fax Number:	
Please check what type of provider you are:	<input type="checkbox"/> a DOD healthcare provider <input type="checkbox"/> A VA healthcare provider <input type="checkbox"/> a DOD TRICARE network authorized private healthcare provider <input type="checkbox"/> a DOD non-network TRICARE authorized healthcare provider
Medical Status	
Briefly state the medical facts regarding the Covered Service member’s health condition for which FMLA leave is requested:	
Does the injury or illness render the Covered Service Member medically unfit to perform the duties of his or her office, grade, rank, or rating? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Was the condition for which the Covered Service member is being treated incurred in the line of duty on active duty in the armed forces? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Approximate date condition commenced:	
Probable duration of condition and/or need for care:	
Is the Covered Service member undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, please describe medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy:	

Covered Service Member's Need for Care By Family Member

Will the Covered Service Member need care for a single continuous period of time, including any time for treatment and recover? ? Yes No

If yes, estimate the beginning and ending dates for this period of time:

Beginning:

Ending:

Will the Covered Service Member require periodic follow-up treatment appointments?

Yes No

Is there a medical necessity for the Covered Service Member to have periodic care for these follow-up treatment appointments? ? Yes No

Is there a medical necessity for the Covered Service member to have periodic care other than for scheduled follow up treatment appointments (e.g., episodic flare-ups of medical condition)? This can include assisting in the Covered Service Member's recover.

Yes No

If yes, please estimate the frequency and duration of the periodic care (e.g., 2 times per month for 6 months lasting 3 days):

Frequency;	Times Per	Week(s)	Months(s)
Duration Per Event:		Hours(s)	Day(s)

Health Care Provider's Name (please print):	
Health Care Provider's Signature:	
Date:	

Funeral Bereavement Leave

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

A leave of absence with pay may, in the school's sole discretion, be granted for all full-time employees consistent with the following stipulations when a death occurs in an employee's family.

1. Up to three (3) working days in any pattern, including and immediately following the day of death and/or date of funeral of a member of the immediate family. Immediate family is defined as parent, spouse, or child, grandparent, grandchild or sibling of the employee.
2. Up to two (2) working days in any pattern, including and immediately following the day of death and/or date of funeral of a half-brother or half-sister, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, step-parent, parent-in-law, step-brother or step-sister, sister-in-law or brother-in-law, son-in-law or daughter-in-law.
3. One (1) working day to be used immediately following the day of death or on the date of the funeral of a great-grandparent, aunt or uncle-in-law, grandparent-in-law, niece or nephew-in-law, great grandchild, grandnephew or niece, grand aunt or uncle, or first cousin.
4. No employee shall be entitled to more than a total of six (6) working days per year as bereavement leave.

Absence beyond these days shall be covered by any remaining sick and personal time or at a full loss of pay if no sick and personal time is available to use.

An employee who wishes to take time off due to the death of an immediate family member should notify his or her supervisor immediately. Bereavement leave will be granted unless there are unusual business needs or staffing requirements. Employees are allowed up to four hours of bereavement leave to attend the funeral of an employee or retiree of the company.

Harassment Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy will summarize the provisions related to unlawful harassment.

SECTION 1. Unlawful Harassment

SECTION 1.1. In accordance with applicable law, the Board of GSA prohibits sexual harassment and harassment because of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, physical or mental disability, marital status, age, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law. GSA is committed to taking all reasonable steps to prevent harassment from occurring.

SECTION 1.2. Unlawful harassment because of sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, physical or mental disability, marital status, age or any other protected characteristic includes, but is not limited to:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory comments, slurs, or unwanted sexual advances, invitations, or comments.
- Visual conduct such as derogatory posters, photography, cartoons, drawings, or gestures.
- Physical conduct such as unwanted touching, blocking normal movement, or interfering with work directed at you because of your sex or any other protected basis.
- Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests in order to keep your job or avoid some other loss, and offers of job benefits in return for sexual favors.
- Retaliation for opposing, reporting or threatening to report harassment, or for participating in an investigation, proceeding or hearing conducted by an investigating agency.

SECTION 1.3. Prohibited harassment is not necessarily limited to the loss of a job or some other economic benefit. Prohibited harassment that impairs an employee's working ability or emotional well-being at work is considered a violation of this policy and will not be tolerated.

SECTION 2. Reporting

SECTION 2.1. The school reporting procedure provides for an immediate, thorough and objective investigation of any harassment claim, appropriate disciplinary action against one found to have engaged in prohibited harassment, and appropriate remedies to any employee subject to harassment. An employee may have a claim of harassment even if he or she has not lost a job or some economic benefit.

SECTION 2.1.1. If any employee believes he/she has been harassed on the job, or is aware of the harassment of others, the employee should provide a written or verbal report as soon as possible to the most immediate supervisor, unless the immediate supervisor is a part of the grievance, in which case the next most immediate individual in authority. The report should include details of the incident(s), the names of individuals involved, the names of any witnesses, direct quotes when relevant, and any documentary evidence (notes, pictures, cartoons, etc.).

SECTION 2.1.2. All incidents of harassment that are reported will be thoroughly investigated and documented. The School will endeavor to protect the privacy and confidentiality of all parties involved to the extent possible consistent with a thorough investigation.

SECTION 2.1.3. If the Board of GSA determines that harassment has occurred, it will take remedial action commensurate with the circumstances. Appropriate action will also be taken to deter any future harassment. If a complaint of harassment is substantiated, appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination, will be taken.

SECTION 3. Protection Against Retaliation

SECTION 3.1. Under federal law, retaliation against any employee by another employee or by the school for reporting, filing, testifying, assisting or participating in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing conducted by the school or a federal or state enforcement agency is prohibited.

SECTION 3.1.1. Employees should report any retaliation to the most immediate supervisor, unless the immediate supervisor is a part of the grievance, in which case the next most immediate individual in authority.

SECTION 3.1.2. Any complaint will be immediately objectively and thoroughly investigated in accordance with the investigation procedure outlined above.

SECTION 3.1.3. If a report of retaliation is substantiated, appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, will be taken.

SECTION 4. Liability for Harassment

SECTION 4.1. Any employee, including any supervisor or manager, who is found to have engaged in unlawful harassment is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination from employment. An employee who engages in harassment may be held personally liable for monetary damages, should a lawsuit be filed.

SECTION 5. Additional Enforcement Information

SECTION 5.1. Employees should be aware that the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) serves as a neutral fact finder to investigate and resolve harassment complaints in employment. Employees who believe that they have been harassed may file a complaint directly with the EEOC by contacting the nearest office of the EEOC.

Judicial, Military Duty, And Religious Leave Policy

SECTION 1. Purpose of Policy

SECTION 1.1. The purpose of the policy of the Board of GSA is to outline employee's rights regarding leave for judicial, military, and religious reasons.

SECTION 2. Types of Leave

SECTION 2.1. All GSA employees shall be allowed a leave of absence without loss of pay and without deduction of any amounts otherwise received as compensation for service as an employee for the purpose of attending jury duty or a judicial proceeding in response to a subpoena or other court order or process arising out of the employee's duties as an employee of the school.

Employees who serve as jurors shall not have the jury leave deducted from sick or personal leave, and no employee utilizing jury leave shall be required to pay the cost of employing a substitute to serve in his/her absence. Employees who qualify for this leave may retain juror compensation.

SECTION 2.2. All GSA employees will be paid for a maximum period of 18 working days for ordered military duty. Applicable federal and state laws will be followed.

SECTION 2.3. Leave for religious holidays may be granted to benefits eligible employees. Leave for religious holidays may not exceed three days per work year. The leave should be made up by the employee at a time mutually agreed upon by the employee and the School Administrator.

SECTION 3. Notice

SECTION 3.1. Employees shall provide in writing the School Principal with a minimum of (two weeks) notice, or in the case of judicial duty, as soon as practicable. Notification should include the reason for the request for leave, the date(s) if known, and a copy of any supporting documentation such as a jury summons.

Jury Duty and Military Duty

Under Missouri law, an employer cannot terminate, discipline, threaten, or take adverse action against an employee on account of that employee's receipt of or response to a jury summons. Any employee discharged due to jury service may bring a civil action against his or her employer within ninety days of discharge for recovery of lost wages and other damages caused by the violation and for an order directing reinstatement of the employee.

Under federal law an employee who leaves a permanent position to perform state or federal military service must generally be restored to his or her previous position or a like position when the individual has received a valid certificate of completion by an officer of the applicable branch of the armed forces, is still qualified to perform the duties of the position, and applies for reenrollment.

Maternity Leave

A full-time female employee is entitled to thirty (30) calendar days of paid leave during the postpartum period where she is incapacitated as a result of having given birth. The paid leave shall start immediately following childbirth and shall run for thirty (30) consecutive calendar days. This policy applies to full-time female employees only. Any leave taken shall run concurrently with any leave available under the Family & Medical Leave Act (to the extent applicable to the School).

Parental Leave: A full-time employee who becomes a new parent is entitled to three (3) days of paid parental leave. This policy applies to full-time employees only. Any leave taken shall run concurrently with any Maternity Leave available (if applicable) and with any leave available under the Family & Medical Leave Act.

Personal Leave Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

SECTION 1. Sick Leave

SECTION 1.1. Full-time employees (forty or more hours per week) of the school shall be eligible for up to 80 hours of sick leave. Employees paid on a part-time, seasonal, or temporary basis are not eligible for leave benefits.

SECTION 1.2. Sick leave for full time employees should let the school administration know as early as possible in order to arrange classroom coverage for those days.

SECTION 1.3. Employees working less than full school year will earn a pro-rated share of sick leave depending on the date they are hired.

SECTION 1.4. Teachers earn sick leave during their ten-month work year. An employee must be at work or on paid leave 13 days within a month to earn sick leave.

SECTION 1.5. Should an employee not complete a contract, all sick leave days used but unearned will be deducted from the last salary payment. An employee who is absent due to sick leave after tendering resignation will have a resignation effective date as of the last day actively at work unless a physician's statement of disability is provided.

SECTION 1.6. Certified employees who are absent from work may remain on the requisition as long as the teacher is in-state pay status. However, that person will receive full pay for the remainder of unused sick leave. An employee will not be on payroll thereafter unless actually present.

SECTION 1.7. Upon the approval of the School Principal, an employee may utilize sick leave for the following reasons:

1. absence due to illness or injury;
2. absence due to exposure to contagious disease necessitated to protect the health of others who might be endangered by his/her attendance on duty;
3. absence due to an illness or death in the employee's immediate family. Immediate family includes spouse, children, mother, father, brothers, sisters, grandparents, in-law equivalent of the above and any relative residing in the employee's home.

SECTION 1.9. Employees absent for other than approved reasons, or absent after sick leave has been exhausted, shall have deducted from their paycheck their daily rate of pay for each day's absence not covered by leave or unapproved.

SECTION 2. Personal Leave

SECTION 2.1. Per fiscal year, an employee may use up to a maximum of (five) days of any accumulated sick leave for personal or professional reasons if prior approval of their absence is given by the School Principal.

SECTION 2.2. No grant of approval for an absence permitted under this policy section shall be conditioned upon disclosure of the specific purpose for which such absence is sought, nor shall any such grant of approval be withheld or denied because of the failure or refusal of the employee to disclose the specific purpose for which an absence is sought, provided that the employee may be requested to state whether the absence is sought under the category of "personal" or "professional" absence.

SECTION 3. Adoption Leave

SECTION 3.1. Employees may use sick leave during the first six (6) calendar weeks of adoption leave. Certification from the adoption agency or the attorney who arranges the adoption is required.

SECTION 4. Vacation for 12 Month Employees

SECTION 4.1. Vacation schedule applies for all twelve month employees. Service refers to continuous GSA service.

SECTION 4.2. Vacation leave that is unused may not be carried over to the next (fiscal/school) year.

SECTION 4.3. All vacation leave is subject to approval by the School Principal.

SECTION 4.4. Holidays for GSA twelve month employees:

- (1) New Year's Day
- (2) Martin Luther King's Birthday
- (3) President's day
- (4) Memorial Day
- (5) Independence Day
- (6) Labor Day
- (7) Thanksgiving
- (8) Christmas Day
- (9) Juneteenth

SECTION 4.5. The Board will grant extended leaves of absence. (All extended leaves of absence will be without pay, and extended leave will be for not more than (12) months unless approved by the GSA Superintendent. In order to qualify for extended leave, an employee must have completed at least (three) full years of service with GSA.

Extended leaves of absence may be granted for the following reasons:

- Continuing Education
- Health Issues
- Child-Care Reasons
- Run for political office

SECTION 4.5.1. If an employee is elected to political office, extended leave may be granted that will be sufficient to allow the person to serve one full term if such service would interfere with the employee's responsibility to the Board.

SECTION 4.5.2. The employee shall be entitled to return to active employment upon written request for reassignment and contingent upon a vacancy in the field in which he/she was employed when the leave was granted. Such an employee shall be given preference equal to that given to any other applicant returning from a period of extended leave.

SECTION 4.8.3. An employee who does not use his/her leave for the purpose requested shall forfeit all rights and privileges provided for under the policy. He/she shall be considered as having resigned from GSA, effective as of the beginning date of the approved leave.

Personnel Evaluations Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy will summarize the provisions of staff observations and evaluations.

SECTION 1. Staff Observations and Evaluations

SECTION 1.1. Each certified staff member shall be formally observed and evaluated by the School leader on at least an annual basis using an established evaluation instrument adopted by the Governing Board.

SECTION 1.2. Each classified staff member shall be formally evaluated by the School leader on at least an annual basis using an established evaluation instrument adopted by the Governing Board.

SECTION 1.3. The School leader shall provide a copy of the observation rating, notes, and any other documentation obtained or used during observation or evaluation.

SECTION 1.3.1. The Employee shall have the right to acknowledge acceptance of the evaluation or to dissent and provide written commentary related to the dissent; however, the document, regardless of acknowledgment or dissent, shall remain a part of the staff member's personnel record throughout the duration of employment.

SECTION 1.3.2. Employees may elect to follow the school's grievance policy related to dissent of any evaluations. The decision of the Governing Board or its designated committee is considered final.

Professional Personnel Hiring and Recruitment Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy will summarize the provisions of recruitment and hiring of professional personnel.

SECTION 1. Authority to Hire

SECTION 1.1. The Governing Board shall approve through formal resolution or through an approved budget all positions for employment.

SECTION 2. Recruitment.

SECTION 2.1. All public announcements for positions and vacancies shall assure applicants of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or handicap. Public announcements shall include only the following information: title of the position, full or part time status, salary range, job description, certification requirements, and start date.

SECTION 2.2. All job announcements for all certificated positions shall be published on the school's website and sent to appropriate third parties, including colleges, universities, The Missouri Charter Public School Association, and other agencies or employment organizations.

SECTION 2.3. Public notice shall be provided for no less than two weeks prior to hiring of a position.

SECTION 2.4. The School leader or Governing Board may elect to hire a qualified internal candidate in lieu of or in addition to publicly posting the position.

SECTION 3. Qualifications

SECTION 3.1. The GSA shall endeavor to hire the most highly qualified individual to execute the functions of the posted position. The GSA will give strong consideration to the following qualifications:

1. **(When applicable)** Demonstrated global awareness as evidenced by international travel or study abroad, or ability to read and understand one or more languages, which may include sign language, and/or other relevant experiences;
2. Advanced degrees;
3. High academic achievement;
4. Experience in a charter school setting;
5. Competency in the use of technology that would enhance the instructional program;
6. Demonstrated leadership potential;

7. Demonstrated ability and/or desire to work with students from demographic backgrounds the (Charter School) serves;
8. Experience with community-based and/or parental involvement activities;
9. Exemplary written and oral communication skills;
10. Demonstrated effective management and instructional practices; Professionalism in demeanor and appearance;
11. National Board Certification;
12. Missouri Professional Certification or eligibility for such; and
13. Willingness to work with athletics and extra-curricular activities.

This profile is not all-inclusive and may change depending on the school's needs at the time of hire. The Board's ultimate goal is to attract and retain highly competent individuals who share the school's mission and who will provide the best educational opportunities possible for our students.

Staff Complaints and Grievances Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy will summarize the process for the filing of complaints and/or grievances.

SECTION 1. Intent of the Policy

SECTION 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism for employees or applicants to reach solutions to problems, disputes, or controversies at the lowest administrative level, as fairly and as expeditiously as possible.

SECTION 1.2. This policy also addresses employees or applicants who allege discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, gender, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or any other basis expressly prohibited by law.

SECTION 2. Definitions

SECTION 2.1. Complaint - A complaint means any claim or grievance by an employee who is affected in his or her employment relationship by an alleged violation of applicable statutes, policies, rules, regulations, or written agreements with which the Board is required to comply. In accordance with this policy, a complaint may also be filed by a job applicant.

SECTION 2.2. Employee - Employee shall mean any person hired by the Board to perform services either full or part-time.

SECTION 2.3. Days - Days shall mean working days exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, or official holidays unless otherwise noted.

SECTION 2.4. School Leader - Employee possessing that degree of administrative authority.

SECTION 2.5. Parties in Interest - Any persons involved in the processing and investigation of the complaint.

SECTION 2.6. Complaint File - A file maintained by the School leader containing documents relevant to the complaint. This shall be separate from the personnel file and shall be open to parties in interest only.

SECTION 2.7. Board - The Governing Board of GSA.

SECTION 2.8. Notification - Means delivery in person to the party entitled to notification, or deposit in the United States Mail, certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the party notified.

SECTION 3. Procedure for Notice, Hearing Rights, Evidence Representation, Decisions, and Record

SECTION 3.1 This complaint and grievance procedure is applicable to any claim by any employee or applicant of GSA who is affected in his or her employment relationship by an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of statutes, policies, rules, regulations, or written agreements of with which the school is required to comply.

SECTION 3.2 The Board will ensure that a complaint is processed as expeditiously as is practicable. The initial complaint should be made in writing and should clearly state that the complainant wishes to utilize the Complaints and Grievances Policy, the nature of the complaint and specific statute, policy, rule, regulations, or written agreements that have allegedly been violated. The written request should be received by the charter school's office via certified mail at the following address: 6576 Smiley Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

SECTION 4.2. The complainant and all parties in interest shall be adequately notified of the time and place of the initial meeting and any appeal of the initial decision in writing by hand delivered or certified mail.

SECTION 4.3. The complainant and the individual(s) accused of the violation shall be entitled to an opportunity to be heard, to present relevant evidence, and to examine witnesses.

SECTION 4.4. The Governing Board may appoint a member of the State Bar to serve as law officer who shall rule on all issues of law and other objections, but such attorney shall not assist in the presentation of the case for either party.

SECTION 4.5. At each level, an accurate record of the proceeding must be kept by mechanical means and all evidence shall be preserved and made available to the parties involved; all cost and fees shall be borne by the party incurring them unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties; except that the cost of preparing and preserving the record of the proceedings shall be borne by the Governing Board; provided however, the cost of transcribing the transcript of evidence and proceedings before the Board shall be borne by the party requesting same, and all costs of the records on appeal to the superior courts and appellate courts shall be paid by the party required to do so by the laws relating thereto.

SECTION 4.6 The overall time frame from the initiation of the complaint until rendition of the decision by the Governing Board and notification thereof to the complainant shall not exceed thirty (30) days. In no instance shall there be more than ten (10) calendar days between the most recent alleged act about which a complaint may be filed and the first written notice of complaint is received nor shall there be more than ten (10) calendar days between the decision at any level and the date the appeal to the next level is received.

SECTION 4.7. Decisions at each level shall be in writing and dated. Each decision shall contain findings of fact and reasons for the particular resolution reached. The decision reached at each complaint level shall be sent to the complainant by certified mail or hand delivered by a person designated by the (School leader or other title) within five (5) business days of the hearing.

SECTION 4.8. The decision at each level shall be delivered to the complainant and the affected parties by a person designated by the School leader either by (1) being hand delivered or (2) being deposited in the U.S. Mail (certified mail, return receipt requested). Notice to the complainant shall be deemed to have been made on the date of hand delivery or on the date of deposit in the U.S. Mail by certified mail, return receipt requested to the address stated in the complaint or, if not contained in the complaint, to the last known address of the complainant on file with the Governing Board.

SECTION 4.9. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the review of the supervisor's decision, he or she must forward an appeal to the Governing Board within ten (10) working days. The appeal shall be in writing and include the reason(s) for the appeal.

SECTION 4.10 The complainant and the individual(s) alleged to be in violation are entitled to the presence of an individual of his/her choice to assist in the presentation of the complaint at the Governing Board level. At the Board level nothing shall prevent the Board from having an attorney present to serve as the law officer who shall rule on issues of law and who shall not participate in the presentation of the case for the School Leader or the complainant.

SECTION 4.11. The Board, when hearing an appeal from the initial hearing, shall hear the complaint de novo. The complainant cannot present additional evidence at the Governing Board level of the complaint process, unless it is determined by the School Leader presiding over the complaint that such evidence is relevant to the issues presented at the initial hearing and such evidence was either not made available by the administration or not discoverable by the complainant or unless it is presented and received in writing to the person presiding over the complaint at least five (5) days prior to the set date for the Governing Board hearing. A committee of the board will conduct the appeal proceeding within fifteen (15) working days and, within twenty (20) working days after the conclusion of the proceeding, will render a final decision.

SECTION 4.12. The time limits specified in this complaint procedure will be observed and applied strictly and will not be extended without the prior written consent of the employee and the applicable level of supervision responsible for the review. If an employee fails to comply with any time limit, the complaint shall be deemed automatically withdrawn and the proceeding terminated.

SECTION 5. Prohibited Reprisal Provision

SECTION 5.1. No reprisals of any kind shall be taken by the Board or by any member of the administration against any complainant as a result of participation in the complaint process.

SECTION 6. Collection of Information

SECTION 6.1. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit any other fact finder or decision maker from using any equitable means available to establish the truth or the circumstances pertinent to the complaint, provided that the complainant shall have an opportunity to respond to any information considered by the decision maker in reaching a conclusion.

Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

In accordance with the Missouri Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA), GSA offers eligible employees unpaid leave for qualifying domestic or sexual violence related reasons, with a guarantee of restoration to the same or an equivalent position on return from leave. Employees must comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this policy.

Section 1. Definitions

1. "Domestic violence" means abuse or stalking committed by a family or household member.
2. "Family" or "household member" means spouses, former spouses, any person related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, any person who is or has been in a continuing social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, and anyone who has a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have resided together at any time.
3. "Sexual violence" means a sexual assault, including without limitation, causing or attempting to cause another to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force, threat of force, duress, or without the person's consent, and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation as described by Missouri law.
4. "Workweek" means an individual employee's standard workweek.

Section 2. Eligible Employees

Employees are eligible for leave if they are the victim of domestic or sexual violence or have a family or household member who is the victim of domestic or sexual violence. The family or household member may not have interests that are adverse to the employee as it relates to the domestic or sexual violence.

Section 3. Qualifying Reasons for Leave

Domestic or sexual violence leave is available to eligible employees in the following circumstances:

1. To seek medical attention for, or recover from, physical or psychological injuries caused by domestic or sexual violence against the employee or their family or household member.
2. To obtain victim services from a victim services organization for the employee or their family or household member.
3. To obtain psychological or other counseling for the employee or their family or household member.

4. To participate in safety planning, including temporary or permanent relocation or other actions to increase safety for the employee or their family or household member from future domestic or sexual violence.
5. To seek legal assistance to ensure the health and safety of the employee or their household or family member, including participating in court proceedings related to the domestic or sexual violence.

Section 4. Leave Time

Eligible employees may take up to two workweeks of unpaid domestic violence leave within any 12-month period. Leave is based on a rolling 12-month period, looking back from the date the leave would begin. Leave may be taken intermittently (in separate blocks of time) or as reduced schedule leave.

Leave taken under this policy is unpaid. However, employees may substitute accrued and unused PTO for the unpaid leave. The substitution of PTO does not extend the leave period, but runs concurrently with it. Likewise, domestic and sexual violence leave may run concurrently with any leave available under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). This policy does not entitle employees to take unpaid leave that exceeds the amount of unpaid leave time allowed under the FMLA.

Section 5. Notice of Need for Leave and Certification

Eligible employees must provide GSA with at least 48 hours' advance notice of the need for leave. If 48-hour notice is not practicable, an eligible employee must provide certification of need for leave with a reasonable period after the absence.

To request domestic or sexual violence leave, employees must supply School Principal with a sworn statement that the employee or a member of the employee's family or household is a victim of domestic or sexual violence and that leave is necessary for a specific qualifying reason. In addition, GSA may require the following supplemental information:

1. Documents from an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim's services organization, member of the clergy, or medical or other professional from whom the employee or family or household member has sought assistance.
2. A police report or court record.
3. Other corroborating evidence.

This information must be provided to School Principal within a reasonable time after it is required by GSA. Full cooperation to obtain this supplemental information is required under this policy.

During leave, employees may be required to provide periodic reports when reasonably requested about the employee's status or any change in the employee's plans to return to work.

Section 6. Medical and Other Benefits

An employee taking domestic or sexual violence leave, upon return from leave, is entitled to be restored to the position of employment held by the employee when the leave commenced or to an equivalent position.

Taking domestic or sexual violence leave will not result in the loss of any employment benefit accrued prior to the date on which the leave commenced.

Section 7. Reasonable Safety Accommodations

Eligible employees are entitled to reasonable safety accommodations to keep employees safe from actual or threatened domestic or sexual violence, unless it would impose an undue hardship on GSA. Employees seeking a reasonable safety accommodation may be required by GSA to provide a written statement signed by the employee or an individual acting on the employee's behalf, certifying that the reasonable safety accommodations are for a purpose authorized by VESSA.

Section 8. Non-Retaliation

Employees who seek good faith leave or reasonable safety accommodations under this policy will not be retaliated against. If you believe you have been subject to retaliation or discrimination, you should report it to GSA Superintendent.

For further information or details about any of the terms of this Domestic and Sexual Violence Leave Policy, please contact GSA Superintendent.

SECTION 4: SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Active Shooter Training and Drills

SECTION 1. At the discretion of school administration, the school may include in its teacher and school employee training a component on how to properly respond to students who provide them with information about a threatening situation and how to address situations in which there is a potentially dangerous or armed intruder in the school. Training may also include information and techniques on how to address situations where an active shooter is present in the school or on school property.

The administration may conduct the training on an annual basis. If no formal training has previously occurred, the length of the training may be eight hours. The length of annual continuing training may be four hours.

SECTION 2. All school personnel shall participate in a simulated active shooter and intruder response drill conducted and led by law enforcement professionals. Each drill may include an explanation of its purpose and a safety briefing. The training shall require each participant to know and understand how to respond in the event of an actual emergency on school property or at a school event. The drill may include:

- (1) Allowing school personnel to respond to the simulated emergency in whatever way they have been trained or informed; and
- (2) Allowing school personnel to attempt and implement new methods of responding to the simulated emergency based upon previously used unsuccessful methods of response.

All instructors for the program shall be certified by the department of public safety's peace officers standards training commission.

SECTION 3. The school shall foster an environment in which students feel comfortable sharing information they have regarding a potentially threatening or dangerous situation with a responsible adult.

Age Criteria for Kindergarten Admission

SECTION 1. Kindergarten Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to receive state funds for kindergarteners, a child is eligible for admission to kindergarten and to a summer school session immediately preceding kindergarten, if offered, if the child reaches the age of five before the first day of October of the school year beginning in that calendar year.

Accordingly, no state funds will be received for a child admitted to kindergarten who reaches the age of five on or after October 1 of the school year beginning in that calendar year, unless one of the following exceptions applies:

- (1) The child is a military dependent who has successfully completed an accredited prekindergarten program or has attended an accredited kindergarten program in another state.
- (2) If a charter school is located within a metropolitan school district (St. Louis Public Schools district), and the school district has elected, under section 160.054, RSMo, to admit kindergarten children who reach the age of five on or before any date between August first and October first of that year, then the charter school may adopt the same policy.
- (3) If a charter school is located within an urban school district (St. Louis City Public Schools District), and the school district has elected, under section 160.055, RSMo, to admit to kindergarten children who reach the age of five on or before any date between August first and October first of that year, then the charter school may adopt the same policy.

SECTION 2. Kindergarten Admittance Policy

Based on the foregoing, the Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

No child shall be admitted to kindergarten or to the summer school session immediately preceding kindergarten, if offered, unless the child reaches the age of five before:

The first day of October of the school year beginning in that calendar year.

Annual Performance Report Information

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. The School shall display the following information on its website:
 - a. The School's annual performance rating and ranking percentage; and
 - b. A list of the bottom five percent of scores for all schools and all local educational agencies.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Instruction Policy

The Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The school shall provide enrolled students with instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Upon graduation from high school, pupils shall have received thirty minutes of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction and training in the proper performance of the Heimlich maneuver or other first aid for choking given any time during a pupil's four years of high school. Instruction shall be included in the school's existing health or physical education curriculum.

Students with disabilities may participate to the extent appropriate as determined by the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Civil Rights, Title IX, Section 504

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The School assures that it will comply with:

1. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.
2. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.
3. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. The provisions of Title IX apply to students with regard to educational opportunities and freedom from harassment, employees with regard to employment opportunities and freedom from harassment, and to individuals with whom the Board does business.
4. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance.
5. All regulations, guidelines, and standards lawfully adopted under the above statutes by the United States Department of Education.

The School shall appoint an administrator(s) to assure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. The School may designate only one employee to serve as both the Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator. In that case, the individual must assume the responsibilities of both coordinators.

It is the policy of the School to process all grievances in a fair and expeditious manner, with the intent of resolving them in a mutually agreeable manner.

Communicable Diseases

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

A student shall not attend classes or other school-sponsored activities, if the student (1) has, or has been exposed to, an acute (short duration) or chronic (long duration) contagious or infectious disease, and (2) is liable to transmit the contagious or infectious disease, unless the School leader or its designee has determined, based upon medical evidence, that the student:

1. No longer has the disease.
2. Is not in the contagious or infectious stage of an acute disease.
3. Has a chronic infectious disease that poses little risk of transmission in the school environment with reasonable precautions.

School officials may require any child suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease to be examined by a physician and may exclude the child from school, in accordance with the procedures authorized by this policy, so long as there is a substantial risk of transmission of the disease in the school environment.

A student who has a chronic infectious disease, and who is permitted to attend school, may be required to do so under specified conditions. Failure to adhere to the conditions will result in the student being excluded from school. A student who has a chronic infectious disease and who is not permitted to attend school or participate in school activities will be provided instruction in an alternative educational setting in accordance with School policy.

Students with acute or chronic contagious or infectious diseases and their families have a right to privacy and confidentiality. Only staff members who have a medical reason to know the identity and condition of such students will be informed. Willful or negligent disclosure of confidential information about a student's medical condition by staff members will be cause for disciplinary action.

The School will implement reporting and disease outbreak control measures in accordance with the provisions of Missouri Department of Health publication PACH-16, "Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers and Day Care Operators," a copy of which shall be on file in the office of the School leader.

Community Engagement

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. The School shall adopt a community engagement policy that provides residents of the district with methods of communicating with the Board of the School and the School's administration.
2. The School's community engagement policy shall include a process for allowing any resident of the district to place an item on the agenda of the Board meeting. Such process shall include the following:
 - a. No item shall be placed on a meeting agenda pursuant to the established process unless the item is directly related to the governance or operation of the School;
 - b. The School may require a resident to meet with the head of the school in order to resolve the issue. Such meeting shall take place within twenty business days of receiving written request to meet. After such meeting or if the meeting did not take place within twenty business days, the resident may request to have the item placed on the Board's meeting agenda. If the Board receives the request to place the item on the agenda at least five business days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting, the issue shall be placed as an item on the agenda for such meeting. If the request is received less than five business days before the next regularly scheduled meeting, the agenda item may be placed as an item on the next subsequent regularly scheduled meeting. The item may be moved to a different meeting with consent of the resident.
 - c. The Board may refuse to hear or delay hearing an agenda item if the Board has heard an identical or substantially similar issue in the previous three calendar months or if the resident has previously violated Board rules regarding conduct at meetings or on school property.
 - d. The Board may delay hearing an agenda item if more than three resident-initiated agenda items are scheduled for the same board meeting. If the hearing of a resident's agenda item is delayed, the Board shall provide the resident with an alternate method of communicating to the school board or governing board regarding the agenda item.
3. The School shall adopt a community engagement policy no later than July 1, 2023.

Discipline

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Purpose

SECTION 1.1. The School's discipline policy sets out the rules of student behavior applicable to all students and the procedures for imposing discipline on students who violate these rules. In general, discipline is designed to correct a student's misconduct and to encourage the student to be a responsible citizen of the school community. Disciplinary actions will be in proportion to the severity of the unacceptable behavior, its impact on the school environment, the student's age and grade level, the student's previous discipline history, and other relevant factors.

The disciplinary process may include due consideration of student support services that may be available through the school, the school system, other public entities, or community organizations. Where feasible, the School prefers to reassign disruptive students to alternative educational settings rather than to suspend or expel such students from school.

Parental notification and parental involvement are essential to any effort to modify a student's inappropriate behavior. The intent of this policy will only be effective if parents and guardians, teachers, and school administrators work together to improve student behavior and enhance academic performance.

The Board authorizes the immediate removal of a student upon a finding by a School Leader that the student poses a threat of harm to self or others, as evidenced by the prior conduct of such student. Any such removal will be subject to the appropriate due process procedures and in accordance with law.

No student may be confined in an unattended locked space except in an emergency situation while awaiting the arrival of law enforcement personnel. For the purpose of this policy, a student is unattended if no person has visual contact with the student, and a locked space is a space that the student cannot reasonably exit without assistance.

SECTION 2. Enforcement

Building School Leaders are responsible for the development of additional regulations and procedures regarding student conduct needed to maintain proper behavior in schools under their supervision. All such regulations and procedures shall be consistent with Board-adopted discipline policies.

Teachers have the authority and responsibility to make and enforce necessary rules for internal governance in the classroom, subject to review by the building School Leader. The Board expects each teacher to maintain a satisfactory standard of conduct in the classroom. All LEA staff is required to enforce LEA policies, regulations and procedures in a manner that is fair and

developmentally appropriate and that considers the student and the individual circumstances involved.

All employees of the LEA shall annually receive instruction related to the specific contents of the LEA's discipline policy and any interpretations necessary to implement the provisions of the policy in the course of their duties including, but not limited to, approved methods of dealing with acts of school violence, disciplining students with disabilities and instruction in the necessity and requirements for confidentiality.

SECTION 3. Investigation Process

When a violation of school rules is reported or suspected, the school leader or designee will determine whether an investigation is warranted and, if so, will instruct appropriate personnel to conduct an investigation. The investigation should include interviews with the alleged perpetrator(s), victim(s), identified witnesses, teacher(s), staff members, and others who might have relevant information. Written statements should be obtained from all individuals who are interviewed. Video surveillance, if available, should be reviewed and secured. Any other physical and documentary evidence should be collected and preserved. School counselors, school social workers, school police, and other support staff should be utilized for their expertise as determined by the circumstances of the matter. At an appropriate time during or after the investigation, the parent or guardian will be notified. However, if the incident involves an injury or similar situation, appropriate medical attention should be provided, and the parent or guardian should be notified immediately.

SECTION 4. Definitions of Disciplinary Methods

4.1. In-School Suspension

Defined as the removal of a student from regular classes and assignment to an in-school suspension setting in the local school. The student's teachers send class assignments to in-school suspension. The student may not attend or participate in extracurricular activities while assigned to in-school suspension.

A teacher may request that a student who has been assigned to in-school suspension be allowed to attend his/her class (such as lab classes). The granting of this request is limited to cases where it is extremely important that a class not be missed or where a class cannot be made up at a later date. The school leader has the final decision.

For minor offenses, in lieu of in-school suspension, and upon student or parent request, students may be given the option of school service (i.e., picking up trash on the school grounds, cleaning lunchroom tables, etc.), provided the school service is age-appropriate, supervised, and does not include restroom duties.

4.2. Out-of-School Suspension

Defined as the removal of a student from school (or school bus) for one to ten school days. The School Leader may impose an out-of-school suspension of up to ten school days. Schoolwork missed during 1-3 day suspensions may be made up when the student returns to school. For suspensions of 4-10 school days, parents/guardians may request schoolwork and pick up the schoolwork during school hours.

Long-term suspension is defined as the removal of a student from school (or school bus) for more than ten school days but not beyond one hundred eighty days. Only the Superintendent may impose long-term suspension.

A student on long-term suspension who has not been referred to an alternative school may not receive homework, make up work, or take semester exams unless allowed to do so by the Student Evidentiary Hearing Committee or the school's governing board. A student on long-term suspension is not allowed on school property and may not participate in any school activities or school functions.

In some cases (limited to one per student per academic year), the school leader may temporarily postpone a student's suspension if the offense was committed at a critical time in the academic calendar (i.e., immediately before final exams). This does not apply to offenses that are violations of state or federal law or that involve weapons, violence, or drugs.

4.3. Expulsion

Defined as a permanent removal of a student. Only the school's governing board may impose expulsion. Expulsions are permanent and students will not be allowed to return to the school once they have been expelled

4.4. Alternative School

A student who is removed from his/her local school for more than 10 school days may be allowed to attend an alternative school for instruction, academic support, and counseling. Alternative school enables a student to take academic classes that allow the student to keep up with the course credit requirements toward graduation. The student may not return to his/her school or any other school or attend any extracurricular activities while attending an alternative school pursuant to a long-term suspension or expulsion.

4.5. Probation

“Probation” means that a student is placed on a trial period during which the student is expected to maintain good behavior. A student found guilty of certain offenses may be placed on probation by the School Leader, a local formal hearing officer, the Student Evidentiary Hearing Committee, the Disciplinary Action Review Committee, or the school's governing board.

Violation of a local school or school system rule while on probation may result in further disciplinary action, including a possible referral to the Student Evidentiary Hearing Committee.

4.6. Restrictions on School Activities

Students who are suspended or expelled will not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activities, [including the prom or graduation exercises] if these occur during the period of suspension or expulsion. A parent or guardian may, for good cause, petition the school leader for permission for the student to participate in school-sponsored activities. If denied permission by the school leader, the parent or guardian may appeal to the school's governing board. The Board's decision shall be final.

SECTION 5. Offenses and Consequences

5.1. Reporting to Law Enforcement

It is the policy of the School to report all crimes occurring on school grounds to law enforcement, including, but not limited to, the crimes the LEA is required to report in accordance with law.

The following acts, regardless of whether they are committed by juveniles, are subject to this reporting requirement:

1. First or second degree murder under §§ 565.020, .021, RSMo.
2. Voluntary or involuntary manslaughter under § 565.023, .024, RSMo.
3. Kidnapping under § 565.110, RSMo.
4. First, second or third degree assault under §§ 565.050, .060, .070, RSMo.
5. Sexual assault or deviate sexual assault under §§ 566.040, .070, RSMo.
6. Forcible rape or sodomy under §§ 566.030, .060, RSMo.
7. Burglary in the first or second degree under §§ 569.160, .170, RSMo.
8. Robbery in the first degree under § 569.020, RSMo.
9. Possession of a weapon under chapter 571, RSMo.
10. Distribution of drugs under §§ 195.211, .212, RSMo.
11. Arson in the first degree under § 569.040, RSMo.
12. Felonious restraint under § 565.120, RSMo.
13. Property damage in the first degree under § 569.100, RSMo.

14. Child molestation in the first degree pursuant to § 566.067, RSMo.
15. Sexual misconduct involving a child pursuant to § 566.083, RSMo.
16. Sexual abuse pursuant to § 566.100, RSMo.
17. Harassment under § 565.090, RSMo.
18. Stalking under § 565.225, RSMo.

The School Leader shall also notify the appropriate law enforcement agency if a student is discovered to possess a controlled substance or weapon in violation of the LEA's policy.

In addition, the School Leader shall notify the appropriate division of the juvenile or family court upon suspension for more than ten days or expulsion of any student who the school is aware is under the jurisdiction of the court.

5.2. Documentation in Student's Discipline Record

The School Leader, designee or other administrators or school staff will maintain all discipline records as deemed necessary for the orderly operation of the schools. In addition, any of the following offenses a serious violation of the school's policy and must be documented in the student's discipline record in accordance with law:

1. Any act of school violence or violent behavior.
2. Any offense that occurs on school property, on school transportation or at any school activity and that is required by law to be reported to law enforcement officials.
3. Any offense that results in an out-of-school suspension for more than ten school days.

5.3. Prohibition against Being on or near School Property during Suspension

All students who are suspended or expelled are prohibited from being on school property for any reason unless permission is granted by the superintendent or designee. Any student who is suspended for any offenses listed in § 160.261, RSMo., or any act of violence or drug-related activity shall not be allowed to be within 1,000 feet of any public school in the LEA unless one of the following conditions exist:

1. The student under the direct supervision of the student's parent, legal guardian or custodian.
2. The student is under the direct supervision of another adult designated by the student's parent, legal guardian or custodian, in advance, in writing, to the School Leader of the school that suspended the student.

3. The student is in an alternative school that is located within 1,000 feet of a public school in the LEA.

4. The student resides within 1,000 feet of a public school in the LEA and is on the property of his or her residence.

If a student violates this prohibition he or she may be subject to additional discipline, including suspension or expulsion, in accordance with the offense, "Failure to Meet Conditions of Suspension," listed below.

5.4. Prohibited Conduct

The following are descriptions of prohibited conduct. The consequences are defined in the schools' parent/student handbook. In addition to the consequences specified in the handbook, school officials will notify law enforcement and document violations in the student's discipline file pursuant to law and Board policy.

Arson – Starting or attempting to start a fire or causing or attempting to cause an explosion.

Assault

1. Hitting, striking and/or attempting to cause injury to another person; placing a person in reasonable apprehension of imminent physical injury; physically injuring another person.

2. Attempting to kill or cause serious physical injury to another; killing or causing serious physical injury to another.

Automobile/Vehicle Misuse – Discourteous or unsafe driving on or around school property, unregistered parking, failure to move vehicle at the request of school officials, failure to follow directions given by school officials or failure to follow established rules for parking or driving on school property.

Bullying – Intimidation, harassment and attacks on a student or multiple students, perpetuated by individuals or groups. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical violence, verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, threats, extortion or theft, damaging property, cyber-bullying, and exclusion from a peer group.

Dishonesty – Any act of lying, whether verbal or written, including forgery.

Disrespect to Staff– Willful or continued willful disobedience of a directive or request by a LEA staff member or disrespectful verbal, written, pictorial, or symbolic language or gesture that is directed at a LEA staff member and that is rude, vulgar, defiant, in violation of LEA policy or considered inappropriate in educational settings.

Disruptive Conduct or Speech – Verbal, written, pictorial or symbolic language or gesture that is directed at any person and that is disrespectful, rude, vulgar, defiant, in violation of LEA policy or considered inappropriate in educational settings or that materially and substantially disrupts classroom work, school activities or school functions. Students will not be disciplined for speech in situations where it is protected by law.

Drugs/Alcohol

1. Possession, sale, purchase or distribution of any over-the-counter drug, herbal preparation or imitation drug or herbal preparation.
2. Possession, use of, or attendance while under the influence of or soon after consuming any unauthorized prescription drug, alcohol, narcotic substance, unauthorized inhalants, controlled substances, illegal drugs, counterfeit drugs, imitation controlled substances or drug-related paraphernalia.
3. Sale, purchase, transfer or distribution of any prescription drug, alcohol, narcotic substance, unauthorized inhalants, controlled substances, illegal drugs, counterfeit drugs, imitation controlled substances or drug-related paraphernalia.

Extortion – Threatening or intimidating any person for the purpose of obtaining money or anything of value.

Failure to Meet Conditions of Suspension – Coming within 1,000 feet of any public school in the LEA while on suspension for an offense that requires reporting to law enforcement or for an act of school violence or drug-related activity. See section of this regulation entitled, "Prohibition against Being on or near School Property during Suspension."

In determining whether to suspend or expel a student, consideration shall be given to whether the student poses a threat to the safety of any child or school employee and whether the student's presence within 1,000 feet of the school is disruptive to the educational process or undermines the effectiveness of the school's disciplinary policy.

False Alarms (see also "Threats or Verbal Assaults") – Tampering with emergency equipment, setting off false alarms, making false reports; communicating a threat or false report for the purpose of frightening, disturbing, disrupting or causing the evacuation or closure of school property.

Fighting (see also, "Assault") – Mutual combat in which both parties have contributed to the conflict either verbally or by physical action.

Harassment/Discrimination– Use of verbal, written or symbolic language based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age or any other characteristic that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student’s educational environment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Examples of illegal harassment include, but are not limited to, graffiti, display of written material or pictures, name calling, slurs, jokes, gestures, threatening, intimidating or hostile acts, theft or damage to property.

Hazing – Any activity that a reasonable person believes would negatively impact the mental or physical health or safety of a student or put the student in a ridiculous, humiliating, stressful or disconcerting position for the purposes of initiation, affiliation, admission, membership or maintenance of membership in any group, class, organization, club or athletic team including, but not limited to, a grade level, student organization or school-sponsored activity. Hazing may occur even when all students involved are willing participants.

Public Display of Affection – Physical contact that is inappropriate for the school setting including, but not limited to, kissing and groping.

Sexual Harassment/Discrimination

1. Use of unwelcome verbal, written or symbolic language based on gender or of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's educational environment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, sexual jokes or comments, requests for sexual favors and other unwelcome sexual advances.

2. Unwelcome physical contact based on gender or of a sexual nature when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's educational performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Examples include, but are not limited to, touching or fondling of the genital areas, breasts or undergarments, regardless of whether or not the touching occurred through or under clothing.

Sexual Misconduct – Exposing of body parts to another individual including, but not limited to, possession, transfer or exposure of images, electronic or otherwise, of the body parts or sexually explicit images of oneself or others, and/or initiating or participating in an act of a sexual nature.

Technology Misconduct

1. Unauthorized use of cellular telephones, personal computers, or unauthorized use of electronic devices during instructional time.
2. Attempting, regardless of success, to gain unauthorized access to technology system or information; to use LEA technology to connect to other systems in evasion of the physical limitations of the remote system; to copy LEA files without authorization; to interfere with the ability of others to utilize LEA technology; to secure a higher level of privilege without authorization; to introduce computer "viruses," "hacking" tools, or other disruptive/destructive programs onto or using LEA technology; or to evade or disable a filtering/blocking device.
3. Violation other than those listed in (2) or of Board policy EHB and regulation EHB-R, administrative procedures or netiquette rules governing student use of LEA technology.

Theft

Theft, attempted theft or knowing possession of stolen property.

Threats or Verbal Assault

Verbal, written, pictorial or symbolic language and/or gestures creating a reasonable fear of physical injury or causing school property damage. Threats by students, whether made on campus or off school grounds, which constitute a "true threat" against the LEA, its students or employees, will be immediately reported to law enforcement officials and will subject the student to suspension and a possible referral for expulsion. The definition of "true threat" shall be construed in accordance with applicable law and encompasses those statements that a reasonable recipient would view as a serious threat of violence or death.

Tobacco

Defined as possession and/or use of any tobacco products on school grounds, school-transportation or at any school-activity.

Truancy

Defined as absence from school without the knowledge and consent of parents/guardians and/or the school administration; excessive non-justifiable absences, even with the consent of parents/guardians.

Unauthorized Entry

Entering or assisting any other person to enter a LEA facility, office, locker, or other area that is locked or not open to the general public; entering or assisting any other person to enter a LEA facility through an unauthorized entrance; assisting unauthorized persons to enter a LEA facility through any entrance.

Vandalism

Defined as the willful damaging or the attempt to cause damage to real or personal property belonging to the school, staff or students.

Weapons

1. Defined as the possession or use of any instrument or device, other than those defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2) or § 571.010, RSMo, which is customarily used for attack or defense against another person; any instrument or device used to inflict physical injury to another person.

2. Possession or use of a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921 or any instrument or device defined in § 571.010, RSMo., or any instrument or device defined as a dangerous weapon in 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2)

Distribution of Medicine

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. School Distribution and Administration of Medication

Section 1.1. The school nurse (or another employee designated by the School Leader or his/her designee) may provide assistance with medication (this includes prescription or over-the-counter medication) only if all of the following requirements are met:

Section 1.1.1 Prescription drugs must be in the original container, bear the name of the student, the name of the physician and the name of the pharmacy filing the prescription. Over-the-counter drugs must be maintained in the original container.

Section 1.1.2. The appropriate approval form for medication distribution must have been completed and signed by the parent or guardian for each medication.

Section 1.2.3. The school nurse or other designated employee shall keep a written report of medication taken by the student.

Section 1.2. The School reserves the right to refuse to administer certain types of medication (at the discretion of the school nurse or other employee authorized by the School Leader's or his/her designee) when such administration could prove harmful to staff or student without proper training or direction of a physician.

Section 2. Student Possession and Self-Administration of Medication

Section 2.1. The school shall grant any student authorization for the possession and self-administration of medication to treat the student's chronic health condition, including but not limited to asthma or anaphylaxis if:

Section 2.1.1. A licensed physician prescribed or ordered such medication for use by the pupil and instructed such pupil in the correct and responsible use of such medication;

Section 2.1.2. The pupil has demonstrated to the pupil's licensed physician or the licensed physician's designee, and the school nurse, if available, the skill level necessary to use the medication and any device necessary to administer such medication prescribed or ordered;

Section 2.1.3. The pupil's physician has approved and signed a written treatment plan for managing the pupil's chronic health condition, including asthma or anaphylaxis episodes and for medication for use by the pupil. Such plan shall include a statement that the pupil is capable of self-administering the medication under the treatment plan;

Section 2.1.4. The pupil's parent or guardian has completed and submitted to the school any written documentation required by the school, including the treatment plan and the liability statement.

Section 2.1.5. The pupil's parent or guardian has signed a statement acknowledging that the school district and its employees or agents shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the pupil or the administration of such medication by school staff. Such statement shall not be construed to release the school district and its employees or agents from liability for negligence.

Section 2.2. Pupils authorized to possess and self-administer medication may possess and self-administer such medication while in school, at a school-sponsored activity, and in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activity

Section 2.3. Such authorization shall only be effective for the school year in which it is granted. Such authorization shall be renewed by the student's parent or guardian each subsequent school year.

Section 2.4. Any current duplicate prescription medical, if provided by a student's parent or guardian or by the school shall be kept at the school in a location at which the student or school staff has immediate access in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis or other emergency.

Section 2.5. The written treatment plan, liability statement, and any other written documentation shall be kept on file at the school in a location easily accessible in the event of an emergency.

Drug Free Schools

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following regulation effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Pursuant to requirements of the 1989 amendments of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and to the requirements of the Safe Schools Act, and for the purpose of preventing the use of illicit drugs and alcohol by students, the School shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs to all students. (See also Policy 6130 - Drug Education.) Such programs will address the legal, social and health consequences of drug and alcohol use, and provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol.

SECTION 2. The School shall provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs that are available to students. Students may be required to participate in such programs in order to avoid suspension or expulsion if they are found to be in violation of this policy. All parents/guardians and students shall annually be provided with a copy of this policy.

SECTION 3. The School certifies that it has adopted and implemented the drug prevention program described in this policy in the form required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or the United States Department of Education. The School conducts a biennial review of such program to determine its effectiveness, to implement necessary changes and to ensure that the disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

Equal Educational Opportunity

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

It is the policy of the Board to provide a free and appropriate education for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are those who, because of certain atypical characteristics, have been identified by professionally qualified personnel as requiring special educational planning and services. Students with disabilities will be identified on the basis of physical, health, sensory, and/or emotional handicaps, behavioral problems or observable exceptionalities in mental ability. It is possible that a student may have more than one type of disability.

The School's programs and services available to meet the needs of these students will be in accordance with The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, The Education for All Handicapped Students Act of 1975, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and § 162.670 - .995 RSMo., Missouri Special Education Services. In addition, the identification of students with disabilities and the services provided by the LEA will be in accordance with the regulations and guidelines of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Current Plan for Part B of The Education of the Handicapped Act, as amended.

Eye Protection

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Every student, teacher and visitor is required to wear an industrial quality eye protective device when participating in or observing any of the following:

(1) Vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical, or chemical-physical shops or laboratories involving exposure to the following: Hot molten metals, or other molten materials; milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding or stamping of any solid materials; heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials; gas or electric arc welding, or other forms of welding processes; repair or servicing of any vehicle; caustic or explosive materials;

(2) Chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical laboratories involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations or other hazards not enumerated.

"Industrial quality eye protective devices" means devices meeting the standards of the American National Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, Z87.1-1968, and subsequent revisions thereof, approved by the American National Standards Institute, Inc.

Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year and every subsequent school year, the School shall provide drinking water with a lead concentration level below five parts per billion in sufficient amounts to meet the drinking water needs of all students and staff.
2. On or before January 1, 2024, the School shall:
 - a. Conduct an inventory of all drinking water outlets and all outlets that are used for dispensing water for cooking or cleaning cooking and eating utensils;
 - b. Develop a plan for testing every water outlet inventoried under paragraph (a) above and make such plan available to the public; and
 - c. Provide general information on the health effects of lead contamination and additional informational resources for employees and parents if information is requested.
3. Before August 1, 2024, or the first day on which students will be present, the School shall:
 - a. Conduct testing for lead by first-draw and follow-up flush samples of a random sampling of at least twenty-five percent of remediated drinking water outlets until all remediated sources have been tested as recommended by the 2018 version of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Training, Testing, and Taking Action program. Such testing shall be conducted and results analyzed by an entity approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services;
 - b. Make all test results and any lead remediation plans available on the school's website within two weeks after receiving test results; and
 - c. Remove and replace any drinking water coolers or drinking water outlets that the United States Environmental Protection Agency has determined are not lead-free under the federal Lead Contamination Act of 1988, as amended. The School is not required to replace drinking water outlets or water coolers that tested under the testing requirements in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Training, Testing, and Taking Action program and have been determined to be dispensing drinking water with a lead concentration less than five parts per billion.
4. If testing indicates the water source is causing the contamination and until such time remediation is complete, the School shall:

- a. Install a filter at each point at which the water supply enters the School;
 - b. Install a filter that reduces lead in drinking water on each water outlet inventoried in Section 2(a) above to ensure lead concentrations are below five parts per billion;
or
 - c. Provide purified water at each water outlet inventories in Section 2(a) above.
5. If testing indicates that the internal building piping is causing the contamination and until such time remediation is complete, the School shall:
 - a. Install a filter at each point at which the water supply enters the School; or
 - b. Install a filter that reduces lead in drinking water on each water outlet inventoried in Section 2(a) above to ensure lead concentrations are below five parts per billion.
6. Any pipe, solder, fitting, or fixture replaced as part of remediation shall be lead free, as such term is defined in 40 CFR 143.12, as amended.
7. If test results show lead concentration that exceeds five parts per billion, the School shall provide written notification to staff within seven business days of receiving such test result. The written notification shall include:
 - a. The test results and a summary that explains the results;
 - b. A description of remedial steps taken; and
 - c. A description of general health effects of lead contamination and community specific resources.
8. If test results show lead concentration that exceeds five parts per billion, the School shall also provide bottled water if there is not enough water to meet the drinking water needs of students, teachers, and staff.
9. The School shall test for lead annually, however, if the School tests and does not find a drinking water source with a lead concentration above 5 parts per billion, the School is only required to test every five years.

Health Information Records

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Except as otherwise required to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), records containing student health information will be stored separately from other student records in a locked file cabinet or in a secure computer file.

Homeless Students

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The GSA (LEA) recognizes that homelessness alone should not be a sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment. Therefore, the GSA (LEA), in accordance with state and federal law (Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act) and the Missouri State Plan for Homeless Children and Youth, will give special attention to ensure that homeless children in the LEA have access to free, appropriate public education.

Definitions:

A “**homeless child**” or “**homeless youth**” is one who:

A. lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

B. includes--

- i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals;
- ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- iv. migratory children or youths who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in subdivisions (i) to (iii) above.

The first category may include some individuals who have moved in with others. Consideration of each individual case, along with the permanency of the situation, will be needed in order to identify those who are homeless.

The terms “**enroll**” and “**enrollment**” include attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

The “**school of origin**” is the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

Enrollment and Placement:

Homeless children and youth frequently move, and maintaining a stable school environment is critical to their success in school. To ensure this stability, LEAs must make school placement determinations on the basis of the “best interest” of the homeless child or youth. Using this standard, GSA (LEA) must:

- (a) Continue the child’s or youth’s education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness when a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or for the remainder of the academic year if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
- (b) Enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

In determining what is a child or youth’s best interest, GSA (LEA) must, to the extent feasible, keep a homeless child or youth in the school of origin, unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child or youth’s parent or guardian. If GSA (LEA) wishes to send a homeless child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian, GSA (LEA) must provide a written explanation of its decision to the parent or guardian, together with a statement regarding the right to appeal the placement decision.

Enrollment requirements which may constitute a barrier to the education of a homeless child or youth may be waived if allowed by law. GSA (LEA) may, however, require contact information.

If GSA (LEA) is unable to determine the grade level of the student because of missing or incomplete records, GSA (LEA) shall administer tests or utilize other reasonable means to determine the appropriate grade level for the child/youth.

Transportation:

Transportation must be provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of the unaccompanied youth, the homeless coordinator) to and from the school of origin.

- If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the area served by the LEA in which the school of origin is located, that LEA must provide or arrange for the child's or youth's transportation to or from the school of origin.
- If the homeless child or youth continues his or her education in the school of origin but begins living in an area served by another LEA, the LEA of origin and the LEA in which the homeless child or youth is living must agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the LEAs cannot agree upon a method, the responsibility and costs for transportation are to be shared equally.
- The transportation requirement applies even if the LEA does not provide transportation to non-homeless students.

Services:

Each homeless child or youth shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the LEA including, but not limited to, transportation services, educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for children with disabilities, English learners, programs in career and technical education, programs for gifted and talented students, before-and-after school programs, school nutrition programs, and transportation.

Homeless students will not be segregated in a separate school or in a separate program within a school based on the students' status as homeless.

In the event that it is in the best interest of the homeless child or youth to attend the school of origin, it shall be the responsibility of this LEA to provide for the transportation of the student. This may be achieved through the transportation services of this LEA, the school of origin, or another outside agency.

Records:

Once LEA officials have determined that an enrolling student is homeless, the LEA's homeless coordinator must assist the student in obtaining his/her education, immunization, medical, and other records. According to McKinney-Vento, the student must be enrolled in the interim.

Immunization:

If the homeless coordinator is unable to obtain prior immunization records within thirty (30) days of enrolling and the student is still eligible for services under the homeless education program; the student must begin the immunization series and demonstrate that satisfactory progress has been accomplished within (90) days. If the homeless student maintains that he/she is exempted from receiving immunizations, then after thirty (30) days the student must provide documentation in accordance with the exemption requirements provided for in §section167.181.3, RSMo.

Any records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluation for special services or programs of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that appropriate services may be given the student, so that necessary referrals can be made, and so that records may be transferred in a timely fashion when homeless children or youth enters a new LEA. Copies of records shall be made available upon request to students or parents in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Coordinator:

The Board will designate an individual to act as the LEA's homeless coordinator to ensure compliance with federal and state law. The homeless coordinator will "ensure that homeless children and youth enroll and succeed in the schools of that agency; and homeless families, children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services." The homeless coordinator will also ensure that disputes regarding the placement or education of homeless children or youth are resolved in a timely fashion.

The LEA shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the LEA homeless coordinator.

Resolving Grievances:

Level I - A complaint regarding the placement or education of a homeless child or youth shall first be presented orally and informally to the LEA's homeless coordinator. If the complaint is not promptly resolved, the complainant may present a formal written complaint (grievance) to the homeless coordinator. The written charge must include the following information: date of filing, description of alleged grievances, the name of the person or persons involved and a recap of the action taken during the informal charge state. Within five (5) working days after receiving the complaint, the coordinator shall state a decision in writing to the complainant, with supporting evidence and reasons. In addition, the coordinator will inform the GSA

Superintendent (head of the LEA) or his/her designee of the formal complaint and the disposition.

Level II - Within five (5) working days after receiving the decision at Level I, the complainant may appeal the decision to the GSA Superintendent (head of the LEA) or his/her designee by filing a written appeal package. This package shall consist of the complainants' grievance and the decisions rendered at Level I. The GSA Superintendent (head of the LEA) or his/her designee will arrange for a personal conference with the complainant at their earliest mutual convenience. Within five (5) working days after receiving the complaint, the GSA Superintendent (head of the LEA) or his/her designee shall state a decision in writing to the complainant, with supporting evidence and reasons.

Level III - If resolution is not reached in Level II, a similar written appeals package shall be directed through the GSA Superintendent (head of the LEA) or his/her designee to the Board requesting a hearing before the Board at the next regularly scheduled or specially called meeting. The hearing before the Board may be conducted in closed session upon the request of either the Board or the complainant. Within thirty (30) working days after receiving the appeals package, the Board shall state its decision and reply in writing to the parties involved. For LEA purposes, the decision of the Board is final.

Level IV - If the complainant is dissatisfied with the action taken by the Governing Board of the LEA, a written notice stating the reasons for the dissatisfaction may be filed with the state director of special federal instructional programs. The state director will initiate an investigation, determine the facts relating to the complaint, and issue notice of his or her findings within thirty (30) days to the LEA and the complainant. If the findings support the action taken by the LEA, such action will be confirmed. If the findings support the allegations of the complainant, the LEA will be directed to take corrective action. An appeal of this decision can be made within ten (10) days to the Deputy Commissioner of Education. Within thirty (30) days after receiving an appeal, the Deputy Commissioner of Education will render a final administrative decision and notify the complainant and all other interested parties in writing.

Identification Cards Policy

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. Beginning July 1, 2023, the School shall have 988 printed on either side of the student identification cards. 988 is the three-digit dialing code that directs calls and routes text messages to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
2. If on July 1, 2023, the School has unissued student identification cards that do not have the 988 code on them, the School shall issue those cards until the supply is depleted.

Immunizations

The Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. All students attending GSA are required to be in compliance with state programs mandating immunization against specific diseases. Failure to comply with School immunization requirements will result in exclusion from school until proof of compliance is provided. Homeless children will be granted a temporary twenty-four (24) hour grace period within which to submit proof of compliance.

SECTION 2. The School Leader shall institute procedures for the maintenance of health records, which are to show the immunization status of every student enrolled or attending the School, and for the completion of all necessary reports in accordance with guidelines prepared by the Department of Social Services-Missouri Division of Health.

Instruction for At-Risk Students

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The School shall meet all federal and state requirements for identifying and providing services to educationally at-risk students.

At-risk students are those whose educational outcomes are in jeopardy because they are experiencing academic deficits, have become disaffected with school and learning, or impacted by other factors which impede education and social development.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy implements the obligations of GSA under the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Section 1. Definitions

- A. Active Duty: full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.
- B. Deployment: the period one (1) month prior to the service members' departure from their home station on military orders through six (6) months after return to their home station.
- C. Education(al) records: those official records, files, and data related to a student and maintained by the school or local education agency including but not limited to records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder such as general identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work completed, records of achievement and results of evaluative tests, health data, disciplinary status, test protocol and individualized education programs.
- D. Extracurricular activities: a voluntary activity sponsored by the school or local education agency or an organization sanctioned by the local educational agency. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.
- E. Military installation: a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, including any leased facility, which is located within any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other U.S. Territory. Such term does not include any facility used primarily for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control projects.
- F. Receiving state: the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.
- G. Sending state: the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.

- H. Transition: 1) the formal and physical process of transferring from school to school or 2) the period of time in which a student moves from one school in the sending state to another school in the receiving state.

Section 2. Applicability

Section 2.1. This policy applies to the children of: (1) active duty members of the uniformed services, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211; (2) members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one (1) year after medical discharge or retirement; and (3) members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death.

Section 2.2. This policy shall not apply to children of: (1) inactive members of the National Guard and military reserves; (2) members of the uniformed services now retired, except as provided for in Section 2.1; (3) veterans of the uniformed services, except as provided for in Section 2.1; and (4) other United States Department of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of the uniformed services.

Section 3. Student Eligibility and Enrollment

Section 3.1. Upon receipt of the unofficial education records by GSA, school shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible.

Section 3.2. Simultaneous with enrollment and conditional placement of student, GSA shall request the student's official education record from the school in the sending state. If GSA is the school in the sending state, GSA will process any such request and furnish the official education records to the school in the receiving state within ten (10) days.

Section 3.2. A special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law shall be sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent.

Section 3.3. GSA is prohibited from charging tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.

Section 3.4. A transitioning military child shall have thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment to obtain any required immunization(s).

Section 3.5. A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in local parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to attend GSA if he/she was enrolled while residing with the custodial parent.

Section 3.6. Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level (including Kindergarten) in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age. A student who has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age. A student transferring after the state of the school year in the receiving state shall enter the school in the receiving state on their validated level from an accredited school in the sending state.

Section 3.7. GSA shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise qualified.

Section 4. Placement and Attendance

Section 4.1. When the student transfers before or during the school year, GSA shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses on the student's enrollment in the sending state school and/or educational assessment conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered. Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does not preclude GSA from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course(s).

Section 4.2. GSA shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessment conducted at the school in the sending state or participation/placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs include, but are not limited to: 1) gifted and talented programs, and 2) English as a second language (ESL). This does not preclude GSA from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

Section 4.3. GSA shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his/her current Individualized Education Program (IEP). GSA shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities to provide such students with equal access to education. This does not preclude GSA from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student. Nothing in this section exempts GSA from the requirements of federal and state law.

Section 4.4. GSA may waive course/programs perquisites, or other preconditions for placement in courses/programs.

Section 4.5. A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in this policy, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of GSA to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian.

Section 5. Graduation

Section 5.1. GSA shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another local education agency, or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, GSA shall provide an alternative means of acquiring coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

Section 5.2. Should a military student transferring at the beginning or during his or her senior year of high school be ineligible to graduate from the receiving local education agency after all alternatives have been considered, the sending and receiving local education agencies shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending local education agency, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending local education agency. GSA shall ensure cooperation, as either the sending or receiving local education agency, in the event of the situation described in this section.

Limited Public Forum

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

Section 1. Establishment of Limited Public Forum

Section 1.1. A limited public forum is hereby established for student speakers at all GSA events at which a student is to publicly speak.

Section 2. Student Speakers

Section 2.1. Students speakers at school events and graduation ceremonies shall be selected using the following neutral criteria:

- Student academic success and teachers' recommendation.

Section 2.2. Student speakers are prohibited from engaging in obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent speech.

Section 2.3. Student expression in the limited public forum on an otherwise permissible subject shall not be excluded from the limited public forum because the subject is expressed from a religious viewpoint.

Section 3. Disclaimer

Section 3.1. Any student speech at a school event or graduation ceremony does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of GSA.

Section 3.2. Such disclaimer shall be made in writing, orally, or both prior to a student speech at any school event or graduation ceremony.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Policy

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

This policy pertains to the mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse.

School employees who know or have reason to believe that a child has been or may be subject to abuse or neglect by any person (whether a parent, a school employee or a third party) shall report such belief to their supervisor. In addition, school officials (including the principal and teachers) must report such belief to the state as required by 210.115 of the statutes of Missouri.

Mental Health Awareness Training

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. For each school year beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the School shall provide mental health awareness training to students.
2. Each student shall have received mental health awareness training any time during their four years of high school.
3. Such training shall be included in the School's existing health or physical education curriculum. Such training shall be based on a program established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Migrant Procedure

Identification

For purposes of Board policies and regulation, a child is a “migratory child” and is eligible for the Migrant Education Program (MEP) if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The child is not older than 21 years of age; and
2. The child is entitled to a free public education (through grade 12) under State law or is below the age of compulsory school attendance; and
3. The child is a migratory agricultural worker or a migratory fisher or has a parent, spouse, or guardian who is a migratory agricultural worker or a migratory fisher; and
4. The child moved within the preceding 36 months in order to seek or obtain qualifying work, or to accompany or join the migratory agricultural worker or migratory fisher identified in paragraph three above, in order to seek or obtain qualifying work; and
5. The child has moved from one LEA to another.

Potential migrant students will be identified through a question on the school enrollment form. If it appears that a migrant student is enrolling, the school will notify the State Migrant, English Language Learner (MELL) Director and request assistance with the identification of the student.

Services

If a migrant student is identified by the MELL office, the school must:

- assess the educational, health, and social needs of the identified student and develop objectives to address those needs so that migrant children meet the same challenging State academic content standards and academic achievement standards that all children are expected to meet;
- Provide advocacy to allow children and families to gain access to health, nutrition and social services;
- Review existing programs and resources to determine which can help meet the needs of migrant children and assure that the children have access to them;
- provide professional development activities for teachers to improve the quality of education for migrant children; and,
- provide opportunities for participation of migrant parents in the educational activities of their children.

Missouri Student Religious Liberties Act

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

Section 1. Anti-Discrimination

Section 1.1. GSA shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression.

Section 1.2. GSA shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner GSA treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and shall not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

Section 2. Student Expression in Homework and Classroom Assignments

Section 2.1. Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions.

Section 2.2. Homework and classroom assignments shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by GSA.

Section 2.3. Students shall not be penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work. If an assignment requires a student's viewpoints to be expressed in course work, artwork or other written or oral assignments, GSA shall not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content or a religious viewpoint. In such an assignment, a student's academic work that expresses a religious viewpoint shall be evaluated based on ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance to the course curriculum or requirements of the course work or assignment.

Section 3. Student Prayer, Religious Activities, and Religious Expression

Section 3.1. Students in GSA may pray or engage in religious activities or religious expression, before, during, and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that students may engage in nonreligious activities or expression, provided that such religious expression or religious activities are not disruptive of scheduled instructional time or other educational activities and do not impede access to school facilities or mobility on school premises.

Section 3.2. Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, or other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups.

Section 3.3. Religious groups shall be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups without discrimination based on the religious content of the student's expression.

Section 3.4. Religious groups shall be allowed to advertise or announce meetings in the same manner as student groups that meet for nonreligious activities.

Section 3.5. GSA may only disclaim sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a manner that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in prayer or religious speech.

Section 4. Student Clothing, Accessories, and Jewelry

Section 4.1. Students at GSA may wear clothing, accessories, and jewelry that display religious messages or religious symbols in the same manner and to the same extent that other types of clothing, accessories, and jewelry that display messages or symbols are permitted.

Section 5. Construction

Section 5.1. This policy shall not be construed to:

- Require any person to participate in prayer or in any other religious activity
- Violate the constitutional rights of any person
- Prohibit GSA from maintaining order and discipline in a content and viewpoint neutral manner
- Prohibit GSA from protecting the safety of students, employees, and visitors of GSA.
- Prohibit GSA from adopting and enforcing policies and procedures regarding student speech at school, provided that the policies and procedures do not violate the rights of students as guaranteed by law.

Official School Year and School Day

The Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The Board will annually adopt a school calendar that provides for minimum 1,044 hours of pupil attendance. Hours, in excess of the state required minimum, may be recommended by the School Leader and approved by the Board.

The length of the school day shall be 6.33 hours per day

The School shall be required to make up the first 36 hours of school lost or canceled due to inclement weather and half the number of hours lost or cancelled in excess of the 36 make-up hours if the make-up of the hours is necessary to ensure the students attend a minimum of one hundred forty-two days of school and 1,044 hours for the school year.

The School shall be exempt from making up, up to 36 hours of school, lost or cancelled to due to exceptional or emergency circumstances if the School has an alternative methods of instruction plan approved by the department of elementary and secondary education.

Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. Presentation on Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation

Section 1.1. Any state or nationally recognized program or organization that provides unbiased information on organ, eye, and tissue donation that requests to present information on organ, eye, and tissue donation to the Board shall be allowed to give such presentation and shall be allotted no less than thirty minutes for the presentation.

Section 1.2. The Board shall consider the information presented and decide whether to present such information to students and parents in the school and the manner in which such information shall be presented.

Section 2. Student Instruction

Section 2.1. No student shall be required to participate in any instruction relating to information about organ, eye, and tissue donation if the student has any sincerely held religious or emotional belief which is contrary to such instruction.

Parental Involvement and School Title I.A Parental Involvement

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parental and family engagement policy as required the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (parental involvement policy).

I. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY POLICY.

In General: A local educational agency may receive Title I, Part A funds only if such agency Conducts outreach to all parents and family members and implements programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members consistent with the provisions below. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultations with parents of participating children.

Written Policy: Each local educational agency that receives funds under Title I, Part A shall develop jointly with, agree upon with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that is incorporated into the local educational agency's plan developed under section 1112, establishes the expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, and describes how the local educational agency will:

- involve parents and family members in the joint development of the plan under section 1112, and the support and improvement plans under section 1111;
- provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education;
- coordinate and integrate parent and family involvement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies under relevant federal, state, and local programs, such as the Head Start program, Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Even Start program, Parents as Teachers program, and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-run preschool programs;

- conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of the schools served under this part, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background); the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The LEA should use the findings of such evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental and family engagement policies described in this section; and
- involve parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I, Part A, which may include establishing a parental advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

Reservation of Funds.

Each local educational agency shall reserve at least 1 percent of such agency's allocation under Title I, Part A, subpart 2 to carry out parental and family involvement, including family literacy and parenting skills, (unless 1 percent of such agency's allocation under Title I, Part A, subpart 2 for the fiscal year for which the determination is made is \$5,000 or less.)

Parents of children receiving services under Title I, Part A shall be involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved as set forth above are allotted for parental involvement activities.

II. SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY.

Each school served under Title I, Part A shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed upon by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of Policy Involvement, Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement, and Building Capacity for Involvement and Accessibility.

Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

Special rule. --If the school has a parent and family engagement policy that applies to all parents and family members, such school may amend that policy, if necessary, to meet the requirements of this subsection.

Amendment. --If the local educational agency has a school district-level parental and family engagement policy that applies to all parents and family members in all schools served by the local educational agency, such agency may amend that policy, if necessary, to meet the requirements of this subsection.

Parental comments. --If the plan under section 1112 is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the local educational agency shall submit any parent comments with such plan when such local educational agency submits the plan to the State.

Policy Involvement.

Each school served under Title I, Part A shall:

(1) convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, at the beginning of the school year, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I, Part A and to explain Title I, Part A, its requirements, and their right to be involved. The school shall have sign-in sheets for this meeting and retain such sign-in sheets, the agenda for the meeting and minutes of the meeting for audit purposes by DESE;

(2) offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement;

(3) involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan under section 1114(b), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of its programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children;

(4) provide parents of participating children--

(A) timely information about programs under this part;

(B) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and

(C) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible; and

(5) if the school wide program plan under section 1114(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement.

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school shall serve under this part shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Such compact shall:

(1) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under this part to meet the challenging State academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their children's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and

(2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:

(A) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;

(B) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and

(C) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and

(D) ensuring regular two-way meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

Building Capacity for Involvement.

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under Title I, Part A:

(1) shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;

(2) shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;

(3) shall educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other School Leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;

(4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;

(5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;

(6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;

(7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;

(8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;

(9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

(10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;

(11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;

(12) may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section;

(13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and

(14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

III. ACCESSIBILITY.

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements, local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Parental Notification

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. Any time the School is determined to be in the bottom five percent of scores on the annual performance report, the School shall mail a letter to the parents and guardians of each student in the School.
2. Such letter shall include:
 - a. That the School has been determined to be in the bottom five percent of scores on the annual performance report; and
 - b. What options are available to such students as a result of the School's current status.

Parents and Student Complaints and Grievances

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Purpose and General Policy Provisions Related to Resolution of Concerns.

SECTION 1.1. Students and parents have the right and responsibility to express school related concerns and grievances to the faculty and administration. Students and parents shall be assured the opportunity for an orderly presentation and timely review of concerns

SECTION 2. Process. The faculty and administration shall make an honest and forthright effort to resolve grievances as quickly as possible at the most immediate level of authority.

SECTION 2.1. The levels of lowest levels of authority shall be as follows:

1. **Classroom related concerns** – teachers
2. **School related concerns** (including policies, procedures, administration, unresolved classroom related concerns, etc.) – School Principal and Administrators
3. **Appeals** – 1st Level: Superintendent – 2nd Level: Governing Board
Decisions rendered by the Governing Board shall be considered final.

SECTION 2.2 Any teacher, staff member, or administrator shall have the authority to table any meeting considered to be unproductive, threatening, hostile, inappropriate, or lacking appropriate representation.

SECTION 3. All Appeals to the Governing Board must be submitted in writing.

Public Inspection

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

As required by Missouri statutes, the School shall make available for public inspection, and provide upon request, to the parent, guardian, or other custodian of any school-age pupil resident in the LEA in which the school is located the following information:

- (1) The school's charter;
- (2) The school's most recent annual report card published according to section 160.522;
- (3) The results of background checks on the charter school's board members; and
- (4) If operated by a management company, a copy of the written contract between the governing board of the school and the educational management organization or the charter management organization for services. The charter school may charge reasonable fees, not to exceed the rate specified in section 610.026 for furnishing copies of documents under this subsection.

School Admissions

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board. You must be a legal resident of the city of St. Louis to attend the Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis. Consult a school district map or street lines to make sure your home is within the city. The school attendance laws of the State of Missouri are strictly enforced. If you are unsure whether your child is eligible to attend the Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis, the staff of the Registrar's Office will be happy to answer your questions.

SECTION 1. This Charter School does not limit admission based on race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, gender, income level, proficiency in the English language or athletic ability, but may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level.

SECTION 2. If capacity of the School is insufficient to enroll all students who submit an application during the open enrollment period, the School will use a lottery admissions process in order to assure all applicants an equal chance of gaining admission.

SECTION 3. Students will not be required to complete any test or measure in order to be admitted to School. Once students are formally enrolled, formal and informal assessments may be administered to determine the most appropriate instructional plan and placement for each student.

SECTION 4. GSA accepts applications from all over the city of St. Louis. However, priority in the enrollment process will be given to the children of faculty, staff and board members, followed by siblings, then residents within the geographical boundaries of the school (priority zip codes: 63109, 63110, 63139, and a small portion of 63143 within city limits), and finally, anyone living within the city limits. Priority for enrollment will be given in the following order in accordance with the approved charter petition:

1. CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS
2. FACULTY, STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER CHILDREN: Children of full time faculty and full time instructional staff.
3. SIBLINGS: Siblings of students currently enrolled on the date of the lottery
4. Residents within the geographical boundaries of the school (priority zip codes: 63109, 63110, 63139, and a small portion of 63143 within city limits)
5. OTHERS: All other eligible students

SECTION 5. Lottery.

SECTION 5.1. When more registrants than seats in a class, grade level, or the school have been received, a public lottery shall be held.

SECTION 5.2. The lottery process shall be published in advance and articulated prior to commencement of the lottery.

SECTION 5.3. The lottery shall be observed and certified by a third party individual.

SECTION 6. Wait List.

SECTION 6.1. Lottery positions and waiting list positions will not be secured from year to year. Those offered the opportunity to enroll from the waiting list will have three days to complete the enrollment process before the opening will be offered to the next student on the waiting list.

SECTION 6.2. It is the responsibility of the wait listed parent or guardian to provide updated contact information including a phone number and address, and an email if possible.

SECTION 6.3. Waitlist parents must also provide an emergency contact person in the event they cannot be reached regarding an opening. Failure to keep updated information throughout the school year resulting in an inability to notify the parent of an opening waives the student's placement on the waitlist.

SECTION 6.4. A school designee shall contact the next person on the wait list if a slot becomes available. Contact may be made by phone, and if available, by email. Every effort will be made to reach the individual in person; however, if this is not possible, a message will be left on the phone and/or email.

SECTION 6.5. The parents will be given 72 Hours to contact the School and make a decision to accept the opening. If contact or a decision is not made within this time frame, the next student on the wait list is extended the offer.

School Annual Report

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

School officials will submit to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education all data and reports as required by law and/or by regulations of the Missouri State Board of Education. The Annual Report will be completed and submitted in accordance with department regulations.

The Annual Report will be available to all School patrons, and to each member of the General Assembly representing a legislative LEA that contains a portion of the School's attendance area.

School Attendance

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. The Board shall abide by the compulsory attendance laws of the state, with the exception of those students who may be excused from full-time attendance by the School Leader. Individual petitions for any deviation from full-time attendance shall be considered by the School Leader on the merits of the individual student's application and in compliance with state law and regulations.

SECTION 2. Students may attend the School on a part-time basis as provided by state law and regulations of the Board.

SECTION 3. In order to receive maximum benefit from the instructional activities, students are expected to be in school each day unless excused for legitimate reasons. Students and parents must assume responsibility for being punctual and regular in attendance.

SECTION 4. Attendance Rules.

SECTION 4.1. Absences will be classified as excused or unexcused. Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as:

- a) Personal illness or attendance in school endangers a student's health or the health of others.
- b) A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
- c) A court order or an order by a governmental agency mandating absence from school.
- d) Observance of religious holidays.
- e) Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
- f) A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parents or legal guardians deployment or during such parents or legal guardian leave.

SECTION 4.2. Unexcused absences are all failures to attend school other than those specifically listed above.

SECTION 4.3. If a student is absent from school, the student must bring an excuse from home the day the student returns.

SECTION 4.4. When the student is absent, the school will attempt to contact the parent to determine the cause of absence. However, the written excuse must be brought, whether or not a contact is made by phone. The school leader designee for absentee calls will maintain an accurate phone log.

SECTION 4.5. All work missed due to illness must be made up by the student within a reasonable time or the student risks not receiving credit for the missed work. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher for make-up work.

SECTION 4.6. In order to participate in an extracurricular or after school activity, a student must be in attendance on the school day of the activity.

SECTION 4.7. For each absence beyond ten (10), students must bring an excuse from a doctor, dentist, health center, etcetera, or court for the absence(s) to be excused.

School Calendar

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Approval of Annual Calendar

SECTION 1.1. The School Leader or his/her designee shall submit for approval by the Governing Board a calendar for the upcoming school year no later than April of each preceding year. The calendar shall specify the dates of the school year for students, the work year for staff, holidays and breaks, and other critical activities and events. The annual calendar shall comply with the School's policies and applicable laws and regulations.

SECTION 1.2. No later than the last regularly scheduled board meeting in April, the Governing Board shall officially adopt the upcoming school year calendar.

SECTION 1.3. Information pertaining to dissemination and publishing of the adopted calendar shall be published on the School's website and via other communication channels no later than April.

SECTION 2. Authorization to Revise the Annual Calendar

SECTION 2.1. The Governing Board, upon recommendation by the School Leader or his/her designee has the authority to make changes to the official school calendar through a duly adopted board resolution.

School Safety Plan and Emergency Closing Procedures

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. School Safety Plan:

The School will cooperate fully with local emergency management preparedness authorities to develop and implement an emergency management preparedness program addressing man-made and natural disasters.

SECTION 2. Emergency Suspension of School Operations or Activities

SECTION 2.1. The School [may/shall] abide by school closures for GSA school district.

SECTION 2.2. The Governing Board further authorizes the School Leader or his/her designee to suspend school operations or activities in the event of abnormal conditions, hazardous weather, or other emergencies that threaten the safety, welfare, or health of students or employees and to take whatever measures he/she deems necessary to protect students and staff.

SECTION 2.3. The School Leader or his/her designee shall establish orderly procedures to assure that appropriate communications with students, staff, and other stakeholders are maintained before, during and after the abnormal conditions potentially or actually causing suspension of school operations or activities. At a minimum, instruction on obtaining information pertaining to suspension of school operations and activities for students, staff, and other stakeholders shall be published in the student and staff handbooks.

SECTION 2.4. School activities, including but not limited to extracurricular events, activities, clubs, competitions, and athletic events, held before or after the official school day, shall not be held if normal school operations have been suspended on the same day. The School Leader or his/her designee shall communicate with students and parents in a timely manner regarding the cancellation of these activities.

SECTION 2.5. At the [School Leader or his/her designee's] discretion, school activities as described in Section 2.4, may be canceled even after a completed school day if conditions exist to warrant such suspension. The School Leader or his/her designee shall communicate with students and parents in a timely manner regarding the cancellation of these activities.

Seclusion, Restraint and Corporal Punishment

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. General Policy Provisions

Section 1.1. The use of chemical restraint, mechanical restraint, or prone restraint, as defined by state law, is prohibited by the School.

Section 1.2 The use of seclusion, as defined by state law, is prohibited within the School.

Section 1.2.1 Seclusion does not include “time-out,” defined as a behavioral intervention in which the student is temporarily removed from the learning activity but in which the student is not confined.

Section 1.2.2. Seclusion does not include in-school suspension, detention, or a student-requested break in a different location in the classroom or in a separate unlocked room.

Section 2. Physical Restraint

Physical restraint may be utilized only when the student is an immediate danger to himself or others and the student is not responsive to less intensive behavioral interventions including verbal directives or other de-escalation techniques.

Section 2.1. Physical restraint does not include: providing limited physical contact and/or redirection to promote student safety, providing physical guidance or prompting when teaching a skill, redirecting attention, providing guidance to a location, or providing comfort.

Section 2.2. Physical restraint shall not be used (1) as a form of discipline or punishment (2) when the student cannot be safely restrained; or (3) when the use of the intervention would be contraindicated due to the student’s psychiatric, medical, or physical conditions as described in the student’s educational records.

Section 2.3 All physical restraint must be immediately terminated when the student is no longer an immediate danger to himself or others or if the student is observed to be in severe distress.

Section 2.4. Before any staff member may implement physical restraint, he or she should have completed an approved training program.

Section 2.4.1 Approved training programs must address a full continuum of positive behavioral intervention strategies as well as prevention and de-escalation techniques and restraint.

Section 2.4.2 The school shall annually review the policy and procedures regarding the physical restraint of students. Any employee who is authorized to use restraints shall annually complete mandatory training in the restraint techniques the School uses.

Section 2.4.3 Schools and programs shall maintain written or electronic documentation on training provided and the list of participants in each of the provided trainings. Copies of such documentation will be made available to the Missouri Department of Education or any member of the public upon request.

Section 2.5. If a staff member who has not completed an approved training program has to physically restrain a student to prevent injury to a student or others in an emergency situation when staff members trained in physical restraint are not available, he or she should ask other students, if present, to request assistance immediately.

Section 2.6. The use of physical restraint on a student shall be monitored by another staff member or administrator. The use of physical restraint shall be documented by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint for each student in each instance in which the student is restrained. A report shall be completed that contains the following information:

The date, time of day, location, duration, and description of the incident and interventions;

Any event leading to the incident and the reason for using restraint;

A description of the methods of restraint used;

The nature and extent of an injury to the student;

The names, roles, and certifications of each employee involved in the use of restraint

The name, role, and signature of the person who prepared the report;

The name of any employee whom the parent or guardian can contact regarding the incident and use of restraint;

The name of an employee to contact if the parent or guardian wishes to file a complaint; and

A statement directing parents and legal guardians to a sociological, emotional, or behavioral support organization and a hotline number to report child abuse and neglect.

A copy of any reported created under this section shall be given to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education within thirty days of the incident.

Section 2.7. Whenever physical restraint is used on a student the School or program where the restraint is administered shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian no later than one hour

after the end of the School day in which the use of the restraint occurred. The notification may be oral or electronic and shall include a statement that the report created under Section 2.6 will be provided within five school days. Any report created under Section 2.6 shall be provide to the parent or legal guardian within five school days.

Section 2.8. An officer, administrator, or employee of the School is prohibited from retaliating against any person for having reported a violation of this policy; or providing information regarding a violation of this policy.

Section 3. Time-Out

This policy does not prohibit a staff member from utilizing time-out, as defined above, or any other classroom management technique or approach, including a student's removal from the classroom that is not specifically addressed in this rule.

Section 4. Student Fights or Altercations

This policy does not prohibit a staff member from taking appropriate action to diffuse a student fight or altercation.

Section 5. Physical Restraints

The decision whether or not the use of physical restraint is necessary to protect students or others from imminent harm or bodily injury, and taking the actions deemed necessary to protect students or others from imminent harm or bodily injury, are actions that involve the performance of discretionary, not ministerial, duties.

Section 6. Law Enforcement or Emergency Medical Personnel Assistance

Section 6.1. In some instances, in which a student is an immediate danger to himself or herself or others, the School or program must determine when it becomes necessary to seek assistance from law enforcement and/or emergency medical personnel. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel.

Section 6.2. School officials must notify a student's parent or guardian immediately when emergency medical or law enforcement personnel remove a student from a school or program setting.

Section 7. Corporal Punishment

Section 7.1. For the purposes of this policy, corporal punishment is a form of physical punishment administered by an adult to the body of a child for the purpose of discipline or reformation, or to deter attitudes or behaviors deemed unacceptable. No person employed by or volunteering on

behalf of the School shall administer corporal punishment or cause corporal punishment to be administered upon a student attending LEA schools.

Section 7.2. A staff member may, however, use reasonable physical force against a student for the protection of the student or other persons or to protect property. Restraint of students in accordance with the School's policy on student seclusion, isolation, and restraint is not a violation of this policy.

Section 7.3. A student shall not be subject to corporal punishment procedures without a parent or guardian being notified and providing written permission for corporal punishment.

Show-Me Success Diploma

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. The School may offer a course of student designed to meet the requirements of the Show-Me Success Diploma program as established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
2. If the School offers the Show-Me Success diploma, such diploma shall be available to any student until the end of that student's twelfth grade year.
3. Any student who earns a Show-Me Success diploma may remain at the School and participate in programs of study offered by the School until the student would otherwise have graduated at the end of twelfth grade.

Special Education Records Model Policy

The Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. A student special education record is:

a. an individualized education program (IEP), as such term is defined in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended;

b. an individualized family service plan (IFSP), as such term is defined in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended; and

c. a 504 plan created under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

2. A student special education record is a permanent record and GSA will maintain such a record as part of a student's cumulative scholastic record.

3. Notwithstanding any other policy, including a records retention policy, GSA will not destroy a student's most recent student special education record.

Strip Searches

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. Strip Searches

Section 1.1. No employee or volunteer at the school shall perform a strip search of any student of the school.

Section 1.2. A student may be striped search by or under the authority of a commissioned law enforcement officer.

Section 1.3. A student may be strip searched by a school employee only if a commissioned law enforcement office is not immediately available and if the school employee reasonably believes that a student possesses a weapon, explosive, or substance that poses an imminent threat of physical harm to himself or herself or another person.

Section 1.4. If a student is strip searched by an employee of the school or a commissioned law enforcement officer, the school will attempt to notify the student's parent or guardian as soon as possible.

Section 1.5. For the purposes of this policy, strip search means the inspection of a person's anus or genitalia, including but not limited to inspections conducted visually, manually or by means of any physical instrument. A strip search shall not include the removal of clothing in order to investigate the potential abuse or neglect of a student; give medical attention to a student; provide health services to a student; or screen a student for medical conditions.

Section 2. Emblem, Insignia or Garment

Section 2.1. No employee of or volunteer in or board member of the school shall direct a student to remove an emblem, insignia, or garment, including a religious emblem, insignia, or garment, as long as such emblem, insignia, or garment is worn in a manner that does not promote disruptive behavior.

Section 3. Violation of Policy

Section 3.1. Any employee of the school who violates Section 1 of this policy shall be immediately suspended without pay, pending an evidentiary hearing, when such employee is entitled by statute or contract to such hearing. If an employee is not entitled to such evidentiary hearing, the employee shall be suspended pending completion of due process or further disciplinary action.

Student and Classroom Observations

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Classroom Observations.

SECTION 1.1. While the School acknowledges that some educational benefit may be derived from third parties wishing to conduct classroom observations for research purposes for educational products or services, it is the responsibility of the School to protect the privacy of all students.

SECTION 1.2. Requests for observations by an outside educational or clinical professional must be submitted in writing to the School Leader or his/her designee for consideration at least two weeks in advance of the requested observation. The request must include the name and credentials of the professional who will be observing the classroom, the purpose of the classroom observation, the data that will be collected and a certification that the third party will comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) and any other applicable state or federal laws pertaining to student privacy. In addition, the third party may be required to execute a confidentiality agreement.

SECTION 1.3. School Leader or his/her designee must provide parents of students in the classroom written notice of a third party’s desire to observe the classroom, and parent concerns regarding outside observers shall be taken into consideration in the decision whether or not to allow the third party to observe the classroom.

SECTION 1.4. If the outside professional is approved for the observation, all data collected shall be provided to the School Leader or his/her designee.

SECTION 1.5. Upon request, School Leader or his/her designee may, at his/her discretion, grant permission for visits by outside service providers who currently provide private educational or therapy services to a current student. To minimize disruption to the instructional program, outside service providers must comply with the guidelines for all visitors plus the following additional guidelines: (1) the third party must currently provide educational or therapy services to the student; (2) provide the School Leader or his/her designee an appropriate Release of Confidential Information under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), signed by the parent/guardian; (3) have the parent/guardian coordinate the observation date and time; (4) limit the observation to one hour unless an extended time period has been granted in advance of the scheduled observation; and (5) conduct the session in such a manner that allows the regular school program to continue during the visit by refraining from engaging the attention of the teacher or student(s) through conversation or other means.

Student Attendance and Accounting

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

An accurate accounting of student attendance, transportation and food service records shall be kept by the School. The records will be in accordance with state law and appropriate regulations of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The School Leader will be responsible for maintaining student attendance accounting, and for submitting monthly reports of such records to the Board, which will in turn be responsible for preparing reports to be submitted to the appropriate state offices.

Student Educational Records

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The School will comply with the mandates of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Safe Schools Act regarding confidentiality of student records and disclosure of personally identifiable information.

The parents/guardians of students who are attending or have attended the School have the right to inspect and review the educational records of their students and to request amendment of their students' educational records due to error and/or omission. The School has adopted procedures for the granting of parental requests for access to the educational records of their students within a reasonable period of time, but in no case more than forty-five (45) days after the request is made.

All information contained in a student's educational record, except information designated as directory information by the School, shall be confidential and shall be directly accessible only to school officials who demonstrate a legitimate educational interest in the student's records and to parents/guardians or eligible students.

Upon request by military recruiters or an institution of higher learning, the School will provide students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents will be notified annually of their right to individually request that such information not be released without prior parental consent.

Military recruiters will be provided the same access to students as is given to institutions of higher learning.

Student Fees

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

No fees shall be charged for enrollment, supplies, equipment or costs attributable to courses of study, which are offered for credit. Students shall be required to pay for materials, which are used in constructing projects or other items, which are to be removed from the school, and are thereby the property of the student.

Students may be charged fees or admission for participation in school activities, such as attendance at school athletics, clubs, study teams, other co-curricular or extra-curricular events. The fee schedule for such events shall be submitted to the Board for approval annually.

Student Group Use of Facilities

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

Pursuant to the Equal Access Act, the Board will provide an opportunity for student-initiated non-curricular groups to conduct meetings on school premises, during non-instructional time, and will not discriminate against students on the basis of the religious, political or philosophical content of the speech at such meetings.

Students of Legal Age

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Upon attainment of the age of eighteen (18), students will be deemed to be adults for purposes of educational records, placement and reporting.

Student Records

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. The School will comply with the mandates of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Safe Schools Act regarding confidentiality of student records and disclosure of personally identifiable information.

SECTION 2. The parents/guardians of students who are attending or have attended the School have the right to inspect and review the educational records of their students and to request amendment of their students' educational records due to errors and/or omission. The School has adopted procedures for the granting of parental requests for access to the educational records of their students within a reasonable period of time, but in no case more than forty-five (45) days after the request is made.

SECTION 3. All information contained in a student's educational record, except information designated as directory information by the School, shall be confidential and shall be directly accessible only to school officials who demonstrate a legitimate educational interest in the student's records and to parents/guardians or eligible students.

SECTION 4. Upon request by military recruiters or an institution of higher learning, the School will provide students' names, addresses and telephone listings. Parents will be notified annually of their right to individually request that such information not be released without prior parental consent. Military recruiters will be provided the same access to students as is given to institutions of higher learning.

Student Safety

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

In addition and pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, student victims of a violent criminal offense that was committed on school premises may transfer to another school. To insure awareness of this policy, the parents of student victims will be notified in writing of their right to a school transfer.

For purposes of this policy, a victim is a student who has suffered personal injury or injuries to his or her property as a direct result of a violent criminal offense. This definition does not include bystanders or witnesses to the act unless they suffered personal or property injury as a direct result of a violent criminal offense while on school premises.

The School will notify the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of all violent criminal offenses committed on school premises when the victim is a student or employee.

Technology Acceptable Use Policy

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Internet Use and Safety.

The School recognizes that computers and the Internet have educational purpose when used properly. The School will take all measures necessary to provide individual users, both students and administrators, with the understanding and skills necessary to use the Internet appropriately in ways that meet educational needs and personal safety. However, there is always the risk that some students might encounter information on the Internet that could be of potential harm or inappropriate to the student. While the School will inform students on the appropriate use of email and Internet safety and will take all necessary measures to ensure students use computers and the Internet consistent with the terms of this policy, due to the uncontrollable nature inherent to the Internet, the School cannot guarantee the Internet and computer environment for its students. The School does comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and uses available filtering software.

SECTION 1.1. The use of Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrators and teachers will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. The school may deny, revoke, or suspend specific user access.

SECTION 2. Staff Responsibilities for Use of Technology

- Develop and help students develop the skills needed to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to age and developmental levels, and to evaluate and use information to meet educational goals;
- Supervise and/or monitor all to whom one grants access to technology resources regarding implementation of this policy;
- Take an active role in ensuring that students and their parents are aware of the individual student's responsibility to use technology resources in an ethical and educational manner.
- Supervise student Internet and computer usage.

SECTION 3. Student Responsibilities for Use of Technology

- Obtain parental permission before using any school computer on the Internet
- Never give out personal or family information such as phone numbers, credit card numbers, or home addresses.
- Never arrange for a face-to-face meeting with a stranger and never respond to abusive or suggestive messages. Report all such instances immediately to a teacher or member of the technology staff.
- Use appropriate language when using electronic email or other use of the computer. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.

SECTION 4. Network User Responsibilities

- Use of the LEA's technology resources must be in support of education and research consistent with the educational objectives of the School.
- Comply with all rules and laws regarding access and copying of information as prescribed by Federal, State, or local law, and Internet providers.
- Be polite and appropriate. Adhere to all standards of courtesy, etiquette, and existing board policies as they may be interpreted to apply to technology resources.
- Help maintain security of LEA technology resources by following this policy and maintaining secrecy of all passwords. All known breaches of security must be reported to the school leader or authorized school leader.
- Be aware that network files and electronic mail are not guaranteed to be private. School technology personnel shall have access to all files.
- Do not permit others to use your account.

SECTION 5. Unacceptable Uses Include, but are not limited to:

- Providing unauthorized or inappropriate access to LEA technology resources.
- Any attempt to harm or destroy data of another user or other networks connected to the Internet.
- Activities involving the loss or unauthorized use of others' work.
- Distribution or use of obscene, abusive, or threatening material.
- Unauthorized use of school resources for commercial, illegal, or profit-making enterprises.
- Knowingly wasting technology resources.
- Physical abuse of the equipment.
- Using technology resources in ways that violate school policies and behavior standards.
- Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance.
- Installing unauthorized software on school computers, or any violation of copyright established for computer software.
- Knowingly uploading or creating computer viruses.

SECTION 6. Internet Use Agreement

To support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not their child may have access to this resource, no child will be allowed to operate a computer to access the Internet unless all parties commit to responsibility by completing the School Internet Use Agreement. No child will be allowed to operate a computer to access the Internet without direct adult supervision.

SECTION 7. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to; copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited. Use for commercial activities is generally not acceptable.

Textbooks

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. The term "textbook" means workbooks, manuals, or other books, whether bound or in loose-leaf form, intended for use as a principal source of study material for a given class or group of students, a copy of which is expected to be available for the individual use of each pupil in such class or group.

SECTION 2. The school shall purchase and loan free all textbooks for all children who are enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve, and may purchase textbooks and instructional materials for prekindergarten students.

SECTION 3. Only textbooks filed with the state board of education pursuant to section 170.061 shall be purchased and loaned under this section. No textbooks shall be purchased or loaned under this section to be used in any form of religious instruction or worship.

Title I

The Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Parent Involvement

The Board recognizes the importance of parental involvement with the Title I program and will provide a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved in policy design and in the planning, implementation and review of Title I programs.

Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the School will submit its Federal Title I LEA Plan, describing the School's Title I services.

Title IX Sexual Harassment

The Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. Definitions

Section 1.1 The following definitions are applicable to this policy:

Actual knowledge: notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator or any official of the school who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the school, or any employee of the school. The actual knowledge standard is not met when the only official of the school with actual knowledge is the respondent. The mere ability or obligation to report sexual harassment or to inform a student about how to report sexual harassment, or having been trained to do so, does not qualify an individual as one who has authority to institute corrective measures.

Complainant: an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Deliberate indifference: a response to a sexual harassment claim that is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

Education program or activity: locations, events, or circumstances over which the school exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.

Respondent: an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment: conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

An employee of the school conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the school on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the school's education program or activity; or

“Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C.12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

Supportive measures: non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where not formal complaint has been filed.

Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the recipient's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. These measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security or monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. The school must maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent to the extent that maintaining confidentiality could not impair the ability of the recipient to provide supportive measures.

Section 2. Designation of Title IX Coordinator

Section 2.1. GSA shall designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under Title IX. This employee shall be referred to as the Title IX Coordinator.

Section 2.2. The Title IX Coordinator's information shall be prominently displayed on the school's website and in each handbook made available to students, parents or legal guardians of students, applicants for admission and employment, and employees

Section 3. Notification

Section 3.1. The school shall provide notification to applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, and employees of the following:

The name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the Title IX coordinator.

That the school does not discriminate in education programs and activities on the basis of sex, and that the school is required by Title IX not to discriminate.

The school does not discriminate in admission and employment, and that inquiries about the application of Title IX may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the federal Department of Education, or both individuals.

The school's grievance procedures and grievance process, including how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and how the recipient will respond.

Section 4. Response to Sexual Harassment

Section 4.1. If the school has actual knowledge of sexual harassment the school must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

Section 4.2. The school's response must treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures to a complainant, and by following the grievance process as defined in Section 5 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.

Section 4.3. The Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

Section 4.4. The school may remove a respondent from the school's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided the school undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

Section 4.5. The Title IX Coordinator, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process must receive training on the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the school's education program or activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process. This training shall also include how to use any technology at a live hearing, issues of relevance of questions and evidence, and issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes the relevant evidence. This training must be posted on the school's website.

Section 4.6. The school may place an employee on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process that complies with Section 5.

Section 5. Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment

Section 5.1. The school's treatment of a complainant or respondent in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment may constitute discrimination on the basis of sex under Title IX.

Section 5.2. All provisions of the grievance process outlined in this policy must be applied equally to complainants and respondents.

Section 5.3. Grievance Process Requirements

Section 5.3.1 The grievance process must treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent.

Section 5.3.2. The grievance process must be followed before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures are imposed on a respondent.

Section 5.3.3. Remedies must be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school's education program or activity.

Section 5.3.4. All relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, must be evaluated.

Section 5.3.5. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

Section 5.3.6. The Title IX coordinator, any individual designated as an investigator, decision-maker or any individual designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, must not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

Section 5.3.7. The school shall select an unbiased individual to serve as the decision-maker. This individual shall not be the Title IX coordinator or the investigator.

Section 5.4. Notice of Allegations. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the school must provide the following written notice of the known parties:

- Recipient's grievance process, including an informal resolution process.
- Allegations of sexual harassment, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known.
- A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

- The parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be an attorney.
- The parties may inspect and review evidence.
- Any provision in the school's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

Section 5.4.1 If the school decides to investigate any allegations not provided in the original notice as outlined in Section 5.4, the school must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

Section 5.5. Investigation of a Formal Complaint

Section 5.5.1. During an investigation, the school must ensure that the burden of proof and burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the school and not the parties.

Section 5.5.2. The school must obtain consent of a party to use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or paraprofessional acting in the profession's or paraprofessional's capacity or assisting in that capacity and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party.

Section 5.5.3. The school must provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.

Section 5.5.4. The parties may not be restricted in their ability to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

Section 5.5.5. Parties must be provided the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any relevant meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney. The school may not limit who may be an advisor, however, the school may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions are applied equally.

Section 5.5.6. The school must provide any party with written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearing, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

Section 5.5.7. The school must provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the school does not intend to

rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigative report, the school must send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report. The school must make all such evidence subject to the parties' inspection and review available at any hearing to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the hearing, including for purposes of cross-examination.

Section 5.5.8. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 days prior to a hearing (if so provided) or other time of determination regarding responsibility, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response.

Section 5.6. Hearings.

The school may choose to provide a hearing. Regardless of whether a hearing is provided, the school must, after the investigative report is sent to both parties, provide an opportunity before a decision is reached, for each party to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party.

Section 5.6.1. With or without a hearing, questions and evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Section 5.7. Determination Regarding Responsibility. The decision-maker, who is someone other than the Title IX coordinator or the investigator, must issue a written determination regarding responsibility.

Section 5.7.1. The written determination must include:

- Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment.
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods use to gather other evidence, and hearings held.

- Findings of fact supporting the determination.
- Conclusions regarding the application of the school’s code of conduct to the facts.
- Statement of and rational for the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the school imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school’s education program or activity will be provided by the school to the complainant.
- The school’s procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

Section 5.7.2. The written determination must be provided to the parties simultaneously.

Section 5.7.3. The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date the recipient provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

Section 5.8. Remedies.

The Title IX coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

Section 5.9. Appeals.

The school must offer both parties an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility and from a school’s dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations on the following bases:

- Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter.
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made that could affect the outcome.
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.
- The school may offer an appeal equally to both parties on additional bases.

Section 5.9.1. The school must notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties

Section 5.9.2. The school must ensure the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding the responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator.

Section 5.9.3. Both parties must be given a reasonable equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging the outcome

Section 5.9.4. The school must issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result

5.9.5. The school must provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

Section 5.10. Consolidation.

The school may consolidate formal complaint as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Section 5.11. Dismissal.

After an investigation, if it is determined that the conduct alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute sexual harassment, the conduct did not occur in the school's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person in the United States, then the recipient must dismiss the formal complaint with regard to that conduct for the purposes of sexual harassment under Title IX. This dismissal does not preclude action under another provision of the school's code of conduct.

Section 5.11.1. A complaint or any allegations therein, may be dismissed at any time during the investigation or hearing if a complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein; if the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the recipient; or specific circumstances prevent the recipient from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Section 5.11.2. Upon dismissal of a complaint or any allegation therein, the school shall promptly send written notification of the dismissal and the reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties.

Section 6. Informal Resolution Process

Section 6.1. The school may not require as a condition enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of formal complaints of sexual harassment.

Section 6.2. The school may not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process under this section and may not offer an informal resolution process unless a formal complaint is filed.

Section 6.3. At any time prior to the determination regarding responsibility, the school may facilitate an informal resolution process that does not involve a full investigation.

The school may do this if the parties are provided a written notice disclosing: the allegations, the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations, provided, however, that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint, and any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be share.

The parties must provide their voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process

The school does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

Section 7. Recordkeeping

Section 7.1. The school must maintain the following records for a period of seven years:

- Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity.
- Any appeal and the result of that appeal.
- All training materials.

Section 7.2. For each response under Section 4, the school must create and maintain for a period of seven years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. The school must document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school's education program or activity. If the school does not provide supportive measures, the school must document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

Section 8. Retaliation.

No individual may be intimidated, threatened, coerced, or discriminated against for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part.

Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, constitutes retaliation. The school must keep confidential the identity of all parties.

Section 8.1. The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation.

Section 8.2. Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding does not constitute retaliation, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Truancy, Child Abuse, and Educational Neglect

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following regulation effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1.

In accordance with 201.115 RsMo educators in Missouri have the duty to report suspected truancy, child abuse and educational neglect to the Missouri Children's Division.

SECTION 2. Mandate.

Any school official or employee who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a student is being subjected to home conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in truancy will immediately report or cause a report to be made to the School Leader, or his/her designee, who will then become responsible for making a report via the Student Abuse Hotline to the Children's Division. The School Leader shall inform the Board that a report has been made and keep the Board apprised of the status of the case.

SECTION 2.1

An oral report shall be made immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused, by telephone or otherwise and followed by a report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Missouri Children's Division, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or LEA attorney.

Use of Social Media by Teachers, Staff, And Students

The Board of GSA (School) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The Board of GSA (School) understands the value of social media and the benefits offered by digital communication devices for providing quick and easy interaction among peers, students, and families. This policy is intended to support teachers, staff, and students by ensuring that all teachers, staff, and students clearly understand the many factors and possible ramifications to consider when using social media. This policy is in addition to, and complements, existing and future Board of Education policies.

TEACHERS AND STAFF

The Board of GSA (School) does not take a position on teachers and staff using social media for personal use on personal time. If teachers and staff choose to do so, they should keep in mind the following:

- Teachers and staff should not use personal social media accounts to communicate with students and families regarding topics pertaining to your work with GSA (School).
- Do not “friend,” “follow” or otherwise interact with students from personal social media accounts.
- Always write in the first person and make it clear that you are speaking for yourself and not on behalf of the school
- Do not post school related information including but not limited to student information, pictures, and work-product exemplars on personal social media sites.
- Do not share confidential information about internal school discussions.
- Avoid communicating with students and families using personal social media sites, personal email accounts or personal phone numbers.

Social media is an excellent way to share information with families and students. If teachers and staff choose to utilize social media for school related purposes, teachers and staff should utilize the same professional standards, respect, and integrity as if it were a face-to-face communication.

- Use school contact information (email, address, phone, etc...) for creating and maintaining accounts, including student accounts.
- Inform parents of social media created for classroom use and its educational purpose.
- Respect copyright and fair use guidelines. Be sure to cite your source when quoting and use Creative Commons⁴ licensing when possible.
- If you make a mistake, admit it and correct it quickly. Clearly state if you've corrected a previous post and apologize if appropriate.
- Treat social media created for school related purposes like a classroom. Monitor closely the interactions between students and deal with inappropriate use immediately.
- When using social media, never reveal information about students including but not limited to their grades, course enrollments, and class schedules. Doing so could be a FERPA violation.
- If posting photos and videos of fellow staff and teachers, seek their permission before posing.
- If posting photos and videos of students, ensure there is a signed parent/guardian permission form on file for each student.

STUDENTS

As a GSA (School) student you represent your school even when you are not posting to social media sites during class time. You should follow these guidelines anytime you post material that could identify you or your relationship to the school.

- Be aware of what you post online-- social media is public. Do not post anything you don't want friends, parents, teachers, or a future employer to see.
- Follow the school's code of conduct when writing online. It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions, however, do it in a respectful way. Make sure that criticism is constructive and not hurtful. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.
- Do not share your password with anyone other than your teachers and parents.

- Do your own work. Do not use other people's work without their permission. Be aware that it is a violation of copyright law to copy and paste someone else's thoughts. It is good practice to hyperlink to your sources.
- Do not use pictures, videos, songs, and audio clips you do not have permission to use. This may be a violation of copyright laws.
- Social media posts should be well written. Follow writing conventions including proper grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.
- If you come across inappropriate material that makes you feel uncomfortable, or is not respectful, tell your teacher or parent/guardian right away.

Volunteers and Chaperones

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. The School encourages participation of parents and citizens of the community to volunteer in the school in order to serve as additional resources to the teachers and students. Prior to serving as a volunteer, each individual who may have unsupervised contact with a child must complete an application for the position, have a satisfactory criminal records check, and have a satisfactory check of the child abuse/neglect records maintained by the Missouri Department of Social Services.

SECTION 2. Chaperone Duties and Responsibilities.

SECTION 2.1. All students must ride in school provided transportation both to and from the fieldtrip and during transport during a fieldtrip to multiple locations. At no time will students ride in transportation not provided by the school unless prior approval by administration is granted in writing.

SECTION 2.2. School staff shall maintain a list of all chaperones and the students to which they are assigned. Chaperones are responsible specifically to supervision of these students; however, they also retain responsibility for general supervision and safety of all GSA students.

SECTION 2.3. Adults observing behavior by students or other adults that is contrary to school policy or procedure shall immediately report the incident to a GSA staff member or administration.

SECTION 2.4. School staff is responsible for taking roll of students prior to departure from any location, every time the group reconvenes, and periodically throughout the course of trip to ensure all students are present. School staff may not delegate this responsibility to a chaperone or any other person.

SECTION 2.5. The use of cell phones and texting should be for emergency use only when acting in a supervisory capacity.

SECTION 2.6. Chaperones should be strategically located on buses and at venues to ensure that students are adequately supervised at all times.

SECTION 2.7. Chaperones may not bring siblings of their child who is attending the trip.

SECTION 2.8. Chaperones may not leave the group or venue at any time during the course of a fieldtrip from departure from the school to arrival at the school after the trip. Chaperones and School staff are expected to participate in all activities planned as part of a field trip itinerary.

SECTION 2.9. Chaperones may not drink alcoholic beverages, utilize illegal substances, smoke or chew tobacco, or use profanity at any time during the course of a fieldtrip from departure from the school to arrival at the school after the trip. Chaperones should refrain from socializing with other chaperones or School staff while supervising students.

SECTION 2.10. Chaperones should ensure that all students remain seated on the bus and monitor student behavior on the bus. Students are expected to be quiet while in heavy traffic, when exiting/entering the interstate, or when crossing a railroad track.

SECTION 2.11. Students should be escorted into and out of public bathrooms. At no time should any student, even a child of a chaperone, be left unattended in a bathroom.

SECTION 2.12. A School staff member or chaperone should never leave Students unattended.

SECTION 2.13. Students should remain with their specific chaperone unless authorized by a GSA staff member.

SECTION 2.14. Students who become ill during the course of a field trip should be brought to a GSA staff member. Parents of the student should be promptly contacted by the GSA staff member. The School staff member and chaperone will work collaboratively to ensure the child is properly attended.

SECTION 2.15. All procedures and rules specific to a field trip shall be strictly adhered to by all parents, students, and GSA staff.

Weapons at School

The GSA Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. The presence of firearms and weapons poses a substantial risk of serious harm to School students, staff and community members, and is a violation of state law. Therefore, possession of firearms and weapons is prohibited on school premises at all times except for law enforcement officials.

SECTION 2. Student participation in school sanctioned gun safety courses, student military or ROTC courses, or other school sponsored firearm related events does not constitute a violation of this policy, provided the student does not carry a firearm or other weapon into any school, school bus, or onto the premises of any other activity sponsored or sanctioned by school officials. In addition, persons passing through school LEA property for purposes of dropping off or picking up a student do not violate this policy if they possess a lawful permitted weapon in the vehicle during this time.

Will's Law

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. Definitions

- a. "Individualized emergency health care plan" means a document developed by the School Nurse, in consultation with a student's parent and other appropriate medical professionals, that is consistent with the recommendations of the student's health care providers, that describes procedural guidelines that provide specific directions about what to do in a particular emergency situations, and that is signed by the parent or guardian and the School Nurse, or the School Administrator or the Administrator's designee in the absence of the School Nurse.
 - b. "Individualized health care plan" means a document developed by a school nurse, in consultations with a student's parent and other appropriate medical professionals who may be providing epilepsy or seizure disorder care to the student, that is consistent with the recommendations of the student's health care providers, that describes the health services needed by a student at school, and that is signed by the parent or guardian and the School Nurse or the School Administrator or the Administrator's designee in the absence of the School Nurse.
2. If any parent of a student of the School seeks epilepsy or seizure disorder care, the School Nurse shall develop an individualized health care plan and an individualized emergency health care plan for the student.
 3. The parent of the student shall annually provide the school written authorization for the provision of epilepsy or seizure disorder care as described in the individualized plans.
 4. The School Nurse shall update each student's individualized plan before the beginning of each school year and as necessary if there is a change in the health status of the student.
 5. Each individualized health care plan shall, and each individualized emergency health care plan may include, but not be limited to the following:
 - a. A notice about the student's condition for all school employees who interact with the student;
 - b. Written orders from the student's physician or advanced practice nurse describing the epilepsy or seizure disorder care;
 - c. The symptoms of the epilepsy or seizure disorder for that particular student and recommended care;

- d. Whether the student may fully participate in exercise and sports, and any contraindications to exercise or accommodations that shall be made for that particular student;
 - e. Accommodations for school trips, after-school activities, class parties, and other school-related activities;
 - f. Information for such school employees about how to recognize and provide care for epilepsy and seizure disorders, epilepsy and seizure disorder first aid training, when to call for assistance, emergency contact information, and parent contact information;
 - g. Medical and treatment issues that may affect the educational process of the student;
 - h. The student's ability to manage, and the student's level of understanding of, the student's epilepsy or seizure disorder; and
 - i. How to maintain communication with the student, the student's parent and health care team, the school nurse or the school administrator or school administrator's designee in the absence of the school nurse, and the school employees.
6. The School Nurse or School Administrator or the Administrator's designee in the absence of the School Nurse shall obtain a release from the student's parent or guardian to authorize the sharing of medical information between the student's physician or advance practice nurse and other health care providers. Such release shall also authorize the School Nurse, School Administrator or Administrator's designee in the absence of the School Nurse to share medical information with other school employees as necessary.
7. The School Nurse shall coordinate the provision of epilepsy and seizure disorder care at the School.
8. The School Nurse shall provide mandatory training every two years to all school employees in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders. Such training shall include, but not be limited to:
- a. School employees working with school-sponsored programs outside of the regular school day, as provided in any student's individualized plan; and
 - b. An online or in-person course of instruction approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

SECTION 5: EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION

Braille Instruction Policy

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. Definitions

- **"Accessible assistive technology device"**, an assistive technology device, as defined in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended, that provides blind or visually impaired students the benefits of an educational program in an equally effective and integrated manner as that provided to nondisabled students;
- **"Adequate instruction"**, the quality teaching of blind or visually impaired students, as it pertains to general education and necessary blindness skills, in alignment with the U.S. Department of Education's definition of free appropriate public education, as defined in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended;
- **"Blind or visually impaired student"**: A child who: (i) Has an individualized education program (IEP) or an individualized family service plan (IFSP), as such terms are defined in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended, or a 504 plan created under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, as amended; and (ii) Is identified as having the disability of visual impairment (including blindness) within the definition of child with a disability in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended; OR An individual who is deaf-blind under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended, or other federal law;
- **"Braille"**, the system of reading and writing through touch;
- **"Expanded core curriculum"**, a disability-specific curriculum that compensates for vision loss, is foundational to all other learning, and that covers the nine essential areas of compensatory access, sensory efficiency, assistive technology, orientation and mobility, social interaction, recreation and leisure, independent living, self-determination, and career education;
- **"Grade level instruction"**, instruction that aligns with state-designated content standards and curricula for students of the same age or level of maturity, based on the development of intellectual, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacity that is typical for the student's age or age group;
- **"Local educational agency" or "LEA"**, the same definition as in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended;

- **"Nonvisual access"**, the ability of a blind or visually impaired student to use all functions of a device, without using the student's vision, in an equally effective, equally integrated manner and with equivalent ease of use as the student's sighted peers;
- **"Nonvisual skills"**, skills that are taught in such a way that the student does not need to use any vision;
- **"State educational agency"**, the same definition as in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended;
- **"Technology-mediated learning environments and methods"**, the settings in which electronic and information technology including, but not limited to, the following is used:
 - Computer-based applications and simulations;
 - Personal and mobile computing devices such as smartphones or tablets;
 - Web-based platforms;
 - Online or distance-learning programs;
 - Video games; and
 - Exhibits or installations that feature digital media, wearable technology, or other tools that support participants' engagement with new knowledge, skills, or practices;
- **"U.S. Access Board"**, the independent federal agency created in 1973 that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards.

Section 2. Braille Instruction

1. Each blind or visually impaired student shall receive instruction in Braille reading and writing as part of such student's individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family support plan (IFSP) unless the IEP or IFSP team determines, after an evaluation of the student's reading and writing skills, needs, and appropriate reading and writing media including, but not limited to, an evaluation of the student's needs for instruction in Braille or the use of Braille, that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate. No blind or visually impaired student shall be denied instruction in Braille reading and writing solely because the student has some vision. During the evaluation and IEP process, consideration shall be given regarding appropriate Braille instruction based on a potential vision loss due to a degenerative medical diagnosis.

2. In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education's Braille presumption requirement in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended, instruction in Braille reading and writing shall be sufficient to enable each blind or visually impaired student to communicate effectively and efficiently at a level commensurate with the student's same age and with the student's nondisabled peers of comparable intellectual ability. The blind or visually impaired student's individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family support plan (IFSP) shall specify:
 - a. The results obtained from an evaluation of the blind or visually impaired student's reading and writing skills, needs, and appropriate reading and writing media including, but not limited to, an evaluation of the blind or visually impaired student's needs for instruction in Braille or the use of Braille including, but not limited to, consideration regarding appropriate Braille instruction based on a potential vision loss due to a degenerative medical diagnosis;
 - b. How Braille will be implemented, if needed as determined by the IEP team, as a primary mode for learning through integration with other classroom activities;
 - c. The length of the period of instruction and the frequency and duration of each instructional session as determined by the IEP team, which shall, as closely as appropriate based on individual needs, be identical to the level of instruction provided to nondisabled peers; and
 - d. The level of competency in Braille reading and writing to be achieved by the end of the period.
3. Use, and provision, of Braille materials for reading and writing shall be addressed in 504 plans for blind or visually impaired students created under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, as amended.
4. In conjunction with academic achievement and functional performance requirements of 34 CFR 300.320(a)(2)(i), as amended, instruction in expanded core curriculum shall be provided to blind or visually impaired students to support progress in the general education curriculum.

Section 3. Instruction in Assistive Technology

1. Each blind or visually impaired student shall receive instruction in assistive technology as part of the student's individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family support plan (IFSP) unless the IEP or IFSP team determines, after an evaluation of a student's needs, that instruction in assistive technology is not appropriate. No student shall be denied instruction in assistive technology solely because the student has some vision.
2. In conjunction with accessible assistive technology requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 20 U.S.C. Section 1412(a)(12)(B)(i), as amended, the blind or visually impaired student shall receive grade-level instruction that will equip the blind or visually impaired student with the appropriate technology-mediated learning environments and methods to perform on the same level of proficiency expected of peers of comparable intellectual ability and grade level. The blind or visually impaired student's IEP or IFSP shall specify:
 - a. The results obtained from an assessment of the blind or visually impaired student's skills, needs, and appropriate accessible assistive technology including, but not limited to, an evaluation of the future needs for accessible assistive technology training or the use of accessible assistive technology;
 - b. How accessible assistive technology will be implemented as a primary mode for learning through integration with other classroom activities;
 - c. The frequency and duration of each instructional session;
 - d. The level of mastery of the accessible assistive technology specified by the blind or visually impaired student's assessment to be achieved by the end of the period; and
 - e. Acknowledgment that either:
 - i. The blind or visually impaired student may transport the accessible assistive technology to and from school without the need for payment, family assumption of liability for loss or damage, or any other cost to the blind or visually impaired student or the family; or
 - ii. If the accessible assistive technology remains at school, the LEA will provide duplicate accessible assistive technology in the blind or visually impaired student's home without requiring payment, family assumption of liability for loss or damage, or any other cost to the blind or visually impaired student or the family.

3. Use, and provision, of accessible assistive technology shall be addressed in 504 plans for blind or visually impaired students created under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, as amended.

Section 4. Instruction in Orientation and Mobility

1. Each blind or visually impaired student shall receive instruction in orientation and mobility as part of the student's individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family support plan (IFSP) unless the IEP or IFSP team determines, after an evaluation of a student's needs, that instruction in orientation and mobility is not appropriate. No student shall be denied instruction in orientation and mobility solely because the student has some vision.
2. In conjunction with orientation and mobility services requirements of 34 CFR 300.34(c)(7), as amended, blind or visually impaired students shall receive orientation and mobility instruction to equip each blind or visually impaired student with the age-appropriate tools, techniques, and nonvisual skills to navigate in and around the student's home, schools, communities, and other environments as applicable, and as expected of peers of comparable intellectual ability and grade level. The blind or visually impaired student's IEP or IFSP shall specify:
 - a. The results obtained from an evaluation of the blind or visually impaired student's orientation and mobility needs including, but not limited to, an evaluation of the blind or visually impaired student's future needs for instruction in orientation and mobility;
 - b. How orientation and mobility will be integrated into the home, school, and community;
 - c. The date on which orientation and mobility instruction will commence;
 - d. The frequency and duration of each instructional session; and
 - e. The level of mastery of orientation and mobility skills to be achieved by the end of the period.
3. Orientation and mobility equipment, accommodations, and modifications shall be addressed in 504 plans for blind or visually impaired students created under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, as amended.
4. An orientation and mobility evaluation shall be conducted by a person who is appropriately certified by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB) with a National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC), or through the

Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) as a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS), or who holds a nationally recognized certification related to orientation and mobility.

5. The orientation and mobility evaluations described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall occur in familiar and unfamiliar environments, during the daytime and nighttime, and around the home, school, and community as determined age appropriate by the blind or visually impaired student's IEP or IFSP.

Computer Science Course Requirement Policy

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. The School shall offer at least one computer science course in an in-person setting or as a virtual or distance course option.
2. Such course shall:
 - a. Meet the State Board of Education's definition of high quality;
 - b. Meet or exceed the computer science performance standards developed and adopted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and
 - c. Be offered in the School's course catalog

Course Requirements – Constitution, American History, Missouri Government

The Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. If the school offers high school education the school shall offer in grade nine, ten, eleven, or twelve a course of instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in the electoral process. Each pupil who receives a high school diploma or certificate of graduation shall satisfactorily complete such a course of study. Such course shall be of at least one semester in length and may be two semesters in length. The school may waive the requirements of this subsection for any student who transfers from outside the state to a Missouri high school if the student can furnish documentation deemed acceptable by the school of the student's successful completion in any year from the ninth through the twelfth grade of a course of instruction in the institutions, branches, and functions of state government, including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in the electoral process.
2. American history courses at the elementary and secondary levels shall include in their proper time-line sequence specific referrals to the details and events of the racial equality movement that have caused major changes in United States and Missouri laws and attitudes.
3. No pupil shall receive a certificate of graduation unless he has satisfactorily passed an examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri, and in American history and American institutions.

Dyslexia Screening

The Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. The school shall conduct dyslexia screenings for students in the appropriate year consistent with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines.

SECTION 2. The Governing Board of GSA shall provide reasonable classroom support consistent with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines.

SECTION 3. The school shall offer all of its teachers two hours of training on dyslexia and related disorders. The school may seek assistance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in developing and providing such training. Completion of such training shall count as two contact hours of professional development.

English Language Learners (ELL)

The Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Purpose and General Policy Provisions Related to English Language Learners. Gateway Science Academy recognizes the need to provide equal educational opportunities for all students in the district. Therefore, if the inability to speak and understand the English language excludes a student from effective participation in the educational programs offered by the district, the district shall take appropriate action to rectify the English language deficiency in order to provide the student equal access to appropriate programs are the first steps to improving their achievement levels.

SECTION 2. Coordinator. The district's coordinator for ELL programs is Enisa Sahbegovic.

SECTION 3. Procedures. The following procedures shall be used by the English Language Learner (ELL) coordinator to implement Board policy pertaining to the identification, instruction and assessment of students who are English language learners.

- Upon enrollment, all students will be asked to complete the Student Home Language survey as part of the enrollment packet. Any student who indicates the use of a language other than English will be referred by the person processing the enrollment forms to the ELL coordinator to determine if further English language proficiency assessment is warranted.
- Identify Language Minority students who are also ELLs. Any student who indicates the use of a language other than English will be assessed for English proficiency using the state-provided assessment instrument.
- Determine the appropriate instructional environment for ELL students.
- The English proficiency of ELL students is assessed annually. Assessment instruments will cover reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Other assessments are administered in accordance with Board policy. The district uses the following assessment instruments, techniques and schedules for ELL assessments: ACCESS Test, review of academic records, ESOL informal oral and written proficiency measures, and professional judgment.
- Parents/Guardians will be informed about the district's program, their rights and the plan for their students.
- Any employee or volunteer of the district who suspects a student might have limited English proficiency must report the suspicion to the ELL coordinator or the principal.

Human Sexuality and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Instruction

The Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Pursuant to Missouri law (section 170.015):

SECTION 1. Any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases shall be medically and factually accurate and shall:

(1) Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relation to all sexual activity for unmarried pupils because it is the only method that is one hundred percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity, and advise students that teenage sexual activity places them at a higher risk of dropping out of school because of the consequences of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy;

(2) Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious, possible, health hazards of sexual activity. Pupils shall be provided with the latest medical information regarding exposure to human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), human papilloma virus, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases;

(3) Present students with the latest medically factual information regarding both the possible side effects and health benefits of all forms of contraception, including the success and failure rates for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; or shall present students with information on contraceptives and pregnancy in a manner consistent with the provisions of the federal abstinence education law, 42 U.S.C. Section 710;

(4) Include a discussion of the possible emotional and psychological consequences of preadolescent and adolescent sexual activity and the consequences of adolescent pregnancy, as well as the advantages of adoption, including the adoption of special needs children, and the processes involved in making an adoption plan;

(5) Teach skills of conflict management, personal responsibility and positive self-esteem through discussion and role-playing at appropriate grade levels to emphasize that the pupil has the power to control personal behavior. Pupils shall be encouraged to base their actions on reasoning, self-discipline, sense of responsibility, self-control, and ethical considerations, such as respect for one's self and others. Pupils shall be taught not to make unwanted physical and verbal sexual advances or otherwise exploit another person. Pupils shall be taught to resist unwanted sexual advances and other negative peer pressure;

(6) Advise pupils of the laws pertaining to their financial responsibility to children born in and out of wedlock and advise pupils of the provisions of chapter 566 pertaining to statutory rape.

SECTION 2. When providing human sexuality instruction students may be separated according to gender for instructional purposes.

SECTION 3. The school shall notify the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the school of:

(1) The basic content of the district's or school's human sexuality instruction to be provided to the student; and

(2) The parent's right to remove the student from any part of the district's or school's human sexuality instruction.

(3) All curriculum materials used in the human sexuality instruction shall be available for public inspection pursuant to chapter 610 prior to the use of such materials in actual instruction.

(4) The school will not provide abortion services, or permit a person or entity to offer, sponsor, or furnish in any manner any course materials or instruction relating to human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases to its students if such person or entity is a provider of abortion services.

Instruction for Students with Disabilities

The Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on that date the policy is adopted by the Board.

It is the policy of the School to provide a free appropriate public education to all public school students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are defined as those students who have one of the categorical disabilities as enumerated in the Missouri State Plan for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and who also require special education services or who have a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act and who require accommodations or special education and related services.

The School will provide special education and/or other services to students with disabilities in accordance with applicable law, including the IDEA, and its amendments, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, §162.670-.995, RSMo., and Missouri's State Plan for Part B.

Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. Course Access and Virtual School Enrollment

As required by Missouri statute, any student under the age of twenty-one in grades kindergarten through twelve shall be allowed to enroll in Missouri course access and virtual school program courses of his or her choice as part of the student's annual course load each year or a full-time virtual school option.

Section 2. Costs

The school shall pay the costs associated with the course or courses if:

The student is enrolled full-time in and has attended, for at least one semester immediately prior to enrolling in the Missouri course access and virtual school program, a public school except if the student has a documented medical or psychological diagnosis or condition that prevented the student from attending a school in the community the previous semester; and

The school approves the student's enrollment in a Missouri course access and virtual school program course or courses. If the school disapproves the student's enrollment, the school shall provide the reason in writing and it shall be for "good cause." "Good cause" is a determination that doing so is not in the best educational interest of the student and shall be consistent with the determination that would be made for such course requested under the process by which a student would enroll in a similar course offered by the school, except that the determination may consider the suitability of virtual courses for the student based on prior participation in virtual courses by the student. An appeal shall be considered under a policy that is substantially similar to the typical process by which appeals would be considered for a student seeking to enroll in courses offered by the school seeking to enroll in courses offered by the school. [*Note: The School can use the same appeal process as long as it is tailored for considerations regarding virtual school as described in this policy.].

Section 3. Notice of Right to Participate

The school shall inform parents of their child's right to participate in the Missouri course access and virtual school program. There shall be information available in the parent handbook, registration documents and on the school's website.

Section 4. Payment to Content Provider

The school shall pay the content provider directly on a pro rata monthly basis based on the student's completion of assignments and assessments. The school shall not pay more than the market necessary costs but in no case shall pay more than fourteen percent of the state adequacy target as defined in RSMo 163.011, as calculated at the end of the most recent school year for

any single, year-long course and nor more than seven percent of the state adequacy target for any single semester equivalent course.

Section 5. A+ Students

If a student is a candidate for A+ tuition reimbursement, the school shall attribute no less than ninety-five percent attendance to any such student who completed a virtual course.

Section 6. Transfer Students

Pursuant to rules to be promulgated by the department of elementary and secondary education, the school shall allow the following:

If a student transfers into the school while enrolled in a Missouri course access and virtual school program course or full time virtual school, the student shall continue to be enrolled in such course or school.

When a student transfers into the school, credits previously gained through successful passage of approved courses under the Missouri course access and virtual school program shall be accepted by the school.

Section 7. Monitoring Student Progress

The school shall monitor student progress and success, and take into account the department of elementary and secondary education's and provider's recommendations regarding a student's enrollment in the program. The school may terminate or alter the course offering if it is found the course or full-time virtual school is not meeting the educational needs of the students enrolled in the course.

The school shall monitor student progress and success, and course or full-time virtual school quality, and annually provide feedback to the department of elementary and secondary education regarding course quality

Physiology Textbook

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Section 1. Physiology Textbook

Section 1.1. The school shall use a physiology textbook that contains at one or more chapters on dental hygiene.

Section 1.2. The chapter(s) on dental hygiene shall convey the proper knowledge to students on the care, function, and relation of the teeth to the general health.

Reading Assessment Policy

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. The School shall assess all students enrolled in kindergarten through grade three at the beginning and end of each school year for their level of reading or reading readiness on state-approved reading assessments. The School shall also assess any newly enrolled student in grades one through five.
2. At the beginning of the school year, the School shall provide a reading success plan to any student who:
 - Exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading which creates a barrier to the child's progress learning to read. The identification of such deficiency may be based upon the most recent assessments or teacher observation; or
 - Has been identified as being at risk of dyslexia in the statewide dyslexia screening or has a formal diagnosis of dyslexia.
3. The School shall provide annual written notification to the parent or guardian of any student in kindergarten through grade three who exhibits a substantial deficiency of the following:
 - That the student has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading;
 - A description of the services currently provided to the child; and
 - A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that the School will provide the student that are designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency. For any student who is identified as being at risk for dyslexia or has diagnosis of dyslexia, the School shall provide an explanation that the instruction that will be used to teach the child reading will be explicit, systematic, and diagnostic, and based on phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
4. [include if the school has a summer reading program] The School shall notify the parent or guardian of each student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading of the opportunity to attend the summer reading program.
5. If a student has a substantial reading deficiency at the end of third grade, the School shall convene a meeting with the appropriate staff and the student's parent or guardian to discuss whether the student should be retained in grade level. This decision shall be based on all relevant factors including:
 - The reading deficiency;
 - The student's progress in other subject areas; and
 - The student's overall intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development.

6. If a student is retained at the end of grade three, a specific plan of action shall be formulated to remedy the student's reading deficiency.
7. The reading success plan shall be provided as appropriate according to student need, free of charge, to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency, including scientific, evidence-based reading instruction and other strategies. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to:
 - Small group or individual instruction;
 - Reduced teacher-student ratios;
 - More frequent progress monitoring;
 - Tutoring or mentoring;
 - Extended school day, week, or year; and
 - Summer reading programs.
8. For any student with a formal diagnosis of dyslexia or for a student who was found to be at risk of dyslexia in the statewide dyslexia screening, the School shall provide evidence-based reading instruction that addresses phonology, sound-symbol association, syllable instruction, morphology, syntax, and semantics provided through systematic, cumulative, explicit, and diagnostic methods.
9. No less than four times a year, the School shall notify the parent or guardian of academic or other progress being made by the student. This notification shall include any other information the School wishes to provide the parent or guardian.
10. The School shall provide all parents and guardians with a plan that includes suggestions for regular parent or guardian-guided home reading.
11. The School shall provide intensive reading instruction to each kindergarten through grade five student who is assessed as exhibiting a substantial deficiency in reading. Such instruction shall also comply with the following criteria:
 - The assessment shall measure phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;
 - Be provided during regular school hours;
 - Provide a reading curriculum that meets the following requirements and specifications:
 - Assists students assessed as exhibiting a substantial deficiency in reading to develop the skills to read at grade level;
 - Provides skill development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;

Includes a scientifically based and reliable assessment;

Provides initial and ongoing analysis of each student's reading progress; and

Provides a curriculum in core academic subjects to assist the student in maintaining or meeting proficiency levels for the appropriate grade in all academic subjects.

12. The School will provide a report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding specific intensive reading interventions and supports the School implemented as well as the reading assessment data collected for grades kindergarten through five.

Reading Instruction Act

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. “Evidence-based reading instruction” includes practices that have been proven effective through evaluation of the outcomes for large numbers of students and are highly likely to be effective in improving reading if implemented with fidelity.
2. The School shall establish reading programs for kindergarten through grade five based in scientific research.
3. Such reading programs shall include the essential components of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
4. All new teachers who teach reading in kindergarten through grade five shall receive training in the areas required under the evidence based reading instruction program.

Reading Instruction Policy

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The School shall have reading programs in kindergarten through grade three based in scientific research. Such programs shall include the essential components of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, and all new teachers who teach reading in kindergarten through grade three shall receive adequate training in these areas.

The program may include "explicit systematic phonics", which, for the purposes of this section, shall mean the methodology of pronouncing and reading words by learning the phonetic sound association of individual letters, letter groups, and syllables, and the principles governing these associations.

Reading Success Plan

The Governing Board of Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis (GSA) adopts the following policy effective on that date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

1. The School shall adopt and have on file a policy for reading success plans.
2. The School shall provide all parents and guardians, including students who have a substantial deficiency in reading, with suggestions for regular parent-guided home reading.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Governing Board of GSA adopts the following policy effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The School does not have a general curriculum for students with disabilities. Instead, it is the policy of the School to develop an individualized educational program (IEP) for each public school student with a disability who needs special educational services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and an accommodation plan for students who are qualified only pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Each IEP is designed to meet the unique needs of the student and to offer a free appropriate public education. In addition, the School's IEPs will address the extent to which each student's disability affects his/her ability to access the School's general curriculum and what modifications, accommodations, and supplementary aids and services, if appropriate, are necessary to provide for such access. Each public school student with a disability will be educated to the maximum extent appropriate with children who are non-disabled. However, students with disabilities may be assigned to special classes, separate schooling or removed from the regular educational environment when the nature or severity of the student's disability is such that education in the regular educational environment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

The School will provide special education and/or other services to students with disabilities in accordance with applicable law, including the IDEA, and its amendments, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 162.670-.995, RSMo., and Missouri's State Plan for Part B.

If a student has had his/her curriculum substantially altered or modified pursuant to an IEP, 504 Plan, and/or in connection with a plan of homebound instruction so that the academic requirements (including but not limited to the requirements for achieving a specific letter or numerical grade) for one or more courses have been significantly reduced as compared to the regular course or courses, the IEP team or 504 team (or in the case of a student receiving homebound instruction who is not covered by an IEP or 504 Plan), the School Leader, Academic Dean, and classroom teacher(s) for such course(s) shall determine whether the student shall be included in the computation of class rank. Students who are not included in the class ranking shall still receive a cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) and shall be eligible for the honor roll.