



Amethod Public Schools

Special Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors

Published on March 22, 2025 at 10:49 PM PDT

Date and Time

Monday March 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM PDT

Location

1450 Marina Way South Richmond, CA 94804

The Board of Directors (Board) and employees of Amethod Public Schools will be holding this meeting in person at **1450 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804**.

Members of the public who wish to attend in person can join us in the Home Office's Board Room at 1450 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804. Or members of the public may meet via the Zoom meeting platform at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83187954557>

We also offer two-way teleconference locations for the public to attend in our Oakland school sites:

Oakland Charter High School- 2365 Coolidge Ave, Oakland, CA 94601

Downtown Charter Academy- 2000 Dennison St, Oakland, CA 94606

Oakland Charter Academy- 4215 Foothill Blvd, Oakland, CA 94601

Participating by Telephone: 669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 831 8795 4557

Public Comment: Members of the public attending in person who wish to comment on an agenda item please fill out a speaker card and submit it to a staff member. Members of the public who are joining via teleconference, please use raise hand tool in the reactions tab located at the bottom of the zoom screen or press star (*) nine if joining by telephone. The Board Chair will call on you. Please note that comments are limited to two minutes.

The Board Chair may increase or decrease the time allowed for public comment, depending upon the topic and number of persons wishing to be heard.

Access to Board Materials: A copy of the written materials which have been submitted to the School Board with the agenda relating to open session items may be reviewed by any interested persons on the Amethod Public School’s website at www.amethodschools.org following the posting of the agenda. Amethod reserves the right to show or distribute additional information and/or documents to the School Board at the meeting, and will make copies of such documents relating to open session items available to the public upon request.

Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting by calling (510) 436-0172. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	Opening Items		6:00 PM
A.	Call the Meeting to Order	Edgar Quiroz	2 m
B.	Record Attendance	Grace Barriga	2 m
C.	Announcements		2 m
D.	Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items		2 m
	Members of the public may comment here on non-agenda items that relate to one or more schools operated by Amethod Public Schools.		
II.	Consent		6:08 PM
A.	Approval of 3/13/2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes Edgar Quiroz	1 m
III.	Closed Session		6:09 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— ANTICIPATED LITIGATION	Discuss		45 m
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 (four cases)			
B. Public Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)	Discuss		45 m
<i>Title:</i> Chief Executive Officer			
IV. Business			7:39 PM
A. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook	Vote	Adrienne Barnes	5 m
Public comment			
B. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements	Vote	Kimberly Palmore	5 m
Public Comment			
C. Review and Consideration of Approval of the Updated Ascend HR Consulting Contract	Vote	Adrienne Barnes	5 m
D. Review and Consideration of Approval of Revised List of Authorized Account Signers	Vote	Adrienne Barnes	2 m
V. Closing Items			7:56 PM
A. Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Edgar Quiroz	1 m

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Coversheet

Approval of 3/13/2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Section: II. Consent
Item: A. Approval of 3/13/2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material:
Minutes for Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors on March 13, 2025

DRAFT



Amethod Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors

Date and Time

Thursday March 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

1450 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804

The Board of Directors (Board) and employees of Amethod Public Schools will be holding this meeting in person at **1450 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804**.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

Directors Present

E. Quiroz, J. Lerma, M. Moncada, P. Hanley

Directors Absent

E. Gallegos, G. Lopez Jr.

Guests Present

A. Barnes, D. Clark, G. Barriga, K. Palmore, M. Arechiga, M. Busby

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Record Attendance

C. Announcements

No Announcements

D. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

II. Consent

A. Approval of 2/25/2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

M. Moncada made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors on 02-25-25.

J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Moncada Aye
G. Lopez Jr. Absent
E. Gallegos Absent
E. Quiroz Aye
J. Lerma Aye

B. Review and Consideration of Approval of the Audit Firm Selection

M. Moncada made a motion to approve the selection of the independent audit firm for 25/26.

J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Hanley Aye
J. Lerma Aye
E. Quiroz Aye
G. Lopez Jr. Absent
M. Moncada Aye
E. Gallegos Absent

C. Review and Consideration of Approval of the February Check Register

M. Moncada made a motion to Approval of the February Check Register.

J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

G. Lopez Jr. Absent
M. Moncada Aye
E. Quiroz Aye
E. Gallegos Absent
J. Lerma Aye

III. Business

A. Nominating Committee: Nomination/Presentation

The Nominating Committee provided an update, stating that they conducted an interview with Peter Hanley regarding potential appointment to the AMPS Board.

B. Interview and Consideration of Approval of New Board Member

M. Moncada made a motion to Approval of New Board Member.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.

The Nominating Committee presented Peter Hanley for consideration as a new board member. The committee provided a summary of Mr. Hanley's qualifications and experience, noting his previous service on the AMPS Board, including through the JHHS renewal process, resulting in a total AMPS experience of approximately six and a half years. Additionally, the committee emphasized his twenty years of service with the San Mateo Union High School District. Mr. Hanley expressed his enthusiasm to contribute his experience to the board, particularly regarding upcoming renewals. The board was offered the opportunity to ask questions, but no questions were presented.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Quiroz Aye
G. Lopez Jr. Absent
J. Lerma Aye
E. Gallegos Absent
M. Moncada Aye

C. Review and Discussion of BoardOnTrack Needs Assessment

Edgar Quiroz, Board President, presented the 2024-2025 Board On Track Needs Assessment, utilizing a slideshow to guide the discussion. He outlined the "Steps of Excellence" framework, indicating that the AMPS Board is currently operating at Level 3, the intermediate level. He highlighted areas identified for growth, namely board structure, recruitment roadmap, development and fundraising, and education. Mr. Quiroz then detailed the action plan that has been developed in collaboration with Gina, Senior Governance Coach for the Board On Track Platform.

D. 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook

M. Moncada made a motion to Table 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook.

J. Lerma seconded the motion.

The 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook was tabled for review and discussion at the next meeting.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Gallegos Absent
M. Moncada Aye
J. Lerma Aye
G. Lopez Jr. Absent
E. Quiroz Aye
P. Hanley Aye

E. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan (OCA)

M. Moncada made a motion to Approve the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan (OCA).

J. Lerma seconded the motion.

Phillip Ellingberg, Director of Expanded Learning Programs, presented the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan for OCA, detailing the proposed budget breakdown. He highlighted the merit store, which serves as a student incentive program, and outlined the costs associated with elective courses. Edgar Quiroz noted that the projected expenditures for this year are lower than those of the previous year, a point that Mr. Ellingberg confirmed. Kimberly Palmore attributed this reduction to the increased number of participating schools, which effectively lowers the per-school allocation. Monica Moncada inquired about the qualifications of the instructors. Mr. Ellingberg responded that the school employs a vetting process to ensure instructors possess relevant experience. He acknowledged that while he is not an expert in instructor qualifications himself, he is confident in the school's selection process. Mary Busby, Chief Academic Officer (CAO), acknowledged the importance of instructor qualifications and stated that she will implement pre- and post-surveys to gather data and further evaluate instructor effectiveness.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Quiroz Aye
G. Lopez Jr. Absent
M. Moncada Aye
P. Hanley Abstain
J. Lerma Aye
E. Gallegos Absent

F. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan (DCA)

M. Moncada made a motion to Approve the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan (DCA).

J. Lerma seconded the motion.

Phillip Ellingberg presented the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan for DCA, outlining the proposed budget breakdown. Peter Hanley inquired about the nature of G1 funding. Dr. Ellingberg clarified that it is funding allocated for arts, music, and other elective programs. The allocated grant amount for the upcoming year is \$104,649. Metrics for the program were presented. The funding expenditure is focused on fostering a positive and safe school culture, tailored to the needs of the student demographics served. Monica Moncada questioned the inclusion of field trips. Dr. Ellingberg explained that field trips to museums or theater shows are planned, with destinations typically determined by site leaders in collaboration with students.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Hanley Abstain
E. Quiroz Aye
J. Lerma Aye
M. Moncada Aye
G. Lopez Jr. Absent
E. Gallegos Absent

G. Review and Consideration of Approval of the Reservation of right to leave the CharterSafe JPA as of July 1, 2025

M. Moncada made a motion to Approve the Reservation of right to leave the CharterSafe JPA as of July 1, 2025.

J. Lerma seconded the motion.

The board discussed the renewal of the CharterSafe Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement. It was clarified that while the AMPS Board will still submit its application to CharterSafe, this action includes reserving the right to withdraw from the JPA as of July 1, 2025, should a more favorable insurance or risk management option become available. This reservation allows the board to explore alternative providers and ensure AMPS secures the best possible deal.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Gallegos Absent
J. Lerma Aye
P. Hanley Aye
G. Lopez Jr. Absent
M. Moncada Aye
E. Quiroz Aye

H. Review and Consideration of Approval of Health & Welfare Benefits

M. Moncada made a motion to Approve the Health & Welfare Benefits.

J. Lerma seconded the motion.

Adrienne Barnes, CEO, reviewed the benefit renewal plans. She reported that both Kaiser and Sutter plans experienced increases: 21% for Kaiser and 4% for Sutter. Updated employee and dependent contribution rates were presented. Peter Hanley inquired about the cause of the significant Kaiser increase. Ms. Barnes explained that the increase was across the board.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

G. Lopez Jr. Absent
P. Hanley Abstain
J. Lerma Aye
E. Gallegos Absent
M. Moncada Aye
E. Quiroz Aye

I. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements

Edgar Quiroz clarified that the audit reports and financial statement presented were drafts and not the final copies. Kimberly Palmore presented the 2023-2024 draft audit. She reviewed the audit by Christy White, the independent audit firm, discussing revenue and expenses. Ms. Palmore reported that AMPS was found to be in compliance with

applicable regulations. She then covered the auditor's results, findings, and recommendations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Due to the findings, a plan will be developed to prevent recurrence. Ms. Palmore will present the final audit document at the next meeting. Adrienne Barnes informed the board that changes are already being implemented to address the findings. A tentative special meeting date was set for either Thursday, March 27th or Monday, March 24th. No vote was taken at this meeting.

J. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2025-26 School Calendar

J. Lerma made a motion to Approve the 2025-26 School Calendar.

P. Hanley seconded the motion.

Maria Arechiga, Chief of Strategy and Compliance, presented the proposed 2025-2026 school calendar. She explained the start and end dates, and detailed the scheduled days off and professional development days. Peter Hanley inquired about the summer school schedule, and Ms. Arechiga provided the relevant dates. She confirmed that the calendar reflects 180 instructional days.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Moncada Aye
E. Quiroz Aye
E. Gallegos Absent
J. Lerma Aye
P. Hanley Aye
G. Lopez Jr. Absent

K. Acting CEO Report

Adrienne Barnes, CEO, presented her report. She provided updates on the OCHS and RCA renewal dates. She expressed gratitude to Peter Hanley, Jorge Lerma, and Edgar Quiroz for their support during the OCHS renewal process. Regarding RCA, she noted that the initial public hearing has been repeatedly rescheduled, with the current date set for March 26th. She reported that the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for leadership has been implemented, and the CAP for governance is underway as the board expands to six members. The CAP for finance is progressing, with contracts being finalized and on track for implementation. Ms. Barnes provided several updates: the CCSA conference recently concluded, authorizer site visits are scheduled for BJE, DCA, and OCA, and spring break for all school sites will be from March 31st to April 4th.

IV. Closed Session

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

The board acknowledged the resignation of CEO Sylvia Flores, effective March 31, 2025. The board agreed to initiate the search process for a new CEO immediately.

B.

Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

No reportable actions.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Quiroz

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Coversheet

Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook

Section:	IV. Business
Item:	A. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	2425 Updated Employee Handbook_3.24.2025_CLEAN.pdf 2425 Updated Employee Handbook_3.24.2025_REDLINE.pdf

AMPS



HONOR HARD WORK

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION TO HANDBOOK

This Handbook is designed to help employees get acquainted with Amethod Public Schools (“AMPS”). It explains some of our philosophies and beliefs, and describes in general terms, some of our employment guidelines. Although this Handbook is not intended to be an exclusive or comprehensive policies and procedures manual, we hope that it will serve as a useful reference document for employees throughout their employment at AMPS. It is not intended to create any expectations of continued employment, or an employment contract, express or implied. In no way does the Handbook replace or modify any official plan documents (e.g., health insurance, retirement plan, etc.) or insurance contracts.

This Handbook supersedes any previously issued handbooks and any policies or other written or verbal statements that are inconsistent with the policies described herein. Employees must sign the acknowledgment form at the end of this Handbook and return it to Human Resources. It is important that all employees read, understand, and follow the provisions of the Handbook. If you need further information, or if you wish to discuss any policy in this Handbook, please feel free to contact your supervisor, Human Resources or the CEO.

AMPS reserves full discretion to add, change, amend, supplement, or delete provisions of this Handbook, or the policies and procedures on which they may be based, at any time without advance notice. No one other than the CEO or the Board of Directors has the authority to enter into any employment agreement or other agreement that modifies AMPS policy, the arbitration agreement, or the employee’s at-will employment with AMPS, and any such modification *must* be in writing and approved by the Board of Directors in writing.

Failure to comply with this handbook may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We believe diverse perspectives lead to stronger ideas, striking innovation, and effective practices, accelerating our progress toward our mission. AMPS prioritizes building diverse teams that reflect the experiences of our employees to ensure everyone shapes our approach. Additionally, we cultivate an inclusive environment and culture of belonging for our employees—a critical step in our pursuit of equity.

AMPS welcomes and reveres the spectrum of human diversity, and stands against bigotry, racism, sexism, heteronormativity, and other biases that seek to undermine the dignity of all people. The barriers our employees face are deeply entrenched in our society. Therefore, we regularly examine the impact of our policies, processes, and procedures and refine them to build a more equitable workplace.

How We Define Diversity: A wide range of intersecting identities, including people with different perspectives, abilities, and lived experiences. At AMPS, we value and seek the perspectives of people with proximity to our employees' identities and lived experiences.

How We Define Inclusion: A continuous effort to create an environment that reveres the spectrum of human diversity, where all employees feel a sense of belonging. At AMPS, we stand against all forms of bigotry—including racism, sexism, heteronormativity, and other biases that undermine human dignity.

How We Define Equity: A state wherein we disrupt the ways of bigotry, historic injustice, and systemic oppression manifest in our systems. At AMPS, we work to tailor our approach to achieve equity.

GENERAL POLICIES

A. *Equal Employment Opportunity (Discrimination)*

Covered Individuals

This policy protects all employees of AMPS as well as interns, volunteers, and potential employees (applicants). All employees of AMPS are required to abide by this policy, regardless of position or status, including supervisors, management, and co-workers.

Discrimination

As used in this policy, “discrimination” means taking any adverse employment action against an employee or applicant in any aspect of employment, solely or in part based on the individual’s protected category. Discrimination may include, but is not necessarily limited to, factoring an individual’s protected category in hiring, promotion, compensation, or other terms and conditions of employment unless otherwise permitted by law.

Adverse Employment Action

As used in this policy, “adverse employment action” may include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: demotion; suspension; reduction in pay; denial of a merit salary increase; failure to hire or consider for hire; refusal to promote or consider for promotion; denial of employment opportunities; change of an employee’s work assignments; failure to provide a workplace accommodation when required (i.e., disability, pregnancy, religion, transgender); failure to provide a leave of absence when required (i.e., medical, pregnancy, workers’ compensation, military, domestic violence); or any other unequal treatment based on the individual’s protected category resulting in an adverse employment action.

Protected Categories

AMPS’ policy prohibits discrimination based on race (which includes historically associated traits, such as hair styles and protective hairstyles, e.g., braids, locks, and twists), religious creed (which includes religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (which includes, but is not limited to, national origin groups and aspects of national origin, such as height, weight, accent, or language proficiency), ancestry, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), mental disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, marital status (including registered domestic partnership status), sex and gender (which includes reproductive health decision making, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), gender identity and gender expression (including transgender individuals who are transitioning, have transitioned, or are perceived to be transitioning to the gender with which they identify), sex stereotype (including an assumption about a person’s appearance or behavior, gender roles, gender expression, or gender identity, or about an individual’s ability or inability to perform certain kinds of work based on a myth, social expectation, or generalization about the individual’s sex), age (forty (40) and over), sexual orientation, military or veteran status (including state and federal active and reserve members as well as those ordered to duty or training), immigration/citizenship status or related protected activities (which includes undocumented individuals and human trafficking), protected medical leaves, domestic violence victim status, political affiliation, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations. These categories include a perception that the individual has any of these characteristics or is associated with a person who has (or is perceived to have) any of these characteristics.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination on the basis of “national origin” also includes discrimination

against an individual because that person holds or presents the California driver's license issued to those who cannot document their lawful presence in the United States, as well as discrimination based upon any of the following: an individual's or individual's ancestors' actual or perceived physical, cultural or linguistic characteristics associated with a national origin group; marriage to or association with individuals of a national origin group; tribal affiliation; membership in or association with an organization identified with or seeking to promote the interests of a national origin group; attendance or participation in schools, churches, temples, mosques or other religious institutions generally used by persons of a national origin group; or a name that is associated with a national origin group. An employee's or applicant for employment's immigration status will not be considered for any employment purpose except as necessary to comply with federal, state or local law.

AMPS allows employees to self-identify their gender, name and/or pronoun, including gender- neutral pronouns. AMPS will use an employee's gender or legal name as indicated on a government-issued identification document, only as necessary to meet an obligation mandated by law. Otherwise, AMPS will identify the employee in accordance with the employee's current gender identity and preferred name.

AMPS will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based upon these characteristics or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local law.

To comply with applicable laws ensuring equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the School will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee unless undue hardship would result.

Any applicant or employee who requires an accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of the job should contact a School representative with day-to-day personnel responsibilities and request such an accommodation. The individual with the disability should specify what accommodation he or she needs to perform the job, or if unknown, what job duties the disability impairs. AMPS will then conduct an investigation to identify the barriers that interfere with the equal opportunity of the applicant or employee to perform the job. AMPS will identify possible accommodations, if any, that will help eliminate the limitation. If the accommodation is reasonable and will not impose an undue hardship, the School will make the accommodation.

Scope of Policy

AMPS is an equal employment opportunity employer and is committed to complying with all applicable laws providing equal employment opportunities. As such, AMPS makes employment decisions, including, but not limited to, hiring, recruiting, firing, promotion, demotion, training, compensation, qualifications/job requirements, on the basis of merit and/or business necessity. Employment decisions are based on an individual's qualifications as they relate to the job under consideration pursuant to legitimate business purposes.

If you believe you have been subjected to, witnessed, or have knowledge about discrimination, please follow the complaint procedure outlined below.

B. Unlawful Harassment

Covered Individuals

This policy protects all employees of AMPS as well as interns, volunteers, independent contractors, and potential employees (applicants). All employees of AMPS are required to abide by this policy, regardless of position or status, including supervisors, management, and co-workers. In addition, this policy prohibits unlawful harassment by any third parties. AMPS will take all reasonable steps to prevent or eliminate

unlawful harassment by non-employees, including students, parents, and anyone else who has workplace contact with our employees.

Protected Categories

AMPS' policy prohibits harassment based on race (which includes historically associated traits, such as hair styles and protective hair styles, e.g., braids, locks, and twists), religious creed (which includes religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (which includes, but is not limited to, national origin groups and aspects of national origin, such as height, weight, accent, or language proficiency), ancestry, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), mental disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, marital status (including registered domestic partnership status), sex and gender (which includes reproductive health decision making, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), gender identity and gender expression (including transgender individuals who are transitioning, have transitioned, or are perceived to be transitioning to the gender with which they identify), sex stereotype (including an assumption about a person's appearance or behavior, gender roles, gender expression, or gender identity, or about an individual's ability or inability to perform certain kinds of work based on a myth, social expectation, or generalization about the individual's sex), age (forty (40) and over), sexual orientation, military or veteran status (including state and federal active and reserve members as well as those ordered to duty or training), immigration/citizenship status or related protected activities (which includes undocumented individuals and human trafficking), protected medical leaves, domestic violence victim status, political affiliation, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination on the basis of "national origin" also includes harassment against an individual because that person holds or presents the California driver's license issued to those who cannot document their lawful presence in the United States and based on any of the following: an individual's or individual's ancestors' actual or perceived physical, cultural or linguistic characteristics associated with a national origin group; marriage to or association with individuals of a national origin group; tribal affiliation; membership in or association with an organization identified with or seeking to promote the interests of a national origin group; attendance or participation in schools, churches, temples, mosques or other religious institutions generally used by persons of a national origin group; or a name that is associated with a national origin group. All such harassment is prohibited.

Unlawful Harassment

Prohibited unlawful harassment may include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following behavior pertaining to **any of the above protected categories**:

1. **Verbal conduct** such as flirting, epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, voicemails, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, sexually suggestive innuendos, conversations regarding sexual activities, invitations, or comments (including, but not limited to, threats of deportation against applicants and employees and family members of applicants and employees, derogatory comments about immigration status or disability, or mockery of an accent or a language or its speakers) ("hostile work environment" harassment).
2. Disrespectful or unprofessional conduct based on any of the protected categories listed above ("hostile work environment" harassment).
3. Comments or conduct that consistently target one gender, even if the content is not sexual ("hostile work environment" harassment).
4. **Visual conduct** such as derogatory and/or sexually oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings, gestures, text messages, social media, instant messages, e-mails, letters, pictures, or gifts ("hostile work environment" harassment).
5. **Physical conduct** such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movement, or

- interfering with work because of any protected basis ("hostile work environment" harassment).
6. Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition of continued employment or to avoid some other loss and offers of employment benefits in return for sexual favors ("quid pro quo" harassment).
7. **Sexual harassment** consists of sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of whether or not the conduct is motivated by sexual desire, when: (1) submission to the conduct is either made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) an employment decision is based upon an individual's acceptance or rejection of that conduct; and/or (3) that conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Abusive Conduct Prevention

AMPS does not condone and will not tolerate unlawful harassment or abusive conduct on the part of any employee (including supervisors and managers) or third party (including independent contractors or other persons with which the School does business). Examples of abusive conduct include repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of malicious, derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the intentional sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance.

Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all phases of employment, including, but not limited to, recruiting, testing, hiring, upgrading, promotion, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, rates of pay, benefits, and selection for training. In addition, this policy extends to conduct with a connection to an employee's work, even when the conduct takes place away from AMPS' premises, such as a business trip, School- related social function, or social media activity (depending on the circumstances).

If you believe you have been subjected to, witnessed, or have knowledge about unlawful harassment, please follow the complaint procedure outlined below.

Retaliation Covered Individuals

This policy protects all employees of AMPS as well as interns, volunteers, independent contractors, and potential employees (applicants). All employees of AMPS are required to abide by this policy, regardless of position or status, including supervisors, management, and co-workers.

As used in this policy, "retaliation" means taking any adverse employment action against an employee because he or she engaged in protected activity pursuant to this policy. Protected activity may include, but is not limited to, opposing a practice or conduct the employee reasonably believes to be unlawful; reporting or assisting in reporting suspected violations of AMPS' anti-discrimination, harassment, or retaliation policies; cooperating or participating in investigations or proceedings arising out of a violation of these policies; or engaging in any other activity protected by applicable law.

Adverse Employment Action

As used in this policy, "adverse employment action" means conduct or an action that materially affects the terms and conditions of the employee's employment status or is reasonably likely to deter the employee from engaging in further protected activity. Adverse employment actions may include, but are not limited to, the following: demotion; suspension; reduction in pay; denial of a merit salary increase; failure to hire or consider for hire; refusing to promote or consider for promotion because of reporting a violation of this policy; harassing another employee for filing a complaint; denying employment

opportunities because of making a complaint or for cooperating in an investigation; changing an employee's work assignments for identifying harassment or other forms of discrimination in the workplace; treating an employee differently such as denying an accommodation; not talking to an employee (the "cold shoulder") when otherwise required by job duties; or otherwise excluding the employee from job-related activities because of engagement in activities protected under this policy.

Any retaliatory adverse action because of protected activity may be unlawful and will not be tolerated. If you believe you have been subjected to, witnessed, or have knowledge about retaliation, please follow the complaint procedure outlined below.

Complaint Procedure—Discrimination, Unlawful Harassment, Retaliation

Duty to Report

All employees who believe they have been subjected to discrimination, unlawful harassment, and/or retaliation are strongly encouraged to promptly report the alleged violation(s) in accordance with the procedures set forth below. Supervisors and managers are required to report any complaints of unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in accordance with the procedures set forth below. Immediate reporting allows AMPS to quickly and fairly resolve any complaints in the workplace.

In addition to reporting, any employee who experiences or witnesses conduct that the individual believes is unlawful is encouraged to tell the offending individual that the behavior is inappropriate and must be stopped, if the employee is comfortable doing so.

Where to Report Complaint to AMPS

Submit a complaint to your supervisor, Human Resources (hrsupport@amethodschools.org), any other supervisor within AMPS, or the Board of Directors. There is no requirement to report your complaint to any designated supervisor within AMPS. Select the individual with whom you feel the most comfortable discussing your complaint. Do not report your complaint to any individual who has allegedly engaged in the inappropriate behavior that is the subject of your complaint.

Supervisors must report all conduct of which they are made aware, which violates, or may violate, policies regarding discrimination, unlawful harassment, or retaliation to the CEO, Human Resources Manager, Board of Directors, or other upper-level administrators, as appropriate. Supervisors who fail to report alleged violations may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Contents of Complaint

All complaints submitted pursuant to this policy can be done in writing or verbally. Your complaint should be specific and should include the names of the individuals involved, the names of any witnesses, and any supporting documentation. Employees may choose to submit their complaints anonymously. However, employees may be required to disclose their identity to AMPS in order for the School to sufficiently investigate the complaint. See **Appendix A** for the "Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliation Complaint Form." See **Appendix B** for the general "Internal Complaint Form."

Response to Complaint (Investigation)

Upon notice of conduct requiring an investigation, AMPS will investigate the facts and circumstances of the alleged violation, as appropriate. AMPS will attempt to resolve the situation by promptly undertaking an effective, thorough, and objective investigation through the use of qualified personnel and using methods that provide all parties with appropriate due process. AMPS' investigation methods will vary

depending on the nature of the complaint, the allegations, the witnesses, and other factors. All complaints will be handled as confidentially as possible and information will be disclosed only as it is necessary to complete the investigation and resolve the matter.

AMPS may investigate conduct in the absence of a formal complaint if AMPS has reason to believe that an individual has engaged in conduct that violates School policies or applicable law. Further, AMPS may continue its investigation even if the original complainant withdraws his or her complaint during the course of the investigation.

All employees are required to fully cooperate with AMPS' investigation, which includes, but is not limited to, providing all pertinent information in a truthful manner, submitting pertinent documents in their possession, not interfering with the investigation in any manner, and maintaining an appropriate level of confidentiality regarding the investigation. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

During the investigation, AMPS will provide regular progress updates, as appropriate, to those directly involved. AMPS will strive to complete its investigation as efficiently as possible and will reach any conclusions based on the evidence collected and credibility of the witnesses. At the completion of its investigation, AMPS will inform the complainant(s) and the accused of its findings and decisions to the extent permitted by applicable law.

No Retaliation

There will be no retaliation against any employee who brings a complaint in good faith or who honestly assists in investigating such a complaint, even if the investigation produces insufficient evidence that there has been a violation, or if the charges cannot be proven. Please refer to AMPS' Retaliation Policy above for further information.

How to Report Complaint to Government Agencies

Employees who believe that they have experienced unlawful conduct under these policies may also file a complaint with the local office of the California Civil Rights Department ("CRD") or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). The DFEH and the California Fair Employment and Housing Council ("FEHC") as well as the EEOC can also order an employer to hire, reinstate, or promote a victim of discrimination, unlawful harassment, and/or retaliation or make other changes in School policies. The address and phone number of the local CRD and EEOC offices can be found online or dialing 800-FREE-411.

Sexual Harassment Training Requirements

All supervisors of staff will receive two (2) hours of sexual harassment prevention training within six (6) months of hire or their assumption of a supervisory position and every two (2) years thereafter. All other employees will receive one (1) hour of sexual harassment prevention training within (6) months of hire and every two (2) years thereafter. Such training will address all legally required topics, including information about the negative effects that abusive conduct has on both the victim of the conduct and others in the workplace, as well as methods to prevent abusive conduct undertaken with malice a reasonable person would find hostile, offensive, and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interests. Abusive conduct includes but is not limited to repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance. Supervisors shall also be trained on how to appropriately respond when the supervisor becomes aware that an employee is the target of unlawful harassment. Other staff will receive sexual harassment prevention training as required by law.

C. Whistleblower Policy

AMPS requires its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers to observe high standards of ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities within the School. As representatives of the School, such individuals must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling all responsibilities and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of this policy is to create an ethical and open work environment, to ensure that the School has a governance and accountability structure that supports its mission, and to encourage and enable directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School to raise serious concerns about the occurrence of illegal or unethical actions within the School before turning to outside parties for resolution.

All directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School have a responsibility to report any action or suspected action taken within the School that is illegal, unethical or violates any adopted policy of the School, or local rule or regulation. Anyone reporting a violation must act in good faith, without malice to the School or any individual at the School and have reasonable grounds for believing that the information shared in the report indicates that a violation has occurred. A person who makes a report does not have to prove that a violation has occurred. However, any report which the reporter has made maliciously or any report which the reporter has good reason to believe is false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense. No one who in good faith reports a violation, or who, in good faith, cooperates in the investigation of a violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action. Further, no one who in good faith discloses, who may disclose, or who the School believes disclosed or may disclose, information regarding alleged violations to a person with authority over the employee or another employee who had responsibility for investigating, discovering or correcting the purported violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action.

D. Employment “At-Will”

It is the policy of AMPS that all employees are considered “*at-will*” employees of AMPS. Accordingly, either AMPS or the employee can terminate this employment relationship at any time, for any reason or no reason at all, with or without cause, and with or without advance notice. Similarly, your status (for example, position, duties, salary, promotions, demotions, etc.) may be changed at-will, with or without cause, and with or without notice at any time.

Nothing contained in this Handbook, employment applications, AMPS memoranda or other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment shall require AMPS to have “cause” to terminate an employee or otherwise restrict AMPS’ right to terminate an employee from his or her at-will employment with AMPS. Statements of specific grounds for termination set forth in this Handbook or elsewhere are not all-inclusive and are not intended to restrict AMPS’ right to terminate at-will.

No representative of AMPS, other than the Board of Directors, is authorized to modify this at-will employment policy for any employee or to make any representations to employees or applicants concerning the terms or conditions of employment with AMPS that are not consistent with AMPS’ policy regarding “at-will” employment. Any agreement that alters the “at-will” nature of employment must be approved by the Board of Directors and must be in writing and signed by the Board of Directors, and the affected employee. This policy shall not be modified by any statements contained in this Handbook or employee applications, School memoranda or other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment. Further, none of those documents whether singly or combined, or any employment practices shall create neither an express or implied contract of employment for a definite period, nor an express or implied contract concerning any terms or conditions of employment.

E. Eligibility for Employment

Immigration Compliance

AMPS will comply with applicable immigration law, including the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and the Immigration Act of 1990. As a condition of employment, every individual must provide satisfactory evidence of his or her identity and legal authority to work in the United States. However, AMPS will not check the employment authorization status of current employees or applicants who were not offered positions with the School unless required to do so by law.

The School shall not discharge an employee or in any manner discriminate, retaliate, or take any adverse action (e.g., threatening to report the suspected citizenship or immigration status of an employee or a member of the employee's family) against any employee or applicant for employment because the employee or applicant exercised a right protected under applicable law. Further, the School shall not discriminate against any individual because he or she holds or presents a driver's license issued per Vehicle Code § 12801.9 to persons who have not established their federally-authorized presence in the United States. Finally, in compliance with the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, the School shall not allow a federal immigration enforcement agent to enter any nonpublic areas of the School without a judicial warrant, or voluntarily give consent to an agent to access, review or obtain employee records without a subpoena or judicial warrant. If a search of employee records is authorized by a valid subpoena or judicial warrant, the School will give employees notice of the inspection both before and after it has occurred as required by law.

Certification

AMPS' teachers are required to hold a current California Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in public schools would be required to hold by law. If you are a credentialed staff member, you must provide copies of your credential, certificate of clearance, transcripts, and test scores prior to your first day of actual work and if already employed, prior to the start of the academic year if applicable. Failure to provide these documents may delay your ability to begin or or continue working at AMPS.

Tuberculosis Testing

No person shall be employed by AMPS unless he or she provides proof of having submitted to a tuberculosis (TB) risk assessment within the past 60 days and that no risk factors have been identified. If TB risk factors are identified, or as an alternative to the assessment, the applicant must submit proof that a qualified professional has determined he or she is free of infectious TB following testing and examination. The examination, if required, shall consist of an approved intra-dermal tuberculin test that, if positive, shall be followed by an X-ray of the lungs. Each employee shall provide the School with a certificate from a qualified professional showing the employee was assessed or examined and found free of risk factors or of infectious TB (as applicable). A person who transfers employment from another school can meet these requirements by providing a certificate from a qualified professional, or a verification form from the prior school employer, that shows he or she was found to be free of infectious TB within 60 days of initial hire.

An employee who has no identified risk factors or who tests negative for TB shall undergo the TB risk assessment and, if risk factors are identified, the examination, at least once every four years or more often if recommended by the local health officer.

The risk assessment, and examination if necessary, is a condition of initial employment, and the expense incident thereto shall be borne by the applicant. AMPS shall reimburse current employees for the cost, if any, of the tuberculosis risk assessment and the examination.

Food handlers may be required to have annual TB exams. Documentation of employee and volunteer compliance with TB risk assessments and examinations will be kept on file in the office. This requirement also includes contract food handlers, substitute teachers, and student teachers serving under the

supervision of an educator. Any entity providing student services to the School will be contractually required to ensure that all contract workers have had TB testing that shows them to be free of active TB prior to conducting work with School students.

Criminal Background Checks

As required by law, all individuals working or volunteering at the School will be required to submit to a criminal background investigation. No condition or activity will be permitted that may compromise the School's commitment to the safety and the well-being of students taking precedence over all other considerations. Conditions that preclude working at the School include conviction of a controlled substance or sex offense, or a serious or violent felony. Additionally, should an employee be arrested for, charged with, or convicted of any offense during his/her employment with the School, the employee must immediately report as much to the CEO.

F. Employment Classifications

For purposes of salary administration and eligibility for overtime payments and employee benefits, AMPS classifies its employees as defined below. Please direct any questions you may have regarding your employment classification or status to Human Resources or your direct supervisor.

Non-exempt Employees

Non-exempt employees are entitled to overtime pay in accordance with federal and state law. Non-exempt employees are required to take meal periods and are authorized and permitted to take rest periods in the manner described in this Handbook. Non-exempt employees may be scheduled for full-time or part-time shifts, as assigned by his or her supervisor or the CEO.

Employees who are classified as non-exempt must accurately record the time they work each day, including arrival, departure, and meal breaks.

When employees receive their paychecks, they should verify immediately that their working time was recorded accurately and that they were paid correctly for all hours worked.

Non-exempt employees are prohibited from working any time that is not authorized by their supervisors. This means non-exempt employees must not start work early, finish work late, work during a meal break, or perform any other extra or overtime work unless directed to do so. Employees who have questions about when or how many hours they are expected to work should contact their supervisor or Human Resources.

It is a violation of AMPS' policy for anyone to instruct or encourage another employee to work "off the clock," to incorrectly report hours worked, or to alter another employee's time records. If any employee is directed or encouraged to incorrectly report hours worked, or to alter another employee's time records, they should report the incident immediately to a supervisor.

Exempt Employees

AMPS may choose to designate as exempt an employee whose job duties and salary qualify for exemption under applicable law. Exempt employees are not eligible to receive overtime pay.

Employees who are classified as exempt must record absences from work for reasons such as leaves of absence, sick leave, or vacation.

Exempt employees are paid on a salary basis. This means the employee regularly receives a predetermined amount of compensation each pay period, which cannot be reduced because of variations in the quality or quantity of the employee's work. In general, an exempt employee will receive their salary for any week in which the employee performs any work, regardless of the number of days or hours worked. However, the School may make a deduction from an exempt employee's pay as permitted by law, including in the following circumstances:

1. When an exempt employee takes one or more full days off for personal reasons other than sickness or disability, the employee will not be paid for such day(s) of absence, but the employee may use available vacation to make up for the reduction in salary;
2. When an exempt employee takes one or more full days off from work due to sickness or disability, the employee will not be paid for such day(s) of absence, but the employee may use available sick time to make up for the reduction in salary;
3. When an exempt employee works only part of the week during their first and last week with AMPS, the employee will be paid only for the days actually worked; and
4. When an exempt employee takes unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act or corresponding laws, AMPS will not pay for such days/hours of absence.

AMPS may require an exempt employee to use available vacation or sick time, as a replacement for salary, when the employee takes less than a full-day off from work.

An exempt employee's salary will not be reduced when the employee works part of a week and misses part of a week due to service as a juror, witness or in the military or for lack of work, though deductions may be made to offset amounts an employee receives as jury or witness fees, or for military pay.

It is School policy to comply with the salary basis requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and applicable state law. AMPS prohibits any deductions from pay that violate the FLSA or applicable state law.

If an exempt employee believes that an improper deduction has been made to their salary, the employee should immediately report this information to Human Resources or a supervisor. Reports of improper deductions will be promptly investigated. If it is determined that an improper deduction has occurred, the employee will be promptly reimbursed for any improper deduction made.

G. *Employment Status*

Regular Full-time Employees

Employees who work 30 hours or more per workweek on a regular basis. Such employees may be "exempt" or "nonexempt" and are eligible for employee benefits as described in this Handbook as well as those benefits required by law.

Regular Part-time Employees

Employees who work fewer than 30 hours per workweek on a regular basis. Part-time employees may be assigned a work schedule in advance or may work on an as-needed basis. Such employees may be "exempt" or "nonexempt". Part-time employees are not eligible for benefits except as required by law.

Temporary/Seasonal/Intern Employees

Temporary employees are those employed on a temporary basis for short-term assignments. Short-term assignments will generally be periods of three months or less; however, such assignments may be

extended. Temporary employees are not eligible for any benefits except where mandated by law. A temporary employee may be offered and may accept a new temporary assignment with AMPS and still retain temporary status.

Individuals assigned by temporary employment agencies are employees of the agency and not of AMPS.

H. Job Duties

Your supervisor(s) will explain your job responsibilities. Be aware that your job responsibilities may change at any time during your employment. From time to time, you may be asked to work on special projects or to assist with other work necessary or important to the operation of your department or AMPS. Your cooperation and assistance in performing such additional work is expected. AMPS reserves the right, at any time, with or without notice, to alter or change job responsibilities, reassign or transfer job positions or assign additional job responsibilities.

I. Work Location

At the time an employee is hired, the employee is usually assigned to a work location. Some employees may be assigned to permanent remote work. However, even employees who are permanently remote do have a location that is their home base. Employees, including those assigned to a permanent location as well as those working remotely, are not permitted to complete their job duties outside of the state, or country, where they are assigned to work, without prior management authorization. AMPS reserves the right in its sole discretion to prohibit out-of-state work due to business necessity or for any other business reason. Work outside the state where an employee is hired to work has payroll tax, business license, benefit and legal compliance implications. Failure to receive advanced permission to work from another state, or country, may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

J. Open Door Policy

At some time or another, you may have a suggestion, complaint, or question about AMPS, your job, your working conditions, or the treatment you are receiving. We welcome your suggestions, complaints, or questions. For issues other than prohibited harassment, discrimination, or retaliation, we ask that you take your concerns first to your supervisor, who will investigate and provide a solution or explanation. If the problem is still not resolved, you may present it to Human Resources, preferably in writing, who will address your concerns.

K. Workplace Anti-Violence Policy

AMPS recognizes that violence in the workplace is a growing nationwide problem necessitating a firm, considered response. The costs of such violence are great, both in human and financial terms. We believe that the safety and security of employees and students is paramount. Therefore, AMPS has adopted this Zero Tolerance Policy regarding workplace violence to help maintain a secure workplace.

Acts or threats of physical violence, including intimidation, harassment, and/or coercion, that involve or affect AMPS, occur on School property, or occur in the conduct of School business off property will not be tolerated. This prohibition against threats and acts of violence applies to all persons involved in School operations, including, but not limited to, School students, parents, employees, independent contractors, temporary employees, vendors and anyone else on School property or conducting School business off property. Violations of this policy, by any individual, may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination and/or legal action as appropriate.

Employees must always ensure that all visitors have signed in the visitor log and are wearing appropriate

visitor tags/badges. Suspicious persons or activities must be reported to Human Resources. Employees must secure their desk or office at the end of the day.

Workplace Violence Defined

Workplace violence includes, but is not limited to, threats of any kind; threatening, physically aggressive, or violent behavior, such as intimidation or attempts to instill fear in others; other behavior that suggests a propensity toward violence, including belligerent speech, excessive arguing or swearing, sabotage, threats of sabotage of School property; defacing School property or causing physical damage to the School's facilities; and bringing weapons or firearms of any kind on School premises or while conducting School business.

Weapons Prohibited in the Workplace

AMPS strictly prohibits employees, or any person providing services to AMPS, visiting AMPS, or located on AMPS' premises from possessing weapons of any kind at the workplace. The workplace includes any property owned or leased by AMPS or occupied by groups of School employees or persons providing services to AMPS. Unless such prohibition is contrary to local law, this specifically includes School parking areas and School vehicles. Employees are not permitted to transport or store weapons in vehicles owned or leased by AMPS and used by the employee for work purposes, unless the employee is required to transport or store a weapon as part of the employee's duties, and s/he has written permission from AMPS' CEO. This policy prohibits the possession of concealed weapons as well as weapons carried openly, regardless of whether the person has a legal permit to carry a weapon.

The prohibition explicitly includes guns, rifles and firearms of any type, including those for which the holder has a legal permit. Other examples of prohibited weapons include, but are not limited to, knives, ammunition, bombs, bows and arrows, clubs, slingshot, black jack, metal knuckles and similar devices that by their design or intended use are capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or lethal force.

Former Employees Prohibited on Premises

Due to safety concerns, an employee who is no longer employed by AMPS may not enter the workplace or be on School premises at any time, absent a legal reason or permission from the School to do so. Therefore, no employee should hold doors open for former employees, or otherwise admit former employees into the workplace. Further, if an employee sees a former employee on School premises or is contacted by a former employee seeking access to AMPS' premises without a legal reason for doing so, the employee must immediately alert Human Resources, the CEO, or any other member of AMPS' management team.

If an employee who no longer is employed by AMPS would like to visit, that person must first contact the Human Resources Department and request written permission to visit. A visit can be scheduled only if advance written permission is obtained. If written permission is granted, the former employee must, upon arrival to AMPS' premises on the scheduled date/time, report to the reception area, be greeted by the current employee s/he is visiting and be escorted at all times while on School premises.

Searches and Inspections

An investigation into a report or threat of workplace violence may require, with or without notice, an inspection of an employee's work area and/or personal property located in the workplace, including without limitation a vehicle. As a condition of continued employment, all employees are expected to fully cooperate in any lawful inspection required as a result of a report or threat of workplace violence. Failure to cooperate with AMPS' investigation of a report or threat of workplace violence may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Enforcement/Complaint Procedure

Any person who violates this policy on School property may be removed from the premises as quickly and safely as possible, at AMPS' discretion, and may be required to remain off School premises pending the outcome of an investigation of the incident.

If any employee observes or becomes aware of any of the above-listed actions or behavior by an employee, student, parent, visitor, or anyone else, he or she must immediately notify his or her supervisor, Human Resources, or the Site Director. Furthermore, employees should notify Human Resources or the Site Director if any restraining order is in effect or if a potentially violent non-work-related situation exists that could result in violence in the workplace.

All reports of workplace violence will be taken seriously and will be investigated promptly and thoroughly. In appropriate circumstances, AMPS will inform the reporting individual of the results of the investigation. To the extent feasible, AMPS will maintain the confidentiality of the reporting employee. However, AMPS may need to disclose information in appropriate circumstances (for example, in order to protect individual safety). AMPS will not tolerate retaliation against any employee who in good faith reports workplace violence.

If AMPS determines that workplace violence has occurred, AMPS will take appropriate corrective action and may impose disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

In certain circumstances, AMPS may seek a workplace violence restraining order on behalf of one or more employees in furtherance of its commitment to providing a workplace that is free from acts of violence or threats of violence.

WAGES, ATTENDANCE, TIMEKEEPING AND RELATED PRACTICES

A. *Payment of Wages*

Employees are paid on an established payroll schedule that will be provided by AMPS. If a regular payday falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, employees will generally be paid on the previous business day and if not, then the following business day. Paychecks are normally available by 12:00 p.m. and must be picked up from your supervisor or designee, unless you have authorized direct payroll deposit. If employees observe an error on their check, employees must report it immediately to Payroll support at prsupport@amethodschools.org.

Employees may also have deductions made to their paychecks when a wage overpayment occurs. The School may require the employee to reimburse an overpayment through a mutually agreeable method, including through cash repayment or a deduction of the employee's payroll check, among other options. An employee who is separated from employment before full repayment of the overpayment amount shall have any remaining amounts withheld from their final check. The School also reserves the right to exercise any and all other legal means to recover any additional amounts owed. The School shall provide employees with advance written notice of the deduction prior to the pay period where it will go into effect.

Every deduction from an employee's paycheck is explained on the check voucher. If an employee does not understand the deductions, he or she should ask the Payroll Team at prsupport@amethodschools.org to explain them.

Employees may change the number of withholding allowances claimed for Federal Income Tax purposes at any time by updating their W-4 form in Paylocity.

All Federal, State, and Social Security taxes will be automatically deducted from paychecks. Federal Withholding Tax deduction is determined by the employee's W-4 form. The W-4 form should be completed upon hire and it is the employee's responsibility to report any changes in filing status to the Payroll Team at prsupport@amethodschools.org and to update their W-4 form in Paylocity.

At the end of the calendar year, a "withholding statement" (W-2) will be prepared and forwarded to each employee for use in connection with preparation of income tax returns. The W-2 shows Social Security information, taxes withheld and total wages.

B. *Overtime Pay*

AMPS provides compensation for all overtime hours worked by non-exempt employees in accordance with state and federal law as follows:

For employees subject to overtime, all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday or forty (40) hours in one workweek shall be treated as overtime. Compensation for hours in excess of forty (40) for the workweek or in excess of eight (8) and not more than twelve (12) for the workday, and for the first eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day in one workweek, shall be paid at a rate of one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Compensation for hours in excess of twelve (12) in one workday and an excess of eight (8) on the seventh consecutive workday of the workweek shall be paid at double the regular rate of pay.

When operating requirements or other needs cannot be met during regular working hours, nonexempt employees may be required to work overtime. Overtime pay is based on actual hours worked. All overtime work must be authorized in advance by the Site Director or immediate supervisor. Failure to obtain such approval may subject an employee to discipline, up to and including termination. No overtime

compensation will be paid to exempt employees. Failure to work scheduled overtime, or working overtime without prior authorization from management may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. The School will never ask an employee to work off the clock. All non-exempt employees are to be paid for all hours worked. If you are asked to work off the clock, or if you are asked by anyone not to record your time working, you must notify Human Resources immediately.

C. *Expense Reimbursement*

Employees will be reimbursed for reasonable business expenses incurred while performing their duties or attending pre-approved workshops or other employment-related functions in accordance with AMPS' policy on expense reimbursements. Please follow the procedure set forth in the Finance and Operations Manual to submit expense requests for approval.

D. *Attendance and Tardiness*

All employees, whether exempt or non-exempt, are expected to arrive at work consistently, on time and prepared to start work. Absenteeism and tardiness negatively affects AMPS' ability to implement its educational program and disrupts consistency in students' learning.

You are expected to notify your direct supervisor at least two (2) hours prior to the start of your scheduled time. In the event of an unforeseen emergency where you are unable to do so, please notify them as soon as possible. Because voicemail messages may go unheard for significant periods of time, leaving a voice mail message is not a sufficient method of notification—you must personally contact your supervisor or the Site Director in a timely manner. If you are unable to reach your supervisor or the Site Director by phone, you may send an email and/or text message, but you must attempt to reach the appropriate parties by phone call first. If you are required to leave work early, you must also personally contact your supervisor or the Site Director and obtain their permission. Employees are not allowed to relay messages to the direct supervisor or the Site Director through co-workers that they will be absent or tardy. If you are absent from work longer than one day, you are expected to keep your supervisor sufficiently informed of your situation and when you will return to work. You must get approval from your direct supervisor for any planned absences. Under certain circumstances, AMPS may require documentation from a healthcare provider verifying your need to be absent from work due to illness or other medical reasons if such absence lasts three (3) or more consecutive work days.

Employees also are expected to remain at work for their entire work schedule, except for meal and rest periods when appropriate, when required to leave on authorized School business, or when otherwise permitted by AMPS. Late arrival, early departure, or other absences from scheduled hours are disruptive and must be avoided. Employees also must inform their supervisor of the expected duration of any absence. Excessive or unexcused absences or tardiness may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination from employment with AMPS to the extent authorized by law.

Absences protected by local, state and federal law, including paid sick time, do not count as a violation of the punctuality and attendance policy. Except as otherwise provided by law, if you fail to report for work without any notification to your supervisor and your absence continues for a period of three (3) consecutively scheduled workdays, AMPS will consider that you have abandoned your employment and your employment will be terminated.

E. *School Social Activities*

Employees may attend school-sponsored events not required by their job duties on a voluntary basis unless otherwise directed by AMPS. An employee's attendance at such social and recreational activities is completely voluntary and at the employee's own risk and AMPS disclaims any and all liability arising out of the employee's participation in these activities. Because an employee who chooses to attend

school events is doing so on a voluntary basis, such participation will not be compensated by AMPS.

F. Timekeeping Requirements

It is AMPS' policy to pay its employees for all time worked. Accordingly, it is every nonexempt employee's responsibility to accurately record time worked, and to examine his or her paycheck and wage statement to ensure that he or she is being properly paid for all work time and that the paycheck and wage statement are accurate. If an employee believes he or she is not being properly paid for all of his or her work, the employee must immediately inform Human Resources.

Federal and state laws require the School to keep an accurate record of time worked in order to calculate employee pay and benefits. Time worked is all the time actually spent on the job performing assigned duties. To ensure compliance with all applicable laws, non-exempt employees must accurately record all hours worked using AMPS' timekeeping system. This means they must clock in and out whenever they begin, cease, or resume working during the course of a workday. Employees must clock out and in for their meal periods, but are not required to clock out and in for rest periods. Under no circumstances may one employee clock in or out for another employee. Exempt employees may also be expected to record their total time worked and report absences from work due to personal needs or illness.

Employees are prohibited from doing the following:

1. Recording inaccurate hours worked.
2. Recording hours worked on behalf of another employee.
3. Working "off the clock." This includes, but is not limited to, working before or after a shift without recording that time or conducting School business on personal cell phones after hours. Employees are prohibited from using their personal cell phones to conduct School business.
4. Failing to record all hours worked.
5. Falsifying any time record.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

G. Work Schedules

Your work schedule depends, first, on the AMPS site where you are located. AMPS Schools are generally open for business between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Your supervisor will assign your individual work schedule. All employees are expected to be at their classrooms or workstations at the start of their scheduled shifts, ready to work. For purposes of calculating overtime, the workweek begins at 12:01 a.m. Monday and ends at midnight on Sunday. AMPS' standard workday is 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight) each day. AMPS reserves the right to change work schedules and assign employees to special schedules as deemed necessary for effective operations. When a change in work schedule is necessary, every effort will be made to provide reasonable advance notice to the employees. Any request to change work hours must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor.

H. Rest Breaks and Meal Breaks

Nonexempt employees working at least five (5) hours are provided with a thirty (30) minute meal period, to be taken approximately in the middle of the workday but by no later than the end of the 5th hour of work. An employee may waive this meal period if the day's work will be completed in no more than six (6) hours, provided the employee and AMPS mutually consent to the waiver in writing.

Nonexempt employees are also provided with a ten (10) minute rest period for every four (4) hours worked

which should be scheduled towards the middle of the four (4) hour work period as practicable. Employees are prohibited from combining meal and rest period time.

An employee's supervisor must be aware of and approve scheduled meal and rest periods. Employees must immediately inform their supervisor if they are prevented from taking their meal and/or rest periods. Employees are expected to observe assigned working hours and the time allowed for meal and rest periods.

Any employee who misses a meal or rest period or who experiences a late, short, or interrupted meal period—for any reason—must immediately report this issue to his or her supervisor and HR. Any supervisor who knows or should reasonably know that a meal or rest period was not provided in accordance with this Policy should notify Payroll at prsupport@amethodschools.org to arrange for a premium to issue to the employee.

If an employee voluntarily chooses to miss a meal or rest period or take a late, short, or interrupted meal period (e.g., I chose to take my lunch later in the day or I chose to refuse an "authorized" meal period at the time provided by AMPS), the employee is not entitled to premium pay (one additional hour of pay). If an employee involuntarily experiences a missed meal or rest period or a late, short, or interrupted meal period (e.g., my supervisor asked me to handle a client call or meeting that caused me to miss or take a late meal period), the employee is entitled to premium pay. Employees must report the reason for the non-compliant meal or rest period on the Daily Meal Period and Rest Period Form.

Responsibilities

Non-exempt employees are required to take their meal and rest periods in accordance with this policy. If you encounter any challenges with taking meal or rest periods in accordance with this policy, please immediately contact your supervisor or Human Resources.

Discipline

Failure to comply with AMPS' policy regarding meal and/or rest periods can lead to discipline, up to and including termination.

I. Lactation Breaks

AMPS supports the needs of nursing mothers in the workplace and will comply with applicable law. AMPS encourages employees and management to have a positive, accepting attitude toward working women and breastfeeding. AMPS supports breastfeeding and the expression of breast milk by employees who are breastfeeding when they return to work.

AMPS will provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate an employee desiring to express breast milk for the employee's infant child each time the employee has need to express milk. If possible, the lactation break time should run concurrently with scheduled meal and rest breaks already provided to the employee. If the lactation break time cannot run concurrently with meal and rest breaks already provided or additional time is needed, the lactation break time will be unpaid for non-exempt employees.

A private location to express breast milk will be provided in close proximity to the employee's work area. The employee's normal work area may be used if it allows the employee to express milk in private. In certain circumstances, a temporary location, multipurpose room, or shared space may be provided in accordance with applicable law. The location will also meet the following requirements: not be a bathroom; be free from intrusion; be shielded from view; be safe, clean, and free of hazardous materials; contain a surface to place a breast pump and personal items; contain a place to sit; and have access to

electricity or alternative devices, including, but not limited to, extension cords or charging stations, needed to operate an electric or battery-powered breast pump. In addition, AMPS shall provide access to a sink with running water and a refrigerator suitable for storing milk in close proximity to the employee's work area. If a refrigerator cannot be provided, AMPS may provide another cooling device suitable for storing milk, such as a School-provided cooler. To request the above, please contact Human Resources.

If any employee believes that he or she has experienced retaliation or discrimination as a result of conduct protected by this policy, the employee may file a complaint with his or her supervisor and/or the Labor Commissioner's Office. For more information, contact the Labor Commissioner's Office or visit a local office by finding the nearest one on our website: www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/DistrictOffices.htm. The Labor Commissioner's Office provides an interpreter at no cost to the employee, if needed.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

A. ***Professional Boundaries: Staff/Student Interaction Policy***

Amethod Public Schools (“AMPS” or “Charter School”) recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing student and employee behavior to bring about the safest and most learning conducive environment possible.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student.

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee’s use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to property.

For clarification purposes, the following examples are offered for direction and guidance of School personnel:

A. Examples of PERMITTED actions (NOT corporal punishment)

1. Stopping a student from fighting with another student;
2. Preventing a pupil from committing an act of vandalism;
3. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a student;
4. Forcing a pupil to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
5. Requiring an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
6. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.

B. Examples of PROHIBITED actions (corporal punishment)

1. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a student as a means of control;
2. Making unruly students do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
3. Paddling, swatting slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Staff/Student Behavior

This policy is intended to guide all School faculty and staff in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees and to specify the boundaries between students and staff.

Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member’s obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, students, colleagues, or school leaders. One viable standard that can be quickly applied, when you are unsure if certain conduct is acceptable, is to ask yourself, “Would I be engaged in this conduct if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?”

For the purposes of this policy, the term “boundaries” is defined as acceptable professional behavior by

staff members while interacting with a student. Trespassing the boundaries of a student/teacher relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a student or parent point of view. The objective of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and students, but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff must understand their own responsibility for ensuring that they do not cross the boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established boundaries will be considered irrelevant for disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is crucial that all employees learn this policy thoroughly and apply the lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors to their daily activities. Although sincere, competent interaction with students certainly fosters learning, student/staff interactions must have boundaries surrounding potential activities, locations and intentions.

Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct

When any employee reasonably suspects or believes that another staff member may have crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must immediately report the matter to a school administrator. All reports shall be as confidential as possible under the circumstances. It is the duty of the administrator to investigate and thoroughly report the situation. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness or concern of student behavior that crosses boundaries or where a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

Examples of Specific Behaviors

The following examples are not an exhaustive list:

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)

- A. Giving gifts to an individual student that are of a personal and intimate nature.
- B. Kissing of any kind.
- C. Any type of sexual contact
- D. Massage (Note: massages are prohibited in athletics unless provided by massage therapist or other certified professional in an open public location. Coaches may not perform massage or rub-down.
- E. Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a student in a private situation.
- F. Full frontal or rear hugs and lengthy embraces
- G. Sitting students on one's lap
- H. Wrestling with students or other staff member except in the context of a formal wrestling program
- I. Tickling or piggyback rides
- J. Intentionally being alone with a student away from the school.
- K. Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.
- L. Sexual jokes or jokes/comments with sexual double entendre.
- M. Seeking emotional involvement with a student for your benefit.
- N. Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented.
- O. Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a student in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- P. Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.
- Q. Furnishing alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs or failing to report knowledge of such
- R. "Dating" or "going out with" a student

- S. Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone. This includes comments such as "Looking fine!" or "Check out that [body part]."
- T. Being alone in a room with a student at school with the door closed.
- U. Taking photographs or videos of students for personal use or posting online
- V. Leaving campus alone with a student for lunch
- W. Undressing in front of a student
- X. Sharing a bed, mat, or sleeping bag with a student
- Y. Using profanity with or to a student
- Z. Being "friends" with a student on any personal or non-School social media website
- AA. Engaging in inappropriate and/or unprofessional communications with students on School social media
- BB. Communicating with students or parents/guardians in violation of the School's Social Media Policy
- CC. Excessive attention toward a particular student.
- DD. Being alone in a room with a student at school with the door closed.
- EE. Involving students in non-educational or non-school related issues, including, but not limited to, the employee's employment issues

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission

These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has parent and supervisor permission.

- A. Giving students a ride to/from school or school activities.
- B. Allowing students in your home without signed parent permission for a preplanned and precommunicated educational activity that must include the presence of another educator, parent, or other responsible adult.

Cautionary Staff/Student Behaviors

These behaviors should only be exercised when a reasonable and prudent person, acting as an educator, is prevented from using a better practice or behavior. Staff members should inform their supervisor of the circumstance and occurrence prior to or immediately after the occurrence.

- A. Sending emails, text messages or letters to students if the content is not about school activities.

Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Student Behaviors

- A. Getting parents' written consent for any after-school activity.
- B. Obtaining formal approval from the Charter School and parents/guardians to take students off school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- C. Emails, text, phone and social media messages or letters to students must be very professional and pertaining to school activities or classes (Communication should be limited to school technology and in alignment with the Charter School's Social Media Policy).
- D. Keeping the door open when alone with a student.
- E. Keeping reasonable space between you and your students.
- F. Stopping and correcting students if they cross your own personal boundaries.
- G. Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a student.
- H. Keeping after-class discussions with a student professional and brief.
- I. Asking for advice from fellow staff or administrators such as Human Resources or the CEO) if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
- J. Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the student.
- K. Informing the Principal about situations that have the potential to become more severe.

- L. Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- M. Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students or coworkers.
- N. Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any type of special needs student.
- O. Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a student after regular school hours.
- P. Giving students praise and recognition without touching them.
- Q. Pats on the back, high fives and handshakes are acceptable.
- R. Keeping your professional conduct a high priority.
- S. Asking yourself if any of your actions that are contrary to this policy are worth you sacrificing your job, your career, and the reputation of the Charter School.

This policy does not prevent: 1) touching a student for the purpose of guiding them along a physical path; 2) helping them up after a fall; or 3) engaging in a rescue or the application of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation ("CPR") or other emergency first-aid. Nor does it prohibit the use of reasonable force and touching in self-defense or in the defense of another. Restraining a child who is trying to engage in violent or inappropriate behavior is also allowed. Only such force as necessary to defend one's self, another person, or the child or to protect property is legally permitted. Excessive force is prohibited.

Reporting Violations

When an employee becomes aware of another employee having crossed the Boundaries specified in this policy, the employee must promptly report the suspicion to Human Resources or the Chief Academic Officer. All reports shall be kept as confidential as possible. Prompt reporting is essential to protect students, the suspected employee, any witnesses, and the Charter School as a whole. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness of, or concern about, student behavior that crosses Boundaries or any situation in which a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting

California Penal Code section 11166 requires any mandated reporter (including teachers, instructional aides and "classified" employees of a public school) who has knowledge of, or observes, a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect to a child protective agency immediately, or as soon as practically possible, by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within thirty-six (36) hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. Employees may, but are not required to, report such incidents to Human Resources and the CEO. Reporting such incidents to Human Resources and the CEO does not relieve the employee of responsibility to also immediately report such incidents to the appropriate child protective agency by telephone and to send a written report thereof within thirty-six (36) hours. However, employees may work cooperatively to report the incidents and to file one written report. Employees who have any questions about these reporting requirements should contact Human Resources.

"Child" is defined as a person under the age of 18 years. The term "child abuse or neglect" includes sexual abuse; neglect defined as the negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare including both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person; willful cruelty or unjustifiable pain or suffering; unlawful corporal punishment or injury; and abuse or neglect in out-of-home care. Child abuse or neglect does not include a mutual affray between minors or an injury caused by reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of his or her employment as a peace officer.

Employees shall not contact the child's family or any other persons to determine or investigate the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect.

AMPS will provide annual training on the mandated reporting requirements, using the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services, to employees who are mandated reporters. Mandated reporter training will also be provided to employees hired during the course of the school year. This training will include information that failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, as required by Penal Code section 11166, is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six (6) months confinement in a county jail, or by a fine of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

All employees required to receive mandated reporter training must provide proof of completing the training within the first six (6) weeks of each school year or within the first six (6) weeks of that employee's employment.

By acknowledging receipt of this Handbook, employees acknowledge they are child care custodians and are certifying that they have knowledge of California Penal Code section 11166 and will comply with its provisions.

Investigating

AMPS will investigate any allegation of a violation of the Employee-Student Relations Policy, using such support staff or outside assistance as AMPS deems necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, unless the allegation also constitutes a reportable allegation under California Penal Code section 11166. In the event the allegation also constitutes such a reportable allegation, AMPS shall comply with the legal requirements of immediately reporting the allegation to a child protective agency and shall follow up such report with a written report within thirty-six (36) hours.

If the allegation is only a violation of the Professional Boundaries: Staff/Student Interaction Policy, but not a violation of California Penal Code section 11166, AMPS shall conduct an investigation as set forth above. Throughout this fact-finding process, the investigating administrator, and all others privy to the investigation, will protect the privacy interests of any affected student(s) and/or employee(s), including any potential witnesses, to the fullest extent possible.

Violations

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. When appropriate, violations of this policy may also be reported to authorities for potential legal action.

B. Confidential Information

All information relating to students, including personal information, schools attended, addresses, contact numbers and progress information is confidential in nature, and may not be shared with or distributed to unauthorized parties. All records concerning special education pupils shall be kept strictly confidential and maintained in separate files.

It is important to AMPS to protect and preserve its trade secrets and confidential information. Confidential information includes, but is not limited to, parent and student lists, lesson plans, techniques and concepts, marketing plans, strategies, forecasts, bid plans, bid strategies, bid information, contract prices, new products, software, computer programs, writings, and all know-how and show-how whether or not protected by patent, copyright, or trade secret law. Personal, private information about other employees and personnel matters are also confidential. AMPS devotes significant time, energy, and expense to

develop and acquire its trade secrets and confidential information. As an employee of AMPS you will, during the course of your employment, have access to and become familiar with various trade secrets and confidential information that are owned by AMPS. An employee shall not, directly or indirectly, disclose or use any of the foregoing information other than as authorized for the sole benefit of AMPS, either during the term of your employment or at any other time thereafter. Confidential information shall not be disclosed except through normal channels and with prior authorization. Any and all trade secrets or confidential information shall be returned to AMPS during extended leaves of absence or upon termination of employment.

AMPS prohibits audio or video recordings in the workplace, during working hours, without authorization of AMPS due to privacy and confidentiality concerns and protections.

Failure to maintain confidentiality consistent with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

C. Rules of Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated by AMPS. This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only and applies to all employees of AMPS; other types of conduct that threaten security, student safety, personal safety, employee welfare and AMPS' operations are also prohibited. Further, the specification of this list of conduct in no way alters the at-will employment relationship as to at-will employees of AMPS. If an employee is working under a contract with AMPS which grants procedural rights prior to termination, the procedural terms in the contract shall apply.

This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only and not meant to be exhaustive:

1. *Insubordination* - refusing to perform a task or duty assigned or act in accordance with instructions and / or policies provided by an employee's supervisor, AMPS' policies, or proper authority.
2. *Inefficiency* - including deliberate restriction of output, carelessness or unnecessary waste of time or material, neglect of job, duties or responsibilities.
3. *Unauthorized soliciting*: collecting of contributions, distribution of literature, or written or printed material that is not directly related to AMPS is strictly prohibited in work areas during work times (see Solicitation and Distribution Policy, below) by both non- employees and by employees. However, nothing in this provision is intended to limit the rights of employees to organize, or otherwise engage in conduct expressly permitted under the National Labor Relations Act.
4. Damaging, defacing, unauthorized removal, destruction or theft of another employee's property or of AMPS property.
5. Fighting or instigating a fight on AMPS premises.
6. Violations of the drug and alcohol policy.
7. Using or possessing firearms, weapons or explosives of any kind on AMPS premises.
8. Gambling on AMPS premises.
9. Tampering with or falsifying any report or record including, but not limited to, personnel, absentee, sickness or production reports or records, applications for employment, payroll information, timesheets, and time cards.
10. Recording the timesheets of another employee or permitting or arranging for another employee to record your timesheet.
11. Conducting personal business during business hours and/or unauthorized use of telephone lines for personal calls.
12. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness excused or unexcused except to the extent permitted by law.
13. Posting any notices on AMPS premises without prior written approval of management, unless

posting is on an AMPS bulletin board designated for such employee postings.

14. Engaging in sabotage or espionage (industrial or otherwise)
15. Violations of the discrimination, harassment and retaliation prevention policy.
16. Failure to report a job-related accident to the employee's manager or failure to take or follow prescribed tests, procedures or treatment.
17. Sleeping during work hours.
18. Release of confidential information without authorization.
19. Refusal to speak to supervisors or other employees.
20. Unauthorized use of cameras or other recording devices on School premises.
21. Intentionally supplying false information in order to obtain a leave of absence or other benefits from AMPS.
22. Poor attendance, including, but not limited to, habitual tardiness and/or absenteeism, leaving early without permission, absence from work without permission, and abuse of time during work hours, to the extent permitted by law.
23. Unsatisfactory work performance.
24. Unprofessional conduct.
25. Failure to possess or maintain the credential/certificate required of the position.
26. Dishonesty.
27. Any other conduct detrimental to other employees or the School's interests or its efficient operations.

This statement of prohibited conduct does not alter AMPS' policy of at-will employment. AMPS and you retain the right to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without reason or advance notice.

D. Employment References

All requests for references must be directed to Human Resources. No other manager, supervisor, or employee is authorized to release references for current or former employees. AMPS' policy as to references for employees who have left AMPS is to disclose only the dates of employment and the title of the last position held. If you authorize disclosure in writing, AMPS will also provide a prospective employer with the information on the amount of salary or wage you last earned.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. *Computer Usage and Privacy*

Every user who is provided access to AMPS' Communications Systems is responsible for using the Communications Systems in accordance with this policy, and agrees to be bound by this policy by using AMPS' Communications Systems. Any questions about this policy should be addressed to Human Resources.

Definitions

AMPS' electronic communications systems ("Communications Systems") includes, but is not limited to, computers, laptops, e-mail, telephones, cellular phones, tablets, PDAs, text messaging, instant messaging, video conferencing, voice mail, facsimiles, and connections to the Internet and other internal or external networks.

Ownership and Conditions of Use

The Communications Systems is the property of AMPS. It has been provided by AMPS for the sole purpose of conducting School-related business as well as other business that is approved by the CEO of AMPS. All communications and information transmitted by, received from, or stored in these systems are School records and the property of AMPS.

Electronic communications are a means of business communication. AMPS requires all users to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Users should conduct all electronic communications with the same care, judgment, and responsibility that they would use when sending letters or memoranda written on School letterhead. Special care must be taken when posting any information on the Internet because of the potentially broad distribution of and access to such information.

To protect the integrity of AMPS' Communications Systems and the users thereof against unauthorized or improper use of these systems, AMPS reserves the right, without notice, to limit or restrict any individual's use, and to inspect, copy, remove, or delete any unauthorized use of its Communications Systems upon authorization of the CEO or his or her designee. AMPS also reserves the right periodically to monitor the use of its Communications Systems and to access users' voice mail, Internet access, and e-mail for that purpose or any other business-related purpose upon authorization of the CEO or his or her designee.

Erasing an e-mail message from a mailbox does not necessarily erase all copies of the message on the network. Archived copies may be stored for substantial periods of time and are subject to the provisions of this policy regarding content, review, access, and disclosure.

Confidentiality and Privileges

Information stored on the Communications Systems is intended to be kept confidential within AMPS. AMPS has taken all reasonable steps to assure confidentiality and security of information related to AMPS's operations. Like other means of communication, however, it is not possible to guarantee complete security of electronic communications either within or outside AMPS, and care should be exercised when sending or receiving sensitive, privileged, or confidential information electronically. For example, information sent through the Internet can be monitored by external systems en route to its final destination. All users must keep this in mind when forwarding sensitive, confidential, and/or privileged information. Where appropriate, this fact should be disclosed to outside contacts.

Prohibited Use

Users are prohibited from using the Communications Systems for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Users of the Communications Systems are strictly prohibited from using the Communications Systems to deliver a message that is harassing or offensive on the basis of any characteristic protected by law as set forth in AMPS' policies against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Those policies apply to all aspects of employment, including the use of the Communications Systems.
2. Users are prohibited from using the Communications Systems for transmitting or making accessible annoying, offensive, defamatory, or harassing material or intentionally damaging or violating the privacy of information of others.
3. Users are prohibited from using the Communications Systems to transmit, display, store, publish, or purposely receive any pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material.
4. Users must respect all copyrights and licenses to software and other online information, and may not upload, download, or copy software or other material through the Communications Systems without the prior written authorization of the CEO of AMPS.
5. Users must not alter, copy, transmit, or remove School information, proprietary software, or other files without proper authorization from AMPS.
6. Users are prohibited from reading, copying, recording, or listening to messages and information delivered to another person's e-mail and voice mail mailboxes without proper authorization, based on legitimate business reasons, from the Board or CEO or his/her/its designee. Anyone who receives an electronic communication for which he or she is not the intended recipient must immediately inform the sender that the message was sent improperly and must delete the message from their e-mail and voice mail mailboxes.

Access and Disclosure

The Communications Systems is provided solely for the purpose of conducting AMPS business. Incidental and occasional personal use of the Communications Systems is permitted, but such communications must not disrupt School business, and users do not have any expectation of personal privacy in any matters stored in, created, received, or sent over the Communications Systems.

AMPS, as owner of the Communications Systems, to protect the integrity of its systems from unauthorized or improper use, reserves the right for legitimate business reasons, upon authorization of the Board or CEO or his/her/its designee, to monitor, access, retrieve, download, copy, listen to, or delete anything stored in, created, received, or sent over its Communications Systems without the permission of or prior notice to any user.

Although AMPS entrusts employees with the use of voice mail, e-mail, computer files, software, or similar School property, employees should keep in mind that these items have been installed and maintained at great expense to AMPS and are only intended for business purposes. At all times, they remain School property. Likewise, all records, files, software, and electronic communications contained in these systems also are School property. Employees are advised that electronic files, records, and communications on School computer systems, electronic communication systems, or through the use of School telecommunications equipment are not private. Although they are a confidential part of School property, employees should not use this equipment or these systems for confidential messages. The use of passwords to limit access to these systems is only intended to prevent unauthorized access to voice mail, e-mail, and computer systems, files, and records. Additionally, these systems are subject to inspection, search, and/or monitoring by School personnel for any number of business reasons. As a result, employees do not have an expectation of privacy in this regard. Accordingly, these systems and equipment should not be used to transmit personal messages, except in necessary situations or when

exceptions are specifically sanctioned by management. Voice mail messages and e-mail messages should be routinely deleted when no longer needed. AMPS is not responsible for costs incurred when employees use School telephones or e-mail systems for personal matters.

Employees should not use personal devices or email accounts for School-related communications. Such communications should only take place using School-issued devices and via the employee's email account.

Employees should be advised to use voice mail and e-mail as cautiously as employees would use any more permanent communication medium such as a memorandum or letter. Employees should realize that e-mail messages:

1. May be saved and read by third parties.
2. May be retrieved even after "deletion."
3. May be accessed by authorized service personnel.
4. May be examined by management without notice for business purposes.

There will be times when AMPS, in order to conduct business, will utilize its ability to access an employee's e-mail, voice mail, computer files, software, or other School property. AMPS also may inspect the contents of an employee's voice mail, e-mail, computers, computer files, or software to monitor job performance, for training or quality control purposes, or when AMPS suspects that School property is being used in an unauthorized manner.

AMPS reserves the right to use and disclose any electronic non-privileged communication on its Communications Systems without the permission of or any prior notice to any user, including disclosure to law enforcement officials.

Retention in the Event of Litigation, Subpoena, or Regulatory Inquiry

In the event of any subpoena, regulatory inquiry, or litigation, employees are prohibited from deleting, discarding, or destroying any emails or other Communications Systems relating in any way to the subpoena, regulatory inquiry, or litigation. Employees will be notified if this occurs.

Discipline for Violations of Policy

Any person who discovers misuse of the Internet access or any of AMPS' Communications Systems should immediately contact Human Resources or the CEO of AMPS. Any user who violates any part of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including immediate termination.

Policy May Be Amended at Any Time

The pace of technological change and growth in electronic communications is rapid. This policy applies to all present and future electronic communications systems and devices and to improvements and innovations to existing systems and devices and to completely new technologies, devices, and systems. AMPS reserves the right to amend this policy at any time through an authorized writing from an authorized School representative.

B. Social Media Policy

In light of the explosive growth and popularity of social media technology in today's society, AMPS has developed the following policy to establish rules and guidelines regarding the appropriate use of social media by employees. This policy applies to situations when you: (1) make a post to a social media

platform that is related to AMPS; (2) engage in social media activities during working hours; (3) use School equipment or resources while engaging in social media activities; (4) use your School e-mail address to make a post to a social media platform; (5) post in a manner that reveals your affiliation with AMPS; or (6) interact with School students or parents/guardians of School students (regarding School-related business) on the Internet and on social media sites.

For the purposes of this policy, the phrase “social media” refers to the use of a website or other electronic application to connect with other people, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, TikTok, and YouTube, as well as related web-based media, such as blogs, wikis, and any other form of user-generated media or web-based discussion forums.

This policy is intended to supplement, not replace, AMPS’ other policies, rules, and standards of conduct. For example, School policies on confidentiality, use of School equipment, professionalism, employee references and background checks, workplace violence, unlawful harassment, and other rules of conduct are not affected by this policy.

You are required to comply with all School policies whenever your social media activities may involve or implicate AMPS in any way, including, but not limited to, the policies contained in this Handbook.

Standards of Conduct

You are required to comply with the following rules and guidelines when participating in social media activities that are governed by this policy:

1. Comply with the law at all times. Do not post any information or engage in any social media activity that may violate applicable local, state, or federal laws or regulations.
2. Do not engage in any discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory behavior in violation of School policy.
3. Respect copyright, fair use, and financial disclosure rules and regulations. Identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with proper citations and/or links.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of AMPS’ trade secrets and private or confidential information. Trade secrets may include information regarding the development of systems, processes, products, know-how, and technology. Do not post internal reports, policies, procedures, or other internal business-related confidential communications. This prohibition applies both during and after your employment with AMPS.
5. Do not post confidential information (as defined in this Handbook) about AMPS, its employees, or its students. Remember that most student information is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, including any and all information that might identify the student. Publicizing student work and accomplishments is permitted only if appropriate consents are obtained.
6. While it is acceptable to engage in limited and incidental social media activities at work, such social media activities may not interfere with your job duties or responsibilities. Do not use your School-authorized e-mail address to register on social media websites, blogs, or other online tools utilized for personal use.
7. Be knowledgeable about and comply with AMPS’ background check procedures. Do not “research” job candidates on the Internet or social media websites without prior approval from Human Resources.
8. We encourage you to be fair and courteous to fellow employees, students, parents, vendors, customers, suppliers, or other people who work on behalf of AMPS. We also encourage you to avoid posting statements, photographs, video, or audio that could be reasonably viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening, or intimidating, that disparage employees, students, parents, vendors, customers, suppliers, or other people who work on behalf of AMPS, or that might constitute harassment or bullying.

9. Do not post any information or rumors that you know to be false about AMPS, fellow employees, students, parents, vendors, customers, suppliers, people working on behalf of AMPS, or competitors.
10. Express only your personal opinions. Never represent yourself as a spokesperson for AMPS unless authorized to do so. If you publish social media content that may be related to your work or subjects associated with AMPS, make it clear that you are not speaking on behalf of AMPS and that your views do not represent those of AMPS, fellow employees, students, parents, vendors, customers, suppliers, or other people working on behalf of AMPS. It is best to use a disclaimer such as "The postings on this site are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of AMPS."
11. Never be false or misleading with respect to your professional credentials.

Creating and Using School Social Media

Employees are only permitted to communicate and connect with students and students' parents or guardians regarding School-related matters on social media that is owned and operated by AMPS. All communications with parents or guardians regarding School-related matters on non-School or personal social media may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Any communication whatsoever with students on non-School or personal social media may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The CEO/designee and IT Department, in addition to Human Resources and members of AMPS' administration, are responsible for approving requests for School social media, monitoring School social media for inappropriate and unprofessional content, and maintaining the social media account information (including, but not limited to, username and password). AMPS has final approval over all content posted to School accounts and reserves the right to close School social media accounts at any time, with or without notice.

To set up social media that is owned and operated by AMPS in compliance with this policy, employees must adhere to the following procedures:

1. Request and obtain permission to create School social media from the CEO/designee.
2. Contact the CEO/designee to set up the social media. Provide the CEO/designee with the username and password that you would like assigned to the account. If you change the username and/or password, you must immediately update this information with the CEO/designee and the IT Department. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Any social media created and/or used in violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Access

Employees are reminded that AMPS' various electronic communications systems, including, but not limited to, its electronic devices, computers, telephones, e-mail accounts, video conferencing, voice mail, facsimiles, internal and external networks, computers, cell phones, smart phones, PDAs, tablets, and other similar devices, are the property of AMPS. All communications and information transmitted by, received from, or stored in these systems are School records.

As a result, AMPS may, and does, monitor its employees' use of these electronic communication systems, including for social media activities, from time to time. AMPS may monitor such activities randomly, periodically, and/or in situations when there is reason to believe that someone associated with AMPS has engaged in a violation of this, or any other, School policy. As a result, employees do not have

a reasonable expectation of privacy in their use of or access to AMPS' various electronic communications systems.

Discipline

Any violation of this Social Media Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination.

Retaliation Is Prohibited

AMPS prohibits retaliation against any employee for reporting a possible violation of this policy or for cooperating in an investigation of a potential violation of this policy. Any employee who retaliates against another employee for reporting a possible violation of this policy or for cooperating in an investigation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Questions

In the event you have any questions about whether a particular social media activity may involve or implicate AMPS, or may violate this policy, please contact Human Resources.

Social media is in a state of constant evolution, and AMPS recognizes that there will likely be events or issues that are not addressed in these guidelines. Thus, each School employee is responsible for using good judgment and seeking guidance, clarification, or authorization *before* engaging in social media activities that may implicate this policy.

C. Personal Business

AMPS facilities for handling mail and telephone calls are designed to accommodate School business. Please have your personal mail directed to your home address and limit personal telephone calls to an absolute minimum. Personal calls that would result in additional fees to AMPS are not permitted. **Do not use School material, time or equipment for personal projects.**

D. News Media Contacts

Employees occasionally may be approached for interviews or comments by the news media. Only employees designated by the CEO, who is the identified principal point of contact, may comment to news reporters on behalf of AMPS.

E. Notice Posting

AMPS notices and notices required by law will be regularly posted on our bulletin board(s) or designated area(s). Employees should make it a practice to review them frequently so that they can keep current regarding news about AMPS. Employees may not post or remove items on the bulletin board(s) or designated area(s) without approval by their supervisor. The same restrictions apply to bulletin boards located in employee break areas. Employees who wish to post on the bulletin board should obtain approval from their supervisor.

F. Conflict of Interest

While employed by AMPS, all employees owe a duty of loyalty to AMPS and must avoid situations involving an actual or potential conflict of interest. An actual or potential conflict of interest occurs when an employee is in a position to influence a decision that may result in a personal gain for that employee

or for a relative as a result of AMPS' business dealings. For purposes of this policy, "relatives" are defined to include spouses, registered domestic partners, children, siblings, parents, in-laws, and step-relatives. Instances where an actual or potential conflict of interest may arise include, but are not limited to, the acceptance of gifts, engaging in outside activities, and personal and familial relationships.

An employee involved in any relationships or situations which may constitute a conflict of interest must immediately and fully disclose the relevant circumstances to his or her immediate supervisor, Human Resources or the CEO or designee, who will determine whether a potential or actual conflict exists. If an actual or potential conflict is determined to exist, AMPS may take whatever corrective action appears appropriate according to the circumstances. Failure to disclose facts of an actual or potential conflict of interest will constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

Notwithstanding this policy, if an employee is a "designated employee" under the AMPS' Conflicts of Interest Code (adopted pursuant to the Political Reform Act), then the employee must comply with those provisions in addition to this policy.

Personal and Familial Relationships With Co-Workers

Relatives of employees may be eligible for employment with AMPS only if the individuals involved do not work in a direct supervisory relationship or in job positions in which an actual or potential conflict of interest could arise. Current employees who marry will be permitted to continue working in the same job positions held only if they do not work in a supervisory relationship with one another or in job positions involving conflicts of interest.

Gifts

Improper personal gain may result not only where an employee or relative has a significant ownership interest in a vendor with which AMPS does business but also when an employee or relative receives any kickback, bribe, substantial gift, or special consideration as a result of any transaction or business dealings involving AMPS. The receipt of occasional flowers, candy, or gifts worth less than \$100.00 from parents, students, or vendors fall outside the intent of this policy and acceptance of such items is permissible. However, employees must obtain written approval from the CEO before accepting any item worth more than \$100.00 from students, parents, or vendors. Under no circumstances shall a School employee accept monetary gifts consisting of, but not limited to, gift certificates, coupons, entertainment tickets, etc.

Gifts and Fundraising funds or items that an employee may receive or raise from events, donors or donor websites i.e. (Donors Choose, etc.) for use by AMPS, its students or at a specific AMPS school site will be considered property of the School. Such donations will remain with the School to continue to benefit the intended student population.

Outside Activities

AMPS recognizes the right of employees to engage in activities outside of their employment that are of a private nature and unrelated to AMPS' business. However, employees may not engage in any outside activity, including outside employment, which presents an actual or potential conflict of interest. For this reason, employees are expected to conduct their personal affairs in a manner that does not adversely affect the School or its own integrity, reputation, or credibility. Illegal or immoral off-duty conduct by an employee that adversely affects the School's legitimate business interests or the employee's ability to perform his or her work will not be tolerated.

While employed by the School, employees are expected to devote their energies to their jobs with the School. For this reason, second jobs are strongly discouraged. The following types of additional employment elsewhere are strictly prohibited:

1. Additional employment that conflicts with an employee's work schedule, duties, and responsibilities at our School.
2. Additional employment that creates a conflict of interest or is incompatible with the employee's position with our School.
3. Additional employment that impairs or has a detrimental effect on the employee's work performance with our School.
4. Additional employment that requires the employee to conduct work or related activities on the School's property during the employer's working hours or using our School's facilities and/or equipment; and
5. Additional employment that directly or indirectly competes with the business or the interests of our School.

Employees who wish to engage in additional employment that may create a real or apparent conflict of interest must submit a written request to Human Resources explaining the details of the additional employment. If the additional employment is authorized, AMPS assumes no responsibility for it. AMPS shall not provide workers' compensation coverage or any other benefit for injuries occurring from or arising out of additional employment. Authorization to engage in additional employment can be revoked at any time.

Employees also may not use AMPS' name, logo, supplies, equipment, or other property in connection with any outside activities.

G. *Cameras and Video Surveillance*

For purposes of workplace safety and security and to prevent theft and other misconduct AMPS has installed video surveillance cameras in and around work areas.

If there is any reported incident of theft, trespass, workplace violence, employee misconduct or any type of safety violation (hereafter collectively referred to as "security incidents"), AMPS will utilize its surveillance equipment as an investigatory tool. AMPS will also make use of its surveillance equipment to deter any future security incidents.

AMPS also reserves the right to actively monitor, through its surveillance cameras, any areas for safety reasons (to protect against equipment failure, breakage, or accident) or confidentiality reasons (to protect documents or other proprietary information).

Although the video surveillance described in this policy is intended to monitor for security incidents and other safety reasons at AMPS, it is possible that such surveillance may monitor activities not related to AMPS' business.

AMPS respects the privacy of its employees. Accordingly, no video cameras will be installed in AMPS' restrooms or in any lactation or changing areas.

The surveillance video cameras and any video footage from the surveillance are to be used solely for the purposes of this video surveillance policy. Any unauthorized use of these video cameras and/or videotapes is strictly forbidden and may result in discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

H. Employer Property

Lockers, computers, desks, bookshelves, and other employer-owned property are AMPS property and must be maintained according to AMPS rules and regulations. They must be kept clean and are to be used only for work-related purposes. AMPS reserves the right to inspect all AMPS property to ensure compliance with its rules and regulations, without notice to the employee and at any time, not necessarily in the employee's presence. Prior authorization must be obtained before any School property may be removed from the premises. Materials developed by an employee for purposes of his or her employment with AMPS are considered School property. All School property must be immediately returned upon termination of the employment relationship.

Employees are prohibited from deliberately performing acts that waste any of the resources of AMPS or unfairly monopolize any of the resources to the exclusion of others. These acts include, but are not limited to, using the e-mail system for other than business-related communications, sending multiple pictures using the e-mail system (unless specifically authorized to do so and business-related), sending mass mailings or chain letters, spending excessive amounts of time on the Internet, playing games, engaging in on-line chat groups, printing multiple copies of large documents, wasting paper frivolously, undertaking excessively large OCR scanning projects, or otherwise creating unnecessary network traffic.

I. Employee Property

For security reasons, employees should not leave personal belongings of value in the workplace (i.e. desks, bookshelves, counter, etc.). Terminated employees must remove as many personal items as time permits at the time they leave AMPS. Personal items left in the workplace are subject to storage, and eventually disposal if not claimed at the time of an employee's termination.

J. Dress Code and Other Personal Standards

AMPS employees and volunteers serve as role models for the students and as representatives of AMPS. Consistent with these roles, all employees and volunteers shall dress professionally and appropriately relative to their specific job duties and responsibilities and shall adhere to standards of dress and appearance that are compatible with an effective learning environment. Wearing clothing which is sexually provocative or unduly revealing, which contains profane, vulgar, offensive or obscene statements or images, or which may disrupt the orderly operation of AMPS is prohibited.

Administrators and administrative support employees are expected to project a professional image and should dress appropriately for an office/business environment. Teachers and staff serve as role models, and they should maintain professional standards of dress and grooming. Physical education teachers, coaches and athletic volunteers should wear the appropriate athletic attire necessary to meet the requirements of their job responsibilities and maintain professional standards of dress and grooming when not actively teaching physical education classes or coaching. Site Directors and the CEO may also amend these dress standards from time to time.

Specific examples of attire, or lack of attire, considered inappropriate and prohibited under this policy include but are not limited to:

1. Excessively tight clothing, including leggings and tights without proper coverage;
2. Clothing which promotes alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or the use of controlled substances by words or symbols;
3. Clothing with slurs, political statements, slogans, etc., other than AMPS' logo and or School motto;
4. Shorts, skirts, or dresses that end more than 2 inches above the knee;
5. Exposed body areas usually concealed by clothing such as torso, chest, back, stomach, etc.;

6. Bright colored hair dye (unless as excused for school spirit functions or discussed with Site leaders);
7. Clothing which contains profanity, nudity, depicts violence, or is sexual in nature by words or symbols;
8. Open toed shoes, sandals, or flip flops;
9. Tube tops, tank tops, crop tops or spaghetti strap tops;
10. Undergarments worn as an outer garment or any see-through clothing that reveals an undergarment;
11. Hats, visors, sunglasses, sweatbands, and bandanas (may be worn outside but must be removed when inside the workplace);
12. Jeans (except as described in Friday Business Casual Dress Policy below).

AMPS does not discriminate against employees on the basis of race, which includes traits historically associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks and twists. Reasonable accommodations shall be made where appropriate and as approved in writing by the supervisor for those employees or volunteers who, because of a sincerely held religious belief, cultural heritage, or medical reason, request a waiver of a particular part of this policy. Accommodations due to a disability or for religious grooming or dress will be made unless such accommodation poses an undue hardship.

Piercings and Tattoos

Body piercings (e.g., jewelry affixed to the nose, tongue, cheek, lip, or eyebrow) and tattoos are prohibited if they disrupt the orderly operation of AMPS. Tattoos which contain profane, vulgar, offensive, sexual or obscene statements or images are prohibited and must be covered at all times.

Friday Casual Dress Policy

The normal dress code will be relaxed on Fridays to provide a more comfortable clothing standard and foster school/collegiate spirit. Fridays throughout the year will be designated as Casual Dress Day. It is the intent that each employee may choose to wear less formal attire as long as clothing is in good taste and will not negatively affect the Site's image. Casual dress is outlined as follows:

1. Casual shirts: AMPS or site branded polo shirts. All shirts with collars, business casual crewneck or V-neck shirts, blouses, golf and polo shirts in school colors. College-branded shirts are acceptable. Examples of inappropriate shirts include; shirts with inappropriate slogans, tank tops, muscle shirts, camouflage and crop tops. In specified circumstances, T-shirts may be approved and provided for specific events only.
2. Pants: Casual slacks and trousers and jeans without holes, frays, etc are permitted. Pants worn below the waist or hip line are prohibited at all times.

T. Parking

Employees may park their vehicles in any AMPS marked space, if space permits. If space is unavailable, employees must park in permissible public areas on the streets in the vicinity of AMPS property. AMPS is not responsible for any loss or damage to employee vehicles or contents while parked on or off of AMPS property.

U. Solicitation and Distribution of Literature

In order to maintain and promote efficient operations, discipline, and security, AMPS maintains rules applicable to all employees that govern solicitation, distribution of written material, and entry onto the premises and work areas. All employees are expected to comply with these rules, which will be strictly

enforced. Any employee who is in doubt concerning the application of these rules should immediately consult with his or her supervisor. These rules are:

1. No employee shall sell merchandise or solicit or promote support for any cause or organization during his or her working time or during the working time of the employee(s) at whom such activity is directed. As used in these rules, working time excludes meal and rest breaks.
2. No employee shall distribute or circulate any written or printed material, other than those approved by management for business purposes, in work areas at any time or during his or her working time or during the working time of the employee(s) at whom such activity is directed.
3. No employee shall enter or remain in School work areas for any purpose except to report for, be present during, and conclude a work period. Non-exempt employees must not begin work and clock in at his or her working area more than 10 minutes before they are scheduled to begin and must stop work and clock out from his or her work area no later than 10 minutes after their work scheduled for the day is completed, unless they are approved by their supervisor to do so. Work area does not include School parking lots, break rooms, gates, or other similar outside areas unless an employee is assigned to work in such areas.
4. Under no circumstances will non-employees be permitted to solicit or distribute written material for any purpose on School property.
5. Non-employees must sign in at the front office before entering School property.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

V. Health and Safety Policy

AMPS is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for all employees.

Employees are required to know and comply with AMPS' Safety Manual and to follow safe and healthy work practices at all times.

Employees are required to report immediately to AMPS' Site Director any potential health or safety hazards, and all injuries or accidents.

In compliance with Proposition 65, the School will inform employees of any known exposure to a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

W. Communicable Diseases

Introduction

Employees must stay away from the office if they have symptoms of or have been diagnosed with a communicable illness in order to reduce the possibility that it will spread to others.

AMPS does not discriminate against any job applicant or employee based on the individual having a communicable illness or being associated with someone who does. AMPS will not retaliate against an applicant or employee for providing this information to AMPS.

General Guidelines

Decisions involving persons who have or may have a communicable illness shall be based on current and well-informed medical judgments concerning the disease, as well as the following factors:

1. Whether the individual has been diagnosed with the illness;
2. Whether the individual has been exposed to an individual with the illness;
3. Whether the individual has symptoms that are similar to those associated with the illness;
4. Whether the individual has been exposed to an individual who has symptoms that are similar to those associated with the illness;
5. Whether the individual has traveled to locations or been exposed to others who have traveled to locations where there is a high population of individuals with the illness;
6. The risks of transmitting the illness to others;
7. The symptoms and any other special circumstances of each individual who has or may have the illness;
8. Any factor used by a government agency, including but not limited to, the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), for the purpose of maintaining the safety and security of our citizens.

Other factors could be considered as well. Managers and supervisors are responsible for:

1. Consulting with Human Resources for guidance regarding employees who report symptoms and/or diagnosis of a communicable disease.
2. Preventing discrimination against any job applicant or employee based on the individual having a communicable disease.
3. Maintaining the privacy of all information about an employee's medical condition with anyone other than Human Resources or any government agency that requires reporting.

Communicable Illness Defined

A communicable illness is a serious illness or disease that can be directly or indirectly transferred from an infected individual to another person, including, but not limited to measles, mumps, chickenpox, coronavirus, influenza (certain types including H1N1), viral Hepatitis-A (infectious Hepatitis), viral Hepatitis-B (serum Hepatitis), leprosy, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), TB (Tuberculosis - infectious), plague, yellow fever, viral hemorrhagic fevers, meningitis, and encephalitis. The definition of communicable illness may be revised in accordance with information received from the CDC or other public health officials.

Reporting Procedure

To help keep all employees safe, employees must follow these procedures. Employees must inform Human Resources if you are: (a) diagnosed with a communicable illness; or (b) if you believe you may have been exposed to a person so diagnosed; (c) if you have recently visited a location in which there has been a high population of individuals diagnosed with an illness; (d) you do not feel well or are exhibiting any symptoms associated with the illness in question. This information will be kept confidential to the extent reasonably possible. AMPS will not reveal any information other than as required to meet business necessities.

Work Restrictions

For safety and security purposes, as well as to comply with all applicable law, AMPS reserves the right to request that any individual who has or may have a communicable illness, or who has had contact with anyone who has or may have a communicable illness, not enter the workplace or attend any work-related function outside the premises.

Certain employees who can complete job duties remotely may have the option to work from home, subject

to the discretion and prior approval of AMPS. Additionally, leaves of absence, use of vacation or other arrangements may be an option. Depending on the circumstances, AMPS may offer other options.

Duty to Maintain Privacy

AMPS will administer this policy in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act and its amendments, the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, other related federal law, and state law related to the same or similar issues, including but not limited to mandatory paid sick and safe time laws. AMPS will treat any medical information obtained under this policy as confidential to the extent possible in accordance with applicable law. In the event any provision of this policy conflicts with applicable federal, state or local law, AMPS will follow the law. AMPS will strive to maintain any information about an employee's medical condition, or that of a family member, in the strictest of confidence and to see that this information is shared only on a "need to know" basis.

X. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy

It is the intent of AMPS to promote a safe, healthy, and productive work environment for all employees. We believe our employees have the right to work in an alcohol and drug-free environment and to work with persons free from the effects of alcohol and drugs. Employees who abuse alcohol or drugs are a danger to themselves and to other employees. We are therefore committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace free from the influence of alcohol and drugs. We hope all employees will join us in achieving our goal of a safe and productive drug-free workplace.

For purposes of this policy, "drugs" includes, but is not limited to, substances that are prohibited by law (such as cocaine, heroin, etc.), controlled substances, marijuana (including medicinal marijuana and marijuana vaping or other recreational marijuana use), prescription drugs that impair the employee's ability to perform their job duties safely and effectively, as well as prescription drugs if they are not prescribed for the person using them and/or not being used as prescribed. While the use of marijuana has been legalized under California law for medicinal and recreational uses, it remains an illegal drug under federal law and its use as it impacts the workplace is prohibited by AMPS. "Drug paraphernalia" means any accessory for the use, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs. "Under the influence" means that the employee is affected by alcohol, prescription medication that impairs cognitive or physical functions, and/or illegal drugs in any detectable manner.

AMPS complies with all Federal and State regulations regarding drug use while on the job. This policy prohibits the following:

1. Use, possession, purchase, or offer for sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol during working hours, including meal and break periods, or in the presence of pupils;
2. Use, possession, purchase, or offer for sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol on School property at any time;
3. Use, possession, purchase, or offer for sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol while attending a School function or event;
4. Storing alcohol (if unauthorized), drugs, or drug paraphernalia in a locker, desk, automobile, or other repository on AMPS' premises;
5. Refusing to submit to an inspection or testing when requested by AMPS;
6. Being under the influence of drugs, prescription medication that impairs cognitive or physical functions and/or alcohol during working hours, while on AMPS' premises and/or attending a School function or event;
7. Conviction under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace; or
8. Failure to keep all prescribed medicine in its original container.

In addition, if you are required to take any kind of prescription or nonprescription medication that will affect your ability to perform your job, you are required to report this to Human Resources. Human Resources will determine if it is necessary to temporarily place you on another assignment or take other action as appropriate to protect your safety and the safety of other employees and students.

This policy will not be construed to prohibit the use of alcohol at social or business functions sponsored by AMPS where alcohol is served or while entertaining actual or prospective donors to AMPS. However, employees must remember their obligation to conduct themselves appropriately at all times while at School-sponsored functions or while representing AMPS.

Searches

AMPS may at times conduct unannounced searches of School property for alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or unauthorized controlled substances or to ensure compliance with any other School-related policy. This may include desks, storage areas and rooms normally used to store employees' personal property. As a result, employees do not have an expectation of privacy in this regard.

Testing

AMPS may require a test by intoxilator, blood test, urinalysis, medical examination, or other drug/alcohol screening of those persons whom AMPS reasonably suspects of using, possessing, or being under the influence of a drug or alcohol. Such testing will be conducted if two or more employees observe an employee acting in such a manner to raise suspicion that the employee is under the influence of an illegal drug or alcohol or is acting in such manner that they may harm themselves or another employee.

Any refusal to submit to such testing will be considered a violation of this policy. An employee's consent to submit to such a test is required as a condition of employment, and an employee's refusal to consent may result in disciplinary action, including termination for a first refusal or any subsequent refusal. AMPS shall determine the manner in which such testing is conducted with the goal being to ensure that the test results are accurate.

Such a test may be required of employees involved in any work-related accident or unsafe practice where the safety of the employee or of other employees was jeopardized. Periodic retesting may also be required following positive test results or after any violation of this policy or rehabilitation.

Violations

Any violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, at AMPS' sole discretion.

Employees should be aware that participation in a rehabilitation program will not necessarily prevent the imposition of disciplinary action, including termination, for violation of this policy. Employees who undergo voluntary counseling or treatment and who continue to work, if any, must meet all established standards of conduct and job performance.

Because the use, sale, purchase, possession, or furnishing of an illegally obtained substance is a violation of the law, School may report such illegal drug activities to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Y. Smoking

AMPS sites are all non-smoking facilities. Smoking is prohibited on AMPS property and campuses.

Z. *Security Protocols*

The security of facilities as well as the welfare of our employees depends upon the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks. To help maintain a secure workplace, be aware of unknown persons loitering in parking areas, walkways, entrances and exits and service areas. Report any suspicious persons or activities to the Site Director or your supervisor immediately.

Secure your desk or office at the end of the day. When called away from your work area for an extended length of time, do not leave valuable or personal articles around your work station that may be accessible. You should immediately notify Human Resources when keys are missing or if security access codes or passes have been breached.

AA. *Safety and Incident Reporting*

AMPS is committed to providing a safe working environment and preventing accidents. The prevention of accidents is the responsibility of every School supervisor. It is also the duty of all employees to accept and promote the established safety regulations and procedures. Every effort will be made to provide adequate safety training. If an employee is ever in doubt about how to perform a job or task safely, he or she should request assistance. All employees must report unsafe conditions to management immediately and remedy them to the extent possible. Employees must also report fires or other emergencies by calling 911. Employee must immediately, or as soon as is practical, report any accident or injury occurring during work or on School premises to management, to allow AMPS to appropriately respond.

It is the policy of the School that accident prevention shall be considered of primary importance in all phases of operation and administration. AMPS's management is required to provide safe and healthy working conditions for all employees and to establish and require the use of safe practices at all times.

Failure to comply with or enforce School's Safety Manual, Workplace and Violence Prevention Plan or safety and health rules, practices and procedures could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

BB. *Driving on AMPS Business*

Employees who are required to drive their own vehicle on approved School business will be required to show proof of a current, valid driver's license and proof of effective auto liability insurance coverage. Employees whose job duties include driving must follow all traffic laws at all times and practice safe driving.

Pursuant to applicable law and safety standards, employees whose job responsibilities include regular or occasional driving and who are issued a cell phone for business use must refrain from using their phone while driving unless they are using a hands-free device. Safety must come before all other concerns. Thus, unless an employee is using a hands-free device in a safe- manner, he or she must safely pull off to the side of the road and safely stop the vehicle before placing, accepting, or continuing a call. Sending or reviewing text messages while driving is also prohibited.

Employees whose job responsibilities do not specifically include driving as an essential function, but who use a cell phone for business purposes, whether issued by AMPS or not, are also expected to abide by the provisions above. Under no circumstances are employees allowed to place themselves or others at risk to fulfill business needs.

Any employee who fails to comply with this policy will be deemed to have engaged in grossly negligent conduct beyond the course and scope of his or her employment. As a result, any employee who is

charged with a traffic violation or incurs any other form of liability resulting from a violation of this policy will, to the extent allowed by applicable law, be solely responsible for any such liability. Any employee who has an accident while driving on AMPS business must report that accident immediately to his or her supervisor and HR.

AMPS will reimburse employees using a personal vehicle for mileage when on AMPS business at the IRS mileage rate. Employees are required to keep a record of the number of miles driven to perform their job duties.

EMPLOYEE LEAVES AND BENEFITS

A. *Holidays*

AMPS calendar reflects any and all holidays observed by AMPS. School classes are not in session on holidays observed by AMPS. When a holiday falls on a workday, that workday is the holiday. When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is treated as the holiday. When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the subsequent Monday is treated as the holiday.

The following days are observed as paid holidays by AMPS:

1. New Year's Day
2. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
3. President's Day
4. Friday of Spring Break Week
5. Memorial Day
6. Juneteenth
7. Independence Day
8. Labor Day
9. Indigenous Peoples' Day
10. Veteran's Day
11. Thanksgiving Day
12. Friday after Thanksgiving
13. Christmas Eve
14. Christmas Day
15. New Year's Eve

To be eligible for holiday pay, an employee must either be a non-exempt employee who works on average at least thirty (30) hours per workweek, and who would normally be scheduled to work on the day on which the holiday falls. Holiday pay will be based on each employee's work schedule; in other words, an employee who normally works 4 hours per day will receive 4 hours of holiday pay, and an employee who works 8 hours per day will receive 8 hours of holiday pay. Holiday hours do not count as hours worked for purposes of calculating overtime.

B. *Vacation Policy*

Ten (10) month employees do not accrue vacation days. Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) month regular full-time employees (as defined in this Handbook) begin to earn and accrue vacation starting on the first day of employment. Eleven(11) Month employees will accrue vacation at a rate of 3.64 hours per pay period up to 80 hours per year. Twelve (12) month employees will accrue vacation at a rate of 3.33 hours per pay period up to 80 hours of vacation time per year. Vacation time can accrue up to a maximum cap of 1.5 times the annual accrual maximum, which is 120 hours of vacation time. Once the 120-hour cap is reached, employees will cease to accrue further vacation time until the employee's accrued vacation time falls below that cap. When vacation time falls below the cap of 120 hours, then vacation will begin to accrue again. Vacation accrues on an as-worked basis. Vacation will not accrue during any unpaid leave of absence, inactive time, unpaid time, or non-working time or during any period when the employee's vacation time was at the maximum cap.

All employees must have supervisory approval before taking vacation, by submitting a request through Paylocity at least two weeks prior to the date(s) requested. Failure to submit this request at least two weeks in advance may result in denial of the request. Vacations shall be scheduled in such a way as to provide adequate coverage of job responsibilities and staffing requirements. Although AMPS will attempt

to accommodate vacation requests to the greatest extent possible, there is no guarantee that any given vacation request will be granted, and AMPS reserves the right to deny a vacation request based on operational needs of AMPS. AMPS reserves the right to schedule vacation time for employees or to compensate employees for accrued, unused vacation time at any time in its sole discretion. If a holiday occurs during your vacation period, you will receive holiday compensation for that day.

Employees who terminate their employment for any reason will be paid for any accrued but unused vacation time in accordance with this policy. Vacation time is paid at the employee's final rate of pay at the time of the employee's separation.

As with all of its policies and procedures, AMPS reserves the right to modify, alter, or otherwise amend this policy at its sole and absolute discretion to the extent allowed by law.

C. *Paid Sick Leave*

Paid sick leave is available to all School employees who work for the School for more than thirty (30) days within a year and who work at least two (2) hours within a week within the City of Oakland. AMPS employees will accrue hours per pay period worked as described below. Mid-year hires will receive a prorated allowance of Paid Sick Leave based on their start date, rounded to the nearest whole day. Sick time may be used in one (1) hour increments. Accrued sick leave carries over from year to year. Sick leave is subject to an accrual cap of 160 hours. Once this cap is reached, no further sick leave will accrue until some is used. When sick leave is used, sick leave will begin to accrue again. There is no retroactive grant of sick leave for the period of time the accrued sick leave was at the cap.

- Full-Time Employees will accrue 4 hours of sick leave per pay period worked. For example, 10-Month Employees will accrue 80 hours of sick leave, 11-Month employees will accrue 88 hours of sick leave and 12-Month Employees will accrue 96 hours of sick leave per year with a cap of 160 hours.
- Part-Time Employees will accrue 2 hours of sick leave per pay period worked. For Example, 10-Month Part-Time Employees will accrue 40 hours of sick leave, 11-Month Part-Time Employees will accrue 44 hours of sick leave and 12-Month Part-Time Employees will accrue 48 hours of sick leave per year with a cap of 160 hours.

AMPS will not compensate an employee for unused paid sick days upon termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment. However, if an employee separates from AMPS and is rehired by AMPS within one year from the date of separation, any previously accrued and unused paid sick leave shall be reinstated. The employee shall be entitled to use that previously accrued and unused paid sick leave and to accrue additional paid sick leave upon rehiring, subject to this policy.

Sick leave may be taken to receive preventive care (including annual physicals or flu shots) or to diagnose, treat, or care for an existing health condition. Employees may also use sick leave to assist a family member (i.e., the employee's child; parent; legal guardian or ward; sibling; grandparent; grandchild; and spouse, registered domestic partner under any state or local law, or designated person (i.e., one who is related to the employee by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship) who must receive preventative care or a diagnosis, treatment, or care for an existing health condition. Employees are limited to one (1) designated person per twelve (12) month period. There is a window of ten (10) work days for the employee to make this designation. Thereafter, the opportunity to make such a designation, including the opportunity to change such a designation previously made, shall be extended to the employee on an annual basis, with a window of ten (10) work days for the employee to make the designation. Employees may also take paid sick leave to receive medical care or other

assistance to address instances of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The employee may use all or any percentage of his or her paid sick leave to aid or care for the aforementioned persons. The aforementioned family members include not only biological relationships but also relationships resulting from adoption; step-relationships; and foster care relationships. "Child" as used herein includes a child of a domestic partner and a child of a person standing in loco parentis.

AMPS will not require, as a condition of an employee's taking paid sick leave, that the employee search for or find a replacement worker to cover the hours during which the employee is on paid sick leave. Employees who wish to use paid sick leave can do so upon a verbal or written request. When possible, employees must give reasonable advance notification of an absence from work for which paid sick leave will be used. If the need for paid sick leave is unforeseeable, the employee shall provide notice of the need for the leave as soon as practicable. When an employee is out due to illness for three (3) or more workdays, a doctor's note certifying the need for the absence and the employee's fitness to return to duty may be required. Employees out on sick leave for more than five (5) consecutive work days will be required to discuss leave of absence options with Human Resources.

Once an employee has exhausted sick leave, the employee may continue on an unpaid medical leave depending upon the facts and circumstances of the employee's basis for leave beyond accrued sick leave. Employee requests for unpaid medical leave must be approved in advance by AMPS.

AMPS will not retaliate or discriminate against an employee for using accrued sick leave, attempting to exercise the right to use accrued sick leave, or cooperating in an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

D. Unpaid Leave of Absence (Medical)

On occasion, an employee may need a medical leave of absence that extends beyond limits under any state or federal mandatory leave law. In addition, there may be circumstances when an employee needs a medical leave allowed under disability laws and in accordance with this policy. In these situations, a medical leave of absence may be granted for disabilities based upon a health care provider's written certification of a qualifying disability, unless such leave would cause an undue hardship. Such disability leaves will be considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with AMPS's obligations under federal and state disability laws. Employees should request any leave in writing as far in advance as possible. Approved absences of less than two weeks are not treated as medical leaves of absences but rather as excused absences without pay.

Benefit accrual, such as vacation, sick leave, and holiday benefits, will be suspended during an unpaid medical leave period and will resume upon return to active employment. Unless otherwise required by law, AMPS does not continue to pay premiums for health insurance coverage for employees on unpaid medical leave. However, if eligible, you may self-pay the premiums under the provisions of COBRA.

A medical leave begins on the first day your doctor certifies that you are unable to work. AMPS will require medical documentation from your healthcare provider showing the date you became disabled and the anticipated date you will be able to return to work. An employee returning from a medical disability leave must present a doctor's certificate declaring fitness to return to work.

Upon return from medical leave, you will be offered the same position you held at the time your leave began, if available and/or as required by law. If your former position is not available, a comparable position will be offered. If neither the same nor a comparable position is available, your return to work will depend on job openings existing at the time of your scheduled return. AMPS will comply with any reinstatement obligations under state or federal law.

Disability leaves under this section are unpaid. Employees on leave due to a medical condition or disability may be eligible to receive state disability compensation through State Disability Insurance (SDI) or Paid Family Leave (PFL). In both instances, employees must directly contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

E. Discretionary Unpaid Leave of Absence (Non-Medical)

AMPS may grant a discretionary leave of absence to employees in certain unusual circumstances when requested by the employee. There is no guaranteed right to take a discretionary unpaid leave of absence and if such a leave is granted, there is not guaranteed right to reinstatement.

It is important to request any leave in writing as far in advance as possible, to keep in touch with your supervisor and Human Resources during your leave, and to give prompt notice if there is any change in your return date. If your leave expires and you have not contacted your supervisor and Human Resources, AMPS will assume that you do not plan to return and that you have voluntarily terminated your employment. Employees do not continue to accrue vacation, PSL, or holiday benefits while they are on unpaid discretionary leaves of absence.

Employees will be required to use any accrued vacation before taking an unpaid discretionary leave of absence. Unless otherwise required by law, AMPS does not continue to pay premiums for health insurance coverage for employees on discretionary unpaid leaves of absence. However, if eligible, you may self-pay the premiums under the provisions of COBRA.

F. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

This policy explains how the School complies with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") and the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), both of which require the School to permit each eligible employee to take up to twelve (12) workweeks (or twenty-six (26) workweeks where indicated) of FMLA/CFRA leave in any twelve (12) month period for the purposes enumerated below.

Employee Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for FMLA/CFRA leave, the employee must have been employed by the School for a total of at least twelve (12) months, worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding commencement of the leave, and work at a location where the School has at least fifty (50) employees within seventy-five (75) miles, (except for purposes of CFRA where the School must only have at least five (5) employees).

Events That May Entitle an Employee To FMLA/CFRA Leave

The twelve (12) week (or twenty-six (26) workweeks where indicated) FMLA/CFRA allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

1. To care for the employee's newborn child or a child placed with the employee for adoption or foster care. Leaves for this purpose must conclude twelve (12) months after the birth, adoption, or placement. If both parents are employed by the School, they each will be entitled to a separate twelve (12) weeks of leave for this purpose, which cannot be loaned or otherwise assigned from one employee to the other.
2. Because of the employee's own serious health condition (including a serious health condition resulting from an on-the-job illness or injury) that makes the employee unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of his or her job (other than a disability caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, which is covered by the School's separate

pregnancy disability policy).

- a. A “serious health condition” is an illness, injury (including, but not limited to, on-the-job injuries), impairment, or physical or mental condition of the employee or a child, parent, or spouse of the employee that involves either inpatient care or continuing treatment, including, but not limited to, treatment for substance abuse.
 - b. “Inpatient care” means a stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential health care facility, any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care, or any period of incapacity. A person is considered an “inpatient” when a health care facility formally admits him/her to the facility with the expectation that he/she will remain at least overnight and occupy a bed, even if it later develops that such person can be discharged or transferred to another facility and does not actually remain overnight.
 - c. “Incapacity” means the inability to work, attend school, or perform other regular daily activities due to a serious health condition, its treatment, or the recovery that it requires.
 - d. “Continuing treatment” means ongoing medical treatment or supervision by a health care provider.
3. To care for a spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent with a serious health condition. A qualifying family member may also include a parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or designated person for CFRA purposes. “Designated person” refers to any individual related by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent to a family relationship.
 4. When an employee is providing care to a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a covered Armed Forces service member with a serious injury or illness, the employee may take a maximum of twenty-six (26) weeks of additional FMLA leave in a single twelve (12) month period to provide said care. CFRA does not provide leave specific to caring for a service member.
 5. For any “qualifying exigency” because the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of an individual on active military duty, or an individual notified of an impending call or order to active duty, in the Armed Forces. For CFRA purposes, this may also include a domestic partner.

Amount of FMLA/CFRA Leave Which May Be Taken

FMLA/CFRA leave can be taken in one (1) or more periods, but may not exceed twelve (12) workweeks total for any purpose in any twelve (12) month period, as described below, for any one, or combination of the above-described situations. “Twelve workweeks” means the equivalent of twelve (12) of the employee’s normally scheduled workweeks. For a full-time employee who works five (5) eight-hour days per week, “twelve workweeks” means sixty (60) working and/or paid eight (8) hour days.

In addition to the twelve (12) workweeks of FMLA/CFRA leave that may be taken, an employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered Armed Forces service member may also be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of FMLA leave during a twelve (12) month period to care for the servicemember.

The “twelve month period” in which twelve (12) weeks of FMLA and CFRA leave may be taken is the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of any FMLA/CFRA leave.

If a holiday falls within a week taken as FMLA/CFRA leave, the week is nevertheless counted as a week of FMLA/CFRA leave. If, however, the School’s business activity has temporarily ceased for some reason and employees are generally not expected to report for work for one or more weeks, such as the Winter Break, Spring Break, or Summer Vacation, the days the School’s activities have ceased do not count against the employee’s FMLA or CFRA leave entitlement. Similarly, if an employee uses FMLA/CFRA leave in increments of less than one (1) week, the fact that a holiday may occur within a week in which an employee partially takes leave does not count against the employee’s leave entitlement unless the

employee was otherwise scheduled and expected to work during the holiday.

Pay during FMLA/CFRA Leave

An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave because of his/her own serious health condition must use all accrued paid sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA/CFRA leave period. If an employee is receiving a partial wage replacement benefit during the FMLA/CFRA leave, the School and the employee may agree to have School-provided paid leave, such as vacation or sick time, supplement the partial wage replacement benefit unless otherwise prohibited by law.

An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave for baby-bonding or to care for a qualifying family member with a serious health condition may use any or all accrued sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA/CFRA leave.

If an employee has exhausted his/her sick leave, leave taken under FMLA/CFRA shall be unpaid leave.

The receipt of sick leave pay or State Disability Insurance benefits will not extend the length of the FMLA or CFRA leave. Sick pay accrues during any period of unpaid FMLA or CFRA leave only until the end of the month in which unpaid leave began.

Health Benefits

The provisions of the School's various employee benefit plans govern continuing eligibility during FMLA/CFRA leave, and these provisions may change from time to time. The health benefits of employees on FMLA/CFRA leave will be paid by the School during the leave at the same level and under the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the leave period. When a request for FMLA/CFRA leave is granted, the School will give the employee written confirmation of the arrangements made for the payment of insurance premiums during the leave period.

If an employee is required to pay premiums for any part of his/her group health coverage, the School will provide the employee with advance written notice of the terms and conditions under which premium payments must be made.

AMPS may recover the health benefit costs paid on behalf of an employee during his/her FMLA/CFRA leave if:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired. An employee is deemed to have "failed to return from leave" if he/she works less than thirty (30) days after returning from FMLA/CFRA leave; and
2. The employee's failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the employee to FMLA/CFRA leave, or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

Seniority

An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave remains an employee and the leave will not constitute a break in service. An employee who returns from FMLA/CFRA leave will return with the same seniority he/she had when the leave commenced.

Medical Certifications

An employee requesting FMLA/CFRA leave because of his/her own or a relative's serious health

condition must provide medical certification from the appropriate health care provider on a form supplied by AMPS. Absent extenuating circumstances, failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen [15] days of the School's request for certification) may result in denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.

AMPS will notify the employee in writing if the certification is incomplete or insufficient, and will advise the employee what additional information is necessary in order to make the certification complete and sufficient. AMPS may contact the employee's health care provider to authenticate a certification as needed.

If the School has reason to doubt the medical certification supporting a leave because of the employee's own serious health condition, the School may request a second opinion by a health care provider of its choice (paid for by the School). If the second opinion differs from the first one, the School will pay for a third, mutually agreeable, health care provider to provide a final and binding opinion.

Recertifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the health care provider. Failure to submit required recertifications can result in termination of the leave.

Procedures for Requesting and Scheduling FMLA/CFRA Leave

An employee should request FMLA/CFRA leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to Human Resources at hrsupport@amethodschools.org. An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will be given a copy of the School's then-current FMLA/CFRA leave policy.

Employees should provide not less than thirty (30) days' notice for foreseeable childbirth, placement, or any planned medical treatment for the employee or his/her qualifying family member. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of a leave request, except if the need for FMLA/CFRA leave was an emergency or was otherwise unforeseeable.

Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.

If FMLA/CFRA leave is taken because of the employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of the employee's qualifying family member, the leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary, as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition.

If FMLA/CFRA leave is taken because of the birth of the employee's child or the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, the minimum duration of leave is two (2) weeks, except that the School will grant a request for FMLA/CFRA leave for this purpose of at least one day but less than two (2) weeks' duration on any two (2) occasions.

If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee or a family member, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he or she is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.

The School will respond to an FMLA/CFRA leave request no later than five (5) business days of receiving the request. If an FMLA/CFRA leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing that the leave will be counted against the employee's FMLA/CFRA leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.

Return to Work

Upon timely return at the expiration of the FMLA/CFRA leave period, an employee is entitled to the same or a comparable position with the same or similar duties and virtually identical pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment unless the same position and any comparable position(s) have ceased to exist because of legitimate business reasons unrelated to the employee's FMLA/CFRA leave.

When a request for FMLA/CFRA leave is granted to an employee, the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the termination of the leave (with the limitations explained above).

Before an employee will be permitted to return from FMLA/CFRA leave taken because of his/her own serious health condition, the employee must obtain a certification from his/her health care provider that he/she is able to resume work.

If an employee can return to work with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations and, if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

Employment during Leave

No employee, including employees on FMLA/CFRA leave, may accept employment with any other employer without the School's written permission. An employee who accepts such employment without the School's written permission will be deemed to have resigned from employment at the School.

G. Pregnancy Disability Leave

Any employee who is disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition is eligible for a Pregnancy Disability Leave of Absence. There is no length of service requirement.

For purposes of this policy, you are disabled when, in the opinion of your healthcare provider, you cannot work at all or are unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of your job or to perform them without undue risk to yourself, the successful completion of your pregnancy, or to other persons as determined by a healthcare provider. This term also applies to certain pregnancy-related conditions, such as severe morning sickness or if you need to take time off for prenatal or postnatal care, bed rest, postpartum depression, and the loss or end of pregnancy (among other pregnancy-related conditions that are considered to be disabling).

Reasonable Accommodation for Pregnancy-Related Disabilities

Any employee who is affected by pregnancy may also be eligible for a temporary transfer or another accommodation. There is no length of service requirement. You are affected by pregnancy if you are pregnant or have a related medical condition, and because of pregnancy, your health care provider has certified that it is medically advisable for you to temporarily transfer or to receive some other accommodation.

AMPS will provide a temporary transfer to a less strenuous or hazardous position or duties or other accommodation to an employee affected by pregnancy if:

1. She requests a transfer or other accommodation; and
2. The request is based upon the certification of her health care provider as "medically advisable"; and
3. The transfer or other requested accommodation can be reasonably accommodated pursuant to applicable law.

As part of this accommodation process, no additional position will be created and AMPS will not discharge

another employee, transfer another employee with more seniority, or promote or transfer any employee who is not qualified to perform the new job.

Advance Notice and Medical Certification

To be approved for a pregnancy disability leave of absence, a temporary transfer or other reasonable accommodation, you must:

1. Provide 30 days' advance notice before the leave of absence, transfer or reasonable accommodation is to begin, if the need is foreseeable;
2. Provide as much notice as is practicable before the leave, transfer or reasonable accommodation when 30 days' notice is not foreseeable; and
3. Provide a signed medical certification from your healthcare provider that states that you are disabled due to pregnancy or that it is medically advisable for you to be temporarily transferred or to receive some other requested accommodation.
4. AMPS may require you to provide a new certification if you request an extension of time for your leave, transfer or other requested accommodation.

Duration

AMPS will provide you with a Pregnancy Disability Leave of Absence for the duration of your pregnancy-related disability for up to four (4) months. This leave may be taken intermittently or on a continuous basis, as certified by your healthcare provider. The four months of leave available to an employee due to her pregnancy related disability is defined as the number of days (and hours) the employee would normally work within four calendar months or 17.33 workweeks.

Any temporary transfer or other reasonable accommodation provided to an employee affected by pregnancy will not reduce the amount of Pregnancy Disability Leave time the employee has available to her unless the temporary transfer or other reasonable accommodation involves a reduced work schedule or intermittent absences from work.

At the end or depletion of an employee's pregnancy disability leave, an employee who has a physical or mental disability (which may or may not be due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions) may be entitled to reasonable accommodation. Entitlement to additional leave must be determined on a case-by case basis, taking into account a number of considerations such as whether an extended leave is likely to be effective in allowing the employee to return to work at the end of the leave, with or without further reasonable accommodation, and whether or not additional leave would create an undue hardship for the School. The School is not required to provide an indefinite leave of absence as a reasonable accommodation.

Reinstatement

If you and AMPS have agreed upon a definite date of return from your leave of absence or transfer, you will be reinstated on that date if you notify AMPS that you are able to return on that date. If the length of the leave of absence or transfer has not been established, or if it differs from the original agreement, you will be returned to work within two (2) business days, where feasible, after you notify AMPS of your readiness to return.

Before you will be allowed to return to work in your regular job following a leave of absence or transfer, you must provide Human Resources with a certification from your healthcare provider that you can perform safely all of the essential duties of your position, with or without reasonable accommodation. If you do not provide such a release prior to or upon reporting for work, you will be sent home until a release is provided. Any time you are not allowed to work due to not having provided the required release will be

unpaid.

You will be returned to the same or a comparable position upon the conclusion of your leave of absence or transfer. If the same position is not available on your scheduled return date, AMPS will provide you with a comparable position on your scheduled return date or within 60 calendar days of that return date. However, you will not be entitled to any greater right to reinstatement than if you had not taken the leave. For example, you would have been laid off regardless of the leave, or you would not have been offered a comparable position, then the employee will not be entitled to reinstatement.

When a request for pregnancy disability leave is granted to an employee, the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the end of the leave (with the limitations explained above). If the employee can return with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations, and if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If the accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

Failure to return to work at the conclusion of the leave of absence may result in termination of employment, unless you are taking additional leave provided by law or AMPS policy or AMPS has otherwise approved you to take additional time off.

Pay During Leave and Integration with Other Benefits

Pregnancy Disability Leaves of Absence and accommodations that require you to work a reduced work schedule or to take time off from work intermittently are unpaid. You may elect to use accrued sick leave and/or accrued vacation benefits during the unpaid leave of absence as regulations allow. However, use of paid time off will not extend the available leave of absence time. Vacation and sick leave hours will not accrue during any unpaid portion of the leave of absence, and you will not receive pay for official holidays that are observed during your leave of absence except during those periods when you are substituting vacation or sick leave for unpaid leave.

Employees should apply for California State Disability insurance ("SDI") benefits. SDI forms are available from AMPS or your healthcare provider. Any SDI for which you are eligible will be integrated with accrued vacation, sick leave, or other paid time off benefits so that you do not receive more than 100% of your regular pay.

Health Benefits

AMPS will maintain an employee's health insurance benefits during an employee's Pregnancy Disability Leave for a period of up to four months, as defined above, on the same terms as they were provided prior to the leave time. If you take additional time off following a Pregnancy Disability Leave that qualifies as California Family Rights Act ("CFRA") leave, AMPS will continue your health insurance benefits for up to a maximum of 12 work weeks in a 12-month period.

EXAMPLE: You take 17.33 workweeks off due to a pregnancy disability. Assuming you are eligible for FMLA and CFRA leave, your Pregnancy Disability Leave will also be concurrently covered by FMLA and your group health insurance coverage would continue for the entire 17.33 workweek period. If, after your pregnancy disability leave and FMLA Leave, has been completed, you wish to take 12 additional weeks off from work to bond with a new baby under CFRA, the School will continue your health insurance benefits for the 12 workweek period.

AMPS may recover premiums that it already paid on behalf of an employee if both of the following conditions are met:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the designated leave period expires.
2. The employee's failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the following:
 - a. The employee is taking a leave of absence under the CFRA.
 - b. There is a continuation, reoccurrence, or onset of a health condition that entitles the employee to pregnancy disability leave.
 - c. There is a non-pregnancy related medical condition requiring further leave.
 - d. Any other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

Seniority

An employee on pregnancy disability leave remains an employee of the School and a leave will not constitute a break in service. When an employee returns from pregnancy disability leave, she will return with the same seniority she had when the leave commenced.

H. Military and Military Spousal Leave of Absence

Both state and federal law provide employees with the right to take leave in order to serve in the military. At the federal level, military leave rights are governed by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, commonly referred to as USERRA. This policy discusses military leave under USERRA. Further, if you are a spouse or registered domestic partner of a member of the military, you may be entitled to an unpaid leave during a period of military conflict. For information on military leave, contact Human Resources.

Eligibility for Military Leave

AMPS provides unpaid military leaves of absence to employees who serve in the uniformed services as required by USERRA and applicable state laws. The uniformed services include the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and any other category of persons designated by the President of the United States in time of war or emergency.

Service consists of the performance of any of the following on a voluntary or involuntary basis: active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty, inactive duty training, full-time National Guard duty and absence from work for an examination to determine fitness for such duty. Total military leave time may not exceed five years during employment, except in special circumstances.

Notice of Military Leave

When an employee receives orders for any active military duty (including any call to active duty), the employee must advise his or her manager or Human Resources immediately of the pending absence, unless military necessity requires otherwise or if providing notification would be impossible or unreasonable. In such an event, the employee must advise his/her/their manager or Human Resources of the need for military leave as soon as possible after becoming aware of the need for the leave.

Accrued vacation time will be paid during military leave at your request. Employees on military leave may elect to continue their health plan coverage at their own expense for up to 24 months or during the period of service, whichever is shorter.

Reinstatement from Military Leave

Except for employees serving in the National Guard, AMPS will reinstate those employees returning from military leave to their same position or one of comparable seniority, status, and pay if they have a certificate of satisfactory completion of service and apply within the timelines noted below, as required by law. For those employees serving in the National Guard, if he or she left a full-time position, the employee must apply for reemployment within forty (40) days of being released from active duty, and if he or she left part-time employment, the employee must apply for reemployment within five (5) days of being released from active duty.

An employee who was absent from work while fulfilling his or her covered service obligation under the USERRA or California law shall be credited, upon his or her return to the School, with the hours of service that would have been performed but for the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service. Exceptions to this policy will occur wherever necessary to comply with applicable laws.

Employees who are absent from work 30 days or less or who are absent to take a fitness exam must report to work at the beginning of the first regularly scheduled work day falling 8 hours or more after the employee returns home. If the employee serves 31 to 180 days, he or she must apply for reemployment within 14 days after completing service. If the employee has served 181 days or more, he or she must apply for reemployment within 90 days after completing service.

As with other leaves of absence, failure to return to work or to reapply within applicable time limits may result in loss of reemployment rights. Temporary employees may not be eligible for reinstatement following military leave and reinstatement may not be required for other employees in some circumstances. Full details regarding reinstatement are available from Human Resources.

In general, an employee returning from military leave will be reemployed in the position and seniority level that the employee would have attained had there been no military leave of absence. If necessary, AMPS will provide training to assist the employee in the transition back to the workforce.

An employee returning from military leave is entitled to any unused, accrued vacation benefits the employee had at the time the military leave began. Upon reinstatement, the employee will accrue vacation benefits at the rate he or she would have attained if no military leave had been taken. USERRA supersedes state laws that limit or condition its rights or benefits; however, it does not displace state laws that provide greater rights. Please contact Human Resources for further details.

Employees in California who serve in the military are entitled to the rights and protections set forth in the California Military and Veteran's Code. Among other things, the Code prohibits discrimination against members of the military or naval services of the state or the United States, and grants members of the National Guard or U.S. Reserve a temporary leave of absence while engaged in military duty ordered for purposes of military training, drills, encampment, naval cruises, and special exercises or like activities. This leave is not to exceed 17 calendar days annually.

Family Military Leave California

Employees who work more than twenty (20) hours per week and who are the spouses/registered domestic partners of certain military personnel may receive up to ten (10) days of unpaid leave during a qualified leave period. For purposes of this policy, a "qualified leave period" means the period during which the individual is on leave from deployment during a period of military conflict. An employee is eligible for leave under this policy if he or she:

1. Is the spouse/ registered domestic partner of a person who: (a) is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been deployed during a period of military conflict to an area designated as a combat theater or combat zone by the President of the United States,

- or (b) is a member of the National Guard or of the Reserves who has been deployed during a period of military conflict;
- 2. Provides notice of his or her intention to take leave within two business days of receiving notice that his or her spouse will be on leave from deployment; and
- 3. Submits written documentation certifying that their spouse will be on leave from deployment during the time the leave is requested.
- 4. Military conflict means either a period of war declared by the United States Congress, or a period of deployment for which a member of a reserve component is ordered to active duty either by the Governor or the President of the United States.
- 5. Leave taken under this policy will not affect an employee's right to any other benefits. AMPS will not discriminate against, or tolerate discrimination against, any employee who requests and/or takes leave under this policy. For more information, please contact your supervisor or the Human Resources Department.

I. Jury Duty/Witness Duty

All employees who receive a notice of jury/witness duty must notify their supervisor as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made to cover the absence. In addition, employees must provide a copy of the official jury/witness duty notice to their supervisor. Employees must report for work whenever the court schedule permits. Either AMPS or the employee may request an excuse from jury/witness duty if, in AMPS' judgment, the employee's absence would create serious operational difficulties.

Non-exempt employees who are called for jury/witness duty will be provided time off without pay. Exempt employees will receive their regular salary unless they do not work any hours during the course of a workweek. Employees may elect to use any accrued vacation during jury/witness duty leave.

In the event that the employee must serve as a witness within the course and scope of his or her employment with AMPS, AMPS will provide time off with pay.

J. Time-Off for Voting

AMPS encourages its employees to fulfill their civic responsibilities by participating in elections. Because polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., employees generally are able to find time to vote either before or after their regular work schedule. If employees are unable to vote in an election during their non-working hours and have not requested an absentee ballot, then AMPS will grant up to two hours of paid time off to vote.

Employees must request time off to vote from their supervisor at least two (2) working days prior to the election day. Advance notice is required so that the necessary time off can be scheduled at the beginning or end of the work shift, whichever provides the least disruption to the normal work schedule.

Employees must submit a voter's receipt on the first working day following the election to qualify for paid time off.

Nothing in this policy requires the employee to bring his or her mail (absentee) ballot to work, including mailing such absentee ballot from work.

K. Emergency Duty/Training Leave

In California, no employee shall receive discipline for taking time off to perform emergency duty/training

as a volunteer firefighter, reserve peace officer, or emergency rescue personnel. If you are participating in this kind of emergency duty/training, please alert your supervisor so that he or she may be aware of the fact that you may have to take unpaid time off for emergency duty/training. In the event that you need to take time off for emergency duty/training, please alert your supervisor before doing so whenever possible. Time off for emergency training may not exceed 14 days per calendar year.

Emergency Duty/Training Leave is unpaid. You may choose to use your accrued vacation if you wish to receive compensation for this time off, but you are not required to do so.

If you feel you have been treated unfairly as a result of taking or requesting Emergency Duty/Training Leave, you should contact your supervisor or any other manager, as appropriate.

L. Suspended Pupil/Child Leave

California law requires employers to provide time off for parents required to visit a child's school when the child has served a period of suspension from school. To be eligible for time off to attend a child's school, the employee must be the parent of a child in kindergarten or in grades 1-12 and must present a letter, which requests the employee's appearance at their child's school, to his or her supervisor at least two days before the requested time off. Employees may use accrued vacation while attending a child's school under these circumstances. If not, suspended pupil/child leave will be unpaid.

M. Leave for Victims of Crime and Abuse

AMPS will not discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a victim of crime or abuse. For purposes of this policy, "victim of crime or abuse" refers to (A) a victim of stalking, domestic violence, or sexual assault; (B) a victim of a crime (regardless of whether any person is arrested for, prosecuted for, or convicted of, committing the crime) that caused physical injury or that caused mental injury and a threat of physical injury; and (C) a person whose immediate family member is deceased as the direct result of a crime.

AMPS will permit a victim of crime or abuse to take time off from work to obtain any relief, including, but not limited to, a temporary restraining order, restraining order, or other injunctive relief to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of the victim or his or her child. Additionally, AMPS will permit a victim of crime or abuse to take time off work for the following purposes:

1. To seek medical attention for injuries related to the crime or abuse.
2. To obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, program, rape crisis center, or victim services organization or agency as a result of the crime or abuse.
3. To obtain psychological counseling or mental health services related to an experience of crime or abuse.
4. To participate in safety planning and take other actions to increase safety from future crime or abuse, including temporary or permanent relocation.

In order to take time off, the employee must provide reasonable advance notice unless doing so is not feasible. When an unscheduled absence occurs, AMPS will not take any action against the employee if the employee provides proof explaining the reason for his or her absence within a reasonable time.

Additionally, employees who have been victims of serious or violent felonies, or felonies relating to theft or embezzlement, may take time off work to attend judicial proceedings related to the crime. Employees also may take time off if an immediate family member has been a victim of such crimes and the employee needs to attend judicial proceedings related to the crime.

To request leave under this policy, an employee should provide AMPS with as much advance notice as practicable under the circumstances. If advance notice is not possible, the employee requesting leave under this policy should provide AMPS one (1) of the following certifications upon returning back to work:

1. A police report indicating that the employee was a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
2. A court order protecting the employee from the perpetrator or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that the employee appeared in court.
3. Documentation from a licensed medical professional, domestic violence or sexual assault counselor, licensed health care provider, or counselor showing that the employee's absence was due to treatment for injuries or abuse from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
4. Any other form of documentation that reasonably verifies that the crime or abuse occurred, including but not limited to, a written statement signed by the employee, or an individual acting on the employee's behalf, certifying that the absence is for a purpose authorized under the law.

Employees may choose to use paid sick leave that is otherwise available to the employee when taking time off under this policy.

A victim of crime or abuse may also request a reasonable accommodation for his or her safety while at work. AMPS will then engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with the employee to determine effective reasonable accommodations. AMPS will consider any exigent circumstance or danger facing the employee to determine whether an accommodation is reasonable. If the accommodation is reasonable and will not impose an undue hardship, the School will make the accommodation. Reasonable accommodations may include putting in locks, changing the employee's shift or phone number, transferring or reassigning the employee, helping the employee to document instances of crime or abuse, implementing a safety procedure or another adjustment to a job structure, workplace facility, or work requirement, or referral to a victim assistance organization.

The School will maintain as confidential any verbal or written statement, police or court record, or other documentation provided to the School identifying an employee as a victim of crime or abuse. Such information will not be disclosed by the School except as required by state or federal law or as necessary to protect the employee's safety in the workplace.

N. School Appearance and Activities Leave

If you are the parent or guardian of a child who is in school up to grade 12, or who attends a licensed day care facility, you may take up to 40 hours of unpaid leave per year to participate in activities of a child's school or child care. You may take no more than eight (8) hours off for this purpose in any one calendar month. Unless it is to address an emergency, you should schedule this time off with your supervisor in advance. You may be asked to provide documentation from AMPS or day care facility to confirm your attendance at its facility for reasons covered under this policy on the specific date and time that you took the leave. This time off is unpaid. You may choose to use your accrued vacation, but this is not required.

If both parents or guardians of a child work for AMPS, only one parent – the first to provide notice – may take the time off, unless AMPS approves both parents taking time off simultaneously.

O. Adult Literacy Leave

AMPS will make reasonable accommodations for any employee who reveals a literacy problem and requests that AMPS assist him in enrolling in an adult literacy program, unless it would create a hardship for AMPS.

AMPS will also assist employees who wish to seek literacy education training by providing employees with the location of local literacy programs.

AMPS will take reasonable steps to safeguard the privacy of any employee who identifies him or herself as an individual with a literacy problem. The employee can contact Human Resources.

An employee who is performing satisfactorily will not be subject to termination of employment because they have disclosed literacy problems.

While AMPS encourages employees to improve their literacy skills, AMPS will not reimburse employees for the costs incurred in attending a literacy program.

P. Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Leave

AMPS encourages employees with drug or alcohol abuse problems to seek needed counseling and treatment. Employees who are unable to find assistance may contact Human Resources to receive information about finding help. Any communications initiated by an employee and not as a result of a violation of this policy will be treated as confidentially as is possible.

AMPS will reasonably accommodate any employee who wishes to voluntarily enter and participate in an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program, provided that this reasonable accommodation will not impose an undue hardship for AMPS. Any such leave shall be unpaid except that, to the extent that employees have accrued sick or vacation they must use it. Sick or vacation will not accrue while an employee is on Rehabilitation leave, nor will the employee receive holiday pay.

Requesting assistance for substance abuse does not relieve the employee of his/her/their responsibility to meet performance, safety and attendance expectations. Rehabilitation expenses will be paid by the employee unless coverage is provided under a health insurance policy. Satisfactory participation in and completion of a rehabilitation program approved by AMPS is a condition of continuing employment.

Q. Civil Air Patrol Leave

Pursuant to California law, AMPS will provide unpaid leave to employees who are volunteer members of the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol and who have been duly directed and authorized to respond to an emergency operational mission of the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. Employees must be employed for at least 90 days immediately preceding the commencement of leave in order to be eligible.

Employees are required to give AMPS as much notice as possible of the intended dates upon which the leave would begin and end. AMPS will restore the employee to the position he or she held when the leave began or to a position with equivalent seniority status, employee benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment, unless the employee is not restored because of conditions unrelated to the exercise of the leave rights by the employee. The time off is unpaid. However, an employee may utilize accrued vacation.

R. Leave for Bone Marrow and Organ Donors

Pursuant to California law, AMPS will provide up to five (5) business days of paid leave within a one- year period to an employee who donates bone marrow to another person. In addition, AMPS will provide up to 30 business days of paid leave within a one-year period and up to another 30 business days of *unpaid* leave within a one-year period to an employee who donates an organ to another person. The one-year period is measured from the date the employee's leave begins and shall consist of 12 consecutive months.

To qualify for this leave, an employee must have been employed for at least 90 days prior to the commencement of the leave and must provide AMPS with written verification of his or her status as an organ or bone marrow donor and the medical necessity for the donation. During such leave, AMPS will continue coverage under its group medical insurance plan, if applicable. However, employees must continue to pay their portion of the applicable premiums. Employees should give AMPS as much notice as possible of the intended dates upon which the leave would begin and end.

Employees returning from Donor Leave will be reinstated to the position held before the leave began, or to a position with equivalent status, benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. AMPS may refuse to reinstate an employee if the reason is unrelated to taking a Donor Leave. A Donor Leave is not permitted to be taken concurrently with an FMLA/CFRA Leave.

S. *Bereavement Leave*

All employees who have worked for the School for at least thirty (30) days shall be eligible to take up to five (5) days of bereavement leave due to the death of a covered family member (spouse, child, parent, parent-in-law sibling, grandparent, grandchild, domestic partner, or parent-in-law). Full-time employees are entitled to up to three (3) days of pay during bereavement leave. For all other employees, bereavement leave shall be unpaid unless an employee elects to use available accrued/unused paid leave. Bereavement leave must be utilized within three (3) months of the covered family member's date of death. Bereavement pay will not be used in computing overtime pay. Any scheduled days off (including weekends, holidays and vacations) falling during the absence will be counted as both bereavement leave and scheduled days off. Upon request, an employee may be required to provide documentation of the death of a covered family member.

INSURANCE BENEFITS

A. *Health Benefits*

AMPS offers a comprehensive health insurance plan for eligible employees.

Regular full-time and part-time employees, who work on average at least thirty (30) hours per workweek, are eligible for health insurance on the first day of the month following their hire date in the following manners:

1. Employees that work less than an average of 30 hours per workweek are not eligible for any Health Benefits.
2. Full-time employees that work an average of 30 hours or more per workweek will receive 100% health benefits coverage and AMPS will pay premiums up to a designated amount.

AMPS pays the premium for eligible employees up to a designated amount. Any remaining costs associated with the Employee's plan shall be paid by the employee as a pre-tax payroll deduction. Employees will be notified of their contribution amount, should there be one, at the time they sign up for the specific benefit. Eligible employees are responsible for their portion of the monthly premium costs for their dependents' coverage.

Subject to applicable law, there is no guarantee that AMPS will continue to maintain a medical insurance plan or that the terms and conditions of any such plan will not be changed at any time. Further, in order to continue participation in any such plan, employees may be required to pay a part of the premium.

When Coverage Starts

Your coverage will begin on the first day of the calendar month following the employee's first day of employment. Your online enrollment must be submitted to the Human Resources Department as soon as possible. This enrollment serves as a request for coverage, and authorizes any payroll deductions necessary to pay for your coverage. By delaying the submission of the health benefits enrollment package, an employee's enrollment and health coverage may result in lack of coverage until the designated open enrollment period.

Flexible Spending Plans

AMPS provides, at no cost to employees, a Flexible Spending Plan which allows employees to pay for monthly health premiums, and commuter benefits with pre-tax dollars. This means your health premiums are subtracted from your gross pay before federal, state and social security (FICA) taxes are applied. The Flexible Spending Plan Document is in all cases controlling and supersedes any inconsistent terms in this manual. From time to time, we may also offer employees' access to a Medical Reimbursement and Dependent Care option within this program that is funded 100% by the employee. These options, if available, will be explained to you during open enrollment once established.

Stipend

Employees who are covered under a spouse's health plan, and not AMPS' plan, may qualify to be paid a predetermined monthly stipend. The rate at which the stipend is calculated is subject to annual change based on the annual health insurance rates. Please talk with the Human Resources Department if you believe you qualify.

COBRA

If for some reason your coverage under AMPS' health insurance ends, you and your dependents may be eligible to continue coverage for a specified term under COBRA. In this event, AMPS will provide additional information on COBRA coverage.

B. Industrial Injury Leave / (Workers' Compensation Insurance)

AMPS, in accordance with State law, provides insurance coverage for employees in case of work-related injuries. The workers' compensation benefits provided to injured employees may include:

1. Medical care;
2. Cash benefits, tax-free to replace lost wages; and
3. Vocational rehabilitation to help qualified injured employees return to suitable employment.

To ensure employees receive any worker's compensation benefits to which they may be entitled, employees will need to:

1. Immediately report any work-related injury to the Human Resources Department at hrsupport@amethodschools.org
2. Seek medical treatment and follow-up care if required;
3. Complete a written Employee's Claim Form (DWC Form 1) and return it to the Human Resources Department at hrsupport@amethodschools.org
4. Provide the School with a certification from a health care provider regarding the need for workers' compensation disability leave as well as the employee's eventual ability to return to work from the leave.

It is the School's policy that when there is a job-related injury, the first priority is to ensure that the injured employee receives appropriate medical attention. AMPS, with the help of its insurance carrier, has selected medical centers to meet this need. Each medical center was selected for its ability to meet anticipated needs with high quality medical service and a location that is convenient to its operations.

If an employee is injured on the job, he/she is to go or be taken to the approved medical center for treatment. If injuries are such that they require the use of emergency medical systems ("EMS") such as an ambulance, the choice by the EMS personnel for the most appropriate medical center or hospital for treatment will be recognized as an approved center.

All accidents and injuries must be reported to the Human Resources Department hrsupport@amethodschools.org and to the individual responsible for reporting to AMPS's insurance carrier. Failure by an employee to report a work-related injury by the end of his/her shift could result in loss of insurance coverage for the employee. An employee may choose to be treated by his/her personal physician at his/her own expense, but he/she is still required to go to AMPS's approved medical center for evaluation. All job-related injuries must be reported to the appropriate State Workers' Compensation Bureau and the insurance carrier.

When there is a job-related injury that results in lost time, the employee must have a medical release from AMPS's approved medical facility before returning to work.

Any time there is a job-related injury, AMPS's policy requires drug/alcohol testing along with any medical treatment provided to the employee.

PERSONNEL EVALUATION AND RECORD KEEPING

A. *Performance Evaluations*

AMPS strives to conduct formal performance reviews for all of its employees. Teacher and Site Directors will generally be formally reviewed once each school year. However, informal observations will be conducted throughout the year. The frequency of performance evaluations may vary depending upon length of service, job position, past performance, changes in job duties, performance problems or operational requirements.

Performance reviews may cover factors such as job criteria, instructional practice, data reviews, critical duties and tasks of a job, attainment of goals, and adherence to the AMPS core values. The performance evaluations are intended to make you aware of your progress, areas for improvement and objectives or goals for future work performance. Favorable performance reviews do not guarantee increases in salary or promotions. Salary increases and promotions are solely within the discretion of AMPS and depend upon many factors in addition to performance, including availability of funds. After the review, you will be required to sign the evaluation report to acknowledge that it has been presented to you, that you have discussed it with your supervisor and that you are aware of its contents. You may add a rebuttal statement to your review within 10 days of your review that will be maintained in your personnel file.

Nothing in this policy shall limit the right to terminate employment at-will or limit AMPS' right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion. Failure by AMPS to evaluate the employee will not prevent AMPS from transferring, demoting, disciplining, or terminating an employee. Employment is at the mutual consent of the employee and AMPS. Accordingly, either the employee or AMPS can terminate the employment relationship at-will, at any time, with or without reason and with or without notice

B. *Personnel Files*

The information recorded in your personnel file is extremely important. It is your responsibility to make sure that the personal data in the file is accurate and up to date. Report any change of address, phone number, etc. to AMPS immediately.

Employees, former employees, or employee representatives may submit a request to inspect their personnel file in the presence of a representative of AMPS. All requests must be in writing. Current and former employees, or employee representatives, may also request inspection through the use of an AMPS-provided request form. Please contact Human Resources to schedule a convenient time. You may request copies from your file of all documents. AMPS may charge the requesting employee or employee representative for the actual cost of reproduction of personnel file documents. If you desire, you may add a written statement to your file explaining any disputed item.

Employees also may inspect their payroll records upon request, and may obtain a copy of these records at their own expense. AMPS will comply with all inspection requests as required by law.

Access to information in personnel files is restricted. Only authorized managers and management personnel will have access to your personnel file. However, AMPS will cooperate with-and provide access to your personnel file to-law enforcement officials or local, state or federal agencies in accordance with applicable law.

Health/medical records are not included in your personnel file. These records are confidential. AMPS will safeguard them from disclosure and will divulge such information only: 1) as allowed by law; or 2) to the employee's personal physician upon written request or permission of the employee.

Credible complaints of substantiated investigations into or discipline for egregious misconduct will not be

expunged from an employee's personnel file unless the complaint is heard by an arbitrator, administrative law judge, or the Board and the complaint is deemed to be false, not credible, unsubstantiated or a determination was made that discipline was not warranted.

INTERNAL COMPLAINT REVIEW

The purpose of the “Internal Complaint Review Policy” is to afford all employees of AMPS the opportunity to seek internal resolution of their work-related concerns. All employees have free access to the CEO or Board of Directors to express their work-related concerns.

Specific complaints of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are addressed under the School’s “Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation.”

A. Internal Complaints

Complaints by Employees Against Employees

This section of the policy is for use when a School employee raises a complaint or concern about a co-worker.

If reasonably possible, internal complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible level, including attempts to discuss/resolve concerns with the immediate supervisor. However, in the event an informal resolution may not be achieved or is not appropriate, the following steps will be followed by the CEO or designee:

1. The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Human Resources as soon as possible after attempts to resolve the complaint with the immediate supervisor have failed or if not appropriate; and
2. The complainant will reduce his or her complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts. Human Resources or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation;
3. If the complaint is about the CEO, the complainant may file his or her complaint in a signed writing to Human Resources or the President of AMPS Board of Directors, who will then confer with the Board and may conduct a fact-finding or authorize a third party investigator on behalf of the Board. The Board President or investigator will report his or her findings to the Board for review and action, if necessary.

This policy cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to the employee’s satisfaction. However, the School values each employee’s ability to express concerns and the need for resolution without fear of adverse consequences to employment.

B. Policy for Complaints Against Employees

Complaints by Third Parties Against Employees

This section of the policy is for use when a non-employee raises a complaint or concern about an AMPS employee.

If complaints cannot be resolved informally, complainants may file a written complaint with Human Resources, AMPS CEO or Board President (if the complaint concerns the CEO) as soon as possible after the events that give rise to the complainant’s concerns. The written complaint should set forth in detail the factual basis for the complaint.

In processing the complaint, Human Resources, AMPS CEO (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

1. Human Resources, AMPS CEO or designee shall use his or her best efforts to talk with the parties identified in the complaint and to ascertain the facts relating to the complaint.
2. In the event that Human Resource, AMPS CEO (or designee) finds that a complaint against an employee is valid, Human Resources, AMPS CEO (or designee) may take appropriate disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, Human Resources, AMPS CEO (or designee) may also simply counsel/reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures.
3. Human Resources's, AMPS CEO's (or designee's) decision relating to the complaint shall be final unless it is appealed to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board shall be final.

C. General Requirements

Confidentiality

All complainants will be notified that information obtained from the complainants and thereafter gathered will be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be assured.

Non-Retaliation

All complainants will be advised that they will be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaints or participation in any complaint process.

Resolution

The Board (if a complaint is about the CEO) or the CEO or designee will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances and pursuant to the applicable procedures, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

This Employee Handbook contains the employment policies and practices of AMPS in effect at the time of publication.

AMPS reserves the right to amend, delete or otherwise modify this Handbook at any time provided that such modifications are in writing and duly approved by the employer.

Any written changes to the Handbook will be distributed to all employees. No oral statements can in any way alter the provisions of this Handbook.

AMPS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AT-WILL AGREEMENT

ALL EMPLOYEES MUST READ THIS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO HUMAN RESOURCES WITHIN ONE WEEK OF RECEIPT.

I acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of the AMPS Employee Handbook. I understand that the Handbook set forth the terms and conditions of my employment with AMPS as well as the duties, responsibilities and obligations of employment with AMPS. I understand that AMPS has provided me various alternative channels [including anonymous and confidential channels,] to raise concerns of violations of this handbook and School policies and encourages me to do so promptly so that AMPS may effectively address such situations, and I understand that nothing herein interferes with any right to report concerns, make lawful disclosures, or communicate with any governmental authority regarding potential violations of laws or regulations. I agree to abide by and be bound by the rules, policies and standards set forth in the Employee Handbook.

Unless specified otherwise in an agreement between me and AMPS, I agree that AMPS and I both have the right to terminate my employment at any time, with or without notice, and with or without cause. I further understand that transfers, demotions, suspensions, employee discipline, and changes in the terms and conditions of employment may be administered at the sole and absolute discretion of AMPS. Unless specified otherwise in an agreement between me and AMPS, I understand that I am an at-will employee. I understand that the at-will nature of my employment may not be modified orally and may only be modified in a writing signed by the CEO of AMPS and me, and approved in writing by AMPS' Board of Directors.

I understand that nothing in the Handbook is intended, nor should be construed, as a limitation of my right and AMPS' right to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without notice, and with or without cause, or AMPS' absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion. I understand that nothing in the Handbook is intended, nor should be construed, to create an implied or express contract of employment contrary to this express at-will agreement or to AMPS' absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion. I understand that AMPS reserves the right to depart from and modify the policies stated in the Handbook at its sole discretion, with the exception of my at-will status and AMPS' absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment. I also understand and acknowledge that nothing about the policies and procedures set forth in this Handbook should be construed to interfere with any employee rights provided under state or federal law, including Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act. The foregoing constitutes the entire terms of the agreement between me and AMPS regarding the duration and at-will nature of my employment and AMPS' absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion.

Employee Printed Name: _____

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____ Site: _____

APPENDIX A: HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION/RETALIATION COMPLAINT FORM

It is the policy of AMPS that all of its employees be free from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. This form is provided for you to report what you believe to be harassment, discrimination, or retaliation so that AMPS may investigate and take appropriate disciplinary or other action when the facts show that there has been harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.

If you are an employee of AMPS, you may file this form with the CEO or Board President.

Please review AMPS's policies concerning harassment, discrimination, and retaliation for a definition of such unlawful conduct and a description of the types of conduct that are considered unlawful.

AMPS will undertake every effort to handle the investigation of your complaint in a confidential manner. In that regard, AMPS will disclose the contents of your complaint only to those persons having a need to know. For example, to conduct its investigation, AMPS will need to disclose portions of your factual allegations to potential witnesses, including anyone you have identified as having knowledge of the facts on which you are basing your complaint, as well as the alleged offender.

In signing this form below, you authorize AMPS to disclose to others the information you have provided herein, and information you may provide in the future. Please note that the more detailed information you provide, the more likely it is that AMPS will be able to address your complaint to your satisfaction.

Charges of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are taken very seriously by AMPS both because of the harm caused by such unlawful conduct, and because of the potential sanctions that may be taken against the offender. It is therefore very important that you report the facts as accurately and completely as possible and that you cooperate fully with the person or persons designated to investigate your complaint.

Your Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s):

Name of Person(s) you believe harassed, or discriminated or retaliated against, you or someone else:

List any witnesses that were present:

Where did the incident(s) occur?

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand the above statements. I hereby authorize the School to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Complainant: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

School use only

Received by:

Date:

APPENDIX B: INTERNAL COMPLAINT FORM

Your Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s):

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against:

List any witnesses that were present:

Where did the incident(s) occur?

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I hereby authorize the School to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Signature of Complainant: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

To be completed by School:

Received by: _____ Date: _____

AMPS



HONOR HARD WORK

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION TO HANDBOOK

This Handbook is designed to help employees get acquainted with Amethod Public Schools (“AMPS”). It explains some of our philosophies and beliefs, and describes in general terms, some of our employment guidelines. Although this Handbook is not intended to be an exclusive or comprehensive policies and procedures manual, we hope that it will serve as a useful reference document for employees throughout their employment at AMPS. It is not intended to create any expectations of continued employment, or an employment contract, express or implied. In no way does the Handbook replace or modify any official plan documents (e.g., health insurance, retirement plan, etc.) or insurance contracts.

This Handbook supersedes any previously issued handbooks and any policies or other written or verbal statements that are inconsistent with the policies described herein. Employees must sign the acknowledgment form at the end of this Handbook and return it to Human Resources. It is important that all employees read, understand, and follow the provisions of the Handbook. If you need further information, or if you wish to discuss any policy in this Handbook, please feel free to contact your supervisor, Human Resources or the CEO.

AMPS reserves full discretion to add, change, amend, supplement, or delete provisions of this Handbook, or the policies and procedures on which they may be based, at any time without advance notice. No one other than the CEO or the Board of Directors has the authority to enter into any employment agreement or other agreement that modifies AMPS policy, the arbitration agreement, or the employee’s at-will employment with AMPS, and any such modification *must* be in writing and approved by the Board of Directors in writing.

Failure to comply with this handbook may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We believe diverse perspectives lead to stronger ideas, striking innovation, and effective practices, accelerating our progress toward our mission. AMPS prioritizes building diverse teams that reflect the experiences of our employees to ensure everyone shapes our approach. Additionally, we cultivate an inclusive environment and culture of belonging for our employees—a critical step in our pursuit of equity.

AMPS welcomes and reveres the spectrum of human diversity, and stands against bigotry, racism, sexism, heteronormativity, and other biases that seek to undermine the dignity of all people. The barriers our employees face are deeply entrenched in our society. Therefore, we regularly examine the impact of our policies, processes, and procedures and refine them to build a more equitable workplace.

How We Define Diversity: A wide range of intersecting identities, including people with different perspectives, abilities, and lived experiences. At AMPS, we value and seek the perspectives of people with proximity to our employees' identities and lived experiences.

How We Define Inclusion: A continuous effort to create an environment that reveres the spectrum of human diversity, where all employees feel a sense of belonging. At AMPS, we stand against all forms of bigotry—including racism, sexism, heteronormativity, and other biases that undermine human dignity.

How We Define Equity: A state wherein we disrupt the ways of bigotry, historic injustice, and systemic oppression manifest in our systems. At AMPS, we work to tailor our approach to achieve equity.

GENERAL POLICIES

A. *Equal Employment Opportunity (Discrimination)*

Covered Individuals

This policy protects all employees of AMPS as well as interns, volunteers, and potential employees (applicants). All employees of AMPS are required to abide by this policy, regardless of position or status, including supervisors, management, and co-workers.

Discrimination

As used in this policy, “discrimination” means taking any adverse employment action against an employee or applicant in any aspect of employment, solely or in part based on the individual’s protected category. Discrimination may include, but is not necessarily limited to, factoring an individual’s protected category in hiring, promotion, compensation, or other terms and conditions of employment unless otherwise permitted by law.

Adverse Employment Action

As used in this policy, “adverse employment action” may include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: demotion; suspension; reduction in pay; denial of a merit salary increase; failure to hire or consider for hire; refusal to promote or consider for promotion; denial of employment opportunities; change of an employee’s work assignments; failure to provide a workplace accommodation when required (i.e., disability, pregnancy, religion, transgender); failure to provide a leave of absence when required (i.e., medical, pregnancy, workers’ compensation, military, domestic violence); or any other unequal treatment based on the individual’s protected category resulting in an adverse employment action.

Protected Categories

AMPS’ policy prohibits discrimination based on race (which includes historically associated traits, such as hair styles and protective hairstyles, e.g., braids, locks, and twists), religious creed (which includes religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (which includes, but is not limited to, national origin groups and aspects of national origin, such as height, weight, accent, or language proficiency), ancestry, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), mental disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, marital status (including registered domestic partnership status), sex and gender (which includes reproductive health decision making, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), gender identity and gender expression (including transgender individuals who are transitioning, have transitioned, or are perceived to be transitioning to the gender with which they identify), sex stereotype (including an assumption about a person’s appearance or behavior, gender roles, gender expression, or gender identity, or about an individual’s ability or inability to perform certain kinds of work based on a myth, social expectation, or generalization about the individual’s sex), age (forty (40) and over), sexual orientation, military or veteran status (including state and federal active and reserve members as well as those ordered to duty or training), immigration/citizenship status or related protected activities (which includes undocumented individuals and human trafficking), protected medical leaves, domestic violence victim status, political affiliation, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations. These categories include a perception that the individual has any of these characteristics or is associated with a person who has (or is perceived to have) any of these characteristics.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination on the basis of “national origin” also includes discrimination

against an individual because that person holds or presents the California driver's license issued to those who cannot document their lawful presence in the United States, as well as discrimination based upon any of the following: an individual's or individual's ancestors' actual or perceived physical, cultural or linguistic characteristics associated with a national origin group; marriage to or association with individuals of a national origin group; tribal affiliation; membership in or association with an organization identified with or seeking to promote the interests of a national origin group; attendance or participation in schools, churches, temples, mosques or other religious institutions generally used by persons of a national origin group; or a name that is associated with a national origin group. An employee's or applicant for employment's immigration status will not be considered for any employment purpose except as necessary to comply with federal, state or local law.

AMPS allows employees to self-identify their gender, name and/or pronoun, including gender- neutral pronouns. AMPS will use an employee's gender or legal name as indicated on a government-issued identification document, only as necessary to meet an obligation mandated by law. Otherwise, AMPS will identify the employee in accordance with the employee's current gender identity and preferred name.

AMPS will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based upon these characteristics or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local law.

To comply with applicable laws ensuring equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the School will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee unless undue hardship would result.

Any applicant or employee who requires an accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of the job should contact a School representative with day-to-day personnel responsibilities and request such an accommodation. The individual with the disability should specify what accommodation he or she needs to perform the job, or if unknown, what job duties the disability impairs. AMPS will then conduct an investigation to identify the barriers that interfere with the equal opportunity of the applicant or employee to perform the job. AMPS will identify possible accommodations, if any, that will help eliminate the limitation. If the accommodation is reasonable and will not impose an undue hardship, the School will make the accommodation.

Scope of Policy

AMPS is an equal employment opportunity employer and is committed to complying with all applicable laws providing equal employment opportunities. As such, AMPS makes employment decisions, including, but not limited to, hiring, recruiting, firing, promotion, demotion, training, compensation, qualifications/job requirements, on the basis of merit and/or business necessity. Employment decisions are based on an individual's qualifications as they relate to the job under consideration pursuant to legitimate business purposes.

If you believe you have been subjected to, witnessed, or have knowledge about discrimination, please follow the complaint procedure outlined below.

B. Unlawful Harassment

Covered Individuals

This policy protects all employees of AMPS as well as interns, volunteers, independent contractors, and potential employees (applicants). All employees of AMPS are required to abide by this policy, regardless of position or status, including supervisors, management, and co-workers. In addition, this policy prohibits unlawful harassment by any third parties. AMPS will take all reasonable steps to prevent or eliminate

unlawful harassment by non-employees, including students, parents, and anyone else who has workplace contact with our employees.

Protected Categories

AMPS' policy prohibits harassment based on race (which includes historically associated traits, such as hair styles and protective hair styles, e.g., braids, locks, and twists), religious creed (which includes religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (which includes, but is not limited to, national origin groups and aspects of national origin, such as height, weight, accent, or language proficiency), ancestry, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), mental disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, marital status (including registered domestic partnership status), sex and gender (which includes reproductive health decision making, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), gender identity and gender expression (including transgender individuals who are transitioning, have transitioned, or are perceived to be transitioning to the gender with which they identify), sex stereotype (including an assumption about a person's appearance or behavior, gender roles, gender expression, or gender identity, or about an individual's ability or inability to perform certain kinds of work based on a myth, social expectation, or generalization about the individual's sex), age (forty (40) and over), sexual orientation, military or veteran status (including state and federal active and reserve members as well as those ordered to duty or training), immigration/citizenship status or related protected activities (which includes undocumented individuals and human trafficking), protected medical leaves, domestic violence victim status, political affiliation, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination on the basis of "national origin" also includes harassment against an individual because that person holds or presents the California driver's license issued to those who cannot document their lawful presence in the United States and based on any of the following: an individual's or individual's ancestors' actual or perceived physical, cultural or linguistic characteristics associated with a national origin group; marriage to or association with individuals of a national origin group; tribal affiliation; membership in or association with an organization identified with or seeking to promote the interests of a national origin group; attendance or participation in schools, churches, temples, mosques or other religious institutions generally used by persons of a national origin group; or a name that is associated with a national origin group. All such harassment is prohibited.

Unlawful Harassment

Prohibited unlawful harassment may include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following behavior pertaining to **any of the above protected categories**:

1. **Verbal conduct** such as flirting, epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, voicemails, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, sexually suggestive innuendos, conversations regarding sexual activities, invitations, or comments (including, but not limited to, threats of deportation against applicants and employees and family members of applicants and employees, derogatory comments about immigration status or disability, or mockery of an accent or a language or its speakers) ("hostile work environment" harassment).
2. Disrespectful or unprofessional conduct based on any of the protected categories listed above ("hostile work environment" harassment).
3. Comments or conduct that consistently target one gender, even if the content is not sexual ("hostile work environment" harassment).
4. **Visual conduct** such as derogatory and/or sexually oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings, gestures, text messages, social media, instant messages, e-mails, letters, pictures, or gifts ("hostile work environment" harassment).
5. **Physical conduct** such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movement, or

- interfering with work because of any protected basis ("hostile work environment" harassment).
6. Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition of continued employment or to avoid some other loss and offers of employment benefits in return for sexual favors ("quid pro quo" harassment).
7. **Sexual harassment** consists of sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of whether or not the conduct is motivated by sexual desire, when: (1) submission to the conduct is either made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) an employment decision is based upon an individual's acceptance or rejection of that conduct; and/or (3) that conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Abusive Conduct Prevention

AMPS does not condone and will not tolerate unlawful harassment or abusive conduct on the part of any employee (including supervisors and managers) or third party (including independent contractors or other persons with which the School does business). Examples of abusive conduct include repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of malicious, derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the intentional sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance.

Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all phases of employment, including, but not limited to, recruiting, testing, hiring, upgrading, promotion, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, rates of pay, benefits, and selection for training. In addition, this policy extends to conduct with a connection to an employee's work, even when the conduct takes place away from AMPS' premises, such as a business trip, School- related social function, or social media activity (depending on the circumstances).

If you believe you have been subjected to, witnessed, or have knowledge about unlawful harassment, please follow the complaint procedure outlined below.

Retaliation Covered Individuals

This policy protects all employees of AMPS as well as interns, volunteers, independent contractors, and potential employees (applicants). All employees of AMPS are required to abide by this policy, regardless of position or status, including supervisors, management, and co-workers.

As used in this policy, "retaliation" means taking any adverse employment action against an employee because he or she engaged in protected activity pursuant to this policy. Protected activity may include, but is not limited to, opposing a practice or conduct the employee reasonably believes to be unlawful; reporting or assisting in reporting suspected violations of AMPS' anti-discrimination, harassment, or retaliation policies; cooperating or participating in investigations or proceedings arising out of a violation of these policies; or engaging in any other activity protected by applicable law.

Adverse Employment Action

As used in this policy, "adverse employment action" means conduct or an action that materially affects the terms and conditions of the employee's employment status or is reasonably likely to deter the employee from engaging in further protected activity. Adverse employment actions may include, but are not limited to, the following: demotion; suspension; reduction in pay; denial of a merit salary increase; failure to hire or consider for hire; refusing to promote or consider for promotion because of reporting a violation of this policy; harassing another employee for filing a complaint; denying employment

opportunities because of making a complaint or for cooperating in an investigation; changing an employee's work assignments for identifying harassment or other forms of discrimination in the workplace; treating an employee differently such as denying an accommodation; not talking to an employee (the "cold shoulder") when otherwise required by job duties; or otherwise excluding the employee from job-related activities because of engagement in activities protected under this policy.

Any retaliatory adverse action because of protected activity may be unlawful and will not be tolerated. If you believe you have been subjected to, witnessed, or have knowledge about retaliation, please follow the complaint procedure outlined below.

Complaint Procedure—Discrimination, Unlawful Harassment, Retaliation

Duty to Report

All employees who believe they have been subjected to discrimination, unlawful harassment, and/or retaliation are strongly encouraged to promptly report the alleged violation(s) in accordance with the procedures set forth below. Supervisors and managers are required to report any complaints of unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in accordance with the procedures set forth below. Immediate reporting allows AMPS to quickly and fairly resolve any complaints in the workplace.

In addition to reporting, any employee who experiences or witnesses conduct that the individual believes is unlawful is encouraged to tell the offending individual that the behavior is inappropriate and must be stopped, if the employee is comfortable doing so.

Where to Report Complaint to AMPS

Submit a complaint to your supervisor, Human Resources (hrsupport@amethodschools.org), any other supervisor within AMPS, or the Board of Directors. There is no requirement to report your complaint to any designated supervisor within AMPS. Select the individual with whom you feel the most comfortable discussing your complaint. Do not report your complaint to any individual who has allegedly engaged in the inappropriate behavior that is the subject of your complaint.

Supervisors must report all conduct of which they are made aware, which violates, or may violate, policies regarding discrimination, unlawful harassment, or retaliation to the CEO, Human Resources Manager, Board of Directors, or other upper-level administrators, as appropriate. Supervisors who fail to report alleged violations may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Contents of Complaint

All complaints submitted pursuant to this policy can be done in writing or verbally. Your complaint should be specific and should include the names of the individuals involved, the names of any witnesses, and any supporting documentation. Employees may choose to submit their complaints anonymously. However, employees may be required to disclose their identity to AMPS in order for the School to sufficiently investigate the complaint. See **Appendix A** for the "Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliation Complaint Form." See **Appendix B** for the general "Internal Complaint Form."

Response to Complaint (Investigation)

Upon notice of conduct requiring an investigation, AMPS will investigate the facts and circumstances of the alleged violation, as appropriate. AMPS will attempt to resolve the situation by promptly undertaking an effective, thorough, and objective investigation through the use of qualified personnel and using methods that provide all parties with appropriate due process. AMPS' investigation methods will vary

depending on the nature of the complaint, the allegations, the witnesses, and other factors. All complaints will be handled as confidentially as possible and information will be disclosed only as it is necessary to complete the investigation and resolve the matter.

AMPS may investigate conduct in the absence of a formal complaint if AMPS has reason to believe that an individual has engaged in conduct that violates School policies or applicable law. Further, AMPS may continue its investigation even if the original complainant withdraws his or her complaint during the course of the investigation.

All employees are required to fully cooperate with AMPS' investigation, which includes, but is not limited to, providing all pertinent information in a truthful manner, submitting pertinent documents in their possession, not interfering with the investigation in any manner, and maintaining an appropriate level of confidentiality regarding the investigation. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

During the investigation, AMPS will provide regular progress updates, as appropriate, to those directly involved. AMPS will strive to complete its investigation as efficiently as possible and will reach any conclusions based on the evidence collected and credibility of the witnesses. At the completion of its investigation, AMPS will inform the complainant(s) and the accused of its findings and decisions to the extent permitted by applicable law.

No Retaliation

There will be no retaliation against any employee who brings a complaint in good faith or who honestly assists in investigating such a complaint, even if the investigation produces insufficient evidence that there has been a violation, or if the charges cannot be proven. Please refer to AMPS' Retaliation Policy above for further information.

How to Report Complaint to Government Agencies

Employees who believe that they have experienced unlawful conduct under these policies may also file a complaint with the local office of the California Civil Rights Department ("CRD") or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). The DFEH and the California Fair Employment and Housing Council ("FEHC") as well as the EEOC can also order an employer to hire, reinstate, or promote a victim of discrimination, unlawful harassment, and/or retaliation or make other changes in School policies. The address and phone number of the local CRD and EEOC offices can be found online or dialing 800-FREE-411.

Sexual Harassment Training Requirements

All supervisors of staff will receive two (2) hours of sexual harassment prevention training within six (6) months of hire or their assumption of a supervisory position and every two (2) years thereafter. All other employees will receive one (1) hour of sexual harassment prevention training within (6) months of hire and every two (2) years thereafter. Such training will address all legally required topics, including information about the negative effects that abusive conduct has on both the victim of the conduct and others in the workplace, as well as methods to prevent abusive conduct undertaken with malice a reasonable person would find hostile, offensive, and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interests. Abusive conduct includes but is not limited to repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance. Supervisors shall also be trained on how to appropriately respond when the supervisor becomes aware that an employee is the target of unlawful harassment. Other staff will receive sexual harassment prevention training as required by law.

C. Whistleblower Policy

AMPS requires its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers to observe high standards of ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities within the School. As representatives of the School, such individuals must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling all responsibilities and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of this policy is to create an ethical and open work environment, to ensure that the School has a governance and accountability structure that supports its mission, and to encourage and enable directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School to raise serious concerns about the occurrence of illegal or unethical actions within the School before turning to outside parties for resolution.

All directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School have a responsibility to report any action or suspected action taken within the School that is illegal, unethical or violates any adopted policy of the School, or local rule or regulation. Anyone reporting a violation must act in good faith, without malice to the School or any individual at the School and have reasonable grounds for believing that the information shared in the report indicates that a violation has occurred. A person who makes a report does not have to prove that a violation has occurred. However, any report which the reporter has made maliciously or any report which the reporter has good reason to believe is false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense. No one who in good faith reports a violation, or who, in good faith, cooperates in the investigation of a violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action. Further, no one who in good faith discloses, who may disclose, or who the School believes disclosed or may disclose, information regarding alleged violations to a person with authority over the employee or another employee who had responsibility for investigating, discovering or correcting the purported violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action.

D. Employment “At-Will”

It is the policy of AMPS that all employees are considered “*at-will*” employees of AMPS. Accordingly, either AMPS or the employee can terminate this employment relationship at any time, for any reason or no reason at all, with or without cause, and with or without advance notice. Similarly, your status (for example, position, duties, salary, promotions, demotions, etc.) may be changed at-will, with or without cause, and with or without notice at any time.

Nothing contained in this Handbook, employment applications, AMPS memoranda or other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment shall require AMPS to have “cause” to terminate an employee or otherwise restrict AMPS’ right to terminate an employee from his or her at-will employment with AMPS. Statements of specific grounds for termination set forth in this Handbook or elsewhere are not all-inclusive and are not intended to restrict AMPS’ right to terminate at-will.

No representative of AMPS, other than the Board of Directors, is authorized to modify this at-will employment policy for any employee or to make any representations to employees or applicants concerning the terms or conditions of employment with AMPS that are not consistent with AMPS’ policy regarding “at-will” employment. Any agreement that alters the “at-will” nature of employment must be approved by the Board of Directors and must be in writing and signed by the Board of Directors, and the affected employee. This policy shall not be modified by any statements contained in this Handbook or employee applications, School memoranda or other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment. Further, none of those documents whether singly or combined, or any employment practices shall create neither an express or implied contract of employment for a definite period, nor an express or implied contract concerning any terms or conditions of employment.

E. Eligibility for Employment

Immigration Compliance

AMPS will comply with applicable immigration law, including the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and the Immigration Act of 1990. As a condition of employment, every individual must provide satisfactory evidence of his or her identity and legal authority to work in the United States. However, AMPS will not check the employment authorization status of current employees or applicants who were not offered positions with the School unless required to do so by law.

The School shall not discharge an employee or in any manner discriminate, retaliate, or take any adverse action (e.g., threatening to report the suspected citizenship or immigration status of an employee or a member of the employee's family) against any employee or applicant for employment because the employee or applicant exercised a right protected under applicable law. Further, the School shall not discriminate against any individual because he or she holds or presents a driver's license issued per Vehicle Code § 12801.9 to persons who have not established their federally-authorized presence in the United States. Finally, in compliance with the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, the School shall not allow a federal immigration enforcement agent to enter any nonpublic areas of the School without a judicial warrant, or voluntarily give consent to an agent to access, review or obtain employee records without a subpoena or judicial warrant. If a search of employee records is authorized by a valid subpoena or judicial warrant, the School will give employees notice of the inspection both before and after it has occurred as required by law.

Certification

AMPS' teachers are required to hold a current California Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in public schools would be required to hold by law. If you are a credentialed staff member, you must provide copies of your credential, certificate of clearance, transcripts, and test scores prior to your first day of actual work and if already employed, prior to the start of the academic year if applicable. Failure to provide these documents may delay your ability to begin or or continue working at AMPS.

Tuberculosis Testing

No person shall be employed by AMPS unless he or she provides proof of having submitted to a tuberculosis (TB) risk assessment within the past 60 days and that no risk factors have been identified. If TB risk factors are identified, or as an alternative to the assessment, the applicant must submit proof that a qualified professional has determined he or she is free of infectious TB following testing and examination. The examination, if required, shall consist of an approved intra-dermal tuberculin test that, if positive, shall be followed by an X-ray of the lungs. Each employee shall provide the School with a certificate from a qualified professional showing the employee was assessed or examined and found free of risk factors or of infectious TB (as applicable). A person who transfers employment from another school can meet these requirements by providing a certificate from a qualified professional, or a verification form from the prior school employer, that shows he or she was found to be free of infectious TB within 60 days of initial hire.

An employee who has no identified risk factors or who tests negative for TB shall undergo the TB risk assessment and, if risk factors are identified, the examination, at least once every four years or more often if recommended by the local health officer.

The risk assessment, and examination if necessary, is a condition of initial employment, and the expense incident thereto shall be borne by the applicant. AMPS shall reimburse current employees for the cost, if any, of the tuberculosis risk assessment and the examination.

Food handlers may be required to have annual TB exams. Documentation of employee and volunteer compliance with TB risk assessments and examinations will be kept on file in the office. This requirement also includes contract food handlers, substitute teachers, and student teachers serving under the

supervision of an educator. Any entity providing student services to the School will be contractually required to ensure that all contract workers have had TB testing that shows them to be free of active TB prior to conducting work with School students.

Criminal Background Checks

As required by law, all individuals working or volunteering at the School will be required to submit to a criminal background investigation. No condition or activity will be permitted that may compromise the School's commitment to the safety and the well-being of students taking precedence over all other considerations. Conditions that preclude working at the School include conviction of a controlled substance or sex offense, or a serious or violent felony. Additionally, should an employee be arrested for, charged with, or convicted of any offense during his/her employment with the School, the employee must immediately report as much to the CEO.

F. Employment Classifications

For purposes of salary administration and eligibility for overtime payments and employee benefits, AMPS classifies its employees as defined below. Please direct any questions you may have regarding your employment classification or status to Human Resources or your direct supervisor.

Non-exempt Employees

Non-exempt employees are entitled to overtime pay in accordance with federal and state law. Non-exempt employees are required to take meal periods and are authorized and permitted to take rest periods in the manner described in this Handbook. Non-exempt employees may be scheduled for full-time or part-time shifts, as assigned by his or her supervisor or the CEO.

Employees who are classified as non-exempt must accurately record the time they work each day, including arrival, departure, and meal breaks.

When employees receive their paychecks, they should verify immediately that their working time was recorded accurately and that they were paid correctly for all hours worked.

Non-exempt employees are prohibited from working any time that is not authorized by their supervisors. This means non-exempt employees must not start work early, finish work late, work during a meal break, or perform any other extra or overtime work unless directed to do so. Employees who have questions about when or how many hours they are expected to work should contact their supervisor or Human Resources.

It is a violation of AMPS' policy for anyone to instruct or encourage another employee to work "off the clock," to incorrectly report hours worked, or to alter another employee's time records. If any employee is directed or encouraged to incorrectly report hours worked, or to alter another employee's time records, they should report the incident immediately to a supervisor.

Exempt Employees

AMPS may choose to designate as exempt an employee whose job duties and salary qualify for exemption under applicable law. Exempt employees are not eligible to receive overtime pay.

Employees who are classified as exempt must record absences from work for reasons such as leaves of absence, sick leave, or vacation.

Exempt employees are paid on a salary basis. This means the employee regularly receives a predetermined amount of compensation each pay period, which cannot be reduced because of variations in the quality or quantity of the employee's work. In general, an exempt employee will receive their salary for any week in which the employee performs any work, regardless of the number of days or hours worked. However, the School may make a deduction from an exempt employee's pay as permitted by law, including in the following circumstances:

1. When an exempt employee takes one or more full days off for personal reasons other than sickness or disability, the employee will not be paid for such day(s) of absence, but the employee may use available vacation to make up for the reduction in salary;
2. When an exempt employee takes one or more full days off from work due to sickness or disability, the employee will not be paid for such day(s) of absence, but the employee may use available sick time to make up for the reduction in salary;
3. When an exempt employee works only part of the week during their first and last week with AMPS, the employee will be paid only for the days actually worked; and
4. When an exempt employee takes unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act or corresponding laws, AMPS will not pay for such days/hours of absence.

AMPS may require an exempt employee to use available vacation or sick time, as a replacement for salary, when the employee takes less than a full-day off from work.

An exempt employee's salary will not be reduced when the employee works part of a week and misses part of a week due to service as a juror, witness or in the military or for lack of work, though deductions may be made to offset amounts an employee receives as jury or witness fees, or for military pay.

It is School policy to comply with the salary basis requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and applicable state law. AMPS prohibits any deductions from pay that violate the FLSA or applicable state law.

If an exempt employee believes that an improper deduction has been made to their salary, the employee should immediately report this information to Human Resources or a supervisor. Reports of improper deductions will be promptly investigated. If it is determined that an improper deduction has occurred, the employee will be promptly reimbursed for any improper deduction made.

G. *Employment Status*

Regular Full-time Employees

Employees who work 30 hours or more per workweek on a regular basis. Such employees may be "exempt" or "nonexempt" and are eligible for employee benefits as described in this Handbook as well as those benefits required by law.

Regular Part-time Employees

Employees who work fewer than 30 hours per workweek on a regular basis. Part-time employees may be assigned a work schedule in advance or may work on an as-needed basis. Such employees may be "exempt" or "nonexempt". Part-time employees are not eligible for benefits except as required by law.

Temporary/Seasonal/Intern Employees

Temporary employees are those employed on a temporary basis for short-term assignments. Short-term assignments will generally be periods of three months or less; however, such assignments may be

extended. Temporary employees are not eligible for any benefits except where mandated by law. A temporary employee may be offered and may accept a new temporary assignment with AMPS and still retain temporary status.

Individuals assigned by temporary employment agencies are employees of the agency and not of AMPS.

H. Job Duties

Your supervisor(s) will explain your job responsibilities. Be aware that your job responsibilities may change at any time during your employment. From time to time, you may be asked to work on special projects or to assist with other work necessary or important to the operation of your department or AMPS. Your cooperation and assistance in performing such additional work is expected. AMPS reserves the right, at any time, with or without notice, to alter or change job responsibilities, reassign or transfer job positions or assign additional job responsibilities.

I. Work Location

At the time an employee is hired, the employee is usually assigned to a work location. Some employees may be assigned to permanent remote work. However, even employees who are permanently remote do have a location that is their home base. Employees, including those assigned to a permanent location as well as those working remotely, are not permitted to complete their job duties outside of the state, or country, where they are assigned to work, without prior management authorization. AMPS reserves the right in its sole discretion to prohibit out-of-state work due to business necessity or for any other business reason. Work outside the state where an employee is hired to work has payroll tax, business license, benefit and legal compliance implications. Failure to receive advanced permission to work from another state, or country, may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

J. Open Door Policy

At some time or another, you may have a suggestion, complaint, or question about AMPS, your job, your working conditions, or the treatment you are receiving. We welcome your suggestions, complaints, or questions. For issues other than prohibited harassment, discrimination, or retaliation, we ask that you take your concerns first to your supervisor, who will investigate and provide a solution or explanation. If the problem is still not resolved, you may present it to Human Resources, preferably in writing, who will address your concerns.

K. Workplace Anti-Violence Policy

AMPS recognizes that violence in the workplace is a growing nationwide problem necessitating a firm, considered response. The costs of such violence are great, both in human and financial terms. We believe that the safety and security of employees and students is paramount. Therefore, AMPS has adopted this Zero Tolerance Policy regarding workplace violence to help maintain a secure workplace.

Acts or threats of physical violence, including intimidation, harassment, and/or coercion, that involve or affect AMPS, occur on School property, or occur in the conduct of School business off property will not be tolerated. This prohibition against threats and acts of violence applies to all persons involved in School operations, including, but not limited to, School students, parents, employees, independent contractors, temporary employees, vendors and anyone else on School property or conducting School business off property. Violations of this policy, by any individual, may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination and/or legal action as appropriate.

Employees must always ensure that all visitors have signed in the visitor log and are wearing appropriate

visitor tags/badges. Suspicious persons or activities must be reported to Human Resources. Employees must secure their desk or office at the end of the day.

Workplace Violence Defined

Workplace violence includes, but is not limited to, threats of any kind; threatening, physically aggressive, or violent behavior, such as intimidation or attempts to instill fear in others; other behavior that suggests a propensity toward violence, including belligerent speech, excessive arguing or swearing, sabotage, threats of sabotage of School property; defacing School property or causing physical damage to the School's facilities; and bringing weapons or firearms of any kind on School premises or while conducting School business.

Weapons Prohibited in the Workplace

AMPS strictly prohibits employees, or any person providing services to AMPS, visiting AMPS, or located on AMPS' premises from possessing weapons of any kind at the workplace. The workplace includes any property owned or leased by AMPS or occupied by groups of School employees or persons providing services to AMPS. Unless such prohibition is contrary to local law, this specifically includes School parking areas and School vehicles. Employees are not permitted to transport or store weapons in vehicles owned or leased by AMPS and used by the employee for work purposes, unless the employee is required to transport or store a weapon as part of the employee's duties, and s/he has written permission from AMPS' CEO. This policy prohibits the possession of concealed weapons as well as weapons carried openly, regardless of whether the person has a legal permit to carry a weapon.

The prohibition explicitly includes guns, rifles and firearms of any type, including those for which the holder has a legal permit. Other examples of prohibited weapons include, but are not limited to, knives, ammunition, bombs, bows and arrows, clubs, slingshot, black jack, metal knuckles and similar devices that by their design or intended use are capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or lethal force.

Former Employees Prohibited on Premises

Due to safety concerns, an employee who is no longer employed by AMPS may not enter the workplace or be on School premises at any time, absent a legal reason or permission from the School to do so. Therefore, no employee should hold doors open for former employees, or otherwise admit former employees into the workplace. Further, if an employee sees a former employee on School premises or is contacted by a former employee seeking access to AMPS' premises without a legal reason for doing so, the employee must immediately alert Human Resources, the CEO, or any other member of AMPS' management team.

If an employee who no longer is employed by AMPS would like to visit, that person must first contact the Human Resources Department and request written permission to visit. A visit can be scheduled only if advance written permission is obtained. If written permission is granted, the former employee must, upon arrival to AMPS' premises on the scheduled date/time, report to the reception area, be greeted by the current employee s/he is visiting and be escorted at all times while on School premises.

Searches and Inspections

An investigation into a report or threat of workplace violence may require, with or without notice, an inspection of an employee's work area and/or personal property located in the workplace, including without limitation a vehicle. As a condition of continued employment, all employees are expected to fully cooperate in any lawful inspection required as a result of a report or threat of workplace violence. Failure to cooperate with AMPS' investigation of a report or threat of workplace violence may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Enforcement/Complaint Procedure

Any person who violates this policy on School property may be removed from the premises as quickly and safely as possible, at AMPS' discretion, and may be required to remain off School premises pending the outcome of an investigation of the incident.

If any employee observes or becomes aware of any of the above-listed actions or behavior by an employee, student, parent, visitor, or anyone else, he or she must immediately notify his or her supervisor, Human Resources, or the Site Director. Furthermore, employees should notify Human Resources or the Site Director if any restraining order is in effect or if a potentially violent non-work-related situation exists that could result in violence in the workplace.

All reports of workplace violence will be taken seriously and will be investigated promptly and thoroughly. In appropriate circumstances, AMPS will inform the reporting individual of the results of the investigation. To the extent feasible, AMPS will maintain the confidentiality of the reporting employee. However, AMPS may need to disclose information in appropriate circumstances (for example, in order to protect individual safety). AMPS will not tolerate retaliation against any employee who in good faith reports workplace violence.

If AMPS determines that workplace violence has occurred, AMPS will take appropriate corrective action and may impose disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

In certain circumstances, AMPS may seek a workplace violence restraining order on behalf of one or more employees in furtherance of its commitment to providing a workplace that is free from acts of violence or threats of violence.

WAGES, ATTENDANCE, TIMEKEEPING AND RELATED PRACTICES

A. *Payment of Wages*

Employees are paid on an established payroll schedule that will be provided by AMPS. If a regular payday falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, employees will generally be paid on the previous business day and if not, then the following business day. Paychecks are normally available by 12:00 p.m. and must be picked up from your supervisor or designee, unless you have authorized direct payroll deposit. If employees observe an error on their check, employees must report it immediately to Payroll support at prsupport@amethodschools.org.

Employees may also have deductions made to their paychecks when a wage overpayment occurs. The School may require the employee to reimburse an overpayment through a mutually agreeable method, including through cash repayment or a deduction of the employee's payroll check, among other options. An employee who is separated from employment before full repayment of the overpayment amount shall have any remaining amounts withheld from their final check. The School also reserves the right to exercise any and all other legal means to recover any additional amounts owed. The School shall provide employees with advance written notice of the deduction prior to the pay period where it will go into effect.

Every deduction from an employee's paycheck is explained on the check voucher. If an employee does not understand the deductions, he or she should ask the Payroll Team at prsupport@amethodschools.org to explain them.

Employees may change the number of withholding allowances claimed for Federal Income Tax purposes at any time by updating their W-4 form in Paylocity.

All Federal, State, and Social Security taxes will be automatically deducted from paychecks. Federal Withholding Tax deduction is determined by the employee's W-4 form. The W-4 form should be completed upon hire and it is the employee's responsibility to report any changes in filing status to the Payroll Team at prsupport@amethodschools.org and to update their W-4 form in Paylocity.

At the end of the calendar year, a "withholding statement" (W-2) will be prepared and forwarded to each employee for use in connection with preparation of income tax returns. The W-2 shows Social Security information, taxes withheld and total wages.

B. *Overtime Pay*

AMPS provides compensation for all overtime hours worked by non-exempt employees in accordance with state and federal law as follows:

For employees subject to overtime, all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday or forty (40) hours in one workweek shall be treated as overtime. Compensation for hours in excess of forty (40) for the workweek or in excess of eight (8) and not more than twelve (12) for the workday, and for the first eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day in one workweek, shall be paid at a rate of one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Compensation for hours in excess of twelve (12) in one workday and an excess of eight (8) on the seventh consecutive workday of the workweek shall be paid at double the regular rate of pay.

When operating requirements or other needs cannot be met during regular working hours, nonexempt employees may be required to work overtime. Overtime pay is based on actual hours worked. All overtime work must be authorized in advance by the Site Director or immediate supervisor. Failure to obtain such approval may subject an employee to discipline, up to and including termination. No overtime

compensation will be paid to exempt employees. Failure to work scheduled overtime, or working overtime without prior authorization from management may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. The School will never ask an employee to work off the clock. All non-exempt employees are to be paid for all hours worked. If you are asked to work off the clock, or if you are asked by anyone not to record your time working, you must notify Human Resources immediately.

C. *Expense Reimbursement*

Employees will be reimbursed for reasonable business expenses incurred while performing their duties or attending pre-approved workshops or other employment-related functions in accordance with AMPS' policy on expense reimbursements. Please follow the procedure set forth in the Finance and Operations Manual to submit expense requests for approval.

D. *Attendance and Tardiness*

All employees, whether exempt or non-exempt, are expected to arrive at work consistently, on time and prepared to start work. Absenteeism and tardiness negatively affects AMPS' ability to implement its educational program and disrupts consistency in students' learning.

You are expected to notify your direct supervisor at least two (2) hours prior to the start of your scheduled time. In the event of an unforeseen emergency where you are unable to do so, please notify them as soon as possible. Because voicemail messages may go unheard for significant periods of time, leaving a voice mail message is not a sufficient method of notification—you must personally contact your supervisor or the Site Director in a timely manner. If you are unable to reach your supervisor or the Site Director by phone, you may send an email and/or text message, but you must attempt to reach the appropriate parties by phone call first. If you are required to leave work early, you must also personally contact your supervisor or the Site Director and obtain their permission. Employees are not allowed to relay messages to the direct supervisor or the Site Director through co-workers that they will be absent or tardy. If you are absent from work longer than one day, you are expected to keep your supervisor sufficiently informed of your situation and when you will return to work. You must get approval from your direct supervisor for any planned absences. Under certain circumstances, AMPS may require documentation from a healthcare provider verifying your need to be absent from work due to illness or other medical reasons if such absence lasts three (3) or more consecutive work days.

Employees also are expected to remain at work for their entire work schedule, except for meal and rest periods when appropriate, when required to leave on authorized School business, or when otherwise permitted by AMPS. Late arrival, early departure, or other absences from scheduled hours are disruptive and must be avoided. Employees also must inform their supervisor of the expected duration of any absence. Excessive or unexcused absences or tardiness may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination from employment with AMPS to the extent authorized by law.

Absences protected by local, state and federal law, including paid sick time, do not count as a violation of the punctuality and attendance policy. Except as otherwise provided by law, if you fail to report for work without any notification to your supervisor and your absence continues for a period of three (3) consecutively scheduled workdays, AMPS will consider that you have abandoned your employment and your employment will be terminated.

E. *School Social Activities*

Employees may attend school-sponsored events not required by their job duties on a voluntary basis unless otherwise directed by AMPS. An employee's attendance at such social and recreational activities is completely voluntary and at the employee's own risk and AMPS disclaims any and all liability arising out of the employee's participation in these activities. Because an employee who chooses to attend

school events is doing so on a voluntary basis, such participation will not be compensated by AMPS.

F. Timekeeping Requirements

It is AMPS' policy to pay its employees for all time worked. Accordingly, it is every nonexempt employee's responsibility to accurately record time worked, and to examine his or her paycheck and wage statement to ensure that he or she is being properly paid for all work time and that the paycheck and wage statement are accurate. If an employee believes he or she is not being properly paid for all of his or her work, the employee must immediately inform Human Resources.

Federal and state laws require the School to keep an accurate record of time worked in order to calculate employee pay and benefits. Time worked is all the time actually spent on the job performing assigned duties. To ensure compliance with all applicable laws, non-exempt employees must accurately record all hours worked using AMPS' timekeeping system. This means they must clock in and out whenever they begin, cease, or resume working during the course of a workday. Employees must clock out and in for their meal periods, but are not required to clock out and in for rest periods. Under no circumstances may one employee clock in or out for another employee. Exempt employees may also be expected to record their total time worked and report absences from work due to personal needs or illness.

Employees are prohibited from doing the following:

1. Recording inaccurate hours worked.
2. Recording hours worked on behalf of another employee.
3. Working "off the clock." This includes, but is not limited to, working before or after a shift without recording that time or conducting School business on personal cell phones after hours. Employees are prohibited from using their personal cell phones to conduct School business.
4. Failing to record all hours worked.
5. Falsifying any time record.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

G. Work Schedules

Your work schedule depends, first, on the AMPS site where you are located. AMPS Schools are generally open for business between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Your supervisor will assign your individual work schedule. All employees are expected to be at their classrooms or workstations at the start of their scheduled shifts, ready to work. For purposes of calculating overtime, the workweek begins at 12:01 a.m. Monday and ends at midnight on Sunday. AMPS' standard workday is 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight) each day. AMPS reserves the right to change work schedules and assign employees to special schedules as deemed necessary for effective operations. When a change in work schedule is necessary, every effort will be made to provide reasonable advance notice to the employees. Any request to change work hours must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor.

H. Rest Breaks and Meal Breaks

Nonexempt employees working at least five (5) hours are provided with a thirty (30) minute meal period, to be taken approximately in the middle of the workday but by no later than the end of the 5th hour of work. An employee may waive this meal period if the day's work will be completed in no more than six (6) hours, provided the employee and AMPS mutually consent to the waiver in writing.

Nonexempt employees are also provided with a ten (10) minute rest period for every four (4) hours worked

which should be scheduled towards the middle of the four (4) hour work period as practicable. Employees are prohibited from combining meal and rest period time.

An employee's supervisor must be aware of and approve scheduled meal and rest periods. Employees must immediately inform their supervisor if they are prevented from taking their meal and/or rest periods. Employees are expected to observe assigned working hours and the time allowed for meal and rest periods.

Any employee who misses a meal or rest period or who experiences a late, short, or interrupted meal period—for any reason—must immediately report this issue to his or her supervisor and HR. Any supervisor who knows or should reasonably know that a meal or rest period was not provided in accordance with this Policy should notify Payroll at prsupport@amethodschools.org to arrange for a premium to issue to the employee.

If an employee voluntarily chooses to miss a meal or rest period or take a late, short, or interrupted meal period (e.g., I chose to take my lunch later in the day or I chose to refuse an "authorized" meal period at the time provided by AMPS), the employee is not entitled to premium pay (one additional hour of pay). If an employee involuntarily experiences a missed meal or rest period or a late, short, or interrupted meal period (e.g., my supervisor asked me to handle a client call or meeting that caused me to miss or take a late meal period), the employee is entitled to premium pay. Employees must report the reason for the non-compliant meal or rest period on the Daily Meal Period and Rest Period Form.

Responsibilities

Non-exempt employees are required to take their meal and rest periods in accordance with this policy. If you encounter any challenges with taking meal or rest periods in accordance with this policy, please immediately contact your supervisor or Human Resources.

Discipline

Failure to comply with AMPS' policy regarding meal and/or rest periods can lead to discipline, up to and including termination.

I. Lactation Breaks

AMPS supports the needs of nursing mothers in the workplace and will comply with applicable law. AMPS encourages employees and management to have a positive, accepting attitude toward working women and breastfeeding. AMPS supports breastfeeding and the expression of breast milk by employees who are breastfeeding when they return to work.

AMPS will provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate an employee desiring to express breast milk for the employee's infant child each time the employee has need to express milk. If possible, the lactation break time should run concurrently with scheduled meal and rest breaks already provided to the employee. If the lactation break time cannot run concurrently with meal and rest breaks already provided or additional time is needed, the lactation break time will be unpaid for non-exempt employees.

A private location to express breast milk will be provided in close proximity to the employee's work area. The employee's normal work area may be used if it allows the employee to express milk in private. In certain circumstances, a temporary location, multipurpose room, or shared space may be provided in accordance with applicable law. The location will also meet the following requirements: not be a bathroom; be free from intrusion; be shielded from view; be safe, clean, and free of hazardous materials; contain a surface to place a breast pump and personal items; contain a place to sit; and have access to

electricity or alternative devices, including, but not limited to, extension cords or charging stations, needed to operate an electric or battery-powered breast pump. In addition, AMPS shall provide access to a sink with running water and a refrigerator suitable for storing milk in close proximity to the employee's work area. If a refrigerator cannot be provided, AMPS may provide another cooling device suitable for storing milk, such as a School-provided cooler. To request the above, please contact Human Resources.

If any employee believes that he or she has experienced retaliation or discrimination as a result of conduct protected by this policy, the employee may file a complaint with his or her supervisor and/or the Labor Commissioner's Office. For more information, contact the Labor Commissioner's Office or visit a local office by finding the nearest one on our website: www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/DistrictOffices.htm. The Labor Commissioner's Office provides an interpreter at no cost to the employee, if needed.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

A. ***Professional Boundaries: Staff/Student Interaction Policy***

Amethod Public Schools (“AMPS” or “Charter School”) recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing student and employee behavior to bring about the safest and most learning conducive environment possible.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student.

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee’s use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to property.

For clarification purposes, the following examples are offered for direction and guidance of School personnel:

A. Examples of PERMITTED actions (NOT corporal punishment)

1. Stopping a student from fighting with another student;
2. Preventing a pupil from committing an act of vandalism;
3. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a student;
4. Forcing a pupil to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
5. Requiring an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
6. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.

B. Examples of PROHIBITED actions (corporal punishment)

1. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a student as a means of control;
2. Making unruly students do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
3. Paddling, swatting slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Staff/Student Behavior

This policy is intended to guide all School faculty and staff in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees and to specify the boundaries between students and staff.

Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member’s obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, students, colleagues, or school leaders. One viable standard that can be quickly applied, when you are unsure if certain conduct is acceptable, is to ask yourself, “Would I be engaged in this conduct if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?”

For the purposes of this policy, the term “boundaries” is defined as acceptable professional behavior by

staff members while interacting with a student. Trespassing the boundaries of a student/teacher relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a student or parent point of view. The objective of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and students, but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff must understand their own responsibility for ensuring that they do not cross the boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established boundaries will be considered irrelevant for disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is crucial that all employees learn this policy thoroughly and apply the lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors to their daily activities. Although sincere, competent interaction with students certainly fosters learning, student/staff interactions must have boundaries surrounding potential activities, locations and intentions.

Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct

When any employee reasonably suspects or believes that another staff member may have crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must immediately report the matter to a school administrator. All reports shall be as confidential as possible under the circumstances. It is the duty of the administrator to investigate and thoroughly report the situation. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness or concern of student behavior that crosses boundaries or where a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

Examples of Specific Behaviors

The following examples are not an exhaustive list:

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)

- A. Giving gifts to an individual student that are of a personal and intimate nature.
- B. Kissing of any kind.
- C. Any type of sexual contact
- D. Massage (Note: massages are prohibited in athletics unless provided by massage therapist or other certified professional in an open public location. Coaches may not perform massage or rub-down.
- E. Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a student in a private situation.
- F. Full frontal or rear hugs and lengthy embraces
- G. Sitting students on one's lap
- H. Wrestling with students or other staff member except in the context of a formal wrestling program
- I. Tickling or piggyback rides
- J. Intentionally being alone with a student away from the school.
- K. Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.
- L. Sexual jokes or jokes/comments with sexual double entendre.
- M. Seeking emotional involvement with a student for your benefit.
- N. Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented.
- O. Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a student in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- P. Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.
- Q. Furnishing alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs or failing to report knowledge of such
- R. "Dating" or "going out with" a student

- S. Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone. This includes comments such as “Looking fine!” or “Check out that [body part].”
- T. Being alone in a room with a student at school with the door closed.
- U. Taking photographs or videos of students for personal use or posting online
- V. Leaving campus alone with a student for lunch
- W. Undressing in front of a student
- X. Sharing a bed, mat, or sleeping bag with a student
- Y. Using profanity with or to a student
- Z. Being “friends” with a student on any personal or non-School social media website
- AA. Engaging in inappropriate and/or unprofessional communications with students on School social media
- BB. Communicating with students or parents/guardians in violation of the School’s Social Media Policy
- CC. Excessive attention toward a particular student.
- DD. Being alone in a room with a student at school with the door closed.
- EE. Involving students in non-educational or non-school related issues, including, but not limited to, the employee’s employment issues

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission

These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has parent and supervisor permission.

- A. Giving students a ride to/from school or school activities.
- B. Allowing students in your home without signed parent permission for a preplanned and precommunicated educational activity that must include the presence of another educator, parent, or other responsible adult.

Cautionary Staff/Student Behaviors

These behaviors should only be exercised when a reasonable and prudent person, acting as an educator, is prevented from using a better practice or behavior. Staff members should inform their supervisor of the circumstance and occurrence prior to or immediately after the occurrence.

- A. Sending emails, text messages or letters to students if the content is not about school activities.

Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Student Behaviors

- A. Getting parents’ written consent for any after-school activity.
- B. Obtaining formal approval from the Charter School and parents/guardians to take students off school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- C. Emails, text, phone and social media messages or letters to students must be very professional and pertaining to school activities or classes (Communication should be limited to school technology and in alignment with the Charter School’s Social Media Policy).
- D. Keeping the door open when alone with a student.
- E. Keeping reasonable space between you and your students.
- F. Stopping and correcting students if they cross your own personal boundaries.
- G. Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a student.
- H. Keeping after-class discussions with a student professional and brief.
- I. Asking for advice from fellow staff or administrators such as Human Resources or the CEO) if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
- J. Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the student.
- K. Informing the Principal about situations that have the potential to become more severe.

- L. Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- M. Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students or coworkers.
- N. Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any type of special needs student.
- O. Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a student after regular school hours.
- P. Giving students praise and recognition without touching them.
- Q. Pats on the back, high fives and handshakes are acceptable.
- R. Keeping your professional conduct a high priority.
- S. Asking yourself if any of your actions that are contrary to this policy are worth you sacrificing your job, your career, and the reputation of the Charter School.

This policy does not prevent: 1) touching a student for the purpose of guiding them along a physical path; 2) helping them up after a fall; or 3) engaging in a rescue or the application of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation ("CPR") or other emergency first-aid. Nor does it prohibit the use of reasonable force and touching in self-defense or in the defense of another. Restraining a child who is trying to engage in violent or inappropriate behavior is also allowed. Only such force as necessary to defend one's self, another person, or the child or to protect property is legally permitted. Excessive force is prohibited.

Reporting Violations

When an employee becomes aware of another employee having crossed the Boundaries specified in this policy, the employee must promptly report the suspicion to Human Resources or the Chief Academic Officer. All reports shall be kept as confidential as possible. Prompt reporting is essential to protect students, the suspected employee, any witnesses, and the Charter School as a whole. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness of, or concern about, student behavior that crosses Boundaries or any situation in which a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting

California Penal Code section 11166 requires any mandated reporter (including teachers, instructional aides and "classified" employees of a public school) who has knowledge of, or observes, a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect to a child protective agency immediately, or as soon as practically possible, by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within thirty-six (36) hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. Employees may, but are not required to, report such incidents to Human Resources and the CEO. Reporting such incidents to Human Resources and the CEO does not relieve the employee of responsibility to also immediately report such incidents to the appropriate child protective agency by telephone and to send a written report thereof within thirty-six (36) hours. However, employees may work cooperatively to report the incidents and to file one written report. Employees who have any questions about these reporting requirements should contact Human Resources.

"Child" is defined as a person under the age of 18 years. The term "child abuse or neglect" includes sexual abuse; neglect defined as the negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare including both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person; willful cruelty or unjustifiable pain or suffering; unlawful corporal punishment or injury; and abuse or neglect in out-of-home care. Child abuse or neglect does not include a mutual affray between minors or an injury caused by reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of his or her employment as a peace officer.

Employees shall not contact the child's family or any other persons to determine or investigate the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect.

AMPS will provide annual training on the mandated reporting requirements, using the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services, to employees who are mandated reporters. Mandated reporter training will also be provided to employees hired during the course of the school year. This training will include information that failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, as required by Penal Code section 11166, is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six (6) months confinement in a county jail, or by a fine of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

All employees required to receive mandated reporter training must provide proof of completing the training within the first six (6) weeks of each school year or within the first six (6) weeks of that employee's employment.

By acknowledging receipt of this Handbook, employees acknowledge they are child care custodians and are certifying that they have knowledge of California Penal Code section 11166 and will comply with its provisions.

Investigating

AMPS will investigate any allegation of a violation of the Employee-Student Relations Policy, using such support staff or outside assistance as AMPS deems necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, unless the allegation also constitutes a reportable allegation under California Penal Code section 11166. In the event the allegation also constitutes such a reportable allegation, AMPS shall comply with the legal requirements of immediately reporting the allegation to a child protective agency and shall follow up such report with a written report within thirty-six (36) hours.

If the allegation is only a violation of the Professional Boundaries: Staff/Student Interaction Policy, but not a violation of California Penal Code section 11166, AMPS shall conduct an investigation as set forth above. Throughout this fact-finding process, the investigating administrator, and all others privy to the investigation, will protect the privacy interests of any affected student(s) and/or employee(s), including any potential witnesses, to the fullest extent possible.

Violations

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. When appropriate, violations of this policy may also be reported to authorities for potential legal action.

B. Confidential Information

All information relating to students, including personal information, schools attended, addresses, contact numbers and progress information is confidential in nature, and may not be shared with or distributed to unauthorized parties. All records concerning special education pupils shall be kept strictly confidential and maintained in separate files.

It is important to AMPS to protect and preserve its trade secrets and confidential information. Confidential information includes, but is not limited to, parent and student lists, lesson plans, techniques and concepts, marketing plans, strategies, forecasts, bid plans, bid strategies, bid information, contract prices, new products, software, computer programs, writings, and all know-how and show-how whether or not protected by patent, copyright, or trade secret law. Personal, private information about other employees and personnel matters are also confidential. AMPS devotes significant time, energy, and expense to

develop and acquire its trade secrets and confidential information. As an employee of AMPS you will, during the course of your employment, have access to and become familiar with various trade secrets and confidential information that are owned by AMPS. An employee shall not, directly or indirectly, disclose or use any of the foregoing information other than as authorized for the sole benefit of AMPS, either during the term of your employment or at any other time thereafter. Confidential information shall not be disclosed except through normal channels and with prior authorization. Any and all trade secrets or confidential information shall be returned to AMPS during extended leaves of absence or upon termination of employment.

AMPS prohibits audio or video recordings in the workplace, during working hours, without authorization of AMPS due to privacy and confidentiality concerns and protections.

Failure to maintain confidentiality consistent with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

C. Rules of Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated by AMPS. This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only and applies to all employees of AMPS; other types of conduct that threaten security, student safety, personal safety, employee welfare and AMPS' operations are also prohibited. Further, the specification of this list of conduct in no way alters the at-will employment relationship as to at-will employees of AMPS. If an employee is working under a contract with AMPS which grants procedural rights prior to termination, the procedural terms in the contract shall apply.

This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only and not meant to be exhaustive:

1. *Insubordination* - refusing to perform a task or duty assigned or act in accordance with instructions and / or policies provided by an employee's supervisor, AMPS' policies, or proper authority.
2. *Inefficiency* - including deliberate restriction of output, carelessness or unnecessary waste of time or material, neglect of job, duties or responsibilities.
3. *Unauthorized soliciting*: collecting of contributions, distribution of literature, or written or printed material that is not directly related to AMPS is strictly prohibited in work areas during work times (see Solicitation and Distribution Policy, below) by both non- employees and by employees. However, nothing in this provision is intended to limit the rights of employees to organize, or otherwise engage in conduct expressly permitted under the National Labor Relations Act.
4. Damaging, defacing, unauthorized removal, destruction or theft of another employee's property or of AMPS property.
5. Fighting or instigating a fight on AMPS premises.
6. Violations of the drug and alcohol policy.
7. Using or possessing firearms, weapons or explosives of any kind on AMPS premises.
8. Gambling on AMPS premises.
9. Tampering with or falsifying any report or record including, but not limited to, personnel, absentee, sickness or production reports or records, applications for employment, payroll information, timesheets, and time cards.
10. Recording the timesheets of another employee or permitting or arranging for another employee to record your timesheet.
11. Conducting personal business during business hours and/or unauthorized use of telephone lines for personal calls.
12. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness excused or unexcused except to the extent permitted by law.
13. Posting any notices on AMPS premises without prior written approval of management, unless

posting is on an AMPS bulletin board designated for such employee postings.

14. Engaging in sabotage or espionage (industrial or otherwise)
15. Violations of the discrimination, harassment and retaliation prevention policy.
16. Failure to report a job-related accident to the employee's manager or failure to take or follow prescribed tests, procedures or treatment.
17. Sleeping during work hours.
18. Release of confidential information without authorization.
19. Refusal to speak to supervisors or other employees.
20. Unauthorized use of cameras or other recording devices on School premises.
21. Intentionally supplying false information in order to obtain a leave of absence or other benefits from AMPS.
22. Poor attendance, including, but not limited to, habitual tardiness and/or absenteeism, leaving early without permission, absence from work without permission, and abuse of time during work hours, to the extent permitted by law.
23. Unsatisfactory work performance.
24. Unprofessional conduct.
25. Failure to possess or maintain the credential/certificate required of the position.
26. Dishonesty.
27. Any other conduct detrimental to other employees or the School's interests or its efficient operations.

This statement of prohibited conduct does not alter AMPS' policy of at-will employment. AMPS and you retain the right to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without reason or advance notice.

D. Employment References

All requests for references must be directed to Human Resources. No other manager, supervisor, or employee is authorized to release references for current or former employees. AMPS' policy as to references for employees who have left AMPS is to disclose only the dates of employment and the title of the last position held. If you authorize disclosure in writing, AMPS will also provide a prospective employer with the information on the amount of salary or wage you last earned.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. *Computer Usage and Privacy*

Every user who is provided access to AMPS' Communications Systems is responsible for using the Communications Systems in accordance with this policy, and agrees to be bound by this policy by using AMPS' Communications Systems. Any questions about this policy should be addressed to Human Resources.

Definitions

AMPS' electronic communications systems ("Communications Systems") includes, but is not limited to, computers, laptops, e-mail, telephones, cellular phones, tablets, PDAs, text messaging, instant messaging, video conferencing, voice mail, facsimiles, and connections to the Internet and other internal or external networks.

Ownership and Conditions of Use

The Communications Systems is the property of AMPS. It has been provided by AMPS for the sole purpose of conducting School-related business as well as other business that is approved by the CEO of AMPS. All communications and information transmitted by, received from, or stored in these systems are School records and the property of AMPS.

Electronic communications are a means of business communication. AMPS requires all users to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Users should conduct all electronic communications with the same care, judgment, and responsibility that they would use when sending letters or memoranda written on School letterhead. Special care must be taken when posting any information on the Internet because of the potentially broad distribution of and access to such information.

To protect the integrity of AMPS' Communications Systems and the users thereof against unauthorized or improper use of these systems, AMPS reserves the right, without notice, to limit or restrict any individual's use, and to inspect, copy, remove, or delete any unauthorized use of its Communications Systems upon authorization of the CEO or his or her designee. AMPS also reserves the right periodically to monitor the use of its Communications Systems and to access users' voice mail, Internet access, and e-mail for that purpose or any other business-related purpose upon authorization of the CEO or his or her designee.

Erasing an e-mail message from a mailbox does not necessarily erase all copies of the message on the network. Archived copies may be stored for substantial periods of time and are subject to the provisions of this policy regarding content, review, access, and disclosure.

Confidentiality and Privileges

Information stored on the Communications Systems is intended to be kept confidential within AMPS. AMPS has taken all reasonable steps to assure confidentiality and security of information related to AMPS's operations. Like other means of communication, however, it is not possible to guarantee complete security of electronic communications either within or outside AMPS, and care should be exercised when sending or receiving sensitive, privileged, or confidential information electronically. For example, information sent through the Internet can be monitored by external systems en route to its final destination. All users must keep this in mind when forwarding sensitive, confidential, and/or privileged information. Where appropriate, this fact should be disclosed to outside contacts.

Prohibited Use

Users are prohibited from using the Communications Systems for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Users of the Communications Systems are strictly prohibited from using the Communications Systems to deliver a message that is harassing or offensive on the basis of any characteristic protected by law as set forth in AMPS' policies against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Those policies apply to all aspects of employment, including the use of the Communications Systems.
2. Users are prohibited from using the Communications Systems for transmitting or making accessible annoying, offensive, defamatory, or harassing material or intentionally damaging or violating the privacy of information of others.
3. Users are prohibited from using the Communications Systems to transmit, display, store, publish, or purposely receive any pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material.
4. Users must respect all copyrights and licenses to software and other online information, and may not upload, download, or copy software or other material through the Communications Systems without the prior written authorization of the CEO of AMPS.
5. Users must not alter, copy, transmit, or remove School information, proprietary software, or other files without proper authorization from AMPS.
6. Users are prohibited from reading, copying, recording, or listening to messages and information delivered to another person's e-mail and voice mail mailboxes without proper authorization, based on legitimate business reasons, from the Board or CEO or his/her/its designee. Anyone who receives an electronic communication for which he or she is not the intended recipient must immediately inform the sender that the message was sent improperly and must delete the message from their e-mail and voice mail mailboxes.

Access and Disclosure

The Communications Systems is provided solely for the purpose of conducting AMPS business. Incidental and occasional personal use of the Communications Systems is permitted, but such communications must not disrupt School business, and users do not have any expectation of personal privacy in any matters stored in, created, received, or sent over the Communications Systems.

AMPS, as owner of the Communications Systems, to protect the integrity of its systems from unauthorized or improper use, reserves the right for legitimate business reasons, upon authorization of the Board or CEO or his/her/its designee, to monitor, access, retrieve, download, copy, listen to, or delete anything stored in, created, received, or sent over its Communications Systems without the permission of or prior notice to any user.

Although AMPS entrusts employees with the use of voice mail, e-mail, computer files, software, or similar School property, employees should keep in mind that these items have been installed and maintained at great expense to AMPS and are only intended for business purposes. At all times, they remain School property. Likewise, all records, files, software, and electronic communications contained in these systems also are School property. Employees are advised that electronic files, records, and communications on School computer systems, electronic communication systems, or through the use of School telecommunications equipment are not private. Although they are a confidential part of School property, employees should not use this equipment or these systems for confidential messages. The use of passwords to limit access to these systems is only intended to prevent unauthorized access to voice mail, e-mail, and computer systems, files, and records. Additionally, these systems are subject to inspection, search, and/or monitoring by School personnel for any number of business reasons. As a result, employees do not have an expectation of privacy in this regard. Accordingly, these systems and equipment should not be used to transmit personal messages, except in necessary situations or when

exceptions are specifically sanctioned by management. Voice mail messages and e-mail messages should be routinely deleted when no longer needed. AMPS is not responsible for costs incurred when employees use School telephones or e-mail systems for personal matters.

Employees should not use personal devices or email accounts for School-related communications. Such communications should only take place using School-issued devices and via the employee's email account.

Employees should be advised to use voice mail and e-mail as cautiously as employees would use any more permanent communication medium such as a memorandum or letter. Employees should realize that e-mail messages:

1. May be saved and read by third parties.
2. May be retrieved even after "deletion."
3. May be accessed by authorized service personnel.
4. May be examined by management without notice for business purposes.

There will be times when AMPS, in order to conduct business, will utilize its ability to access an employee's e-mail, voice mail, computer files, software, or other School property. AMPS also may inspect the contents of an employee's voice mail, e-mail, computers, computer files, or software to monitor job performance, for training or quality control purposes, or when AMPS suspects that School property is being used in an unauthorized manner.

AMPS reserves the right to use and disclose any electronic non-privileged communication on its Communications Systems without the permission of or any prior notice to any user, including disclosure to law enforcement officials.

Retention in the Event of Litigation, Subpoena, or Regulatory Inquiry

In the event of any subpoena, regulatory inquiry, or litigation, employees are prohibited from deleting, discarding, or destroying any emails or other Communications Systems relating in any way to the subpoena, regulatory inquiry, or litigation. Employees will be notified if this occurs.

Discipline for Violations of Policy

Any person who discovers misuse of the Internet access or any of AMPS' Communications Systems should immediately contact Human Resources or the CEO of AMPS. Any user who violates any part of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including immediate termination.

Policy May Be Amended at Any Time

The pace of technological change and growth in electronic communications is rapid. This policy applies to all present and future electronic communications systems and devices and to improvements and innovations to existing systems and devices and to completely new technologies, devices, and systems. AMPS reserves the right to amend this policy at any time through an authorized writing from an authorized School representative.

B. Social Media Policy

In light of the explosive growth and popularity of social media technology in today's society, AMPS has developed the following policy to establish rules and guidelines regarding the appropriate use of social media by employees. This policy applies to situations when you: (1) make a post to a social media

platform that is related to AMPS; (2) engage in social media activities during working hours; (3) use School equipment or resources while engaging in social media activities; (4) use your School e-mail address to make a post to a social media platform; (5) post in a manner that reveals your affiliation with AMPS; or (6) interact with School students or parents/guardians of School students (regarding School-related business) on the Internet and on social media sites.

For the purposes of this policy, the phrase “social media” refers to the use of a website or other electronic application to connect with other people, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, TikTok, and YouTube, as well as related web-based media, such as blogs, wikis, and any other form of user-generated media or web-based discussion forums.

This policy is intended to supplement, not replace, AMPS’ other policies, rules, and standards of conduct. For example, School policies on confidentiality, use of School equipment, professionalism, employee references and background checks, workplace violence, unlawful harassment, and other rules of conduct are not affected by this policy.

You are required to comply with all School policies whenever your social media activities may involve or implicate AMPS in any way, including, but not limited to, the policies contained in this Handbook.

Standards of Conduct

You are required to comply with the following rules and guidelines when participating in social media activities that are governed by this policy:

1. Comply with the law at all times. Do not post any information or engage in any social media activity that may violate applicable local, state, or federal laws or regulations.
2. Do not engage in any discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory behavior in violation of School policy.
3. Respect copyright, fair use, and financial disclosure rules and regulations. Identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with proper citations and/or links.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of AMPS’ trade secrets and private or confidential information. Trade secrets may include information regarding the development of systems, processes, products, know-how, and technology. Do not post internal reports, policies, procedures, or other internal business-related confidential communications. This prohibition applies both during and after your employment with AMPS.
5. Do not post confidential information (as defined in this Handbook) about AMPS, its employees, or its students. Remember that most student information is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, including any and all information that might identify the student. Publicizing student work and accomplishments is permitted only if appropriate consents are obtained.
6. While it is acceptable to engage in limited and incidental social media activities at work, such social media activities may not interfere with your job duties or responsibilities. Do not use your School-authorized e-mail address to register on social media websites, blogs, or other online tools utilized for personal use.
7. Be knowledgeable about and comply with AMPS’ background check procedures. Do not “research” job candidates on the Internet or social media websites without prior approval from Human Resources.
8. We encourage you to be fair and courteous to fellow employees, students, parents, vendors, customers, suppliers, or other people who work on behalf of AMPS. We also encourage you to avoid posting statements, photographs, video, or audio that could be reasonably viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening, or intimidating, that disparage employees, students, parents, vendors, customers, suppliers, or other people who work on behalf of AMPS, or that might constitute harassment or bullying.

9. Do not post any information or rumors that you know to be false about AMPS, fellow employees, students, parents, vendors, customers, suppliers, people working on behalf of AMPS, or competitors.
10. Express only your personal opinions. Never represent yourself as a spokesperson for AMPS unless authorized to do so. If you publish social media content that may be related to your work or subjects associated with AMPS, make it clear that you are not speaking on behalf of AMPS and that your views do not represent those of AMPS, fellow employees, students, parents, vendors, customers, suppliers, or other people working on behalf of AMPS. It is best to use a disclaimer such as "The postings on this site are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of AMPS."
11. Never be false or misleading with respect to your professional credentials.

Creating and Using School Social Media

Employees are only permitted to communicate and connect with students and students' parents or guardians regarding School-related matters on social media that is owned and operated by AMPS. All communications with parents or guardians regarding School-related matters on non-School or personal social media may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Any communication whatsoever with students on non-School or personal social media may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The CEO/designee and IT Department, in addition to Human Resources and members of AMPS' administration, are responsible for approving requests for School social media, monitoring School social media for inappropriate and unprofessional content, and maintaining the social media account information (including, but not limited to, username and password). AMPS has final approval over all content posted to School accounts and reserves the right to close School social media accounts at any time, with or without notice.

To set up social media that is owned and operated by AMPS in compliance with this policy, employees must adhere to the following procedures:

1. Request and obtain permission to create School social media from the CEO/designee.
2. Contact the CEO/designee to set up the social media. Provide the CEO/designee with the username and password that you would like assigned to the account. If you change the username and/or password, you must immediately update this information with the CEO/designee and the IT Department. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Any social media created and/or used in violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Access

Employees are reminded that AMPS' various electronic communications systems, including, but not limited to, its electronic devices, computers, telephones, e-mail accounts, video conferencing, voice mail, facsimiles, internal and external networks, computers, cell phones, smart phones, PDAs, tablets, and other similar devices, are the property of AMPS. All communications and information transmitted by, received from, or stored in these systems are School records.

As a result, AMPS may, and does, monitor its employees' use of these electronic communication systems, including for social media activities, from time to time. AMPS may monitor such activities randomly, periodically, and/or in situations when there is reason to believe that someone associated with AMPS has engaged in a violation of this, or any other, School policy. As a result, employees do not have

a reasonable expectation of privacy in their use of or access to AMPS' various electronic communications systems.

Discipline

Any violation of this Social Media Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination.

Retaliation Is Prohibited

AMPS prohibits retaliation against any employee for reporting a possible violation of this policy or for cooperating in an investigation of a potential violation of this policy. Any employee who retaliates against another employee for reporting a possible violation of this policy or for cooperating in an investigation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Questions

In the event you have any questions about whether a particular social media activity may involve or implicate AMPS, or may violate this policy, please contact Human Resources.

Social media is in a state of constant evolution, and AMPS recognizes that there will likely be events or issues that are not addressed in these guidelines. Thus, each School employee is responsible for using good judgment and seeking guidance, clarification, or authorization *before* engaging in social media activities that may implicate this policy.

C. Personal Business

AMPS facilities for handling mail and telephone calls are designed to accommodate School business. Please have your personal mail directed to your home address and limit personal telephone calls to an absolute minimum. Personal calls that would result in additional fees to AMPS are not permitted. **Do not use School material, time or equipment for personal projects.**

D. News Media Contacts

Employees occasionally may be approached for interviews or comments by the news media. Only employees designated by the CEO, who is the identified principal point of contact, may comment to news reporters on behalf of AMPS.

E. Notice Posting

AMPS notices and notices required by law will be regularly posted on our bulletin board(s) or designated area(s). Employees should make it a practice to review them frequently so that they can keep current regarding news about AMPS. Employees may not post or remove items on the bulletin board(s) or designated area(s) without approval by their supervisor. The same restrictions apply to bulletin boards located in employee break areas. Employees who wish to post on the bulletin board should obtain approval from their supervisor.

F. Conflict of Interest

While employed by AMPS, all employees owe a duty of loyalty to AMPS and must avoid situations involving an actual or potential conflict of interest. An actual or potential conflict of interest occurs when an employee is in a position to influence a decision that may result in a personal gain for that employee

or for a relative as a result of AMPS' business dealings. For purposes of this policy, "relatives" are defined to include spouses, registered domestic partners, children, siblings, parents, in-laws, and step-relatives. Instances where an actual or potential conflict of interest may arise include, but are not limited to, the acceptance of gifts, engaging in outside activities, and personal and familial relationships.

An employee involved in any relationships or situations which may constitute a conflict of interest must immediately and fully disclose the relevant circumstances to his or her immediate supervisor, Human Resources or the CEO or designee, who will determine whether a potential or actual conflict exists. If an actual or potential conflict is determined to exist, AMPS may take whatever corrective action appears appropriate according to the circumstances. Failure to disclose facts of an actual or potential conflict of interest will constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

Notwithstanding this policy, if an employee is a "designated employee" under the AMPS' Conflicts of Interest Code (adopted pursuant to the Political Reform Act), then the employee must comply with those provisions in addition to this policy.

Personal and Familial Relationships With Co-Workers

Relatives of employees may be eligible for employment with AMPS only if the individuals involved do not work in a direct supervisory relationship or in job positions in which an actual or potential conflict of interest could arise. Current employees who marry will be permitted to continue working in the same job positions held only if they do not work in a supervisory relationship with one another or in job positions involving conflicts of interest.

Gifts

Improper personal gain may result not only where an employee or relative has a significant ownership interest in a vendor with which AMPS does business but also when an employee or relative receives any kickback, bribe, substantial gift, or special consideration as a result of any transaction or business dealings involving AMPS. The receipt of occasional flowers, candy, or gifts worth less than \$100.00 from parents, students, or vendors fall outside the intent of this policy and acceptance of such items is permissible. However, employees must obtain written approval from the CEO before accepting any item worth more than \$100.00 from students, parents, or vendors. Under no circumstances shall a School employee accept monetary gifts consisting of, but not limited to, gift certificates, coupons, entertainment tickets, etc.

Gifts and Fundraising funds or items that an employee may receive or raise from events, donors or donor websites i.e. (Donors Choose, etc.) for use by AMPS, its students or at a specific AMPS school site will be considered property of the School. Such donations will remain with the School to continue to benefit the intended student population.

Outside Activities

AMPS recognizes the right of employees to engage in activities outside of their employment that are of a private nature and unrelated to AMPS' business. However, employees may not engage in any outside activity, including outside employment, which presents an actual or potential conflict of interest. For this reason, employees are expected to conduct their personal affairs in a manner that does not adversely affect the School or its own integrity, reputation, or credibility. Illegal or immoral off-duty conduct by an employee that adversely affects the School's legitimate business interests or the employee's ability to perform his or her work will not be tolerated.

While employed by the School, employees are expected to devote their energies to their jobs with the School. For this reason, second jobs are strongly discouraged. The following types of additional employment elsewhere are strictly prohibited:

1. Additional employment that conflicts with an employee's work schedule, duties, and responsibilities at our School.
2. Additional employment that creates a conflict of interest or is incompatible with the employee's position with our School.
3. Additional employment that impairs or has a detrimental effect on the employee's work performance with our School.
4. Additional employment that requires the employee to conduct work or related activities on the School's property during the employer's working hours or using our School's facilities and/or equipment; and
5. Additional employment that directly or indirectly competes with the business or the interests of our School.

Employees who wish to engage in additional employment that may create a real or apparent conflict of interest must submit a written request to Human Resources explaining the details of the additional employment. If the additional employment is authorized, AMPS assumes no responsibility for it. AMPS shall not provide workers' compensation coverage or any other benefit for injuries occurring from or arising out of additional employment. Authorization to engage in additional employment can be revoked at any time.

Employees also may not use AMPS' name, logo, supplies, equipment, or other property in connection with any outside activities.

G. *Cameras and Video Surveillance*

For purposes of workplace safety and security and to prevent theft and other misconduct AMPS has installed video surveillance cameras in and around work areas.

If there is any reported incident of theft, trespass, workplace violence, employee misconduct or any type of safety violation (hereafter collectively referred to as "security incidents"), AMPS will utilize its surveillance equipment as an investigatory tool. AMPS will also make use of its surveillance equipment to deter any future security incidents.

AMPS also reserves the right to actively monitor, through its surveillance cameras, any areas for safety reasons (to protect against equipment failure, breakage, or accident) or confidentiality reasons (to protect documents or other proprietary information).

Although the video surveillance described in this policy is intended to monitor for security incidents and other safety reasons at AMPS, it is possible that such surveillance may monitor activities not related to AMPS' business.

AMPS respects the privacy of its employees. Accordingly, no video cameras will be installed in AMPS' restrooms or in any lactation or changing areas.

The surveillance video cameras and any video footage from the surveillance are to be used solely for the purposes of this video surveillance policy. Any unauthorized use of these video cameras and/or videotapes is strictly forbidden and may result in discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

H. Employer Property

Lockers, computers, desks, bookshelves, and other employer-owned property are AMPS property and must be maintained according to AMPS rules and regulations. They must be kept clean and are to be used only for work-related purposes. AMPS reserves the right to inspect all AMPS property to ensure compliance with its rules and regulations, without notice to the employee and at any time, not necessarily in the employee's presence. Prior authorization must be obtained before any School property may be removed from the premises. Materials developed by an employee for purposes of his or her employment with AMPS are considered School property. All School property must be immediately returned upon termination of the employment relationship.

Employees are prohibited from deliberately performing acts that waste any of the resources of AMPS or unfairly monopolize any of the resources to the exclusion of others. These acts include, but are not limited to, using the e-mail system for other than business-related communications, sending multiple pictures using the e-mail system (unless specifically authorized to do so and business-related), sending mass mailings or chain letters, spending excessive amounts of time on the Internet, playing games, engaging in on-line chat groups, printing multiple copies of large documents, wasting paper frivolously, undertaking excessively large OCR scanning projects, or otherwise creating unnecessary network traffic.

I. Employee Property

For security reasons, employees should not leave personal belongings of value in the workplace (i.e. desks, bookshelves, counter, etc.). Terminated employees must remove as many personal items as time permits at the time they leave AMPS. Personal items left in the workplace are subject to storage, and eventually disposal if not claimed at the time of an employee's termination.

J. Dress Code and Other Personal Standards

AMPS employees and volunteers serve as role models for the students and as representatives of AMPS. Consistent with these roles, all employees and volunteers shall dress professionally and appropriately relative to their specific job duties and responsibilities and shall adhere to standards of dress and appearance that are compatible with an effective learning environment. Wearing clothing which is sexually provocative or unduly revealing, which contains profane, vulgar, offensive or obscene statements or images, or which may disrupt the orderly operation of AMPS is prohibited.

Administrators and administrative support employees are expected to project a professional image and should dress appropriately for an office/business environment. Teachers and staff serve as role models, and they should maintain professional standards of dress and grooming. Physical education teachers, coaches and athletic volunteers should wear the appropriate athletic attire necessary to meet the requirements of their job responsibilities and maintain professional standards of dress and grooming when not actively teaching physical education classes or coaching. Site Directors and the CEO may also amend these dress standards from time to time.

Specific examples of attire, or lack of attire, considered inappropriate and prohibited under this policy include but are not limited to:

1. Excessively tight clothing, including leggings and tights without proper coverage;
2. Clothing which promotes alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or the use of controlled substances by words or symbols;
3. Clothing with slurs, political statements, slogans, etc., other than AMPS' logo and or School motto;
4. Shorts, skirts, or dresses that end more than 2 inches above the knee;
5. Exposed body areas usually concealed by clothing such as torso, chest, back, stomach, etc.;

6. Bright colored hair dye (unless as excused for school spirit functions or discussed with Site leaders);
7. Clothing which contains profanity, nudity, depicts violence, or is sexual in nature by words or symbols;
8. Open toed shoes, sandals, or flip flops;
9. Tube tops, tank tops, crop tops or spaghetti strap tops;
10. Undergarments worn as an outer garment or any see-through clothing that reveals an undergarment;
11. Hats, visors, sunglasses, sweatbands, and bandanas (may be worn outside but must be removed when inside the workplace);
12. Jeans (except as described in Friday Business Casual Dress Policy below).

AMPS does not discriminate against employees on the basis of race, which includes traits historically associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks and twists. Reasonable accommodations shall be made where appropriate and as approved in writing by the supervisor for those employees or volunteers who, because of a sincerely held religious belief, cultural heritage, or medical reason, request a waiver of a particular part of this policy. Accommodations due to a disability or for religious grooming or dress will be made unless such accommodation poses an undue hardship.

Piercings and Tattoos

Body piercings (e.g., jewelry affixed to the nose, tongue, cheek, lip, or eyebrow) and tattoos are prohibited if they disrupt the orderly operation of AMPS. Tattoos which contain profane, vulgar, offensive, sexual or obscene statements or images are prohibited and must be covered at all times.

Friday Casual Dress Policy

The normal dress code will be relaxed on Fridays to provide a more comfortable clothing standard and foster school/collegiate spirit. Fridays throughout the year will be designated as Casual Dress Day. It is the intent that each employee may choose to wear less formal attire as long as clothing is in good taste and will not negatively affect the Site's image. Casual dress is outlined as follows:

1. Casual shirts: AMPS or site branded polo shirts. All shirts with collars, business casual crewneck or V-neck shirts, blouses, golf and polo shirts in school colors. College-branded shirts are acceptable. Examples of inappropriate shirts include; shirts with inappropriate slogans, tank tops, muscle shirts, camouflage and crop tops. In specified circumstances, T-shirts may be approved and provided for specific events only.
2. Pants: Casual slacks and trousers and jeans without holes, frays, etc are permitted. Pants worn below the waist or hip line are prohibited at all times.

T. Parking

Employees may park their vehicles in any AMPS marked space, if space permits. If space is unavailable, employees must park in permissible public areas on the streets in the vicinity of AMPS property. AMPS is not responsible for any loss or damage to employee vehicles or contents while parked on or off of AMPS property.

U. Solicitation and Distribution of Literature

In order to maintain and promote efficient operations, discipline, and security, AMPS maintains rules applicable to all employees that govern solicitation, distribution of written material, and entry onto the premises and work areas. All employees are expected to comply with these rules, which will be strictly

enforced. Any employee who is in doubt concerning the application of these rules should immediately consult with his or her supervisor. These rules are:

1. No employee shall sell merchandise or solicit or promote support for any cause or organization during his or her working time or during the working time of the employee(s) at whom such activity is directed. As used in these rules, working time excludes meal and rest breaks.
2. No employee shall distribute or circulate any written or printed material, other than those approved by management for business purposes, in work areas at any time or during his or her working time or during the working time of the employee(s) at whom such activity is directed.
3. No employee shall enter or remain in School work areas for any purpose except to report for, be present during, and conclude a work period. Non-exempt employees must not begin work and clock in at his or her working area more than 10 minutes before they are scheduled to begin and must stop work and clock out from his or her work area no later than 10 minutes after their work scheduled for the day is completed, unless they are approved by their supervisor to do so. Work area does not include School parking lots, break rooms, gates, or other similar outside areas unless an employee is assigned to work in such areas.
4. Under no circumstances will non-employees be permitted to solicit or distribute written material for any purpose on School property.
5. Non-employees must sign in at the front office before entering School property.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

V. Health and Safety Policy

AMPS is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for all employees.

Employees are required to know and comply with AMPS' Safety Manual and to follow safe and healthy work practices at all times.

Employees are required to report immediately to AMPS' Site Director any potential health or safety hazards, and all injuries or accidents.

In compliance with Proposition 65, the School will inform employees of any known exposure to a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

W. Communicable Diseases

Introduction

Employees must stay away from the office if they have symptoms of or have been diagnosed with a communicable illness in order to reduce the possibility that it will spread to others.

AMPS does not discriminate against any job applicant or employee based on the individual having a communicable illness or being associated with someone who does. AMPS will not retaliate against an applicant or employee for providing this information to AMPS.

General Guidelines

Decisions involving persons who have or may have a communicable illness shall be based on current and well-informed medical judgments concerning the disease, as well as the following factors:

1. Whether the individual has been diagnosed with the illness;
2. Whether the individual has been exposed to an individual with the illness;
3. Whether the individual has symptoms that are similar to those associated with the illness;
4. Whether the individual has been exposed to an individual who has symptoms that are similar to those associated with the illness;
5. Whether the individual has traveled to locations or been exposed to others who have traveled to locations where there is a high population of individuals with the illness;
6. The risks of transmitting the illness to others;
7. The symptoms and any other special circumstances of each individual who has or may have the illness;
8. Any factor used by a government agency, including but not limited to, the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), for the purpose of maintaining the safety and security of our citizens.

Other factors could be considered as well. Managers and supervisors are responsible for:

1. Consulting with Human Resources for guidance regarding employees who report symptoms and/or diagnosis of a communicable disease.
2. Preventing discrimination against any job applicant or employee based on the individual having a communicable disease.
3. Maintaining the privacy of all information about an employee's medical condition with anyone other than Human Resources or any government agency that requires reporting.

Communicable Illness Defined

A communicable illness is a serious illness or disease that can be directly or indirectly transferred from an infected individual to another person, including, but not limited to measles, mumps, chickenpox, coronavirus, influenza (certain types including H1N1), viral Hepatitis-A (infectious Hepatitis), viral Hepatitis-B (serum Hepatitis), leprosy, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), TB (Tuberculosis - infectious), plague, yellow fever, viral hemorrhagic fevers, meningitis, and encephalitis. The definition of communicable illness may be revised in accordance with information received from the CDC or other public health officials.

Reporting Procedure

To help keep all employees safe, employees must follow these procedures. Employees must inform Human Resources if you are: (a) diagnosed with a communicable illness; or (b) if you believe you may have been exposed to a person so diagnosed; (c) if you have recently visited a location in which there has been a high population of individuals diagnosed with an illness; (d) you do not feel well or are exhibiting any symptoms associated with the illness in question. This information will be kept confidential to the extent reasonably possible. AMPS will not reveal any information other than as required to meet business necessities.

Work Restrictions

For safety and security purposes, as well as to comply with all applicable law, AMPS reserves the right to request that any individual who has or may have a communicable illness, or who has had contact with anyone who has or may have a communicable illness, not enter the workplace or attend any work-related function outside the premises.

Certain employees who can complete job duties remotely may have the option to work from home, subject

to the discretion and prior approval of AMPS. Additionally, leaves of absence, use of vacation or other arrangements may be an option. Depending on the circumstances, AMPS may offer other options.

Duty to Maintain Privacy

AMPS will administer this policy in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act and its amendments, the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, other related federal law, and state law related to the same or similar issues, including but not limited to mandatory paid sick and safe time laws. AMPS will treat any medical information obtained under this policy as confidential to the extent possible in accordance with applicable law. In the event any provision of this policy conflicts with applicable federal, state or local law, AMPS will follow the law. AMPS will strive to maintain any information about an employee's medical condition, or that of a family member, in the strictest of confidence and to see that this information is shared only on a "need to know" basis.

X. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy

It is the intent of AMPS to promote a safe, healthy, and productive work environment for all employees. We believe our employees have the right to work in an alcohol and drug-free environment and to work with persons free from the effects of alcohol and drugs. Employees who abuse alcohol or drugs are a danger to themselves and to other employees. We are therefore committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace free from the influence of alcohol and drugs. We hope all employees will join us in achieving our goal of a safe and productive drug-free workplace.

For purposes of this policy, "drugs" includes, but is not limited to, substances that are prohibited by law (such as cocaine, heroin, etc.), controlled substances, marijuana (including medicinal marijuana and marijuana vaping or other recreational marijuana use), prescription drugs that impair the employee's ability to perform their job duties safely and effectively, as well as prescription drugs if they are not prescribed for the person using them and/or not being used as prescribed. While the use of marijuana has been legalized under California law for medicinal and recreational uses, it remains an illegal drug under federal law and its use as it impacts the workplace is prohibited by AMPS. "Drug paraphernalia" means any accessory for the use, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs. "Under the influence" means that the employee is affected by alcohol, prescription medication that impairs cognitive or physical functions, and/or illegal drugs in any detectable manner.

AMPS complies with all Federal and State regulations regarding drug use while on the job. This policy prohibits the following:

1. Use, possession, purchase, or offer for sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol during working hours, including meal and break periods, or in the presence of pupils;
2. Use, possession, purchase, or offer for sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol on School property at any time;
3. Use, possession, purchase, or offer for sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol while attending a School function or event;
4. Storing alcohol (if unauthorized), drugs, or drug paraphernalia in a locker, desk, automobile, or other repository on AMPS' premises;
5. Refusing to submit to an inspection or testing when requested by AMPS;
6. Being under the influence of drugs, prescription medication that impairs cognitive or physical functions and/or alcohol during working hours, while on AMPS' premises and/or attending a School function or event;
7. Conviction under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace; or
8. Failure to keep all prescribed medicine in its original container.

In addition, if you are required to take any kind of prescription or nonprescription medication that will affect your ability to perform your job, you are required to report this to Human Resources. Human Resources will determine if it is necessary to temporarily place you on another assignment or take other action as appropriate to protect your safety and the safety of other employees and students.

This policy will not be construed to prohibit the use of alcohol at social or business functions sponsored by AMPS where alcohol is served or while entertaining actual or prospective donors to AMPS. However, employees must remember their obligation to conduct themselves appropriately at all times while at School-sponsored functions or while representing AMPS.

Searches

AMPS may at times conduct unannounced searches of School property for alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or unauthorized controlled substances or to ensure compliance with any other School-related policy. This may include desks, storage areas and rooms normally used to store employees' personal property. As a result, employees do not have an expectation of privacy in this regard.

Testing

AMPS may require a test by intoxilator, blood test, urinalysis, medical examination, or other drug/alcohol screening of those persons whom AMPS reasonably suspects of using, possessing, or being under the influence of a drug or alcohol. Such testing will be conducted if two or more employees observe an employee acting in such a manner to raise suspicion that the employee is under the influence of an illegal drug or alcohol or is acting in such manner that they may harm themselves or another employee.

Any refusal to submit to such testing will be considered a violation of this policy. An employee's consent to submit to such a test is required as a condition of employment, and an employee's refusal to consent may result in disciplinary action, including termination for a first refusal or any subsequent refusal. AMPS shall determine the manner in which such testing is conducted with the goal being to ensure that the test results are accurate.

Such a test may be required of employees involved in any work-related accident or unsafe practice where the safety of the employee or of other employees was jeopardized. Periodic retesting may also be required following positive test results or after any violation of this policy or rehabilitation.

Violations

Any violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, at AMPS' sole discretion.

Employees should be aware that participation in a rehabilitation program will not necessarily prevent the imposition of disciplinary action, including termination, for violation of this policy. Employees who undergo voluntary counseling or treatment and who continue to work, if any, must meet all established standards of conduct and job performance.

Because the use, sale, purchase, possession, or furnishing of an illegally obtained substance is a violation of the law, School may report such illegal drug activities to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Y. Smoking

AMPS sites are all non-smoking facilities. Smoking is prohibited on AMPS property and campuses.

Z. *Security Protocols*

The security of facilities as well as the welfare of our employees depends upon the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks. To help maintain a secure workplace, be aware of unknown persons loitering in parking areas, walkways, entrances and exits and service areas. Report any suspicious persons or activities to the Site Director or your supervisor immediately.

Secure your desk or office at the end of the day. When called away from your work area for an extended length of time, do not leave valuable or personal articles around your work station that may be accessible. You should immediately notify Human Resources when keys are missing or if security access codes or passes have been breached.

AA. *Safety and Incident Reporting*

AMPS is committed to providing a safe working environment and preventing accidents. The prevention of accidents is the responsibility of every School supervisor. It is also the duty of all employees to accept and promote the established safety regulations and procedures. Every effort will be made to provide adequate safety training. If an employee is ever in doubt about how to perform a job or task safely, he or she should request assistance. All employees must report unsafe conditions to management immediately and remedy them to the extent possible. Employees must also report fires or other emergencies by calling 911. Employee must immediately, or as soon as is practical, report any accident or injury occurring during work or on School premises to management, to allow AMPS to appropriately respond.

It is the policy of the School that accident prevention shall be considered of primary importance in all phases of operation and administration. AMPS's management is required to provide safe and healthy working conditions for all employees and to establish and require the use of safe practices at all times.

Failure to comply with or enforce School's Safety Manual, Workplace and Violence Prevention Plan or safety and health rules, practices and procedures could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

BB. *Driving on AMPS Business*

Employees who are required to drive their own vehicle on approved School business will be required to show proof of a current, valid driver's license and proof of effective auto liability insurance coverage. Employees whose job duties include driving must follow all traffic laws at all times and practice safe driving.

Pursuant to applicable law and safety standards, employees whose job responsibilities include regular or occasional driving and who are issued a cell phone for business use must refrain from using their phone while driving unless they are using a hands-free device. Safety must come before all other concerns. Thus, unless an employee is using a hands-free device in a safe- manner, he or she must safely pull off to the side of the road and safely stop the vehicle before placing, accepting, or continuing a call. Sending or reviewing text messages while driving is also prohibited.

Employees whose job responsibilities do not specifically include driving as an essential function, but who use a cell phone for business purposes, whether issued by AMPS or not, are also expected to abide by the provisions above. Under no circumstances are employees allowed to place themselves or others at risk to fulfill business needs.

Any employee who fails to comply with this policy will be deemed to have engaged in grossly negligent conduct beyond the course and scope of his or her employment. As a result, any employee who is

charged with a traffic violation or incurs any other form of liability resulting from a violation of this policy will, to the extent allowed by applicable law, be solely responsible for any such liability. Any employee who has an accident while driving on AMPS business must report that accident immediately to his or her supervisor and HR.

AMPS will reimburse employees using a personal vehicle for mileage when on AMPS business at the IRS mileage rate. Employees are required to keep a record of the number of miles driven to perform their job duties.

EMPLOYEE LEAVES AND BENEFITS

A. *Holidays*

AMPS calendar reflects any and all holidays observed by AMPS. School classes are not in session on holidays observed by AMPS. When a holiday falls on a workday, that workday is the holiday. When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is treated as the holiday. When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the subsequent Monday is treated as the holiday.

The following days are observed as paid holidays by AMPS:

1. New Year's Day
2. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
3. President's Day
4. Friday of Spring Break Week
5. Memorial Day
6. Juneteenth
7. Independence Day
8. Labor Day
9. Indigenous Peoples' Day
10. Veteran's Day
11. Thanksgiving Day
12. Friday after Thanksgiving
13. Christmas Eve
14. Christmas Day
15. New Year's Eve

To be eligible for holiday pay, an employee must either be a non-exempt employee who works on average at least thirty (30) hours per workweek, and who would normally be scheduled to work on the day on which the holiday falls. Holiday pay will be based on each employee's work schedule; in other words, an employee who normally works 4 hours per day will receive 4 hours of holiday pay, and an employee who works 8 hours per day will receive 8 hours of holiday pay. Holiday hours do not count as hours worked for purposes of calculating overtime.

B. *Vacation Policy*

Ten (10) month employees do not accrue vacation days. Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) month regular full-time employees (as defined in this Handbook) begin to earn and accrue vacation starting on the first day of employment. Eleven(11) Month employees will accrue vacation at a rate of 3.64 hours per pay period up to 80 hours per year. Twelve (12) month employees will accrue vacation at a rate of 3.33 hours per pay period up to 80 hours of vacation time per year. Vacation time can accrue up to a maximum cap of 1.5 times the annual accrual maximum, which is 120 hours of vacation time. Once the ~~120-hour~~120-hour cap is reached, employees will cease to accrue further vacation time until the employee's accrued vacation time falls below that cap. When vacation time falls below the cap of 120 hours, then vacation will begin to accrue again. Vacation accrues on an as-worked basis. Vacation will not accrue during any unpaid leave of absence, inactive time, unpaid time, or non-working time or during any period when the employee's vacation time was at the maximum cap.

All employees must have supervisory approval before taking vacation, by submitting a request through Paylocity at least two weeks prior to the date(s) requested. Failure to submit this request at least two weeks in advance may result in denial of the request. Vacations shall be scheduled in such a way as to provide adequate coverage of job responsibilities and staffing requirements. Although AMPS will attempt

to accommodate vacation requests to the greatest extent possible, there is no guarantee that any given vacation request will be granted, and AMPS reserves the right to deny a vacation request based on operational needs of AMPS. AMPS reserves the right to schedule vacation time for employees or to compensate employees for accrued, unused vacation time at any time in its sole discretion. If a holiday occurs during your vacation period, you will receive holiday compensation for that day.

Employees who terminate their employment for any reason will be paid for any accrued but unused vacation time in accordance with this policy. Vacation time is paid at the employee's final rate of pay at the time of the employee's separation.

As with all of its policies and procedures, AMPS reserves the right to modify, alter, or otherwise amend this policy at its sole and absolute discretion to the extent allowed by law.

C. *Paid Sick Leave*

Paid sick leave is available to all School employees who work for the School for more than thirty (30) days within a year and who work at least two (2) hours within a week within the City of Oakland. AMPS employees will accrue hours per pay period worked as described below. Mid-year hires will receive a prorated allowance of Paid Sick Leave based on their start date, rounded to the nearest whole day. Sick time may be used in one (1) hour increments. Accrued sick leave carries over from year to year. Sick leave is subject to an accrual cap of 160 hours. Once this cap is reached, no further sick leave will accrue until some is used. When sick leave is used, sick leave will begin to accrue again. There is no retroactive grant of sick leave for the period of time the accrued sick leave was at the cap.

- Full-Time Employees will accrue 4 hours of sick leave per pay period worked. For example, 10-Month Employees will accrue 80 hours of sick leave, 11-Month employees will accrue 88 hours of sick leave and 12-Month Employees will accrue 96 hours of sick leave per year with a cap of 160 hours.
- Part-Time Employees will accrue 2 hours of sick leave per pay period worked. For Example, 10-Month Part-Time Employees will accrue 40 hours of sick leave, 11-Month Part-Time Employees will accrue 44 hours of sick leave and 12-Month Part-Time Employees will accrue 48 hours of sick leave per year with a cap of 160 hours.

AMPS will not compensate an employee for unused paid sick days upon termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment. However, if an employee separates from AMPS and is rehired by AMPS within one year from the date of separation, any previously accrued and unused paid sick leave shall be reinstated. The employee shall be entitled to use that previously accrued and unused paid sick leave and to accrue additional paid sick leave upon rehiring, subject to this policy.

Sick leave may be taken to receive preventive care (including annual physicals or flu shots) or to diagnose, treat, or care for an existing health condition. Employees may also use sick leave to assist a family member (i.e., the employee's child; parent; legal guardian or ward; sibling; grandparent; grandchild; and spouse, registered domestic partner under any state or local law, or designated person (i.e., one who is related to the employee by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship) who must receive preventative care or a diagnosis, treatment, or care for an existing health condition. Employees are limited to one (1) designated person per twelve (12) month period. There is a window of ten (10) work days for the employee to make this designation. Thereafter, the opportunity to make such a designation, including the opportunity to change such a designation previously made, shall be extended to the employee on an annual basis, with a window of ten (10) work days for the employee to make the designation. Employees may also take paid sick leave to receive medical care or other

assistance to address instances of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The employee may use all or any percentage of his or her paid sick leave to aid or care for the aforementioned persons. The aforementioned family members include not only biological relationships but also relationships resulting from adoption; step-relationships; and foster care relationships. "Child" as used herein includes a child of a domestic partner and a child of a person standing in loco parentis.

AMPS will not require, as a condition of an employee's taking paid sick leave, that the employee search for or find a replacement worker to cover the hours during which the employee is on paid sick leave. Employees who wish to use paid sick leave can do so upon a verbal or written request. When possible, employees must give reasonable advance notification of an absence from work for which paid sick leave will be used. If the need for paid sick leave is unforeseeable, the employee shall provide notice of the need for the leave as soon as practicable. When an employee is out due to illness for three (3) or more workdays, a doctor's note certifying the need for the absence and the employee's fitness to return to duty may be required. Employees out on sick leave for more than five (5) consecutive work days will be required to discuss leave of absence options with Human Resources.

Once an employee has exhausted sick leave, the employee may continue on an unpaid medical leave depending upon the facts and circumstances of the employee's basis for leave beyond accrued sick leave. Employee requests for unpaid medical leave must be approved in advance by AMPS.

AMPS will not retaliate or discriminate against an employee for using accrued sick leave, attempting to exercise the right to use accrued sick leave, or cooperating in an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

D. Unpaid Leave of Absence (Medical)

On occasion, an employee may need a medical leave of absence that extends beyond limits under any state or federal mandatory leave law. In addition, there may be circumstances when an employee needs a medical leave allowed under disability laws and in accordance with this policy. In these situations, a medical leave of absence may be granted for disabilities based upon a health care provider's written certification of a qualifying disability, unless such leave would cause an undue hardship. Such disability leaves will be considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with AMPS's obligations under federal and state disability laws. Employees should request any leave in writing as far in advance as possible. Approved absences of less than two weeks are not treated as medical leaves of absences but rather as excused absences without pay.

Benefit accrual, such as vacation, sick leave, and holiday benefits, will be suspended during an unpaid medical leave period and will resume upon return to active employment. Unless otherwise required by law, AMPS does not continue to pay premiums for health insurance coverage for employees on unpaid medical leave. However, if eligible, you may self-pay the premiums under the provisions of COBRA.

A medical leave begins on the first day your doctor certifies that you are unable to work. AMPS will require medical documentation from your healthcare provider showing the date you became disabled and the anticipated date you will be able to return to work. An employee returning from a medical disability leave must present a doctor's certificate declaring fitness to return to work.

Upon return from medical leave, you will be offered the same position you held at the time your leave began, if available and/or as required by law. If your former position is not available, a comparable position will be offered. If neither the same nor a comparable position is available, your return to work will depend on job openings existing at the time of your scheduled return. AMPS will comply with any reinstatement obligations under state or federal law.

Disability leaves under this section are unpaid. Employees on leave due to a medical condition or disability may be eligible to receive state disability compensation through State Disability Insurance (SDI) or Paid Family Leave (PFL). In both instances, employees must directly contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

E. Discretionary Unpaid Leave of Absence (Non-Medical)

AMPS may grant a discretionary leave of absence to employees in certain unusual circumstances when requested by the employee. There is no guaranteed right to take a discretionary unpaid leave of absence and if such a leave is granted, there is not guaranteed right to reinstatement.

It is important to request any leave in writing as far in advance as possible, to keep in touch with your supervisor and Human Resources during your leave, and to give prompt notice if there is any change in your return date. If your leave expires and you have not contacted your supervisor and Human Resources, AMPS will assume that you do not plan to return and that you have voluntarily terminated your employment. Employees do not continue to accrue vacation, PSL, or holiday benefits while they are on unpaid discretionary leaves of absence.

Employees will be required to use any accrued vacation before taking an unpaid discretionary leave of absence. Unless otherwise required by law, AMPS does not continue to pay premiums for health insurance coverage for employees on discretionary unpaid leaves of absence. However, if eligible, you may self-pay the premiums under the provisions of COBRA.

F. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

This policy explains how the School complies with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") and the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), both of which require the School to permit each eligible employee to take up to twelve (12) workweeks (or twenty-six (26) workweeks where indicated) of FMLA/CFRA leave in any twelve (12) month period for the purposes enumerated below.

Employee Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for FMLA/CFRA leave, the employee must have been employed by the School for a total of at least twelve (12) months, worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding commencement of the leave, and work at a location where the School has at least fifty (50) employees within seventy-five (75) miles, (except for purposes of CFRA where the School must only have at least five (5) employees).

Events That May Entitle an Employee To FMLA/CFRA Leave

The twelve (12) week (or twenty-six (26) workweeks where indicated) FMLA/CFRA allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

1. To care for the employee's newborn child or a child placed with the employee for adoption or foster care. Leaves for this purpose must conclude twelve (12) months after the birth, adoption, or placement. If both parents are employed by the School, they each will be entitled to a separate twelve (12) weeks of leave for this purpose, which cannot be loaned or otherwise assigned from one employee to the other.
2. Because of the employee's own serious health condition (including a serious health condition resulting from an on-the-job illness or injury) that makes the employee unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of his or her job (other than a disability caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, which is covered by the School's separate

pregnancy disability policy).

- a. A “serious health condition” is an illness, injury (including, but not limited to, on-the-job injuries), impairment, or physical or mental condition of the employee or a child, parent, or spouse of the employee that involves either inpatient care or continuing treatment, including, but not limited to, treatment for substance abuse.
 - b. “Inpatient care” means a stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential health care facility, any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care, or any period of incapacity. A person is considered an “inpatient” when a health care facility formally admits him/her to the facility with the expectation that he/she will remain at least overnight and occupy a bed, even if it later develops that such person can be discharged or transferred to another facility and does not actually remain overnight.
 - c. “Incapacity” means the inability to work, attend school, or perform other regular daily activities due to a serious health condition, its treatment, or the recovery that it requires.
 - d. “Continuing treatment” means ongoing medical treatment or supervision by a health care provider.
3. To care for a spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent with a serious health condition. A qualifying family member may also include a parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or designated person for CFRA purposes. “Designated person” refers to any individual related by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent to a family relationship.
 4. When an employee is providing care to a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a covered Armed Forces service member with a serious injury or illness, the employee may take a maximum of twenty-six (26) weeks of additional FMLA leave in a single twelve (12) month period to provide said care. CFRA does not provide leave specific to caring for a service member.
 5. For any “qualifying exigency” because the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of an individual on active military duty, or an individual notified of an impending call or order to active duty, in the Armed Forces. For CFRA purposes, this may also include a domestic partner.

Amount of FMLA/CFRA Leave Which May Be Taken

FMLA/CFRA leave can be taken in one (1) or more periods, but may not exceed twelve (12) workweeks total for any purpose in any twelve (12) month period, as described below, for any one, or combination of the above-described situations. “Twelve workweeks” means the equivalent of twelve (12) of the employee’s normally scheduled workweeks. For a full-time employee who works five (5) eight-hour days per week, “twelve workweeks” means sixty (60) working and/or paid eight (8) hour days.

In addition to the twelve (12) workweeks of FMLA/CFRA leave that may be taken, an employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered Armed Forces service member may also be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of FMLA leave during a twelve (12) month period to care for the servicemember.

The “twelve month period” in which twelve (12) weeks of FMLA and CFRA leave may be taken is the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of any FMLA/CFRA leave.

If a holiday falls within a week taken as FMLA/CFRA leave, the week is nevertheless counted as a week of FMLA/CFRA leave. If, however, the School’s business activity has temporarily ceased for some reason and employees are generally not expected to report for work for one or more weeks, such as the Winter Break, Spring Break, or Summer Vacation, the days the School’s activities have ceased do not count against the employee’s FMLA or CFRA leave entitlement. Similarly, if an employee uses FMLA/CFRA leave in increments of less than one (1) week, the fact that a holiday may occur within a week in which an employee partially takes leave does not count against the employee’s leave entitlement unless the

employee was otherwise scheduled and expected to work during the holiday.

Pay during FMLA/CFRA Leave

An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave because of his/her own serious health condition must use all accrued paid sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA/CFRA leave period. If an employee is receiving a partial wage replacement benefit during the FMLA/CFRA leave, the School and the employee may agree to have School-provided paid leave, such as vacation or sick time, supplement the partial wage replacement benefit unless otherwise prohibited by law.

An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave for baby-bonding or to care for a qualifying family member with a serious health condition may use any or all accrued sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA/CFRA leave.

If an employee has exhausted his/her sick leave, leave taken under FMLA/CFRA shall be unpaid leave.

The receipt of sick leave pay or State Disability Insurance benefits will not extend the length of the FMLA or CFRA leave. Sick pay accrues during any period of unpaid FMLA or CFRA leave only until the end of the month in which unpaid leave began.

Health Benefits

The provisions of the School's various employee benefit plans govern continuing eligibility during FMLA/CFRA leave, and these provisions may change from time to time. The health benefits of employees on FMLA/CFRA leave will be paid by the School during the leave at the same level and under the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the leave period. When a request for FMLA/CFRA leave is granted, the School will give the employee written confirmation of the arrangements made for the payment of insurance premiums during the leave period.

If an employee is required to pay premiums for any part of his/her group health coverage, the School will provide the employee with advance written notice of the terms and conditions under which premium payments must be made.

AMPS may recover the health benefit costs paid on behalf of an employee during his/her FMLA/CFRA leave if:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired. An employee is deemed to have "failed to return from leave" if he/she works less than thirty (30) days after returning from FMLA/CFRA leave; and
2. The employee's failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the employee to FMLA/CFRA leave, or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

Seniority

An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave remains an employee and the leave will not constitute a break in service. An employee who returns from FMLA/CFRA leave will return with the same seniority he/she had when the leave commenced.

Medical Certifications

An employee requesting FMLA/CFRA leave because of his/her own or a relative's serious health

condition must provide medical certification from the appropriate health care provider on a form supplied by AMPS. Absent extenuating circumstances, failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen [15] days of the School's request for certification) may result in denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.

AMPS will notify the employee in writing if the certification is incomplete or insufficient, and will advise the employee what additional information is necessary in order to make the certification complete and sufficient. AMPS may contact the employee's health care provider to authenticate a certification as needed.

If the School has reason to doubt the medical certification supporting a leave because of the employee's own serious health condition, the School may request a second opinion by a health care provider of its choice (paid for by the School). If the second opinion differs from the first one, the School will pay for a third, mutually agreeable, health care provider to provide a final and binding opinion.

Recertifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the health care provider. Failure to submit required recertifications can result in termination of the leave.

Procedures for Requesting and Scheduling FMLA/CFRA Leave

An employee should request FMLA/CFRA leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to Human Resources at hrsupport@amethodschools.org. An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will be given a copy of the School's then-current FMLA/CFRA leave policy.

Employees should provide not less than thirty (30) days' notice for foreseeable childbirth, placement, or any planned medical treatment for the employee or his/her qualifying family member. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of a leave request, except if the need for FMLA/CFRA leave was an emergency or was otherwise unforeseeable.

Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.

If FMLA/CFRA leave is taken because of the employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of the employee's qualifying family member, the leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary, as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition.

If FMLA/CFRA leave is taken because of the birth of the employee's child or the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, the minimum duration of leave is two (2) weeks, except that the School will grant a request for FMLA/CFRA leave for this purpose of at least one day but less than two (2) weeks' duration on any two (2) occasions.

If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee or a family member, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he or she is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.

The School will respond to an FMLA/CFRA leave request no later than five (5) business days of receiving the request. If an FMLA/CFRA leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing that the leave will be counted against the employee's FMLA/CFRA leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.

Return to Work

Upon timely return at the expiration of the FMLA/CFRA leave period, an employee is entitled to the same or a comparable position with the same or similar duties and virtually identical pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment unless the same position and any comparable position(s) have ceased to exist because of legitimate business reasons unrelated to the employee's FMLA/CFRA leave.

When a request for FMLA/CFRA leave is granted to an employee, the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the termination of the leave (with the limitations explained above).

Before an employee will be permitted to return from FMLA/CFRA leave taken because of his/her own serious health condition, the employee must obtain a certification from his/her health care provider that he/she is able to resume work.

If an employee can return to work with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations and, if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

Employment during Leave

No employee, including employees on FMLA/CFRA leave, may accept employment with any other employer without the School's written permission. An employee who accepts such employment without the School's written permission will be deemed to have resigned from employment at the School.

G. Pregnancy Disability Leave

Any employee who is disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition is eligible for a Pregnancy Disability Leave of Absence. There is no length of service requirement.

For purposes of this policy, you are disabled when, in the opinion of your healthcare provider, you cannot work at all or are unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of your job or to perform them without undue risk to yourself, the successful completion of your pregnancy, or to other persons as determined by a healthcare provider. This term also applies to certain pregnancy-related conditions, such as severe morning sickness or if you need to take time off for prenatal or postnatal care, bed rest, postpartum depression, and the loss or end of pregnancy (among other pregnancy-related conditions that are considered to be disabling).

Reasonable Accommodation for Pregnancy-Related Disabilities

Any employee who is affected by pregnancy may also be eligible for a temporary transfer or another accommodation. There is no length of service requirement. You are affected by pregnancy if you are pregnant or have a related medical condition, and because of pregnancy, your health care provider has certified that it is medically advisable for you to temporarily transfer or to receive some other accommodation.

AMPS will provide a temporary transfer to a less strenuous or hazardous position or duties or other accommodation to an employee affected by pregnancy if:

1. She requests a transfer or other accommodation; and
2. The request is based upon the certification of her health care provider as "medically advisable"; and
3. The transfer or other requested accommodation can be reasonably accommodated pursuant to applicable law.

As part of this accommodation process, no additional position will be created and AMPS will not discharge

another employee, transfer another employee with more seniority, or promote or transfer any employee who is not qualified to perform the new job.

Advance Notice and Medical Certification

To be approved for a pregnancy disability leave of absence, a temporary transfer or other reasonable accommodation, you must:

1. Provide 30 days' advance notice before the leave of absence, transfer or reasonable accommodation is to begin, if the need is foreseeable;
2. Provide as much notice as is practicable before the leave, transfer or reasonable accommodation when 30 days' notice is not foreseeable; and
3. Provide a signed medical certification from your healthcare provider that states that you are disabled due to pregnancy or that it is medically advisable for you to be temporarily transferred or to receive some other requested accommodation.
4. AMPS may require you to provide a new certification if you request an extension of time for your leave, transfer or other requested accommodation.

Duration

AMPS will provide you with a Pregnancy Disability Leave of Absence for the duration of your pregnancy-related disability for up to four (4) months. This leave may be taken intermittently or on a continuous basis, as certified by your healthcare provider. The four months of leave available to an employee due to her pregnancy related disability is defined as the number of days (and hours) the employee would normally work within four calendar months or 17.33 workweeks.

Any temporary transfer or other reasonable accommodation provided to an employee affected by pregnancy will not reduce the amount of Pregnancy Disability Leave time the employee has available to her unless the temporary transfer or other reasonable accommodation involves a reduced work schedule or intermittent absences from work.

At the end or depletion of an employee's pregnancy disability leave, an employee who has a physical or mental disability (which may or may not be due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions) may be entitled to reasonable accommodation. Entitlement to additional leave must be determined on a case-by case basis, taking into account a number of considerations such as whether an extended leave is likely to be effective in allowing the employee to return to work at the end of the leave, with or without further reasonable accommodation, and whether or not additional leave would create an undue hardship for the School. The School is not required to provide an indefinite leave of absence as a reasonable accommodation.

Reinstatement

If you and AMPS have agreed upon a definite date of return from your leave of absence or transfer, you will be reinstated on that date if you notify AMPS that you are able to return on that date. If the length of the leave of absence or transfer has not been established, or if it differs from the original agreement, you will be returned to work within two (2) business days, where feasible, after you notify AMPS of your readiness to return.

Before you will be allowed to return to work in your regular job following a leave of absence or transfer, you must provide Human Resources with a certification from your healthcare provider that you can perform safely all of the essential duties of your position, with or without reasonable accommodation. If you do not provide such a release prior to or upon reporting for work, you will be sent home until a release is provided. Any time you are not allowed to work due to not having provided the required release will be

unpaid.

You will be returned to the same or a comparable position upon the conclusion of your leave of absence or transfer. If the same position is not available on your scheduled return date, AMPS will provide you with a comparable position on your scheduled return date or within 60 calendar days of that return date. However, you will not be entitled to any greater right to reinstatement than if you had not taken the leave. For example, you would have been laid off regardless of the leave, or you would not have been offered a comparable position, then the employee will not be entitled to reinstatement.

When a request for pregnancy disability leave is granted to an employee, the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the end of the leave (with the limitations explained above). If the employee can return with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations, and if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If the accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

Failure to return to work at the conclusion of the leave of absence may result in termination of employment, unless you are taking additional leave provided by law or AMPS policy or AMPS has otherwise approved you to take additional time off.

Pay During Leave and Integration with Other Benefits

Pregnancy Disability Leaves of Absence and accommodations that require you to work a reduced work schedule or to take time off from work intermittently are unpaid. You may elect to use accrued sick leave and/or accrued vacation benefits during the unpaid leave of absence as regulations allow. However, use of paid time off will not extend the available leave of absence time. Vacation and sick leave hours will not accrue during any unpaid portion of the leave of absence, and you will not receive pay for official holidays that are observed during your leave of absence except during those periods when you are substituting vacation or sick leave for unpaid leave.

Employees should apply for California State Disability insurance ("SDI") benefits. SDI forms are available from AMPS or your healthcare provider. Any SDI for which you are eligible will be integrated with accrued vacation, sick leave, or other paid time off benefits so that you do not receive more than 100% of your regular pay.

Health Benefits

AMPS will maintain an employee's health insurance benefits during an employee's Pregnancy Disability Leave for a period of up to four months, as defined above, on the same terms as they were provided prior to the leave time. If you take additional time off following a Pregnancy Disability Leave that qualifies as California Family Rights Act ("CFRA") leave, AMPS will continue your health insurance benefits for up to a maximum of 12 work weeks in a 12-month period.

EXAMPLE: You take 17.33 workweeks off due to a pregnancy disability. Assuming you are eligible for FMLA and CFRA leave, your Pregnancy Disability Leave will also be concurrently covered by FMLA and your group health insurance coverage would continue for the entire 17.33 workweek period. If, after your pregnancy disability leave and FMLA Leave, has been completed, you wish to take 12 additional weeks off from work to bond with a new baby under CFRA, the School will continue your health insurance benefits for the 12 workweek period.

AMPS may recover premiums that it already paid on behalf of an employee if both of the following conditions are met:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the designated leave period expires.
2. The employee's failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the following:
 - a. The employee is taking a leave of absence under the CFRA.
 - b. There is a continuation, reoccurrence, or onset of a health condition that entitles the employee to pregnancy disability leave.
 - c. There is a non-pregnancy related medical condition requiring further leave.
 - d. Any other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

Seniority

An employee on pregnancy disability leave remains an employee of the School and a leave will not constitute a break in service. When an employee returns from pregnancy disability leave, she will return with the same seniority she had when the leave commenced.

H. Military and Military Spousal Leave of Absence

Both state and federal law provide employees with the right to take leave in order to serve in the military. At the federal level, military leave rights are governed by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, commonly referred to as USERRA. This policy discusses military leave under USERRA. Further, if you are a spouse or registered domestic partner of a member of the military, you may be entitled to an unpaid leave during a period of military conflict. For information on military leave, contact Human Resources.

Eligibility for Military Leave

AMPS provides unpaid military leaves of absence to employees who serve in the uniformed services as required by USERRA and applicable state laws. The uniformed services include the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and any other category of persons designated by the President of the United States in time of war or emergency.

Service consists of the performance of any of the following on a voluntary or involuntary basis: active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty, inactive duty training, full-time National Guard duty and absence from work for an examination to determine fitness for such duty. Total military leave time may not exceed five years during employment, except in special circumstances.

Notice of Military Leave

When an employee receives orders for any active military duty (including any call to active duty), the employee must advise his or her manager or Human Resources immediately of the pending absence, unless military necessity requires otherwise or if providing notification would be impossible or unreasonable. In such an event, the employee must advise his/her/their manager or Human Resources of the need for military leave as soon as possible after becoming aware of the need for the leave.

Accrued vacation time will be paid during military leave at your request. Employees on military leave may elect to continue their health plan coverage at their own expense for up to 24 months or during the period of service, whichever is shorter.

Reinstatement from Military Leave

Except for employees serving in the National Guard, AMPS will reinstate those employees returning from military leave to their same position or one of comparable seniority, status, and pay if they have a certificate of satisfactory completion of service and apply within the timelines noted below, as required by law. For those employees serving in the National Guard, if he or she left a full-time position, the employee must apply for reemployment within forty (40) days of being released from active duty, and if he or she left part-time employment, the employee must apply for reemployment within five (5) days of being released from active duty.

An employee who was absent from work while fulfilling his or her covered service obligation under the USERRA or California law shall be credited, upon his or her return to the School, with the hours of service that would have been performed but for the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service. Exceptions to this policy will occur wherever necessary to comply with applicable laws.

Employees who are absent from work 30 days or less or who are absent to take a fitness exam must report to work at the beginning of the first regularly scheduled work day falling 8 hours or more after the employee returns home. If the employee serves 31 to 180 days, he or she must apply for reemployment within 14 days after completing service. If the employee has served 181 days or more, he or she must apply for reemployment within 90 days after completing service.

As with other leaves of absence, failure to return to work or to reapply within applicable time limits may result in loss of reemployment rights. Temporary employees may not be eligible for reinstatement following military leave and reinstatement may not be required for other employees in some circumstances. Full details regarding reinstatement are available from Human Resources.

In general, an employee returning from military leave will be reemployed in the position and seniority level that the employee would have attained had there been no military leave of absence. If necessary, AMPS will provide training to assist the employee in the transition back to the workforce.

An employee returning from military leave is entitled to any unused, accrued vacation benefits the employee had at the time the military leave began. Upon reinstatement, the employee will accrue vacation benefits at the rate he or she would have attained if no military leave had been taken. USERRA supersedes state laws that limit or condition its rights or benefits; however, it does not displace state laws that provide greater rights. Please contact Human Resources for further details.

Employees in California who serve in the military are entitled to the rights and protections set forth in the California Military and Veteran's Code. Among other things, the Code prohibits discrimination against members of the military or naval services of the state or the United States, and grants members of the National Guard or U.S. Reserve a temporary leave of absence while engaged in military duty ordered for purposes of military training, drills, encampment, naval cruises, and special exercises or like activities. This leave is not to exceed 17 calendar days annually.

Family Military Leave California

Employees who work more than twenty (20) hours per week and who are the spouses/registered domestic partners of certain military personnel may receive up to ten (10) days of unpaid leave during a qualified leave period. For purposes of this policy, a "qualified leave period" means the period during which the individual is on leave from deployment during a period of military conflict. An employee is eligible for leave under this policy if he or she:

1. Is the spouse/ registered domestic partner of a person who: (a) is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been deployed during a period of military conflict to an area designated as a combat theater or combat zone by the President of the United States,

- or (b) is a member of the National Guard or of the Reserves who has been deployed during a period of military conflict;
- 2. Provides notice of his or her intention to take leave within two business days of receiving notice that his or her spouse will be on leave from deployment; and
- 3. Submits written documentation certifying that their spouse will be on leave from deployment during the time the leave is requested.
- 4. Military conflict means either a period of war declared by the United States Congress, or a period of deployment for which a member of a reserve component is ordered to active duty either by the Governor or the President of the United States.
- 5. Leave taken under this policy will not affect an employee's right to any other benefits. AMPS will not discriminate against, or tolerate discrimination against, any employee who requests and/or takes leave under this policy. For more information, please contact your supervisor or the Human Resources Department.

I. Jury Duty/Witness Duty

All employees who receive a notice of jury/witness duty must notify their supervisor as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made to cover the absence. In addition, employees must provide a copy of the official jury/witness duty notice to their supervisor. Employees must report for work whenever the court schedule permits. Either AMPS or the employee may request an excuse from jury/witness duty if, in AMPS' judgment, the employee's absence would create serious operational difficulties.

Non-exempt employees who are called for jury/witness duty will be provided time off without pay. Exempt employees will receive their regular salary unless they do not work any hours during the course of a workweek. Employees may elect to use any accrued vacation during jury/witness duty leave.

In the event that the employee must serve as a witness within the course and scope of his or her employment with AMPS, AMPS will provide time off with pay.

J. Time-Off for Voting

AMPS encourages its employees to fulfill their civic responsibilities by participating in elections. Because polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., employees generally are able to find time to vote either before or after their regular work schedule. If employees are unable to vote in an election during their non-working hours and have not requested an absentee ballot, then AMPS will grant up to two hours of paid time off to vote.

Employees must request time off to vote from their supervisor at least two (2) working days prior to the election day. Advance notice is required so that the necessary time off can be scheduled at the beginning or end of the work shift, whichever provides the least disruption to the normal work schedule.

Employees must submit a voter's receipt on the first working day following the election to qualify for paid time off.

Nothing in this policy requires the employee to bring his or her mail (absentee) ballot to work, including mailing such absentee ballot from work.

K. Emergency Duty/Training Leave

In California, no employee shall receive discipline for taking time off to perform emergency duty/training

as a volunteer firefighter, reserve peace officer, or emergency rescue personnel. If you are participating in this kind of emergency duty/training, please alert your supervisor so that he or she may be aware of the fact that you may have to take unpaid time off for emergency duty/training. In the event that you need to take time off for emergency duty/training, please alert your supervisor before doing so whenever possible. Time off for emergency training may not exceed 14 days per calendar year.

Emergency Duty/Training Leave is unpaid. You may choose to use your accrued vacation if you wish to receive compensation for this time off, but you are not required to do so.

If you feel you have been treated unfairly as a result of taking or requesting Emergency Duty/Training Leave, you should contact your supervisor or any other manager, as appropriate.

L. Suspended Pupil/Child Leave

California law requires employers to provide time off for parents required to visit a child's school when the child has served a period of suspension from school. To be eligible for time off to attend a child's school, the employee must be the parent of a child in kindergarten or in grades 1-12 and must present a letter, which requests the employee's appearance at their child's school, to his or her supervisor at least two days before the requested time off. Employees may use accrued vacation while attending a child's school under these circumstances. If not, suspended pupil/child leave will be unpaid.

M. Leave for Victims of Crime and Abuse

AMPS will not discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a victim of crime or abuse. For purposes of this policy, "victim of crime or abuse" refers to (A) a victim of stalking, domestic violence, or sexual assault; (B) a victim of a crime (regardless of whether any person is arrested for, prosecuted for, or convicted of, committing the crime) that caused physical injury or that caused mental injury and a threat of physical injury; and (C) a person whose immediate family member is deceased as the direct result of a crime.

AMPS will permit a victim of crime or abuse to take time off from work to obtain any relief, including, but not limited to, a temporary restraining order, restraining order, or other injunctive relief to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of the victim or his or her child. Additionally, AMPS will permit a victim of crime or abuse to take time off work for the following purposes:

1. To seek medical attention for injuries related to the crime or abuse.
2. To obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, program, rape crisis center, or victim services organization or agency as a result of the crime or abuse.
3. To obtain psychological counseling or mental health services related to an experience of crime or abuse.
4. To participate in safety planning and take other actions to increase safety from future crime or abuse, including temporary or permanent relocation.

In order to take time off, the employee must provide reasonable advance notice unless doing so is not feasible. When an unscheduled absence occurs, AMPS will not take any action against the employee if the employee provides proof explaining the reason for his or her absence within a reasonable time.

Additionally, employees who have been victims of serious or violent felonies, or felonies relating to theft or embezzlement, may take time off work to attend judicial proceedings related to the crime. Employees also may take time off if an immediate family member has been a victim of such crimes and the employee needs to attend judicial proceedings related to the crime.

To request leave under this policy, an employee should provide AMPS with as much advance notice as practicable under the circumstances. If advance notice is not possible, the employee requesting leave under this policy should provide AMPS one (1) of the following certifications upon returning back to work:

1. A police report indicating that the employee was a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
2. A court order protecting the employee from the perpetrator or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that the employee appeared in court.
3. Documentation from a licensed medical professional, domestic violence or sexual assault counselor, licensed health care provider, or counselor showing that the employee's absence was due to treatment for injuries or abuse from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
4. Any other form of documentation that reasonably verifies that the crime or abuse occurred, including but not limited to, a written statement signed by the employee, or an individual acting on the employee's behalf, certifying that the absence is for a purpose authorized under the law.

Employees may choose to use paid sick leave that is otherwise available to the employee when taking time off under this policy.

A victim of crime or abuse may also request a reasonable accommodation for his or her safety while at work. AMPS will then engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with the employee to determine effective reasonable accommodations. AMPS will consider any exigent circumstance or danger facing the employee to determine whether an accommodation is reasonable. If the accommodation is reasonable and will not impose an undue hardship, the School will make the accommodation. Reasonable accommodations may include putting in locks, changing the employee's shift or phone number, transferring or reassigning the employee, helping the employee to document instances of crime or abuse, implementing a safety procedure or another adjustment to a job structure, workplace facility, or work requirement, or referral to a victim assistance organization.

The School will maintain as confidential any verbal or written statement, police or court record, or other documentation provided to the School identifying an employee as a victim of crime or abuse. Such information will not be disclosed by the School except as required by state or federal law or as necessary to protect the employee's safety in the workplace.

N. School Appearance and Activities Leave

If you are the parent or guardian of a child who is in school up to grade 12, or who attends a licensed day care facility, you may take up to 40 hours of unpaid leave per year to participate in activities of a child's school or child care. You may take no more than eight (8) hours off for this purpose in any one calendar month. Unless it is to address an emergency, you should schedule this time off with your supervisor in advance. You may be asked to provide documentation from AMPS or day care facility to confirm your attendance at its facility for reasons covered under this policy on the specific date and time that you took the leave. This time off is unpaid. You may choose to use your accrued vacation, but this is not required.

If both parents or guardians of a child work for AMPS, only one parent – the first to provide notice – may take the time off, unless AMPS approves both parents taking time off simultaneously.

O. Adult Literacy Leave

AMPS will make reasonable accommodations for any employee who reveals a literacy problem and requests that AMPS assist him in enrolling in an adult literacy program, unless it would create a hardship for AMPS.

AMPS will also assist employees who wish to seek literacy education training by providing employees with the location of local literacy programs.

AMPS will take reasonable steps to safeguard the privacy of any employee who identifies him or herself as an individual with a literacy problem. The employee can contact Human Resources.

An employee who is performing satisfactorily will not be subject to termination of employment because they have disclosed literacy problems.

While AMPS encourages employees to improve their literacy skills, AMPS will not reimburse employees for the costs incurred in attending a literacy program.

P. Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Leave

AMPS encourages employees with drug or alcohol abuse problems to seek needed counseling and treatment. Employees who are unable to find assistance may contact Human Resources to receive information about finding help. Any communications initiated by an employee and not as a result of a violation of this policy will be treated as confidentially as is possible.

AMPS will reasonably accommodate any employee who wishes to voluntarily enter and participate in an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program, provided that this reasonable accommodation will not impose an undue hardship for AMPS. Any such leave shall be unpaid except that, to the extent that employees have accrued sick or vacation they must use it. Sick or vacation will not accrue while an employee is on Rehabilitation leave, nor will the employee receive holiday pay.

Requesting assistance for substance abuse does not relieve the employee of his/her/their responsibility to meet performance, safety and attendance expectations. Rehabilitation expenses will be paid by the employee unless coverage is provided under a health insurance policy. Satisfactory participation in and completion of a rehabilitation program approved by AMPS is a condition of continuing employment.

Q. Civil Air Patrol Leave

Pursuant to California law, AMPS will provide unpaid leave to employees who are volunteer members of the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol and who have been duly directed and authorized to respond to an emergency operational mission of the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. Employees must be employed for at least 90 days immediately preceding the commencement of leave in order to be eligible.

Employees are required to give AMPS as much notice as possible of the intended dates upon which the leave would begin and end. AMPS will restore the employee to the position he or she held when the leave began or to a position with equivalent seniority status, employee benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment, unless the employee is not restored because of conditions unrelated to the exercise of the leave rights by the employee. The time off is unpaid. However, an employee may utilize accrued vacation.

R. Leave for Bone Marrow and Organ Donors

Pursuant to California law, AMPS will provide up to five (5) business days of paid leave within a one- year period to an employee who donates bone marrow to another person. In addition, AMPS will provide up to 30 business days of paid leave within a one-year period and up to another 30 business days of *unpaid* leave within a one-year period to an employee who donates an organ to another person. The one-year period is measured from the date the employee's leave begins and shall consist of 12 consecutive months.

To qualify for this leave, an employee must have been employed for at least 90 days prior to the commencement of the leave and must provide AMPS with written verification of his or her status as an organ or bone marrow donor and the medical necessity for the donation. During such leave, AMPS will continue coverage under its group medical insurance plan, if applicable. However, employees must continue to pay their portion of the applicable premiums. Employees should give AMPS as much notice as possible of the intended dates upon which the leave would begin and end.

Employees returning from Donor Leave will be reinstated to the position held before the leave began, or to a position with equivalent status, benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. AMPS may refuse to reinstate an employee if the reason is unrelated to taking a Donor Leave. A Donor Leave is not permitted to be taken concurrently with an FMLA/CFRA Leave.

S. *Bereavement Leave*

All employees who have worked for the School for at least thirty (30) days shall be eligible to take up to five (5) days of bereavement leave due to the death of a covered family member (spouse, child, parent, parent-in-law sibling, grandparent, grandchild, domestic partner, or parent-in-law). Full-time employees are entitled to up to three (3) days of pay during bereavement leave. For all other employees, bereavement leave shall be unpaid unless an employee elects to use available accrued/unused paid leave. Bereavement leave must be utilized within three (3) months of the covered family member's date of death. Bereavement pay will not be used in computing overtime pay. Any scheduled days off (including weekends, holidays and vacations) falling during the absence will be counted as both bereavement leave and scheduled days off. Upon request, an employee may be required to provide documentation of the death of a covered family member.

INSURANCE BENEFITS

A. *Health Benefits*

AMPS offers a comprehensive health insurance plan for eligible employees.

Regular full-time and part-time employees, who work on average at least thirty (30) hours per workweek, are eligible for health insurance on the first day of the month following their hire date in the following manners:

1. Employees that work less than an average of 30 hours per workweek are not eligible for any Health Benefits.
2. Full-time employees that work an average of 30 hours or more per workweek will receive 100% health benefits coverage and AMPS will pay premiums up to a designated amount.

AMPS pays the premium for eligible employees up to a designated amount. Any remaining costs associated with the Employee's plan shall be paid by the employee as a pre-tax payroll deduction. Employees will be notified of their contribution amount, should there be one, at the time they sign up for the specific benefit. Eligible employees are responsible for their portion of the monthly premium costs for their dependents' coverage.

Subject to applicable law, there is no guarantee that AMPS will continue to maintain a medical insurance plan or that the terms and conditions of any such plan will not be changed at any time. Further, in order to continue participation in any such plan, employees may be required to pay a part of the premium.

When Coverage Starts

Your coverage will begin on the first day of the calendar month following the employee's first day of employment. Your online enrollment must be submitted to the Human Resources Department as soon as possible. This enrollment serves as a request for coverage, and authorizes any payroll deductions necessary to pay for your coverage. By delaying the submission of the health benefits enrollment package, an employee's enrollment and health coverage may result in lack of coverage until the designated open enrollment period.

Flexible Spending Plans

AMPS provides, at no cost to employees, a Flexible Spending Plan which allows employees to pay for monthly health premiums, and commuter benefits with pre-tax dollars. This means your health premiums are subtracted from your gross pay before federal, state and social security (FICA) taxes are applied. The Flexible Spending Plan Document is in all cases controlling and supersedes any inconsistent terms in this manual. From time to time, we may also offer employees' access to a Medical Reimbursement and Dependent Care option within this program that is funded 100% by the employee. These options, if available, will be explained to you during open enrollment once established.

Stipend

Employees who are covered under a spouse's health plan, and not AMPS' plan, may qualify to be paid a predetermined monthly stipend. The rate at which the stipend is calculated is subject to annual change based on the annual health insurance rates. Please talk with the Human Resources Department if you believe you qualify.

COBRA

If for some reason your coverage under AMPS' health insurance ends, you and your dependents may be eligible to continue coverage for a specified term under COBRA. In this event, AMPS will provide additional information on COBRA coverage.

B. Industrial Injury Leave / (Workers' Compensation Insurance)

AMPS, in accordance with State law, provides insurance coverage for employees in case of work-related injuries. The workers' compensation benefits provided to injured employees may include:

1. Medical care;
2. Cash benefits, tax-free to replace lost wages; and
3. Vocational rehabilitation to help qualified injured employees return to suitable employment.

To ensure employees receive any worker's compensation benefits to which they may be entitled, employees will need to:

1. Immediately report any work-related injury to the Human Resources Department at hrsupport@amethodschools.org
2. Seek medical treatment and follow-up care if required;
3. Complete a written Employee's Claim Form (DWC Form 1) and return it to the Human Resources Department at hrsupport@amethodschools.org
4. Provide the School with a certification from a health care provider regarding the need for workers' compensation disability leave as well as the employee's eventual ability to return to work from the leave.

It is the School's policy that when there is a job-related injury, the first priority is to ensure that the injured employee receives appropriate medical attention. AMPS, with the help of its insurance carrier, has selected medical centers to meet this need. Each medical center was selected for its ability to meet anticipated needs with high quality medical service and a location that is convenient to its operations.

If an employee is injured on the job, he/she is to go or be taken to the approved medical center for treatment. If injuries are such that they require the use of emergency medical systems ("EMS") such as an ambulance, the choice by the EMS personnel for the most appropriate medical center or hospital for treatment will be recognized as an approved center.

All accidents and injuries must be reported to the Human Resources Department hrsupport@amethodschools.org and to the individual responsible for reporting to AMPS's insurance carrier. Failure by an employee to report a work-related injury by the end of his/her shift could result in loss of insurance coverage for the employee. An employee may choose to be treated by his/her personal physician at his/her own expense, but he/she is still required to go to AMPS's approved medical center for evaluation. All job-related injuries must be reported to the appropriate State Workers' Compensation Bureau and the insurance carrier.

When there is a job-related injury that results in lost time, the employee must have a medical release from AMPS's approved medical facility before returning to work.

Any time there is a job-related injury, AMPS's policy requires drug/alcohol testing along with any medical treatment provided to the employee.

PERSONNEL EVALUATION AND RECORD KEEPING

A. *Performance Evaluations*

AMPS strives to conduct formal performance reviews for all of its employees. Teacher and Site Directors will generally be formally reviewed once each school year. However, informal observations will be conducted throughout the year. The frequency of performance evaluations may vary depending upon length of service, job position, past performance, changes in job duties, performance problems or operational requirements.

Performance reviews may cover factors such as job criteria, instructional practice, data reviews, critical duties and tasks of a job, attainment of goals, and adherence to the AMPS core values. The performance evaluations are intended to make you aware of your progress, areas for improvement and objectives or goals for future work performance. Favorable performance reviews do not guarantee increases in salary or promotions. Salary increases and promotions are solely within the discretion of AMPS and depend upon many factors in addition to performance, including availability of funds. After the review, you will be required to sign the evaluation report to acknowledge that it has been presented to you, that you have discussed it with your supervisor and that you are aware of its contents. You may add a rebuttal statement to your review within 10 days of your review that will be maintained in your personnel file.

Nothing in this policy shall limit the right to terminate employment at-will or limit AMPS' right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion. Failure by AMPS to evaluate the employee will not prevent AMPS from transferring, demoting, disciplining, or terminating an employee. Employment is at the mutual consent of the employee and AMPS. Accordingly, either the employee or AMPS can terminate the employment relationship at-will, at any time, with or without reason and with or without notice

B. *Personnel Files*

The information recorded in your personnel file is extremely important. It is your responsibility to make sure that the personal data in the file is accurate and up to date. Report any change of address, phone number, etc. to AMPS immediately.

Employees, former employees, or employee representatives may submit a request to inspect their personnel file in the presence of a representative of AMPS. All requests must be in writing. Current and former employees, or employee representatives, may also request inspection through the use of an AMPS-provided request form. Please contact Human Resources to schedule a convenient time. You may request copies from your file of all documents. AMPS may charge the requesting employee or employee representative for the actual cost of reproduction of personnel file documents. If you desire, you may add a written statement to your file explaining any disputed item.

Employees also may inspect their payroll records upon request, and may obtain a copy of these records at their own expense. AMPS will comply with all inspection requests as required by law.

Access to information in personnel files is restricted. Only authorized managers and management personnel will have access to your personnel file. However, AMPS will cooperate with-and provide access to your personnel file to-law enforcement officials or local, state or federal agencies in accordance with applicable law.

Health/medical records are not included in your personnel file. These records are confidential. AMPS will safeguard them from disclosure and will divulge such information only: 1) as allowed by law; or 2) to the employee's personal physician upon written request or permission of the employee.

Credible complaints of substantiated investigations into or discipline for egregious misconduct will not be

expunged from an employee's personnel file unless the complaint is heard by an arbitrator, administrative law judge, or the Board and the complaint is deemed to be false, not credible, unsubstantiated or a determination was made that discipline was not warranted.

INTERNAL COMPLAINT REVIEW

The purpose of the “Internal Complaint Review Policy” is to afford all employees of AMPS the opportunity to seek internal resolution of their work-related concerns. All employees have free access to the CEO or Board of Directors to express their work-related concerns.

Specific complaints of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are addressed under the School’s “Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation.”

A. Internal Complaints

Complaints by Employees Against Employees

This section of the policy is for use when a School employee raises a complaint or concern about a co-worker.

If reasonably possible, internal complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible level, including attempts to discuss/resolve concerns with the immediate supervisor. However, in the event an informal resolution may not be achieved or is not appropriate, the following steps will be followed by the CEO or designee:

1. The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Human Resources as soon as possible after attempts to resolve the complaint with the immediate supervisor have failed or if not appropriate; and
2. The complainant will reduce his or her complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts. Human Resources or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation;
3. If the complaint is about the CEO, the complainant may file his or her complaint in a signed writing to Human Resources or the President of AMPS Board of Directors, who will then confer with the Board and may conduct a fact-finding or authorize a third party investigator on behalf of the Board. The Board President or investigator will report his or her findings to the Board for review and action, if necessary.

This policy cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to the employee’s satisfaction. However, the School values each employee’s ability to express concerns and the need for resolution without fear of adverse consequences to employment.

B. Policy for Complaints Against Employees

Complaints by Third Parties Against Employees

This section of the policy is for use when a non-employee raises a complaint or concern about an AMPS employee.

If complaints cannot be resolved informally, complainants may file a written complaint with Human Resources, AMPS CEO or Board President (if the complaint concerns the CEO) as soon as possible after the events that give rise to the complainant’s concerns. The written complaint should set forth in detail the factual basis for the complaint.

In processing the complaint, Human Resources, AMPS CEO (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

1. Human Resources, AMPS CEO or designee shall use his or her best efforts to talk with the parties identified in the complaint and to ascertain the facts relating to the complaint.
2. In the event that Human Resource, AMPS CEO (or designee) finds that a complaint against an employee is valid, Human Resources, AMPS CEO (or designee) may take appropriate disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, Human Resources, AMPS CEO (or designee) may also simply counsel/reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures.
3. Human Resources's, AMPS CEO's (or designee's) decision relating to the complaint shall be final unless it is appealed to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board shall be final.

C. General Requirements

Confidentiality

All complainants will be notified that information obtained from the complainants and thereafter gathered will be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be assured.

Non-Retaliation

All complainants will be advised that they will be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaints or participation in any complaint process.

Resolution

The Board (if a complaint is about the CEO) or the CEO or designee will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances and pursuant to the applicable procedures, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

This Employee Handbook contains the employment policies and practices of AMPS in effect at the time of publication.

AMPS reserves the right to amend, delete or otherwise modify this Handbook at any time provided that such modifications are in writing and duly approved by the employer.

Any written changes to the Handbook will be distributed to all employees. No oral statements can in any way alter the provisions of this Handbook.

AMPS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AT-WILL AGREEMENT

ALL EMPLOYEES MUST READ THIS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO HUMAN RESOURCES WITHIN ONE WEEK OF RECEIPT.

I acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of the AMPS Employee Handbook. I understand that the Handbook set forth the terms and conditions of my employment with AMPS as well as the duties, responsibilities and obligations of employment with AMPS. I understand that AMPS has provided me various alternative channels [including anonymous and confidential channels,] to raise concerns of violations of this handbook and School policies and encourages me to do so promptly so that AMPS may effectively address such situations, and I understand that nothing herein interferes with any right to report concerns, make lawful disclosures, or communicate with any governmental authority regarding potential violations of laws or regulations. I agree to abide by and be bound by the rules, policies and standards set forth in the Employee Handbook.

Unless specified otherwise in an agreement between me and AMPS, I agree that AMPS and I both have the right to terminate my employment at any time, with or without notice, and with or without cause. I further understand that transfers, demotions, suspensions, employee discipline, and changes in the terms and conditions of employment may be administered at the sole and absolute discretion of AMPS. Unless specified otherwise in an agreement between me and AMPS, I understand that I am an at-will employee. I understand that the at-will nature of my employment may not be modified orally and may only be modified in a writing signed by the CEO of AMPS and me, and approved in writing by AMPS' Board of Directors.

I understand that nothing in the Handbook is intended, nor should be construed, as a limitation of my right and AMPS' right to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without notice, and with or without cause, or AMPS' absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion. I understand that nothing in the Handbook is intended, nor should be construed, to create an implied or express contract of employment contrary to this express at-will agreement or to AMPS' absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion. I understand that AMPS reserves the right to depart from and modify the policies stated in the Handbook at its sole discretion, with the exception of my at-will status and AMPS' absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment. I also understand and acknowledge that nothing about the policies and procedures set forth in this Handbook should be construed to interfere with any employee rights provided under state or federal law, including Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act. The foregoing constitutes the entire terms of the agreement between me and AMPS regarding the duration and at-will nature of my employment and AMPS' absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion.

Employee Printed Name: _____

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____ Site: _____

APPENDIX A: HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION/RETALIATION COMPLAINT FORM

It is the policy of AMPS that all of its employees be free from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. This form is provided for you to report what you believe to be harassment, discrimination, or retaliation so that AMPS may investigate and take appropriate disciplinary or other action when the facts show that there has been harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.

If you are an employee of AMPS, you may file this form with the CEO or Board President.

Please review AMPS's policies concerning harassment, discrimination, and retaliation for a definition of such unlawful conduct and a description of the types of conduct that are considered unlawful.

AMPS will undertake every effort to handle the investigation of your complaint in a confidential manner. In that regard, AMPS will disclose the contents of your complaint only to those persons having a need to know. For example, to conduct its investigation, AMPS will need to disclose portions of your factual allegations to potential witnesses, including anyone you have identified as having knowledge of the facts on which you are basing your complaint, as well as the alleged offender.

In signing this form below, you authorize AMPS to disclose to others the information you have provided herein, and information you may provide in the future. Please note that the more detailed information you provide, the more likely it is that AMPS will be able to address your complaint to your satisfaction.

Charges of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are taken very seriously by AMPS both because of the harm caused by such unlawful conduct, and because of the potential sanctions that may be taken against the offender. It is therefore very important that you report the facts as accurately and completely as possible and that you cooperate fully with the person or persons designated to investigate your complaint.

Your Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s):

Name of Person(s) you believe harassed, or discriminated or retaliated against, you or someone else:

List any witnesses that were present:

Where did the incident(s) occur?

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand the above statements. I hereby authorize the School to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Complainant: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

School use only

Received by:

Date:

APPENDIX B: INTERNAL COMPLAINT FORM

Your Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s):

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against:

List any witnesses that were present:

Where did the incident(s) occur?

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I hereby authorize the School to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Signature of Complainant: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

To be completed by School:

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Coversheet

Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements

Section:	IV. Business
Item:	B. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	AMPS 2023-24 Audit Report - DRAFT 03-21-2025.pdf

AMPS

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AUDIT REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2024**

**A NONPROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION
OPERATING THE FOLLOWING SIX (6) CALIFORNIA CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Oakland Charter Academy (Charter No. 0014)
Oakland Charter High School (Charter No. 0883)
Richmond Charter Academy (Charter No. 1441)
Richmond Charter Elementary - Benito Juarez Elementary (Charter No. 1660)
Downtown Charter Academy (Charter No. 1661)
John Henry High School (Charter No. 1741)

**AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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JUNE 30, 2024**

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FINANCIAL SECTION

DRAFT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Amethod Public Schools
Richmond, California

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Amethod Public Schools (the "Organization") which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Amethod Public Schools as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Organization and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplementary information listed in the table of contents, including the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the Local Education Agency Organization Structure but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated **March 21, 2025**, on our consideration of the Organization's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Organization's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2024

ASSETS

Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,927,492
Accounts receivable	8,514,819
Other current assets	660,657
Total current assets	<u>23,102,968</u>
Noncurrent assets	
Deposits	120,000
Right-of-use assets	32,396,398
Capital assets, net	12,138,808
Total noncurrent assets	<u>44,655,206</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 67,758,174</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 3,205,616
Deferred revenue	236,039
Lease liabilities	37,633,648
Loan payable	7,133,005
Total liabilities	<u>48,208,308</u>
Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	19,549,866
Total net assets	<u>19,549,866</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 67,758,174</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions
SUPPORT AND REVENUES	
Federal and state support and revenues	
Local control funding formula, state aid	\$ 19,703,074
Federal revenues	4,879,081
Other state revenues	10,334,590
Total federal and state support and revenues	34,916,745
Local support and revenues	
Payments in lieu of property taxes	5,594,552
Donations and fundraising	39,396
Other local revenues	978,351
Total local support and revenues	6,612,299
Total Support and Revenues	41,529,044
EXPENSES	
Program services	25,892,689
Management and general	9,135,019
Total Expenses	35,027,708
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	6,501,336
Net Assets - Beginning	13,048,530
Net Assets - Ending	\$ 19,549,866

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Program Services	Management and General	Total
EXPENSES			
Personnel expenses			
Certificated salaries	\$ 7,924,831	\$ 879,497	\$ 8,804,328
Non-certificated salaries	4,679,859	1,075,771	5,755,630
Payroll taxes	1,416,176	230,698	1,646,874
Other employee benefits	1,182,804	192,681	1,375,485
Total personnel expenses	15,203,670	2,378,647	17,582,317
Non-personnel expenses			
Books and supplies	1,861,305	141,554	2,002,859
Insurance	-	51,406	51,406
Facilities	6,197,177	1,102,290	7,299,467
Professional services	1,634,333	4,405,644	6,039,977
Interest expense	-	359,225	359,225
Depreciation	896,133	224,033	1,120,166
Fees to authorizing agencies	-	253,618	253,618
Other operating expenses	100,071	218,602	318,673
Total non-personnel expenses	10,689,019	6,756,372	17,445,391
Total Expenses	\$ 25,892,689	\$ 9,135,019	\$ 35,027,708

DRAFT

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in net assets	\$ 6,501,336
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	
Depreciation	1,120,166
Lease expense - amortization of right-of-use asset	109,372
(Increase) decrease in operating assets	
Accounts receivable	464,965
Other current assets	100,214
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities	
Accounts payable	(3,298,142)
Deferred revenue	(1,255,894)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>3,742,017</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Principal payments on loan payable	(402,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>(402,000)</u>

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 3,340,017

Cash and cash equivalents - Beginning 10,587,475

Cash and cash equivalents - Ending \$ 13,927,492

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE

Cash paid for interest	<u>\$ 359,225</u>
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The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

Amethod Public Schools (the “Organization”) was formed as a nonprofit public benefit corporation on August 5, 1993 for the purpose of operating California public schools. During the year ended June 30, 2024, Amethod Public Schools operated six (6) public charter schools and a home office for charter management. Information on each of the charter schools is as follows:

Charter No.	Charter School Name	Grades Served	Petition End Date	Authorizer
0014	Oakland Charter Academy	6 - 8	6/30/2026	Oakland Unified
0883	Oakland Charter High School	9 - 12	6/30/2025	Oakland Unified
1441	Richmond Charter Academy	6 - 8	6/30/2025	West Contra Costa Unified
1660	Richmond Charter Elementary - Benito Juarez Elementary	TK/K - 5	6/30/2027	West Contra Costa Unified
1661	Downtown Charter Academy	6 - 8	6/30/2027	Oakland Unified
1741	John Henry High School	9 - 12	6/30/2028	State Board of Education

Funding sources primarily consist of state apportionments, federal grants, in lieu of property tax revenues, and grants and donations from the public.

B. Basis of Accounting

The Organization’s policy is to prepare its financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting; consequently, revenues are recognized when earned rather than when cash is received and certain expenses and purchases of assets are recognized when the obligation is incurred rather than when cash is disbursed.

C. Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements are presented in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 958 dated August 2016, and the provisions of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) “Audit and Accounting Guide for Not-for-Profit Organizations” (the “Guide”). ASC 958-205 was effective July 1, 2018. Under the Guide, Amethod Public Schools is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets:

Net assets without donor restrictions – These net assets generally result from revenues generated by receiving contributions that have no donor restrictions, providing services, and receiving interest from operating investments, less expenses incurred in providing program-related services, raising contributions, and performing administrative functions.

Net assets with donor restrictions – These assets result from gifts of cash and other assets that are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, either temporarily or permanently, until the donor restriction expires (that is until the stipulated time restriction ends or the purpose of the restriction is accomplished) the net assets are restricted. When a restriction expires, restricted net assets are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions.

The Organization also accounts for its financial transactions in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Department of Education’s *California School Accounting Manual* presented in Procedure 810 Charter Schools. Fund accounting is only used to the extent that internal accounting for multiple charter school or other program operations is necessary and is not used for external financial statement presentation.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, continued
JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

D. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures, such as depreciation expense and the net book value of capital assets. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

E. Contributions

Unconditional contributions are recognized when pledged and recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor-imposed restrictions. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Gifts of cash and other assets are reported with donor restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets.

When a restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or a purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported on the statement of activities as “net assets released from restrictions.” Donor-restricted contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period are reported as net assets without donor restriction support. Contributions restricted for the acquisition of land, buildings, and equipment are reported as net assets without restriction upon acquisition of the assets and the assets are placed in service.

Non-cash contributions of goods, materials, and facilities are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Contributed services are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution if they are used to create or enhance a non-financial asset or require specialized skills, are provided by someone possessing those skills, and would have to be purchased by the organization if not donated.

F. In Lieu of Property Tax Revenue

Secured property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of March 1. Taxes are payable in two installments on December 10 and April 10. Unsecured property taxes are payable in one installment on or before August 31. The County bills and collects the taxes for the authorizing agency. In lieu of distributing funds out of property tax proceeds, the authorizing agency makes monthly payments to Amethod Public Schools. Revenues are recognized by the Organization when earned.

G. Functional Expenses

The costs of providing services have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities and detailed in the statement of functional expenses. Certain costs and expenses have been allocated between program and supporting services based on management’s estimates.

H. Cash and Investments

Amethod Public Schools considers all highly liquid deposits and investments with an original maturity of less than ninety days to be cash equivalents. The Organization’s method of accounting for most investments is the fair value method. Fair value is determined by published quotes when they are readily available. Gains and losses resulting from adjustments to fair values are included in the accompanying statement of activities. Investment return is presented net of any investment fees.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, continued
JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

I. Receivables and Allowances

Accounts receivable are stated at the amount management expects to collect from outstanding balances. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established, as necessary, based on past experience and other factors which, in management's judgment, deserve current recognition in estimating bad debts. Such factors include the relationship of the allowance for doubtful accounts to accounts receivable and current economic conditions. Based on review of these factors, the Organization establishes or adjusts the allowance for specific revenue sources as a whole. At June 30, 2024, an allowance for doubtful accounts was not considered necessary as all accounts receivable were deemed collectible.

J. Capital Assets

Amethod Public Schools has adopted a policy to capitalize asset purchases over \$5,000. Lesser amounts are expensed. Donations of capital assets are recorded as contributions at their estimated fair value. Such donations are reported as net assets without donor restrictions. Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the property and equipment or the related lease terms.

K. Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue arises when potential revenue does not meet the criteria for recognition in the current period and when resources are received by the organization prior to the incurrence of expenses. In subsequent periods, when both revenue recognition criteria are met, the liability for deferred revenue is removed from the statement of financial position and revenue is recognized.

L. Income Taxes

Amethod Public Schools is a 509(a)(1) publicly supported nonprofit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(a) and 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and classified by the Internal Revenue Service as other than a private foundation. The Organization is exempt from state franchise or income tax under Section 23701(d) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. As an educational institution, the Organization is not required to register with the California Attorney General as a charity.

The Organization's management believes all of its significant tax positions would be upheld under examination; therefore, no provision for income tax has been recorded. The Organization's information and/or tax returns are subject to examination by the regulatory authorities for up to four years from the date of filing.

M. Fair Value Measurements

The Fair Value Measurements Topic of the FASB *Accounting Standards Codification* establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

- Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2 Inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.
- Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, continued
JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

N. Lease Arrangements

In February 2016, FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*, a new lease standard effective no later than the fiscal year 2022-23. Under FASB ASC 842, a right-of-use asset and a related lease liability must be recorded on the statement of financial position (balance sheet) for proper recognition of any operating lease. A right-of-use asset is an intangible asset that pertains to the lessee's right to occupy, operate, and hold a leased asset during the agreed rental period. A lease liability is the financial obligation for the payments required by the lease, discounted to present value.

NOTE 2 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents, as of June 30, 2024, consists of cash in banks of \$13,927,492. As of June 30, 2024, a portion of the Organization's bank balance was exposed to custodial credit risk as there were deposits over \$250,000 in accounts held at one or more banks. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, an organization's deposits may not be returned to it. Amethod Public Schools does not currently have a policy for custodial credit risk for deposits. The FDIC insures up to \$250,000 per depositor per insured bank.

NOTE 3 – ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable as of June 30, 2024, consists of the following:

Local control funding sources, state aid	\$ 2,176,330
Federal sources	3,257,347
Other state sources	1,361,585
In lieu property tax payments	589,407
Other local sources	1,130,150
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 8,514,819

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of activity related to capital assets during the year ended June 30, 2024 consists of the following:

	Balance July 1, 2023	Additions	Disposals	Balance June 30, 2024
Property and equipment				
Leasehold improvements	\$ 11,692,294	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,692,294
Land improvements	6,351,846	-	-	6,351,846
Buildings	1,961,079	-	-	1,961,079
Equipment	489,772	-	-	489,772
Total property and equipment	20,494,991	-	-	20,494,991
Less accumulated depreciation	(7,236,017)	(1,120,166)	-	(8,356,183)
Capital Assets, net	\$ 13,258,974	\$ (1,120,166)	\$ -	\$ 12,138,808

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, continued
JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 5 – ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts payable as of June 30, 2024, consists of the following:

Vendor payables	\$ 1,413,508
Due to grantor government	1,349,640
Salaries and benefits	437,254
Authorizer oversight fees	5,214
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 3,205,616

NOTE 6 – DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue as of June 30, 2024, consists of unspent conditional contributions from state and/or federal sources of \$236,039. Revenue will be recognized in a future period when the conditions of the funding are substantially met.

NOTE 7 – OPERATING LEASES

The Organization entered into lease agreements to occupy facility space located in Richmond and Oakland, California, and holds leases for use of equipment. The facilities are utilized for instructional services in order to meet the goals established by the Organization as well as a portion for administrative operations. The facility leases called for security deposits of \$120,000, which has been recorded as noncurrent assets on the statement of financial position. The lease agreements cover terms ending through April 2035.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the Organization paid \$5,208,336 in lease payments under the operating leases. At June 30, 2024, the right-of-use assets were \$32,396,398, net of amortization, and the lease liabilities totaled \$37,633,648. The Organization has accounted for its lease agreements using an implied discount rate of 3.41%. The weighted average remaining lease term is 9.61 years. Future lease payment obligations are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Lease Payments</u>
2025	\$ 5,358,095
2026	4,624,737
2027	3,895,719
2028	3,929,987
2029	3,347,459
Thereafter	24,073,863
Total lease payments	45,229,860
NPV adjustment	(7,596,212)
Total Lease Liabilities	\$ 37,633,648

NOTE 8 – LOAN PAYABLE

A summary of activity related to loan payable during the year ended June 30, 2024 consists of the following:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>July 1, 2023</u>	<u>Draws</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>June 30, 2024</u>
Promissory note	\$ 7,535,005	\$ -	\$ 402,000	\$ 7,133,005
Total Loan Payable	\$ 7,535,005	\$ -	\$ 402,000	\$ 7,133,005

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, continued
JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – LOAN PAYABLE (continued)

April 2022, the Organization entered into a loan agreement with Umpqua Bank for \$8,000,000. The loan holds an interest rate of 4.79% and matures in April 2027. The fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the Organization made payments of \$748,702, which included \$402,000 of principal and \$346,702 of interest expense. As of June 30, 2024, the outstanding balance on the loan was \$7,133,005. Repayment obligations on the above referenced debt are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30,</u>	
2025	\$ 748,702
2026	748,702
2027	<u>6,642,167</u>
Total payments	<u>8,139,571</u>
Less interest	<u>(1,006,566)</u>
Total Loan Payable	<u>\$ 7,133,005</u>

NOTE 9 – NET ASSETS

As of June 30, 2024, the Organization did not hold any net assets with donor restrictions. Certain designations or reserves have been made for the use of net assets without donor restrictions either by the board, management or by nature of the financial assets held by the Organization. At June 30, 2024, the Organization's net assets without donor restrictions consists of the following:

Net investment in capital assets	\$ 12,138,808
Undesignated	<u>7,411,058</u>
Total Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	<u>\$ 19,549,866</u>

NOTE 10 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The following table reflects the Organization's financial assets as of June 30, 2024, reduced by amounts not available for general expenditure within one year. Financial assets are considered not available for general use when illiquid or not convertible to cash within one year, consist of assets held for others or are held aside by the governing board for specific contingency reserves. Any board designations could be drawn upon if the board approves that action.

Financial Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,927,492
Accounts receivable	8,514,819
Other current assets	660,657
Contractual or donor-imposed restrictions	
Cash held for conditional contributions	<u>(236,039)</u>
Financial Assets available to meet cash needs	
for expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 22,866,929</u>

NOTE 11 – DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES

During the year, many parents, administrators and other individuals donated significant amounts of time and services to Amethod Public Schools in an effort to advance its programs and objectives. These services have not been recorded in the Organization's financial statements because they do not meet the criteria required by generally accepted accounting principles. The Organization did not receive any donated items during the year ended June 30, 2024.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, continued
JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 12 – EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN

In accordance with *California Education Code 47605*, charter schools have the option of participating in such plans if an election to participate is specified within the charter petition. The Organization has not made such election but may choose to in a future period. Certificated employees can be members of the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS), and non-certificated employees can be members of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS).

As established by federal law, all public sector employees who are not members of their employer's existing retirement plan (CalSTRS or CalPERS) must be covered by social security or an alternative plan. The Organization offers both social security and a 401(k) employee funded plan. All employees are eligible to participate in the plans. A participant of the 401(k) plan may make an election to defer compensation and have it contributed to this plan. The Organization may make discretionary matching contribution equal to 100% of the participant's elective deferrals up to 3% of the participant's salary. The Organization's contribution to plan for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 was \$170,391.

NOTE 13 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Charter School Authorization

As mentioned in Note 1A, Amethod Public Schools operates six (6) charter schools that are approved to operate as public charter schools through authorization by the listed authorizer. As such, the charter schools are subject to the risk of possible non-renewal or revocation at the discretion of its authorizing agency if certain criteria for student outcomes, management, and/or fiscal solvency are not met.

The Organization makes payments to the authorizing agencies to provide required services for oversight. Fees associated with oversight consisted of 1% of revenue from local control funding formula sources. Total oversight fees amounted to \$253,618 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Governmental Funds

Amethod Public Schools has received state and federal funds for specific purposes that are subject to review and audit by the grantor agencies. Although such audits could generate expenditure disallowances under terms of the grants, it is believed that any required reimbursements would not be material.

Pending or Threatened Litigation

The Organization is involved in various litigation arising from the normal course of business. In the opinion of management and legal counsel, the disposition of all litigation pending is not expected to have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the Organization as of June 30, 2024.

NOTE 14 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Amethod Public Schools has evaluated subsequent events for the period from June 30, 2024 through **March 21, 2025**, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Management did not identify any transactions or events that require disclosure or that would have an impact on the financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION BY CHARTER
JUNE 30, 2024

Charter No.	0014 Oakland Charter Academy	0883 Oakland Charter High School	1441 Richmond Charter Academy	1660 RCE - Benito Juarez Elementary	1661 Downtown Charter Academy	1741 John Henry High School	Home Office	Eliminations	Total
ASSETS									
Current assets									
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,850,740	\$ 11,025,179	\$ 1,639,323	\$ 5,795,494	\$ 4,589,089	\$ 3,869,431	\$ (16,841,764)	\$ -	\$ 13,927,492
Accounts receivable	2,376,741	1,532,744	1,006,885	1,779,576	757,385	1,060,226	1,262	-	8,514,819
Interagency receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,538,460	(11,538,460)	-
Other current assets	118,479	112,330	90,324	99,613	128,607	49,518	61,786	-	660,657
Total current assets	6,345,960	12,670,253	2,736,532	7,674,683	5,475,081	4,979,175	(5,240,256)	(11,538,460)	23,102,968
Noncurrent assets									
Deposits	-	-	25,000	-	45,000	50,000	-	-	120,000
Right-of-use assets	1,437,963	728,797	9,029,012	9,611,580	1,079,401	8,121,628	2,388,017	-	32,396,398
Capital assets, net	105,365	113,191	6,963,241	1,848,792	13,101	488,515	2,606,603	-	12,138,808
Total noncurrent assets	1,543,328	841,988	16,017,253	11,460,372	1,137,502	8,660,143	4,994,620	-	44,655,206
Total Assets	7,889,288	13,512,241	18,753,785	19,135,055	6,612,583	13,639,318	(245,636)	\$ (11,538,460)	67,758,174
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS									
Liabilities									
Accounts payable	\$ 485,232	\$ 415,125	\$ 777,074	\$ 372,439	\$ 245,934	\$ 650,422	\$ 259,390	\$ -	\$ 3,205,616
Interagency payables	175,561	773,578	8,104,462	1,298,228	541,434	645,197	-	(11,538,460)	-
Deferred revenue	106,859	41,534	12,566	-	24,495	50,585	-	-	236,039
Lease liabilities	1,510,137	762,033	10,054,523	11,709,747	1,116,732	9,851,967	2,628,509	-	37,633,648
Loan payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,133,005	-	7,133,005
Total liabilities	2,277,789	1,992,270	18,948,625	13,380,414	1,928,595	11,198,171	10,020,904	(11,538,460)	48,208,308
Net assets									
Without donor restrictions	5,611,499	11,519,971	(194,840)	5,754,641	4,683,988	2,441,147	(10,266,540)	-	19,549,866
Total net assets	5,611,499	11,519,971	(194,840)	5,754,641	4,683,988	2,441,147	(10,266,540)	-	19,549,866
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,889,288	\$ 13,512,241	\$ 18,753,785	\$ 19,135,055	\$ 6,612,583	\$ 13,639,318	\$ (245,636)	\$ (11,538,460)	\$ 67,758,174

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES BY CHARTER
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Charter No.	0014 Oakland Charter Academy	0883 Oakland Charter High School	1441 Richmond Charter Academy	1660 RCE - Benito Juarez Elementary	1661 Downtown Charter Academy	1741 John Henry High School	Home Office	Eliminations	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUES									
Federal and state support and revenues									
Local control funding formula, state aid	\$ 2,100,959	\$ 4,178,463	\$ 2,501,066	\$ 4,105,446	\$ 2,500,883	\$ 4,316,257	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,703,074
Federal revenues	866,924	1,173,227	683,590	811,545	386,226	957,569	-	-	4,879,081
Other state revenues	1,236,054	1,671,447	1,492,775	3,246,804	1,510,622	1,176,888	-	-	10,334,590
Total federal and state support and revenues	4,203,937	7,023,137	4,677,431	8,163,795	4,397,731	6,450,714	-	-	34,916,745
Local support and revenues									
Payments in lieu of property taxes	764,845	1,220,343	1,052,510	1,613,176	943,678	-	-	-	5,594,552
Management fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,961,709	(3,961,709)	-
Donations and fundraising	-	18,242	827	-	-	17,214	3,113	-	39,396
Other local revenues	153,512	130,814	109,923	181,861	144,637	88,344	169,260	-	978,351
Total local support and revenues	918,357	1,369,399	1,163,260	1,795,037	1,088,315	105,558	4,134,082	(3,961,709)	6,612,299
Donor restrictions satisfied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support and Revenues	5,122,294	8,392,536	5,840,691	9,958,832	5,486,046	6,556,272	4,134,082	(3,961,709)	41,529,044
EXPENSES									
Program services	1,823,921	5,166,213	4,120,257	5,622,756	3,484,200	3,371,209	2,304,133	-	25,892,689
Management and general	1,957,606	878,480	2,414,940	2,278,004	1,462,599	1,747,949	2,357,150	(3,961,709)	9,135,019
Total Expenses	3,781,527	6,044,693	6,535,197	7,900,760	4,946,799	5,119,158	4,661,283	(3,961,709)	35,027,708
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,340,767	2,347,843	(694,506)	2,058,072	539,247	1,437,114	(527,201)	-	6,501,336
Net Assets - Beginning	4,270,732	9,172,128	499,666	3,696,569	4,144,741	1,004,033	(9,739,339)	-	13,048,530
Net Assets - Ending	\$ 5,611,499	\$ 11,519,971	\$ (194,840)	\$ 5,754,641	\$ 4,683,988	\$ 2,441,147	\$ (10,266,540)	\$ -	\$ 19,549,866

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS **SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards includes the federal grant activity of the Organization and is presented on the accrual basis of accounting. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Therefore, some amounts presented in this schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of, the financial statements. The Organization has not elected to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate.

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program or Cluster	AL Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Federal Expenditures
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:			
<i>Passed through California Department of Education:</i>			
Title I, Part A			
Title I, Part A, Basic Grants Low-Income and Neglected	84.010	14329	\$ 1,167,670
Comprehensive Support and Improvement for LEAs	84.010	15438	174,382
Subtotal Title I, Part A			<u>1,342,052</u>
Title II, Part A, Supporting Effective Instruction Local Grants	84.367	14341	107,662
COVID-19 Emergency Acts Funding/Education Stabilization Fund Discretionary Grants:			
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Fund	84.425	15559	1,619,363
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Fund: Learning Loss	84.425U	10155	1,005,392
Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant ESSER II State Reserve	84.425	15618	104,543
Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant GEER II	84.425	15619	26,338
Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant: ESSER III State Reserve, Emergency Needs	84.425	15620	21,141
Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant: ESSER III State Reserve, Learning Loss	84.425	15621	31,114
American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth II (ARP HYC II) Program	84.425	15566	2,676
Subtotal Education Stabilization Fund Discretionary Grants			<u>2,810,567</u>
Special Education: ARP IDEA Part B, Sec 611, Local Assistance Entitlement	84.027	15638	331,006
Total U. S. Department of Education			<u>4,591,287</u>
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:			
<i>Passed through California Department of Education:</i>			
Child Nutrition: National School Lunch Program	10.555	13391	325,294
Total U. S. Department of Agriculture			<u>325,294</u>
Total Federal Expenditures			<u>\$ 4,916,581</u>

The following schedule provides a reconciliation between revenues reported on the statement of activities and the related expenditures reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. The reconciling amounts represent federal funds that have been recorded as revenues in a prior year that have been expended by June 30, 2024 or federal funds that have been recorded as revenues in the current year and were not expended by June 30, 2024.

	AL Number	Amount
Total Federal Revenues reported in the		
Statement of Activities		\$ 4,879,081
ESF: ESSER II Fund	84.425	<u>37,500</u>
Total Expenditures reported in the Schedule of		
Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$ 4,916,581</u>

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHEDULE OF AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Average daily attendance (ADA) is a measurement of the number of pupils attending classes of the charter school. The purpose of attendance accounting from a fiscal standpoint is to provide the basis on which apportionments of state funds are made to charter schools. This schedule provides information regarding the attendance of students at various grade levels and in different programs.

	Second Period Report	Annual Report	Second Period Report	Annual Report
	Oakland Charter Academy (#0014)		Richmond Charter Academy (#1441)	
	Classroom-Based		Classroom-Based	
Grade Span				
Regular				
Fourth through sixth	71.00	70.96	87.62	86.97
Seventh through eighth	135.98	134.50	187.85	185.82
Total Average Daily Attendance - Classroom-Based	206.98	205.46	275.47	272.79
Total Average Daily Attendance	206.98	205.46	275.47	272.79
	RCE - Benito Juarez Elementary (#1660)		Downtown Charter Academy (#1661)	
	Classroom-Based		Classroom-Based	
Grade Span				
Regular				
Kindergarten* through third	274.70	272.93	-	-
Fourth through sixth	147.95	147.10	89.55	89.41
Seventh through eighth	-	-	165.74	165.02
Total Average Daily Attendance - Classroom-Based	422.65	420.03	255.29	254.43
Total Average Daily Attendance	422.65	420.03	255.29	254.43
	Oakland Charter High School (#0883)		John Henry High School (#1741)	
	Classroom-Based		Classroom-Based	
Grade Span				
Regular				
Ninth through twelfth	332.08	325.37	277.72	281.76
Total Average Daily Attendance - Classroom-Based	332.08	325.37	277.72	281.76
Total Average Daily Attendance	332.08	325.37	277.72	281.76

*Includes Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

None of the charter schools above reported Nonclassroom-Based ADA in 2023-24.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHEDULE OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

This schedule presents information on the amount of instructional time offered per grade level by charter school and whether the charter school complied with the provisions of *Education Code Section 47612.5*.

Charter School	Minutes	2023-24	2023-24	
Grade Level	Requirement	Instructional Minutes	Number of Days	Status
Oakland Charter Academy (Charter No. 0014)				
Grade 6	54,000	63,028	180	Complied
Grade 7	54,000	63,028	180	Complied
Grade 8	54,000	63,028	180	Complied
Oakland Charter High School (Charter No. 0883)				
Grade 9	64,800	69,012	180	Complied
Grade 10	64,800	69,012	180	Complied
Grade 11	64,800	69,012	180	Complied
Grade 12	64,800	69,012	180	Complied
Richmond Charter Academy (Charter No. 1441)				
Grade 6	54,000	65,620	180	Complied
Grade 7	54,000	65,620	180	Complied
Grade 8	54,000	65,620	180	Complied
Richmond Charter Elementary - Benito Juarez Elementary (Charter No. 1660)				
Kindergarten*	36,000	59,420	180	Complied
Grade 1	50,400	58,780	180	Complied
Grade 2	50,400	58,780	180	Complied
Grade 3	50,400	66,400	180	Complied
Grade 4	54,000	66,400	180	Complied
Grade 5	54,000	66,400	180	Complied
Downtown Charter Academy (Charter No. 1661)				
Grade 6	54,000	64,240	180	Complied
Grade 7	54,000	64,240	180	Complied
Grade 8	54,000	64,240	180	Complied
John Henry High School (Charter No. 1741)				
Grade 9	64,800	66,940	180	Complied
Grade 10	64,800	66,940	180	Complied
Grade 11	64,800	66,940	180	Complied
Grade 12	64,800	66,940	180	Complied

*Includes Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT – ALTERNATIVE FORM WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

This schedule provides the information necessary to reconcile fund balance reported on the Financial Report – Alternative Form (Charter School Unaudited Actuals) to net assets on the audited financial statements.

Charter No.	0014 Oakland Charter Academy	0883 Oakland Charter High School	1441 Richmond Charter Academy	1660 RCE - Benito Juarez Elementary	1661 Downtown Charter Academy	1741 John Henry High School
June 30, 2024, fund balance/net position on Unaudited Actuals	\$ 4,716,401	\$ 10,426,149	\$ (506,509)	\$ 5,891,633	\$ 4,336,078	\$ 2,268,377
Adjustments:						
Increase (decrease) in total net assets:						
Accounts receivable	525,363	843,182	178,695	29,692	153,315	79,993
Other current assets	118,479	110,853	90,324	99,710	104,607	48,424
Deposits	-	-	25,000	-	45,000	50,000
Right-of-use assets	-	-	(25,117)	7,762,789	(45,000)	(50,000)
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	(7,762,789)	-	-
Accounts payable	299,873	112,661	(2,161,449)	(229,702)	89,988	44,353
Deferred revenue	(48,617)	27,126	-	(36,692)	-	-
Lease liabilities	-	-	2,204,216	-	-	-
Net adjustments	895,098	1,093,822	311,669	(136,992)	347,910	172,770
June 30, 2024, net assets per audited financial statements	\$ 5,611,499	\$ 11,519,971	\$ (194,840)	\$ 5,754,641	\$ 4,683,988	\$ 2,441,147

OTHER INFORMATION

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AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

JUNE 30, 2024

This schedule provides information about the local education agency (LEA or charter school), including the charter schools' authorizing agency, grades served, members of the governing body, and members of the administration.

Amethod Public Schools was formed as a nonprofit public benefit corporation in August 1993. During the year ended June 30, 2024, Amethod Public Schools operated six (6) public charter schools and a home office for charter management. Information on each of the charter schools is as follows:

Charter No.	Charter School Name	Grades Served	Petition End Date	Authorizer
0014	Oakland Charter Academy	6 - 8	6/30/2026	Oakland Unified
0883	Oakland Charter High School	9 - 12	6/30/2025	Oakland Unified
1441	Richmond Charter Academy	6 - 8	6/30/2025	West Contra Costa Unified
1660	Richmond Charter Elementary - Benito Juarez Elementary	TK/K - 5	6/30/2027	West Contra Costa Unified
1661	Downtown Charter Academy	6 - 8	6/30/2027	Oakland Unified
1741	John Henry High School	9 - 12	6/30/2028	State Board of Education

The board of directors and administration for the Organization is as follows:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Office	Term Expiration
Gilbert Lopez, Jr.	Chair	January 2028
Edgar Quiroz	Member	January 2027
Andres Emmanuelli	Member	February 2027
Elisa Gallegos	Member	October 2026

ADMINISTRATION

Sylvia Flores
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Adrienne Barnes
Chief Operating Officer

Site Directors

Philip Ellingberg
Oakland Charter Academy

Jasmine Nash
Oakland Charter High School

Michelle Coleman
Richmond Charter Academy

Esther Prokopienko
Downtown Charter Academy

LaSonya Michelle Walker, Ed.D.
Richmond Charter Elementary - Benito Juarez Elementary

Jennifer Crocker
John Henry High School

OTHER INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORTS

DRAFT

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of
Amethod Public Schools
Richmond, California

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Amethod Public Schools (the "Organization") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Organization's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated **March 21, 2025**.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Organization's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as Finding 2024-001 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Organization's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Amethod Public Schools' Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Amethod Public Schools' responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as the corrective action plan. The Organization's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

San Diego, California

March 21, 2025

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of
Amethod Public Schools
Richmond, California

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Amethod Public Schools' compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Amethod Public Schools' major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. Amethod Public Schools' major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Amethod Public Schools complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Amethod Public Schools and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Amethod Public Schools' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Amethod Public Schools' federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Amethod Public Schools' compliance based on our audit.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance (continued)

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect a material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Amethod Public Schools' compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Amethod Public Schools' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such procedures as we consider necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of Amethod Public Schools' internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Amethod Public Schools' internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

REPORT ON STATE COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE FOR STATE PROGRAMS

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of
Amethod Public Schools
Richmond, California

Report on State Compliance

Opinion on State Compliance

We have audited Amethod Public Schools' compliance with the requirements specified in the *2023-24 Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting*, applicable to Amethod Public Schools' state program requirements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Reference to Amethod Public Schools within this letter is inclusive of the six (6) public charter schools listed on the cover page, within Note 1A and on the Local Education Agency Organization Structure page.

In our opinion, Amethod Public Schools complied, in all material respects, with the laws and regulations of the applicable state programs for the year ended June 30, 2024, as identified in the table in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of State Compliance section of our report.

Basis for Opinion on State Compliance

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the *2023-24 Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting*, prescribed by Title 5, *California Code of Regulations*, section 19810 as regulations (the K-12 Audit Guide). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of State Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Amethod Public Schools and to meet certain ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on state compliance. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Amethod Public Schools' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control over compliance with the requirements of the laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Amethod Public Schools' state programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit for State Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the state compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Amethod Public Schools' compliance based on our audit.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit for State Compliance (continued)

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the K-12 Audit Guide will always detect a material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Amethod Public Schools' compliance with the requirements of the applicable state programs as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, and the K-12 Audit Guide, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Amethod Public Schools' compliance with compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of Amethod Public Schools' internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the K-12 Audit Guide, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Amethod Public Schools' internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed; and
- Select and test transactions and records to determine Amethod Public Schools' compliance with the state laws and regulations to the following items:

Description	Procedures Performed
School Districts, County Offices of Education and Charter Schools	
Proposition 28 Arts and Music in Schools	Yes
After/Before School Education and Safety Program	Yes (1)
Proper Expenditure of Education Protection Account Funds	Yes
Unduplicated Local Control Funding Formula Pupil Counts	Yes
Local Control and Accountability Plan	Yes
Independent Study-Course Based	Not applicable
Immunizations	Yes
Educator Effectiveness	Yes
Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant (ELO-G)	Yes
Career Technical Education Incentive Grant	Not applicable
Expanded Learning Opportunities Program	Yes (2)
Transitional Kindergarten	Yes (3)
Charter Schools	
Attendance	Yes
Mode of Instruction	Yes
Nonclassroom-Based Instruction/Independent Study	Not applicable
Determination of Funding for Nonclassroom-Based Instruction	Not applicable
Annual Instructional Minutes – Classroom Based	Yes
Charter School Facility Grant Program	Yes

- (1) *The After/Before School Education and Safety program was not applicable to Charters No. 0883 and 1741.*
 (2) *The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) was not applicable to Charters No. 0883 and 1741.*
 (3) *Transitional Kindergarten (TK) was only applicable to Charter No. 1660.*

“Not applicable” is used in the table above to indicate that the charter schools either did not receive program funding or did not otherwise operate the program during the fiscal year.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of State Compliance section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the K-12 Audit Guide. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

San Diego, California
March 21, 2025

DRAFT

FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS SECTION

DRAFT

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS **SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

PART I – SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditors' report issued	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	Yes
Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	None Reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major program:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	No
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	None Reported
Type of auditors' report issued:	Unmodified
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	No
Identification of major programs:	

AL Number(s)	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
84.010	Title I, Part A
84.425, 84.425U	Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) Discretionary Grants

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	\$ 750,000
Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?	No

State Awards

Internal control over state programs:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	No
Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	None Reported
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with <i>2023-24 Guide for Annual Audits of California K-12 Local Education Agencies</i> ?	No
Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for state programs:	Unmodified

All audit year findings, if any, are assigned an appropriate finding code as follows:

FIVE DIGIT CODE	AB 3627 FINDING TYPE
10000	Attendance
20000	Inventory of Equipment
30000	Internal Control
40000	State Compliance
42000	Charter School Facilities Programs
43000	Apprenticeship: Related and Supplemental Instruction
50000	Federal Compliance
60000	Miscellaneous
61000	Classroom Teacher Salaries
62000	Local Control Accountability Plan
70000	Instructional Materials
71000	Teacher Misassignments
72000	School Accountability Report Card

**AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS, continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

PART II – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

FINDING 2024-001: FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORTING (30000) – Material Weaknesses

Criteria: Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted accounting principles, which includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement.

Condition: The Organization did not have adequate accounting controls in place to ensure for timely closing of the financial records for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The financial statements required numerous audit adjustments, which entailed timely reconciliation of all balance sheet accounts. Double-entry accounting by location/charter school was not utilized and required audit adjustments to balance by site.

Cause: Turnover in management and accounting personnel.

Effect: Numerous closing/audit adjustments were necessary.

Repeat Finding: This is a repeat finding. Refer to Finding 2023-001.

Recommendation: We recommend that management employ or contract with accounting personnel experienced in charter school accounting to ensure that the financial records are properly reconciled on a timely basis. Additionally, management should obtain and review all lease agreements and either work with a consultant or software specific to proper implementation of the lease standard.

Corrective Action Plan: Management consulted with a professional services company to assist in the accounting recordkeeping and reconciliation of accounts. As of May 1, 2024, the Organization entered into a contract with Charter Impact, a business services management company. Charter Impact was supporting the Organization with the financial and budget reporting, bank reconciliations and payroll, as well as other business services to improve internal controls. Furthermore, the Organization's Board of Directors and the Organization's Board of Directors Finance Committee will have regular meetings with the COO and CEO to provide oversight of financial reporting operations.

PART III – FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

There were no audit findings and questioned costs related to federal awards for the year ended June 30, 2024.

PART IV – STATE AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

There were no audit findings and questioned costs related to state awards for the year ended June 30, 2024.

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS, continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

PART V – SUMMARY OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

This section presents the status of actions taken by the Organization on each of the findings and recommendations reported in the prior year audit. There were a total of three (3) audit findings reported in the year ended June 30, 2023; one (1) for financial statements and two (2) for state awards.

FINDING 2023-001: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (30000)

Summary: Internal controls over financial reporting should include preparing reliable and accurate financial reports in a timely manner. The Organization did not ensure accurate or reliable year-end accounting records. The Organization experienced multiple instances of turnover at the CEO and CFO position during the course of the audit. In addition, the Organization did not have sufficient experience and background to help maintain accurate and reliable financial records during the year end audit and ensure a timely closure of year end accounting records.

Current Status: Not fully implemented. Refer to Finding 2024-001.

FINDING 2023-002: AFTER / BEFORE SCHOOL EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM (40000)

Summary: The Organization is required to accurately report the number of pupils served in the program through attendance records. The Organization did not have a process or procedure that provided sufficient oversight and confirmation of the attendance reporting. Pupils who are identified on the hand-written attendance record at the site were not properly entered into the information system resulting in a potential overstatement of pupils served by the program which may result in a change in funds allocated to the Organization. The Organization experienced challenges with ASES staff turnover which led to inconsistencies in ASES attendance reporting.

The Organization agrees with the recommendation and all sites are now required to enter daily students' attendance into the student information system so that the reports are clear, saved and can be accessed. In addition, attendance will be reconciled monthly at the same time that the ADA is reconciled and reported. ASES coordinators will receive training and be asked to use a standard template for sign in sheets and uniform symbols to track attendance. Schools will maintain the sign in sheets but will be required to scan and upload copies into a shared drive with both finance and operations who will be reviewing the sheets and making sure that they match the reported monthly attendance.

Current Status: Implemented.

FINDING 2023-003: MODE OF INSTRUCTION (40000)

Summary: Pupils are required to be engaged in educational activities required of those pupils and the pupils are under the immediate supervision and control of an employee of the Organization who possessed a valid teaching certification in accordance with Education Code Section 47605(l) or 47605.4. One teacher did not possess a valid teaching certification in accordance with Education Code Section 47605(l) or 47605.4. The Organization did not sufficiently complete the application process to obtain a California credential for an out-of-state teacher until after the year under audit.

Current Status: Implemented.

Coversheet

Review and Consideration of Approval of Revised List of Authorized Account Signers

Section:	IV. Business
Item:	D. Review and Consideration of Approval of Revised List of Authorized
Account Signers	
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	AMPS Bank Signer List 3.24.2025.pdf



Amethod Public Schools (AMPS) List of Authorized Account Signers

Applicable Banks:

- Bank of America, N.A.
- East West Bank
- Umpqua Bank

Authorized Signers:

- Edgar Quiroz, AMPS Board Chair
- Adrienne Barnes, Chief Operating Officer

Board Approved on 3/24/2025