

LEDYARD HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK



2022 – 2023

Revised 08/01/22

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

2022-2023

2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

www.lpschools.net

Ledyard Public Schools

180 days

August

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

September (21)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

October (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24/21	25	26	27	28

November (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

December (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

January (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

February (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

March (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

April (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

May (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

June (24)

Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
				1
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30



Date

Event/Weekday

August 29	First Day for Teachers
August 30 & 31	No School - Professional Development Days
September 1	First Day for Students
September 5	No School - Labor Day
September 12-13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29	Short Sessions - 1-2 Prof Development Days
October 10	No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day
October 11	No School - Professional Development Day
October 12	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day, Function Day
October 13	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
October 14	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
October 15	Thanksgiving Break
October 16	Short Session
October 17	Holiday Break
October 18	No School - Martin Luther King Day
October 19	No School - Professional Development Day
October 20 and 21	No School - President's Day Break
October 22	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day
October 23	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
October 24	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
October 25	Thanksgiving Break
October 26	Short Session
October 27	Holiday Break
October 28	No School - Martin Luther King Day
October 29	No School - Professional Development Day
October 30 and 31	No School - President's Day Break
November 1	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day
November 2	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
November 3	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
November 4	Thanksgiving Break
November 5	Short Session
November 6	Holiday Break
November 7	No School - Martin Luther King Day
November 8	No School - Professional Development Day
November 9	No School - President's Day Break
November 10	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day
November 11	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
November 12	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
November 13	Thanksgiving Break
November 14	Short Session
November 15	Holiday Break
November 16	No School - Martin Luther King Day
November 17	No School - Professional Development Day
November 18	No School - President's Day Break
November 19	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day
November 20	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
November 21	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
November 22	Thanksgiving Break
November 23	Short Session
November 24	Holiday Break
November 25	No School - Martin Luther King Day
November 26	No School - Professional Development Day
November 27	No School - President's Day Break
November 28	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day
November 29	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
November 30	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
December 1	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	Short Session
December 3	Holiday Break
December 4	No School - Martin Luther King Day
December 5	No School - Professional Development Day
December 6	No School - President's Day Break
December 7	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day
December 8	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
December 9	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
December 10	Thanksgiving Break
December 11	Short Session
December 12	Holiday Break
December 13	No School - Martin Luther King Day
December 14	No School - Professional Development Day
December 15	No School - President's Day Break
December 16	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day
December 17	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
December 18	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
December 19	Thanksgiving Break
December 20	Short Session
December 21	Holiday Break
December 22	No School - Martin Luther King Day
December 23	No School - Professional Development Day
December 24	No School - President's Day Break
December 25	No School - Bag and Backpack Development Day
December 26	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
December 27	Short Session Elementary and LHS - Parent Conferences
December 28	Thanksgiving Break
December 29	Short Session
December 30	Holiday Break
December 31	No School - Martin Luther King Day

Regular School Day hours:
LHS 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Elementary 8:00 AM - 3:15 PM Short Session Conferences:
LHS 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Elementary 1:00 PM
Approved Board 1/12/2022

LEDYARD HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT MATRIX

2022 - 2023

STANDARD SCHEDULE
Times Correct as of 08/01/22

A DAY CLASSES	B DAY CLASSES	Times
1A	1B	7:42 – 9:06
2A	2B	9:11–10:37
Lunch 1 10:42-11:07	Lunch 1 10:42-11:07	
3A-1	3B-1	11:12-12:36
3A-2	3B-2	10:42-12:06
Lunch 2 12:11-12:36	Lunch 2 12:11-12:36	
4A	4B	12:41–2:05

Students should arrive to Ledyard High School ***no earlier*** than 6:50am. Students are to report to the cafeteria upon arrival to school. All students will be released to their lockers and first block classes at 7:37am each day.

WELCOME TO LEDYARD HIGH SCHOOL

The material covered within this student handbook is intended as a method of communicating to students and parents regarding general district information, rules and procedures and is not intended to either enlarge or diminish any Board policy, administrative regulation or negotiated agreement. Material contained herein may therefore be superseded by such Board policy, administrative regulation or negotiated agreement. Any information contained in this handbook is subject to unilateral revision or elimination from time-to-time without notice.

This booklet is written for our students and their parents. It contains required and useful information. Because it cannot be as personal a communication as we would like, we address students not directly as "you" but rather as "the student" or "students." Likewise, the term "the student's parent" may refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume responsibility for the student. Both students and parents need to be familiar with the District's policies and procedures, which are intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere conducive for learning.

The Student Handbook is designed to be in harmony with Board policy. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy that affect portions of this Handbook will be made available to students and parents through newsletters, our website (lhs.ledyard.net) and School Messenger phone calls and emails.

Adherence to the rules and procedures outlined in this handbook and respect for students, staff, and the educational process are of the utmost importance and is expected of all students.

Ledyard Public Schools provides every student with equal educational opportunities, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, or disability. No student will be excluded on such basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, student athletics, counseling services, employment assistance, extracurricular activities or other school resources. Programs and activities shall be accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by law. Assistant Superintendent Anne Hogsten is the designated district compliance officer, who will coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

MENTAL HEALTH

You are never alone.
You were born with gifts the world needs.
Never, ever give up.

It's okay to struggle. It's okay to need help.

If you or someone you know are struggling with depression, anxiety, or thoughts of harming yourself or others, please ask for help!

HOW DO I GET HELP?

If you are in school, stop by the School Counseling and Guidance office (in the 300s hallway), the School Psychologists' office (room 301), the Main Office or APO, or check in with a teacher you trust.

Ask to speak to a School Counselor, our Social Worker, a School Psychologist, or an Administrator.

Not comfortable?—leave us a note or send us an email:

Amanda Fagan, Principal – afagan@ledyard.net

Bill Turner, Assistant Principal – wturner@ledyard.net

Jim Buonocore, Assistant Principal – jbuonocore@ledyard.net

Cheryl Biekert, Coordinator of Student Services – cbiekert@ledyard.net

Krissa Anderson, Social Worker – kanderson@ledyard.net

Phyllis Cody, Psychologist – pcody@ledyard.net

David Doyle, Guidance – ddoyle@ledyard.net

Britney Duczynski, Guidance – bduczynski@ledyard.net

Lauren Kane, Guidance – lkane@ledyard.net







Christine San Souci, Guidance – csansouci@ledyard.net

Christy Toppa, Guidance – ctoppa@ledyard.net

**IF YOU ARE NOT AT SCHOOL, TRY CALLING 211 FOR
EMERGENCY MOBILE PSYCH SERVICES, OR CALL THE
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE:**

1-800-273-8255

Your passwords should be memorized.
DO NOT WRITE PASSWORDS HERE!

Digital Tool:		User Name:
 PowerSchool	Keep up with grades & attendance to facilitate communication with teachers.	
 NAVIANCE	Research colleges and explore career tools.	
	Access to Turnitin is from your teacher. Create an account one time and add classes as needed.	Use your Gmail
	Digital tool for completing research and note taking.	First Last YOG
	Destiny Quest is the Ledyard District's Resource Collection	First Last YOG
	Google Drive & Gmail Cloud storage & Collaborative Space	Create your own account, First Last YOG
Additional Log ins needed:		

LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Ledyard is a diverse and empowering community that inspires in each child a continuous love of learning, self-confidence, and commitment to excellence. The community supports each child to achieve at the highest levels and to innovate in a world of change. Our children thrive and make a lasting contribution to the community. Citizens trust, invest in, and benefit from the Ledyard Public Schools.

LEDYARD HIGH SCHOOL VALUE STATEMENT

Ledyard High School is a learning community dedicated to the cultivation of skills essential for success in a rapidly-evolving society.

VISION OF THE GRADUATE

At Ledyard High School, we believe our graduates should demonstrate the following:

Collaboration. Colonel Graduates will demonstrate an ability to work effectively with others, sharing ideas, acknowledging one another's strengths, and collaborating to produce presentations, projects, performances, or events.

Communication. Colonel Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate information clearly and effectively through a variety of media, including written, oral, visual, musical, and/or video productions.

Problem-Solving. Colonel Graduates will demonstrate an ability to solve problems of varying complexity across a variety of content areas.

Critical Thinking. Colonel Graduates will demonstrate critical thinking skills to find solutions, support arguments, and overcome challenges in a variety of content areas.

Creativity. Colonel Graduates will demonstrate perseverance in academic and extracurricular settings by working through and past obstacles in pursuit of goals.

Perseverance. Colonel Graduates will demonstrate creativity through their participation in fine arts courses as well as through their inventive approaches to learning activities in a variety of settings.

MARKING PERIOD SCHEDULE

2022 – 2023

The start and end time for each marking period is indicated below. It is possible some of the dates may change due to school cancellations.

OPEN HOUSE WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

SEMESTER I

Quarter Dates	Length of Quarter	Mid-quarter Reports Due	Grades Entered
<u>Quarter 1:</u> September 1 – November 4	44 days	October 6	November 9
<u>Quarter 2:</u> November 7 - January 20	44 days	December 12	January 25

SEMESTER II

Quarter Dates	Length of Quarter	Mid-quarter Reports Due	Grades Entered
<u>Quarter 3:</u> January 23 – March 31	46 days	February 27	April 4
<u>Quarter 4:</u> April 3 – June 14	46 days	May 11	June 14

PSAT, Grades 10 & 11: October 25

School Day SAT, Grade 11: March 27

Advanced Placement Testing Dates: Weeks of May 1, May 8

NGSS Science, Grade 11: Week of May 15

Parent/Teacher Conferences: November 16 & March 16

ADVISORY

Research clearly shows that high school students perform better in the classroom when they feel connected to their school. Ledyard High School's Advisory Program will facilitate that connection through academic advising, career development, team building, and enrichment. Advisory meets every Wednesday for 30 minutes between Blocks 1 and 2.

AGE OF MAJORITY

Per state and federal law, students who reach the age of eighteen have certain rights regarding access of others to their school records. **Once a student turns eighteen:**

1. His or her consent is required for the disclosure of the student's name and address and/or medical files or similar files; the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy. A parent may not override the student's decision to withhold consent.
2. His or her consent is required for the disclosure of educational records that personally identify the student unless the student remains a dependent for tax purposes. In that case, the student may not prevent his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) from reviewing his or her educational records.

ATHLETICS

Ledyard High School's interscholastic athletics program allows students to participate in individual or team sports on the varsity and junior varsity levels. Ledyard High School teams, which are known as the **Colonels**, include:

FALL: Cheerleading; Cross Country; Football; Soccer; Girls' Volleyball; Girls' Swimming and Diving; Unified Sports

WINTER: Basketball; Cheerleading; Fencing; Hockey; Indoor Track; Wrestling; Unified Sports

SPRING: Baseball; Softball; Lacrosse, Tennis; Track; Unified Sports

Ledyard Athletics uses the online platform FamilyID to manage registration, health forms, and pay-to-participate.

Prior to the beginning of each sport season, student-athletes and their parents/guardians are required to attend a Sports Information Night. At this informational meeting, the Ledyard High School Athletic Handbook is reviewed with the athletic director. All parents/guardians

as well as student-athletes will be educated on concussions and cardiac arrest. Please consult the student-athlete handbook for specific information related to athletics, expectations for student-athletes, the athletic drug and alcohol policy, physicals, eligibility, NCAA eligibility, pay to play, attendance, awards, and many other aspects of athletics. A copy of the athletic handbook is available online at lhs.ledyard.net

ATHLETICS - CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (CIAC)

The CIAC is the governing body for high school athletics and has established Rules of Eligibility and Control for boys' and girls' High School Athletics in Connecticut. These rules may be found on the internet at http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/eligibility_brochure.pdf or from the Athletic Director.

CIAC MISSION STATEMENT

THE CIAC BELIEVES THAT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AND COMPETITIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF A STUDENT'S ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT. THE CIAC PROMOTES THE ACADEMIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS AND HONORABLE COMPETITION. AS SUCH, THE CIAC SERVES AS THE REGULATORY AGENCY FOR HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AND EXISTS TO ASSURE QUALITY EXPERIENCES THAT REFLECT HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR FAIRNESS, EQUITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP FOR ALL STUDENT ATHLETES AND COACHES. THE CIAC PROVIDES LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY SERVICES OF DEDICATED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, COACHES AND CONSULTANTS.

CIAC and Ledyard Board of Education Rules for Participation in CIAC Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Ledyard High School acknowledges, supports, and adheres strictly to the rules of academic eligibility prescribed by the CIAC and Ledyard Board of Education.

To be eligible for participation students must:

1. Be a full time student at Ledyard.
2. Not have reached his or her twentieth (20th) birthday or start a season in which their 20th birthday falls.

3. Not participate in the same branch of athletics more than four (4) seasons in grades 9-12. A student has eight (8) semesters or (4) consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible.
4. Not play or practice with an outside team in the same sport while a member of the school team, unless that sport is exempted by the CIAC and the coach gives permission.
5. Meet Ledyard Board of Education requirements.

ATHLETICS - ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

Any students enrolled at Ledyard High School shall be eligible to participate in after-school extracurricular activities, including the interscholastic athletics program, provided the student meets the criteria established by the CIAC and has not been enrolled for more than eight semesters in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, and meets the criteria established by Ledyard High School for eligibility. There are four (4) types of eligibility:

1. CIAC Eligibility –A student who has passed at least four (4) credits during the previous quarter or earned 4 credits the previous year (for fall sports) is CIAC eligible. A student who has not met these criteria is CIAC ineligible and is ineligible immediately upon publication of the CIAC eligibility list. A student who is CIAC ineligible cannot participate in any school sponsored athletic events or practices. Marking period grades (not semester grades) will be used to determine scholastic eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics during any giving marking period. Year-end failures may be made up through successful completion of school approved summer work in courses failed.
2. Ledyard Eligibility-A student who has met the CIAC criteria and for whom the quarterly average of all of his or her assigned courses is a 70 (C-) or higher is Ledyard eligible.
3. Ledyard Study Hall Eligibility-A student who has met the CIAC criteria and for whom the quarterly average of all of his or her assigned courses is 65-69 will remain eligible as long as they attend two administration-approved, after school study periods per week until the next report card. After School Study Halls occur on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and students must attend for a minimum of 45 minutes (two times each week). If a student does not participate in the required administration approved study periods, he or she is prohibited from participating in athletics until cleared by administration.

4. Ledyard Probationary Study Hall Eligibility--A student who has met the CIAC criteria and for whom the quarterly average of all of his or her assigned courses is 64 and below will remain eligible as long as they attend three administration-approved, after school study periods per week until the next report card is issued. After School Study Halls occur on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and students must attend for a minimum of 45 minutes (three times each week). If a student does not participate in the required administration approved study periods, he or she is prohibited from participating in athletics until cleared by administration.

Note:

Eligibility for fall activities shall be determined by the student's grades for the fourth quarter of the previous year for LHS policy. CIAC eligibility is determined by the final grades. Ninth graders are exempt until the end of 1st quarter of their freshman year.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

I. OBJECTIVES

- *Encourage students to participate fully in the educational opportunities offered to them at Ledyard High School.*
- *Develop habits of regular attendance and punctuality that will serve students beyond the high school setting.*

II. PHILOSOPHY

The faculty and administration of Ledyard High School believe that learning experiences that occur in the classroom are an integral component of the learning process. Students are therefore expected to attend all classes for which they are registered each day that class is in session. Excessive absences from class will result in loss of credit for that course.

Classroom instruction includes the presentation of facts, concepts, and theories; the interchange of ideas, attitudes, and opinions; and the supplementation and interpretation of the curriculum by a teacher's expertise. Because these experiences cannot be duplicated outside the classroom, time lost through absence is irretrievable. In addition, positive attendance patterns will further prepare students to meet the expectations of future employers.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Absence from Class:** Failure to attend class. Missing more than 15 minutes of any class will count as an absence toward the maximum number of permitted absences.
- B. **Class Cut:** Failure to attend class or study hall (while student is listed as being in attendance in school), when required to do so, without administrative approval. Students who cut class will be given office detention.
- C. **Tardiness:** Unauthorized failure to report to class prior to the start of the period. Missing more than 15 minutes of any class due to unexcused tardiness may be considered a class cut and an absence.

FOUR HOUR RULE (Administrative Addendum): *Students who do not attend school for a minimum of four (4) hours due to illness or other reason will not be allowed to participate in any school-related activity on the day of the absence.* Exception to this rule may only be granted by the Principal or her designee when extraordinary circumstances exist.

IV. IMPACTS

Absence Limit: Students may lose credit upon accruing twenty-eight (28) absences in a two-credit course, fourteen (14) absences in a one-credit course, and seven (7) absences in a half-credit course.

1. All absences from class will count toward the maximum **(including most field trips)**, with the following exceptions:

- Suspension
- Religious observances
- Legal obligations
- School Counseling and Guidance appointments
- Administration appointments
- School-Sponsored athletic events

Note: Students on homebound instruction are not considered absent from school.

2. Notices of numbers of class absences will be sent to students, parents, and school counselors as follows:

Course Type	Class Notice sent at:	Loss of Credit Notice sent at:
Two credits	14 absences	28 absences
One credit	7 absences	14 absences
Half credit	4 absences	7 absences

3. Students must continue to attend class on a daily basis regardless of their number of absences.

V. APPEAL

Numerous resources are available to assist students who have medical or other problems which impact attendance. It is essential that parents notify the school of such circumstances so that those resources can be put in place to help the student avoid reaching the attendance cap. Once the cap is reached the following procedure must be used to appeal denial of credit:

1. Upon notification of loss of credit, any student or parent wishing to explain unusual circumstances affecting the student's attendance may request an appeal with an Assistant Principal.
2. Written requests for an appeal must be made to the Assistant Principal within ten (10) days of the date of notification of loss of credit. Initiation of the appeals process is the sole responsibility of the parent or student.
3. An appeal of the attendance decision may be made to the Principal. As in all school-related issues, parents and students have the right to seek review from the Superintendent and/or the Ledyard Board of Education.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

The Assistant Principals’ Office will issue absence, tardy, and dismissal slips to students according to the procedures below. *Students who fail to follow these procedures may be subject to disciplinary action (if the absence is determined to be a class cut).*

ABSENCES: Upon returning to school after an absence, a student must report to the Assistant Principals’ Office to receive an absence slip, which will indicate whether the absence was **excused** or **unexcused**, based upon state definitions thereof. Students should check-in with teachers and Google Classroom to determine which assignments were missed and a timeline for completion.

Planned absences, including school sponsored field trips or activities, are not subject to the above procedures. In these instances, students are responsible to meet with their teachers before a planned absence (scheduled field trip or activity) to arrange for makeup dates and times. *Students are responsible for all regularly scheduled tests and/or assignments and must make arrangements with classroom teachers to reschedule completion and/or submission of work.*

DOCUMENTATION: The State Board of Education requires careful and thorough documentation of all student absences. Parent and guardian notes and other documentation are central to determining whether a student's absence is excused or unexcused. While a written note from a parent or guardian will likely be the most common form of documentation, other methods of reporting a student's absence are acceptable, such as a parent/guardian making a report in person to the designated school staff member, through an online system with controlled access, or via video chat. ***Email and texting do not meet the State's security requirements; however, email may be used to deliver a scanned image of a note.***

DISMISSALS: Students who need to be dismissed from school before the closing of the school day should present to the Assistant Principals' Office at the start of the school day a written request from the parent/guardian stating the time of and specific reason for the dismissal. In those instances where parents find it necessary to request dismissal of their child, but who have not sent a note with the student, the parent may come to, or call, the school to request the dismissal. If the student returns to school prior to school closing time, s/he must sign in at the Assistant Principal's Office.

PLEASE NOTE: PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SHOW A PICTURE ID WHEN DISMISSING THEIR STUDENT(S).

Students who leave school without a proper dismissal will be subject to disciplinary measures.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL: A student will be considered tardy to school if s/he:

- (1) is not in the school building before the late bell rings (7:42 a.m.)
- (2) is a senior who has an approved Senior Lounge for block 1 and does not report to school with sufficient time to arrive at school on time (9:11 a.m.).

A student who arrives at school after the 7:42am late bell must report to the Assistant Principals' Office. If the student has a parent's note attributing the tardiness to a reason acceptable to the administration (illness; medical appointments; etc. or other appointments) or if the student's parent has phoned the school with an acceptable excuse, the student will be given an office pass authorizing the tardiness. Students who arrive to school after the 7:42am late bell, and who do not have an acceptable reason as defined above, will be issued an office detention. Parents/Guardians/Students running late, over sleeping and/or missing the bus are **NOT** acceptable excuses. **If an unauthorized/unexcused tardy causes a student to miss class, the class absence may be considered a cut.**

****Please see the appendix for the complete BOE policy regarding absences and Truancy****

BACKPACKS / CARRYALLS

Students may carry reasonably sized backpacks, small book bags and other reasonably sized bags/purses with their teacher's permission.

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as any overt acts by a student or group of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate that student while on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity, on a school bus or other such vehicle used for student transportation, or at a bus stop, provided such acts are committed more than once against any student during the school year.

Acts of bullying include, but are not limited to: physical violence and attacks; verbal and non-verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, including those that are racially, ethnically, sexuality or gender based; extortion or stealing of money and possessions; or exclusion from peer groups within a school.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening or terrorizing a student by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs.

Acts of bullying that originate or occur outside of the school setting may be investigated and acted upon by school officials if such acts have a direct and negative impact on a student's academic performance or safety in school. To report suspected bullying, complete a Bullying Complaint reporting form in the APO.

****Please see the appendix for the complete BOE policy regarding bullying and the means to report it.****

BUSES

The Ledyard Board of Education provides students with bus transportation to and from school. In order to maintain a calm and safe atmosphere on buses, students must behave appropriately. Drivers will report any infractions to the administration, who may issue disciplinary consequences. Violations of school bus regulations could result in suspension from the school bus. All buses have video recording devices in place and are used at all times.

The following rules shall apply to student conduct on school transportation:

1. Passengers shall follow the driver's directions at all times.
2. Passengers shall board and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stop nearest their home.
3. Passengers shall remain seated while the bus is in motion.
4. Passengers shall keep books, instrument cases, feet, and other objects out of the aisle of the bus.
5. Passengers shall not deface the bus and/or its equipment.
6. Passengers shall keep head, hands, arms, or legs inside the bus and its windows and shall refrain from holding or throwing any object out of the window.
7. Passengers shall refrain from smoking, vaping, or using any form of tobacco.
8. Passengers shall demonstrate typical classroom behavior and shall avoid unruly conduct, including the use of obscene language.
9. Passengers exiting the bus will wait for the driver's signal before crossing in front of the bus.
10. Students will ride the bus to which they are assigned.

All complaints concerning school transportation safety are to be made to the Transportation Coordinator/District Business Manager. A written record of all complaints will be maintained and an investigation of the allegations will take place.

Bus Passes (Ledyard Buses Only): Bus passes may be required in order for a student to ride a non-assigned bus or to be dropped off at a non-assigned stop. A note from a parent/guardian explaining the reason for the request will be required in order to get a bus pass. Bus drivers may deny the request if the bus is overcrowded.

Out of Town Buses: For students from towns other than Ledyard, transportation is provided by the student's town of residence. Specific information regarding transportation is available from the Superintendent of Schools in the student's town of residence. If there is a delayed opening, students/parents should go by the schedule of their town of residence. If the town of residence does not have a delay, the bus will likely pick up students at the normal time.

CARE OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Library books, textbooks, educational materials and equipment are loaned to students for their use and shall be returned when requested. According to Board of Education regulation 6061.2, students must pay the full replacement cost of any book, educational material, or equipment lost or damaged beyond ordinary wear. Students who receive school books, materials, or equipment are responsible for their return.

Teachers will require all students to fill out a 3x5 yellow card when issuing textbooks and/or equipment. Students must fill out this card with information such as name, grade, book name, teacher, cost, book number, etc. and return it to the teacher. When returning the book at the end of the semester or upon withdrawal from the class, the student will receive this yellow card back. **Students should not return school material without getting this card.** If the teacher is in possession of this card at the end of the semester, the student will be charged the full replacement cost of that book/equipment.

Students who fail to return or pay for books or equipment over the course of their four years will have diplomas withheld until restitution is made.

INTERNET ACCESS AGREEMENT

Ledyard Public Schools requires that each student submit an internet access agreement once during the time they are enrolled in high school. Students who do not submit this agreement will not be permitted to use the internet while at school. This agreement will be distributed to all new students upon enrollment at Ledyard High School and is also available at the school and at [lhs.ledyard.net](https://hs.ledyard.net).

CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

All school employees, including teachers, superintendents, principals, coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics, paraprofessionals and other professional school staff including guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists, and licensed nurses are obligated by law (C.G.S. 17a-101) to report suspected child abuse, neglect, or if a child is placed in imminent danger of serious harm or sexual assault by a school employee to the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families Services. Specific procedures governing the reporting of abuse and neglect are in effect, and staff receive yearly training in their use.

Reporting of child abuse, neglect and sexual assault by a school employee is a responsibility which is taken seriously. If there is any doubt about reporting suspected abuse, neglect or a sexual assault, a report will be made. The school will work with the parents and appropriate social agencies in all cases.

Child abuse is defined as any physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means or injuries which are not in keeping with the explanation given for their cause. Improper treatment such as malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional abuse, cruel punishment or neglect are also considered child abuse.

The Board of Education will post in each school the telephone number of the Department of Children and Families' child abuse hotline, Careline, and the Internet web address that provides information about the Careline in a conspicuous location frequented by students. Such posting shall be in various languages appropriate for the students enrolled in the school.

DANCES

Student organizations may sponsor dances in the cafeteria from 6:30pm to 9:30pm on selected Fridays or Saturdays during the school year. The sponsoring organization must make the necessary arrangements with the Assistant Principal at least one month in advance of the desired date.

The following guidelines will apply to any school-sponsored dance:

1. Attendance is limited to Ledyard High School students with the exception of selected dances, for which **guests must be approved and have a copy of their ID submitted and registered with the administration in advance.**

2. LHS students who are not in the grade of the class holding the dance are still considered guests. Example: a senior hoping to bring an LHS sophomore to senior prom must have the sophomore complete a guest form.
3. Guest ID cards will be collected upon entering the dance and will be returned at the conclusion or when the guest leaves
4. Students must arrive within the first half hour of the dance unless arrangements were made between school administration and the student's parent/guardian.
5. Tickets will be sold in advance, not at the door.
6. Students will remain in designated areas during a dance.
7. Students may not reenter once they have left the building.
8. Students must make arrangements for timely transportation to and from dances.
9. Students on suspension or otherwise prohibited from after school events will not be allowed to attend a dance during that time.
10. Students and their guests must adhere to the semi-formal and formal dress codes specific to that dance.
11. Sponsors of the dance must provide a police officer for supervision.

Students who violate any of the above rules may lose dance privileges for some or all future dances. Serious offenses may warrant additional penalties.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act requires local educational agencies to provide access to directory information that includes student's names, addresses, and telephone listings, date and place of birth, awards, and dates of attendance to military recruiters, institutions of higher education, or others that may request this information.

A parent or eligible students may request that this directory information not be released without prior written parental consent. If you do not want this information to be released, please check the appropriate box when filling out the *Parent Signature Information Form* which will be distributed to students on the first day of school.

DISCIPLINE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The basic consequences of student misbehavior at Ledyard High School are detention and suspension. Additionally, with the support of parents, administration may assign community service, mediation, or intervention in lieu of detention and/or suspension.

DETENTION

Detentions may be assigned by individual teachers or by the administration.

Office Detention: Office detentions are assigned by the administration and are held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 2:20-3:20pm in the cafeteria. During office detention, students are assigned seats and are expected to be actively involved in academic work. Talking, sleeping, card playing, use of electronic equipment (including cell phones), and any behaviors considered inappropriate to a classroom will not be allowed.

Lunch Detention: For certain disciplinary infractions, lunch detention in the APO will be assigned. Students permitted to serve lunch detention in lieu of an office detention must serve three lunch detentions for every office detention. Students serving lunch detention are responsible for the same rules as those that apply to office detention.

Morning Detention: for certain disciplinary infractions, morning detention will be assigned from 7:00-7:30am in the APO. Students permitted to serve morning detention in lieu of an office detention must serve two morning detentions for every office detention. Students serving morning detention are responsible for the same rules as those that apply to office detention.

Important Notes:

1. Students will be given 24-hour notice of any office detention assignment.
2. Athletic practices/games, employment responsibilities and town of residence will not be acceptable reasons for missing assigned detention.
3. Students who are absent from school on day(s) when they have detention will be required to make up the missed detention.
4. Students will not be admitted to detention after the late bell without a written pass from an administrator.
5. A student who fails to attend a full detention session, is late for detention, or is removed from detention, could be suspended.

Examples of behaviors for which morning, lunch, or office detention may be issued:

No student will be allowed to accrue more than 12 office detentions. Once a student reaches that point, each subsequent violation will result in suspension. When a student is issued a detention, every effort will be made to contact a parent or guardian. This list of infractions for which detentions could be issued includes, but is not limited to:

- Actions which disrupt school atmosphere
- Misuse or lack of a hallway pass
- Excessive tardiness to school or class
- Cutting class
- Failure to comply
- Misuse of electronics, including cell phone
- Failure to follow safety regulations
- Failure to report to teacher detention
- Forgery of a parent's or staff member's signature
- Misconduct in school, on the bus, or at school related activities
- Parking violations (repeat offenses may result in suspension of parking privileges)
- Using inappropriate language

Please note: When a student is removed from class, s/he will be placed in the Academic and Behavioral Support Center for that period or longer. Disruption in the ABSC may result in out of school suspension.

SUSPENSION

School rules require proper conduct anywhere in **all** school buildings, on school grounds, at school bus stops and on the bus, and at all school sponsored activities. Infractions of school rules may result in suspension in/or out of school and may further result in referral for expulsion. Students may also be disciplined for off campus misconduct. The following is a list of some behaviors that may result in suspensions up to 10 days. The list is not meant to be all-inclusive.

Absence from school without parent authorization
Abusive language directed at a peer or staff member
Actions which endanger the safety of others
Assault
Bullying – in person or online
Distributing a drug, alcohol, or controlled substance
Fighting
Gambling

Harassment, taunting, or baiting – in person or online
Hazing
Leaving school without proper dismissal / authorization
Misbehavior in detention or ISS
Distributing photos or videos of students/staff without their permission
Possessing, using, selling or being under the influence or suspected to be in possession, using, selling or being under the influence of controlled substance or alcohol in school or at a school event
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Possession of instruments displayed in an intimidating manner
Possession of knives, chains, or other dangerous instruments (other than those listed above)
Possession, sale or use of a facsimile of a firearm
Possession, sale or use of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, or martial arts weapon as defined by law
Racial & Sexual Orientation slurs/hate crimes
Repeated failure to comply
Repeated infractions of School Rules
Sexual Harassment – in person or online
Theft
Threatening – in person or online
Unexcused Absence from In-school Suspension
Use of any instrument in a manner to inflict bodily harm, intimidate, or threaten
Use/suspected use and/or possession of tobacco or nicotine products
Vandalism-Willful damage or destruction of school and personal property
Verbal or physical action which contributes to a fight or assault

Suspensions may be imposed as in-school or out-of-school per the Administration's discretion. If a student's actions also violate the law, the police or other appropriate authorities will be notified, which could result in arrest. Students may also be referred to the Juvenile Review Board or to the Superintendent of Schools for expulsion.

Students placed on suspension are not permitted on school grounds until the opening of school on the day following the last day of the suspension. Suspended students are not permitted to participate in any school activities such as athletic practices or competition, concerts, dances, field trips, plays, etc., on or off campus. Exceptions to this rule may be granted only by the administration when extraordinary conditions exist.

When students are required to serve an in-school suspension, they will spend the school day in the Academic and Behavioral Support Center, but must leave school immediately at the end of the school day and may not participate in any school activities on or off campus until the opening of school on the day following the end of the suspension.

As mandated by Connecticut statute, a record of each student's suspension is kept in the student's cumulative file until the student

graduates. The law also requires that in the event a student transfers to another Connecticut high school, all information in the student's cumulative file regarding suspension must be sent to the receiving school.

EXPULSION

Expulsion means "an exclusion from school privileges for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, and shall not extend beyond one calendar year. The Board of Education may expel any pupil whose conduct on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity is a violation of a publicized policy of the Board or is seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangers persons or property or whose conduct off school grounds is a violation of Board policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process."

Students suspended on ten occasions or for a total of fifty (50) days will be referred to the Board of Education for further action, which may include expulsion from school.

See also, Board Policy 5114 governing Suspension, Expulsion and Due Process.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND SOCIAL PROBATION

We believe participation in extracurricular and social activities at Ledyard High School is an earned privilege, not a right. All students must meet academic, attendance, and behavioral standards (per administration) in order to participate in school, extracurricular, and social activities. This includes not only CIAC and Ledyard High School academic eligibility standards, but also daily attendance and behavioral standards. Extracurricular activities and social activities include dances, proms, plays/musicals, concerts, athletic contests, field trips, and other privileges (example: parking on school grounds).

DRESS CODE

Board of Education Policy #5132 dictates guidelines for student dress and grooming as follows:

The Ledyard Board of Education (the "Board") prohibits the following from wear during the academic school day:

A. Hats, caps, or hoods*

B. Cleats, Heelys, or any footwear which could mar the floors or could pose a safety issue

C. Spiked or studded bracelets, oversized or multi-finger rings, belts or any other article of attire with spikes or studs attached, or any other clothing item that may present a safety hazard to the student, other students, or staff

D. Attire or accessories that contain vulgarity or that contain overly offensive or disruptive writing or pictures, which are likely to disrupt the educational environment

E. Attire or accessories depicting or suggesting violence so as to disrupt the educational environment or that provokes others to act violently or causes others to be intimidated by fear of violence or that constitute "fighting words," including but not limited to attire or accessories depicting the "Confederate flag" and/or Nazi symbolism/swastika

F. Attire or accessories that depict logos, emblems, pictures, or slogans that encourage the use of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages

*Approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief, or as required or permitted in conjunction with school district health and safety protocols, shall not be prohibited under this policy. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit protective hairstyles. "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

Note that, at Ledyard High School, there is a standing dress code for Physical Education (PE) classes, which requires: sneakers, athletic bottoms with an elastic waist, and a shirt or sweatshirt with sleeves.

Students who fail to comply with the school day or PE guidelines will be asked to change and will be subject to school consequences as outlined in the student handbook.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Ledyard High School faculty and administration recognize that there can be meaningful educational value in the use of personal electronic devices in school. There are many legitimate reasons to use a smart phone, tablet, Chrome Book, or mp3 device during class. We encourage teachers to explore new ways to integrate technology, and we acknowledge that just as many adults in our society are beholden to their smart phones for communication, organization, and calendar planning, so are our students.

However, the following guidelines apply to smart phone, tablet, Chrome Book, and mp3 use:

- It is **required** that cell phones be placed in the phone pockets in each classroom during all assessments (tests, quizzes, etc.) for all classes.
- Class time use must be limited to teacher-directed, educational activities.
- Students may not place or take phone calls without adult permission as it is a distraction to the learning environment.
- Students may use ear buds during class with adult permission. Otherwise, ear buds may not be worn, visible, or used, including during passing time. We want students to be present, able to hear clearly, and available to engage in conversation with peers.
- Students are allowed to freely access personal electronic devices during study hall and lunch
- Students are **NOT** allowed access to personal electronic devices while in the ABSC and will be required to give their phones to the attendant.

Please note: Teachers have the authority to establish acceptable use policies for their own classroom. In any given class, students may be asked to place their phones in a hanging pocket file. Students are obliged to adhere to the policies within each classroom, which will be clearly articulated by the teacher. Students are also obliged to comply with directives to put away in the hanging pocket file (first offense) or surrender their cell phone to the APO (multiple offenses) for the duration of the period if directed to do so by an adult. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary consequences.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

All students should follow the directions announced over the Public Address System by the administration during any emergency. If there are no such instructions, students must follow the directions of their teacher. No student should ever leave school grounds during a fire drill or emergency. Such action by any student will be considered a major disciplinary offense and result in suspension from school.

Fire Drills

Students are to remain quiet and orderly while exiting so that teacher instructions can be issued. Alternate routes may be necessary if certain exits are blocked.

All students are to remain in class groups with their teacher. They are not to mingle with other classes or get into vehicles parked in the parking lot. Staying together as a class gives teachers an opportunity to take attendance. This would be extremely important in the case of an actual disaster since accurate attendance will be the sole determinant if all students are safely out of the building.

Lock Down Procedures

If a threatening, suspicious, or violent intruder is found in the building, trying to enter the building, or if their imminent presence is suspected, an announcement will be made to go into lockdown. In the event of a lockdown:

- 1. Stay away from the windows and doors.
- 2. Listen for directions from administration over the intercom.
- 3. Students in the hallway, bathrooms or any other non-classroom setting should seek the nearest open classroom or the nearest exit.

EXTRA HELP FOR STUDENTS

All staff members in this school are willing to help students who are having particular difficulties in their class work. Students who wish to receive extra help from a teacher are expected, with parental permission, to make an appointment with the teacher for some mutually convenient time during the day, before or after school. Extra help is also available in the Learning Lab after school on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. It is not necessary to make an appointment to attend The Learning Lab for after school help. Any student staying after school for extra help must have timely transportation home.

GAMBLING AND WAGERING

Gambling and/or wagering is prohibited on school property. Any type of card playing is prohibited during school hours.

GRADES

Ledyard High School uses a letter grading system, which is converted from percentages. The following scale is used to calculate the letter grade.

Grading scale:

A	93-100	C	73-76
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A- 90-92
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82
C+ 77-79

C- 70-73
D+ 67-69
D 63-66
D- 60-62
F 59 and Below

The letter grading system also includes I (incomplete), M (medical excuse), W/P (withdrawn passing) and W/F (withdrawn failing).

Final grades are calculated as follows:

Full Credit Courses: Each marking period 25%

Half Credit Courses: Each marking period 50%

Teachers provide comments on report cards that will be useful to parents and students in understanding academic grades achieved.

HONOR ROLL

Each marking period, the administration will publish an honor roll of students who have no grade below a B- or A- during the quarter. The Honor Roll has two divisions:

Honors: No grade below a B-

High Honors: No grade below an A-

Pass/Not Pass courses are not included in calculations. Any student with a grade of "Incomplete" will be excluded from the Honor Roll.

Course Levels, Grade Point Average (GPA) and Rank in Class

Four levels of weighting are used to compute rank according to the following criteria:

Level 3: These courses reflect the academic demands of four-year colleges. As such, they require proficiency in the skills related to the field of study. Reading/writing/project assignments may require non-class time to complete. Review and reinforcement of needed skills are ongoing. Pacing of teaching and learning is adjusted to meet the needs of enrolled students.

Level 2: These courses reflect the academic demands of four-year colleges. As such, they require proficiency in the skills related to the field of study. Reading/writing/project assignments require non-class time to complete. Review and reinforcement of needed skills are ongoing.

Level 1: These courses are closely aligned with the academic demands of four-year colleges and require a high degree of proficiency in all academic content areas. These courses require in-depth study, independent reading and research and/or preparation of comprehensive papers and reports, often outside of class time.

AP Level: These courses must conform to the standards set by the College Board. Elective courses, they sometimes require the completion of prerequisite courses but are available to all students through the academic waiver system. AP offerings for the 2022-23 school year include: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics I, AB Calculus, Statistics, English Language, English Literature, Psychology, U.S. History, Spanish, and Computer Science.

A student's Grade Point Average (GPA) is determined by taking into account every grade that is earned by the student during the year (and summer school), for all four years of high school. Pass/Not Pass courses are not included. GPA is factored based only upon credits earned, not credits in progress.

Ledyard High School employs a weighted grading system to determine rank-in-class. Students should consult their counselor for specific course weighting. A student's weighted rank is reported on transcripts that are sent to colleges or employers.

	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	AP Level
A	4.0	4.6	5.2	6.2
A-	3.67	4.22	4.77	5.69
B+	3.33	3.83	4.33	5.16
B	3.0	3.45	3.9	4.65
B-	2.67	3.07	3.47	4.14
C+	2.33	2.68	3.03	3.61
C	2.0	2.3	2.6	3.1
C-	1.67	1.92	2.17	2.59
D+	1.33	1.53	1.73	2.06
D	1.0	1.15	1.3	1.55
D-	0.67	0.77	0.87	1.04
F	0	0	0	0

Report Cards and Progress Reports

Report cards will be issued four times each year but mailed only in June at the conclusion of the academic year. Since the implementation of PowerSchool's Parent Portal, progress reports will no longer be sent home. The sole purpose for PowerSchool access is to provide academic/attendance data to parents/guardians for only their child and to provide this same data to the child. Parents without internet access may request mailed copies of progress reports and quarterly report cards by contacting guidance.

PowerSchool Parent Portal:

- The parent/guardian is given a username and password specific to his/her child. It is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian to protect the security of this username and password. The student will be issued a different username and password and is also expected to secure his/her access. The district accepts no responsibility in the event the username and password is shared, given, stolen, or in any other way becomes the possession of a person other than the parent/guardian/student.
- If you forget your username or password please contact the guidance office.
- Users shall not attempt to use a username and password that has been assigned for use of another individual.

Please Note:

Only one username and password is, and can be, assigned per student. All parents/guardians must share the same username and password regardless of family circumstances.

GRADUATION

Only those students who have earned the appropriate number and distribution of credits and have successfully participated in the statewide mastery examinations shall receive a diploma from Ledyard High School. All credits and requirements for graduation must be completed prior to graduation in order for the student to participate in the graduation ceremony. No exceptions are allowed to this policy.

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT

Class of 2023 and beyond

Students must earn a total of twenty-six (26) credits as specified in the following subject areas:

Humanities.....9 credits

- 4 credits in English -- English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12
- 3 credits in Social Studies -- World History Modern, Civics, U.S. History
- 1 credit in World Language
- 1 credits of humanities electives

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM).....9 credits

- 3 credits in Mathematics
- 3 credits in Science -- Systems & Sustainability (.5), Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science
- 1 credit in **either** math or science
- 2 credit of STEM electives, which include AgriScience

Health and PE.....2 credits

- 1 credit of PE
- 1 credit of health – Health 10 (.5 credit); Health 12 (.5 credit)

Ledyard Senior

Experience/Capstone.....1 credit

Additional Electives.....5 credits

Total Credits Required.....26 credits

One credit courses meet every other day for the entire academic year; half-credit courses meet every other day for one semester.

The Ledyard High School administration shall delineate the classification of courses by subject area, establish the minimum number of course credits a student must carry each year, and make other such requirements as deemed necessary to administer this policy.

Credit for Courses Completed at Other Educational Institutions

Credit toward satisfying the graduation requirements at Ledyard High School shall be granted in the following circumstances:

1. Credits earned from a public or private high school prior to enrollment at Ledyard High School.
2. Credit toward meeting a specified course requirement upon successful completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to twelve. (ex: Algebra I)
3. Credit toward meeting high school graduation requirements upon the successful completion of a world language course (a) in grade six,

seven or eight, (b) through on-line coursework, or (c) offered privately through a nonprofit provide, provided the student achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. No more than four credits earned in such manner shall be counted toward meeting the graduation requirements.

4. Credit toward meeting high school graduation requirements upon achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject matter.

5. Credit toward meeting high school graduation requirements upon the successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited (see Note below). One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, completed at such institution shall equal one-half (0.5) credit toward the graduation requirements.

6. Credit toward meeting high school graduation requirements upon the successful completion of on-line coursework offered through (a) a secondary school or other educational institution accredited by the Department of Education, or (b) an institution of higher learning that is accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited (see Note below).

7. Credits earned for courses passed during participation in an approved foreign exchange program.

Note: Ledyard High School students desiring to take either a course at another educational institution or an on-line course for credit toward meeting the high school graduation requirements (per sections 5 and 6, above) must receive prior approval from the Ledyard High School administration to take the course to be eligible to receive the credit. In cases where there is any disagreement between the student's parent/guardian and the Ledyard High School administration regarding the granting of credit toward the graduation requirements, the Superintendent shall make the final determination.

Credit for Community Service

A student enrolled in any grade at Ledyard High School may be awarded one-half (0.5) credit toward the elective graduation requirement for the satisfactory completion of community service. The community service must be supervised by a certified school administrator or teacher, consist of not less than 50 hours of actual service that may be performed at times when school is not regularly in session, and require not less than ten hours of related classroom instruction. For the purpose of this credit, community service does not include partisan political activities.

Exemption from Physical Education Credit Requirement:

Any student who presents a certificate from a physician stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of such student shall be excused from the physical education requirement. In such a case, the physical education credit requirement shall be fulfilled by an elective as determined by the Ledyard High School administration. However, students shall not be excused from the physical education requirement based on a medical condition that the School Medical Advisor determines is temporary in nature. In such cases, the student shall be expected to satisfy the physical education credit requirement after s/he is no longer medically restricted.

Student Transcripts

All courses used to satisfy the high school graduation requirements delineated herein shall be recorded on the student's transcript. The transcript shall be annotated to indicate those courses not taken at Ledyard High School.

Awarding of Diplomas

Students who meet all the graduation requirements of this policy shall receive a diploma at the June commencement ceremony.

A student who is under expulsion from Ledyard High School but has satisfactorily completed all of the graduation requirements shall receive a diploma. However, that student shall not attend the commencement ceremony.

A Ledyard High School diploma shall be awarded upon request to: (1) a veteran of World War II, the Korean hostilities, or the Vietnam Era who withdrew from high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service; and (2) any person who (a) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to work in a job that assisted in the war efforts during World War II, December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (b) did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such work, and (c) has been a resident of the state for at least 50 consecutive years.

GRADUATION HONORS

Graduating seniors are recognized for their academic achievements according to the following criteria:

Highest Honors:

1. Cumulative *weighted* average of 4.0 at end of first semester of senior year

Ledyard Scholars:

1. Ranked in the top ten students in the class at the end of first semester of senior year
2. Achieved the benchmark on all required standardized testing
3. Completed at least four Advanced Placement courses, two from English, social studies, or world language and two from Math and Science.
4. Took no graded courses Pass/Not Pass. (Courses such as Ledyard Senior Experience/Capstone are not graded and therefore do not impact Ledyard Scholars.)

Students Attending Out-of-District Programs

Students who are Ledyard residents but are attending regional technical and vocational schools, magnet schools, charter schools, or other out-of-district programs shall receive a diploma from those institutions and must comply with the graduation requirements as specified for those schools. In the absence of specific graduation requirements at the out-of-district locations, the graduation requirements of Ledyard High School must be fulfilled.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n. State-wide mastery examination.

10-18. Courses in United States history, government and duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

10-221. Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

10-221a. High school graduation requirements.

10-223a. Promotion and graduation policies. Basic skills necessary for graduation; assessment process.

GUESTS

Students may not invite out-of-school guests or students from other schools to visit or attend classes at Ledyard High School.

HATE SPEECH

Ledyard Public Schools believes all students should be able to attend school free of harassment, humiliation, and intimidation. To that end, hate speech and its symbols – including the swastika and the Confederate Flag – are prohibited at Ledyard High School and, by extension, in the parking lot. Exceptions include representations of those symbols of part of Board-approved curricular instruction.

HAZING

Hazing means committing an act that creates a risk of harm to a person or property for the purpose of initiation or admission into,

affiliation with, or continued membership or affiliation with a student organization. Hazing, harassment, intimidation, or any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces a student or staff member will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in such behavior is subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement officials. The complete Hazing Policy 5131.91 can be found in the Ledyard Board of Education Policies.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless children and youths are defined by federal and state legislation as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night time residence." Homeless children have the right to attend the school of origin "to the extent feasible," unless doing so is contrary to the request of such student's parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth. Homeless students will have access to all programs, services, and transportation that other students enjoy. The local liaison for homeless children is Ledyard Public Schools Social Worker Krissa Anderson. The District has reviewed its existing policies and regulations to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth.

HOMEWORK

Students can expect to have homework assigned in their classes on a daily basis. Homework format will vary by course, as will the amount of time expected to complete homework.

INSURANCE

Insurance is available to all students at the beginning of the school year. Those students participating in interscholastic athletics will be covered under an "excess" policy. All claims must first be submitted to the parents' own insurance company. Any amounts remaining will be covered for injuries incurred during official practices and contests under the school's "excess policy."

LAVATORY RESTRICTION

Students may be placed on Lavatory Restriction for a period of time as a result of concerns about safety or patterns of poor decision making or misuse of the pass. While on Lavatory Restriction, a student may only use the lavatory located in the Health Office after signing in with the nurse. Students who violate their lavatory restriction will be subject to additional disciplinary consequences.

LOCKERS

All students will be issued lockers which should be kept closed and locked. Students are expected to keep their locker combinations confidential. **Please note:** lockers are school property and may be inspected by school administration.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is located in the Main Office. Students are encouraged to turn in found items to the Main Office. Students who have lost an item should go to the Main Office and ask permission to look for it among the items that have been turned in.

LUNCH

Ledyard High School offers a hot lunch program during 25-minute lunch waves. The standard schedule includes two lunch waves imbedded into Block 3. Students are expected to remain in the cafeteria during their scheduled lunch wave unless they sign out to a specific room that is listed as being open during that lunch wave. To leave the cafeteria during lunch, either to spend lunch in an alternate, supervised location or to use the lavatory, students must sign out in the binders at the cafeteria entrance.

During lunch waves, students are expected to follow all school rules, with particular attention to the following:

- Remain seated as much as possible.
- Use appropriate volume and language.
- Refrain from throwing anything.
- Be certain to keep doorways clear.
- Follow the traffic patterns for food selection and purchase.
- Dispose of all trash in the receptacles provided.

Seniors are allowed to make use of the outdoor eating area, accessible by the rear cafeteria door. First lunch seniors put up the umbrellas; second lunch seniors put down the umbrellas.

MIGRANT STUDENTS

The district has a program to address the needs of migrant students. A full range of services will be provided to migrant students, including applicable Title I programs, special education, gifted education, vocational education, language programs, counseling programs and elective classes. Parents/guardians of migrant students will be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation and evaluation of the migrant program.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Serena B. Mowry Chapter of the National Honor Society is chartered by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and recognizes students who have demonstrated a pattern of commitment to high standard in each of the four pillars: Scholarship, Character, Service and Leadership.

The Constitution of the National Honor Society and the Ledyard High School Chapter By-Laws governs selection to National Honor Society. To be eligible for membership at Ledyard High School, a junior or senior must have been a student at LHS for a minimum of one semester. In addition, students must have a simple GPA of at least 3.33, or a combination of a weighted GPA of 3.55 and an un-weighted GPA of not less than 3.17. All academically eligible students are notified of their candidacy by mail. Candidates are then required to submit documentation of their service, leadership and character by the specified date.

A five-member Faculty Council appointed by the principal evaluates each candidate in the areas of character, service and leadership. Evaluation is based upon materials submitted by the student as well as recommendations from activity supervisors, employers, volunteer coordinators, etc. In addition, all teachers, staff members and coaches receive a list of candidates and a copy of the NHS standards. They are invited to use a rubric to rate each student with whom they are familiar. Faculty recommendations are treated as confidential throughout the process. Candidates are notified of the decision of the Faculty Council by the NHS advisor. An Induction Ceremony for new members is held once per year.

Membership in the Ledyard High School National Honor Society carries certain obligations, as outlined in the chapter By-Laws. Members are required to attend regularly scheduled chapter meetings and to perform a minimum of five hours of community service each month. Additionally, each member must assume the leadership role of a NHS committee during their membership.

NURSE - HEALTH SERVICE

The school is served by a nurse from the Ledyard Visiting Nurses Association. Please notify the nurse if your child is having any health problems or receiving follow-up care by a physician. The nurse will update the health record and can better evaluate your child at school if he/she has any problems. It is helpful to know if your child takes medication at home on a regular basis.

Children are sent home from school when they have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or more. It is advisable that students have twenty-four hours fever free before returning to school.

All medications, including over-the-counter medications, require a doctor's order with parental permission (Authorization for Administration of Medication By School personnel, available at <http://www.town.ledyard.ct.us/DocumentCenter/View/2524>) and must be delivered to school by a parent/guardian in the original container, which must be PROPERLY LABELED by the pharmacist. (See Policy 5141.21 of the Board of Education Policy handbook for further details).

There is a new legislative mandate, section 119 of Public Act 07-2, which requires school districts to identify children who lack health insurance and provide information to their parents about the HUSKY plan. On the first day of school, each student will receive HUSKY information, including the parent questionnaire to be completed by parents/guardians. When parents return the signed HUSKY form to the school (indicating they would like consumer information about the HUSKY program), the school nurse will send the HUSKY forms to the enrolment contractor at the following address: HUSKY Program, PO Box 280747, East Hartford, CT 06128. These forms can also be accessed at the following website: <http://www.ct.gov/sde>.

ON-CAMPUS RECRUITMENT

The Ledyard High School administration shall provide, upon request by recruiters representing the Armed Forces of the United States of America, the State Armed Services, or an institution of higher education, access to student names, addresses and telephone numbers, unless a student's parent/guardian or the student, if the student is an adult or legally emancipated minor, has requested in writing that the District not release such information to recruiters.

Student and Parent/Guardian Notification and Rights

Ledyard High School students and their parents/guardians shall be notified of this policy at least annually at the beginning of the school year, when enrolling students for the first time at Ledyard High School, and when there is any substantive change to this policy. This notification must explain that parents/guardians or students, if the student is an adult or legally emancipated minor, have the right to request, in writing, that the District not release the student's name, address or phone number to recruiters from the military or institutions of higher learning.

Access to Students

The Ledyard High School administration shall provide military recruiters the same access to students as is provided to recruiters from institutions of higher education or other non-military organizations.

Ledyard Public Schools shall also provide access in accordance with state statute, for the recruitment of students by regional vocational technical schools, inter-district magnet schools, charter schools and inter-district student attendance programs, provided such recruitment is not for the purpose of interscholastic athletic competition.

Building Administrators shall make the determination of when recruitment meetings are to take place and have the right to postpone any scheduled recruitment meeting when the holding of such meeting will materially and substantially interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the school.

Right to Appeal

Any person or organization denied access to students or student information contrary to the requirements of this policy shall have the right to request a review of such decision by the Superintendent and, if necessary, may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board.

PARKING

Parking for Seniors

Student parking on school grounds is a privilege extended to seniors and a limited number of juniors by the school administration. Students who park on LHS property do so at their own risk. The Ledyard Board of Education assumes no responsibility for damage to or theft from any vehicle parked or driven on LHS property. Additionally, when a student parks a vehicle on LHS property, he or she agrees to allow the administration to search the vehicle for materials that may violate published Board of Education policies.

All students who park on LHS property during the school day must acquire a parking permit, the fee for which is \$25, and affix it to the rearview mirror of the vehicle in a manner which makes it readily visible. Students must mark in spaces marked with a yellow square.

Parking privileges may be revoked at any time by school administration for violations including but not limited to: student misconduct, lack of attention to safety in the parking lot, disregard of student parking regulations, excessive tardiness to school, leaving school grounds without proper dismissal, or any other violation of CT or Ledyard Motor Vehicle Laws and ordinances.

Students are not allowed to park in white numbered spaces and are not allowed to go to their vehicles during the school day without a pass from APO.

Parking Procedures

The Town of Ledyard Parking Ordinance at LHS states the following:

- At no time will parking be allowed along school driveways.
- At no time will parking be allowed on front, side or rear unpaved areas.
- At no time will parking be allowed at designated no parking areas.
- While school is in session (7:00 am until 2:30 pm), only visitors are allowed to park in the front visitor parking area.
- While school is in session (7:00 am until 2:30 pm), only staff members in possession of a staff parking permit are allowed to park in the front, white lined and numbered staff parking area.
- While school is in session (7:00 am until 2:30 pm), only students in possession of the current year's parking permit will be allowed to park in the yellow lined and numbered student parking area (lower lot).

Whenever any motor vehicle is found to be parked in violation of this ordinance, the motor vehicle may be removed (towed) at the owner's expense and/or a State of Connecticut Complaint Ticket (a parking ticket) shall be issued by the Town of Ledyard or State of Connecticut Police.

Parking Permits

To be issued a parking permit, a student must show a valid driver's license and vehicle registration and agree to follow all parking rules and regulations stated above. Students must have their permits on their vehicle (and visible) by September 26, 2022. Any student found parking in the parking lot without a current permit or in a non-assigned parking area after September 26, will be subject to the penalties outlined above. The administration reserves the right to revoke student parking privileges at any time.

Parking for Juniors

Because there are a limited number of parking spaces for students, the procedure for issuing student parking passes is as follows:

1. Seniors will be given first priority and be issued a permit on a first-come, first-serve basis.
2. Juniors may fill out the paperwork for a permit and turn it in any time **after** September 15. After all the senior requests are filled, the remaining spaces will be available to juniors on a first-come, first-

serve basis. If the number of parking requests for juniors exceeds the number of spaces available, spaces will be assigned to those who have had their driver's license the longest until the spaces have been filled. If we do not issue all the students parking permits through this process, the remaining permits will be issued to seniors and juniors on a first-come first serve-basis (seniors first) until all permits are issued. There are 165 student parking spaces.

3. A \$25 administrative fee will be required in order to obtain a parking permit.

PASSES

No student is to be in the hallway at any time during class periods or lunch unless s/he has been issued a pass from a staff member.

PHONES

Students may use the Main Office phone for local calls only. Please see pages 24-25 of this handbook for details regarding cell phone use in the "Electronic Equipment" section.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All Students in grades 9-10 must be enrolled in Physical Education classes unless excused by a medical professional.

Students will be required to change into other clothes for gym. Students are to provide their own athletic apparel, sneakers, and are encouraged to bring toiletries and fresh towels to school for their personal use.

Students excused from Physical Education class for any reason are to remain in the gym area.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Board of Education policy and Connecticut state law require that all students must have physical examinations at their family's expense as follows:

1. During the freshman or sophomore year - State statute requires this physical in order to enroll for the junior year. The school is required to exclude any student who has not met this requirement by the start of the junior year.
2. For athletes - One physical annually with interim reports prior to each season in which the student wishes to participate in a sport.

Information regarding physicals, immunizations, and other health requirements will be sent to parents as needed. Parents and students

are urged to fully comply in order to remain either in school or in athletic competition.

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch may request physical exams and other health services from the town's health officer. Arrangements may be made with the school nurse.

POSTERS

Informational posters sponsored by Ledyard High School groups/clubs or other organizations or that are directly related to the activities of students at Ledyard High School may be, with approval from the APO, posted within the school. All posters must be mounted on bulletin boards in the stairwells, cafeteria and main hallway. Posters that are not sponsored by Ledyard High School based groups may be, with administrative approval, posted in the main office area.

PROMOTION

A student must have earned the following credits by the last Friday of the summer vacation of each year in order to be promoted to the next class:

Grade 9	6
Grade 10	12
Grade 11	18

If a student has been retained due to lack of credits, that student will be shifted back to the proper cohort upon completion of the required number of credits.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

In most instances, students will not be permitted to change their schedule after the Add/Drop period which extends through the first seven school days of each semester. Changes made after Add/Drop will result in the student's earning a grade of W/P or W/F for the course on his or her transcript.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION, DELAY, OR DISMISSAL

The Superintendent of Schools makes all decisions regarding cancellations, delayed openings, or early dismissals due to weather or other emergency situations. In the event that such a decision is made, the information will be communicated on local radio and television stations, on the district and schools websites, on social media, and via School Messenger.

IF PARENTS ARE CONCERNED THAT THEY DON'T HEAR OR SEE LEDYARD SCHOOLS MENTIONED, PLEASE CHECK MORE THAN ONE STATION AND VISIT THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.

DELAYED OPENINGS: Should there be a need to delay the opening of school, Ledyard Public Schools will open **two hours later.**

- For Ledyard residents in Grades 9-12, transportation would arrive approximately 2 hours later than usual.
- Out-of-town students should follow transportation schedule from their home district.

SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The school district recognizes the value of certain ceremonies and observances in promoting good citizenship among the students. Therefore, activities in schools commemorating national holidays are encouraged. Ledyard reminds students, faculty and administration of the variety of religious beliefs held by students and their families, and all are urged to be conscious of and respect the sensitivities of others.

Activities related to a religious holiday or theme will be planned to ensure that the activity is not devotional, and that students of all faiths can join without feeling that they are betraying their own beliefs. Therefore,

1. school and class plays shall not be overly religious, and church-like scenery will be avoided;
2. religious music shall not entirely dominate the selection of music; and
3. program notes and illustrations shall not be religious or sectarian.

Students shall be given the option to be excused from participating in those parts of a program or curriculum involving a religious theme which conflicts with their own religious beliefs. If a parent or student has any questions regarding the use of religious music, artwork and/or symbols in a particular course/activity, the Building Principal should be contacted.

An opportunity will be provided, at the beginning of each school day, for students to observe an appropriate period of silent meditation and to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Participation in these activities is voluntary. Nonparticipants are expected to maintain order and decorum appropriate to the school environment.

SCHOOL COUNSELING & GUIDANCE SERVICES

Ledyard High School has a school counseling and guidance staff of five counselors, all of whom are prepared to assist students in academic, career, and personal matters.

Parents and students are encouraged to contact the assigned counselor for assistance and information. The school counseling and guidance office is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. during the school year. The Director of School Counseling & Guidance is often available from 7:30 until 3:30 p.m. during the summer.

School counseling and guidance services include personal counseling, career information, college and other post-high school education planning. Students and parents are welcome to use the services of the school counselor for information regarding course selections, jobs and careers, college admissions, financial aid, College Board and other standardized testing programs, academic progress, study skills, effective communication, and other areas necessary for achieving developmental success for high school students.

The school counseling and guidance office has resources to assist in preparing for and registering for the SAT, SAT II: Subject Tests, and ACT. Application forms for financial aid, colleges, and scholarships are also available in the school counseling and guidance office.

Clear communication between parents, students and school is vital. The school counseling and guidance department provides a crucial link between school and home. Parents are invited to make appointments with teachers and/or counselors by calling the school counseling and guidance office. Students are urged to contact their counselor during supervised study, before or after school, or lunch. *NOTE: Students must have a pass from the School Counseling Guidance Office in order to see a Counselor during lunch.*

Small groups, facilitated by professional staff, are available to students to provide support information and communication skills.

The Career Center

The Career Center works in conjunction with the School Counseling & Guidance Department to provide all students with career exploration, planning, and preparation opportunities. Students are able to explore their career interests through the use of interest inventories, career nights, and various research tools. After developing a career pathway, students may participate in a variety of work-based activities such as workplace tours, job shadowing, and internships. The Career Center also provides assistance with preliminary post-secondary education searches, and job search skills.

The Career Center is open on all school days and by appointment after school hours.

SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins at the time a student boards the bus in the morning and ends at the time the student leaves the bus in the evening. A bell schedule for the academic day will be found inside the front cover of this book. Students are responsible for their actions during the entire school day, inclusive of bus rides to and from school.

SECURITY CAMERAS

Security cameras have been installed throughout the building and are in use twenty-four hours a day. Any attempt to tamper with or destroy video cameras/covers will result in disciplinary consequences.

SENIOR (AND JUNIOR) LOUNGE

Seniors who are not scheduled for a class will be scheduled for Senior Lounge (cafeteria) in lieu of a study hall. As a privilege for seniors - if they have Senior Lounge first block, they may arrive to school late but in time to attend second block*. In addition, if they have scheduled Senior Lounge last block of the day – they may leave school right after their 3rd period class ends*. Seniors intending to leave after 3rd period must do so within the first five minutes of Block 4 by signing out in the APO, or they must report to Senior Lounge. Once a senior leaves at the beginning of Block 4, they cannot return until after the end of the school day.

Seniors may use mp3 players with headphones in Senior Lounge.

** Parent/Guardian Permission Form is Required (see A.P.O. for form).*

SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Ledyard Board of Education is committed to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of students and employees alike. It is the policy of the Ledyard Board of Education that no student, staff member, or member of the public is permitted to smoke, vape, inhale, dip, or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours on school property. Please see BOE Policy # 5131.6 for more information.

In addition, no student is permitted to possess a tobacco or nicotine products under any of the situations delineated above.

No student may leave the school campus during breaks in the school day to use a tobacco product.

Tobacco Prevention:

Any person found smoking in the school building or on a school bus will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Tobacco advertising is prohibited in all school-sponsored publications and at all school-sponsored events.

STUDENT CONGRESS

Student Congress shall serve as a liaison between the student body and the administration. Additionally, members of the Student Congress will promote unity and work to generate school spirit through the organization and promotion of Spirit Week, Homecoming, and Red Cross blood drives. The Student Congress meets regularly during Activity Period.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

Students should carry their Student ID Cards while attending school and at school functions. Students who lose their ID cards can purchase a replacement ID for five dollars in the main office.

STUDENT CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

Ledyard High School offers a wide variety of student organizations. The majority of these organizations meet during the school day during the monthly Activity Period. Students are encouraged to become involved with these organizations. A complete listing of organizations meeting during activity period is available from the students' advisory teacher. Other organizations may meet at different times. These times are announced on the daily announcements or may be determined by contacting the organizations' advisor.

Student organizations are considered **Extracurricular Activities** if the organization meets outside of school hours on a regular basis.

No student or group of students may use school facilities without the express consent of the administration. It is mandatory that all student functions, whether they take place during or after school hours, must be properly supervised by a faculty member. Therefore, any student group wishing to meet must first request the permission of the advisor in charge of their activity.

TEACHER AND PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Parents have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). The response will indicate whether the teacher is certified for the subject matter and grade taught and will include the teacher's undergraduate major and any graduate degrees or certifications a teacher may have. Similar information regarding paraprofessionals may be requested.

TRESPASSING

Students are not to be on school property except during school hours and when attending school or community-sponsored activities. Students found in the building or on school property at other times will be considered trespassers and be subject to arrest.

TRUANCY

Connecticut State law defines a "truant" as a child age five to eighteen years, inclusive, who is enrolled in Ledyard Public Schools and has four (4) unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten (10) unexcused absences from school in any school year. Studies have shown that students who are truant are in danger of having significant difficulty in making the same academic progress as their peers who regularly attend school.

Within ten (10) school days after a student's fourth (4th) unexcused absence in a month or tenth (10th) unexcused absence in a school year, the school administration shall hold a meeting with the parent/guardian of the student who has become truant, or with such other person having control of the truant student, to review and evaluate the reasons for the child being truant.

If the truant student's parent/guardian, or other person having control of the truant student, fails to attend the above required meeting or if such parent/guardian or other person otherwise fails to cooperate with the school administration in attempting to solve the truancy problem, the Superintendent shall file a written complaint with the Superior Court pursuant to section 46b-149 of the Connecticut General Statutes alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that the child's family is a family with service needs. This written complaint shall be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days after the truant student's parents/guardians or other person having control of the child fails to attend the required meeting or fails to cooperate with the school administration in attempting to solve the truancy problem.

WEAPONS

Possessing weapons and other dangerous instruments is prohibited on school grounds or other areas under the control of the Board of Education. By board policy, students possessing such devices will be suspended and may be expelled.

APPENDIX

LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Ledyard Public Schools District and High School Safe School Climate Plan

Absences and Truancy BOE Policy 5133 (a)

The Ledyard Board of Education believes that regular attendance at school is critical to students being able to master the necessary skills for academic success in Ledyard Public Schools. Missing an excessive number of school days, regardless of the reason, can place a child at risk of falling behind his or her peers academically. The goal of this policy is to identify those students at risk based on their absenteeism and implement appropriate levels of intervention.

Connecticut state law requires parents to cause their children, ages five through eighteen inclusive, to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. Parents or persons having control of a child five years of age have the option of not sending the child to school until ages six or seven. Mandatory attendance terminates upon graduation or withdrawal with written parent/guardian consent at age seventeen.

Connecticut State Board of Education policy states that, "A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., a field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent." According to this policy, a student who is not "in attendance" is considered absent.

In order to identify those students who are chronically absent and at risk of becoming truant and to provide clear guidance to school districts for complying with truancy laws and reporting student truancy statistics, the State Board of Education has adopted the following definitions and guidance regarding student absences:

Chronically absent child - An enrolled student whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than ten percent of the total number of days that such student has been enrolled at such school during such school year.

Absence - An excused absence, unexcused absence or disciplinary absence, as those terms are defined by the State Board of Education pursuant to C.G.S. 10-198b.

Disciplinary Absences – Absences that are the result of school or District-level disciplinary action (e.g., out-of-school suspension and expulsion) are excluded from State-level accounting and will not be counted against the student for the purposes of this policy.

Excused Absences – A student's absence from school shall be considered excused if written documentation of the reason for the absence has been submitted within ten **(10)** school days of the student's return to school, or the absence is in accordance with section 10-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes (exclusion for medical reasons), and student's absence meets the following criteria:

A. For absences one through nine (1-9), a student's absences from school are considered excused when the student's parent/guardian approves such absence, regardless of the reason, and submits appropriate documentation to school officials. Such documentation includes a signed note from the student's parent/guardian, a signed note from a school official that spoke in person with the parent/guardian regarding the absence, or a note confirming the absence by the school nurse or by a licensed medical professional, as appropriate. Documentation should explain the nature of and the reason for the absence as well as the length of the absence. Separate documentation must be submitted for each incidence of absenteeism.

B. For the tenth and subsequent absences, a student's absences are considered excused for the following reasons:

1. Student illness (Note: all student illness absences must be verified by an appropriately licensed medical professional for the absence to be excused, regardless of the length of the absence);
2. Student's observance of a religious holiday;
3. Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
4. Mandated court appearances (additional documentation required);
5. The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a school district other than Ledyard (no parental documentation is required for this reason); and
6. Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by the Principal or his/her designee, per the guidance in this policy.

Unexcused Absences – A student's absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless it meets the definition of an excused absence (including the documentation requirements) or the absence meets the definition of a **disciplinary absence**.

When the school in which a child is enrolled receives no notification from a parent or other person having control of the child, a reasonable effort shall be made by school personnel or volunteers under the direction of school personnel to notify by telephone and by mail such parent or other person having control of the child. Use of automated calling systems are permitted.

Responsibility for completion of missed class work lies with the student, not the teacher. Unless a student has an extended illness, all make-up work will be complete within five days after the student returns to school.

Note that the State Board of Education's policy only considers a student absent when s/he misses half or more of the normal school day. A student missing less than half the school day will be considered tardy; student tardiness shall be dealt with at the school building level. Additionally, while the state looks at student absences on a daily basis, Ledyard Middle School and Ledyard High School shall also track absences for each class and take the appropriate actions as outlined in this policy.

Documentation of Student Absences

The State Board of Education requires careful and thorough documentation of all student absences. Parent and guardian notes and other documentation are central to determining whether a student's absence is excused or unexcused. While a written note from a parent or guardian will likely be the most common form of documentation, other methods of reporting a student's absence are acceptable, such as a parent/guardian making a report in person to the designated school staff member, through an online system with controlled access, phone or via video chat. **Email and texting do not meet the State's security requirements; however, email may be used to deliver a scanned image of a note.**

School staff must be certain that the student's parent/guardian was the one providing the information regarding the student's absence in order for it to be excused should the absence meet all the applicable criteria specified herein.

School staff must receive or generate documentation for each instance of absence, which is one or more consecutive school days absent. Schools should only accept notes covering a series of absences for non-consecutive school days if the absences share a common cause.

For the tenth and subsequent absences, including both excused and unexcused, additional documentation (besides the note from the student's parent/guardian) is required in order for absences resulting from illness or mandated court appearances to be excused:

A. Students missing school for mandated court appearances must provide additional documentation such as a police summons, a subpoena, a notice to appear, or a signed note from a court official.

B. For absences resulting from illness, students must either provide a signed note from a medical professional who has evaluated the student confirming the absence and giving an expected return date or have the school nurse verify the student's absence with the medical professional treating the student. Families who lack health insurance and/or those with limited means may find it challenging to meet this requirement to obtain a note from a licensed medical professional. In these cases, school nurses can evaluate the ill student, either in person or over the telephone, and, where appropriate, provide the required documentation for an excused absence.

For parents/guardians who are not proficient in reading or writing English, the schools shall make efforts to help these parents report their child's absences, including accepting notes in languages other than English. For parents who are not proficient in writing in any language, schools should verbally inform them of the attendance requirements and that they may report a student's absence in person at the school or by phone.

Absences for Emergency Situations

For the purposes of the definition of excused absences, emergencies are generally significant events that are outside of the control of the student's family. They are normally short absences consisting of a few days at most. The only required documentation is a parental note clearly explaining the emergency situation that resulted in the student's absence. Examples of emergencies include, but are not limited to: Family member who is very ill and close to dying;

- Family member who is very ill and close to dying;
- Student's home is lost to fire or eviction;
- Family's home being quarantined;
- Natural disaster;
- A student who is a parent and whose child needs to go to the hospital

Absences for Extraordinary Educational Opportunities

From time to time, students may be presented with an exceptional opportunity for an experience of an educational nature. While these events may not be part of the student's normal schoolwork, they can provide an excellent chance to further their education. Students and their parents/guardians must understand that approval as an excused absence is made on a case-by-case basis, in consideration of a number of factors, and that opportunities approved for one student may not be approved for another. Under the specific criteria outlined herein, the days devoted to these opportunities can count as excused absences: The opportunity must be educational in nature and have a learning objective related to the student's coursework or plan of study;

- The opportunity must be educational in nature and have a learning objective related to the student's specific coursework or plan of study;
- It must be an opportunity not ordinarily available to the student;
- It must be grade and developmentally appropriate; and
- The content of the experience must be highly relevant to the student.

It is important that the school administration, the student, and the student's family all have a common understanding of the extraordinary educational opportunity that is being requested and approved. To that end, building-specific procedures implementing this policy shall include the following:

- Submitted in writing prior to the event, bear the signature of the student and his/her parent or guardian, describe the learning objective of the opportunity, and detail how the objective is linked to the student's coursework or plan of study; include additional documentation as appropriate to support a full understanding of the opportunity.

- Detail any requirements placed upon the student as a condition of approval, include the specific days approved for the opportunity, and include the caveat that the school administration may withdraw its approval if the opportunity is canceled or the student fails to meet the mutually-agreed-upon requirements of the approval.

Within ten (10) days after the end of the approved period for the extraordinary educational opportunity, the student must submit all required documentation as specified during the approval process, or the time away from school will be considered an unexcused absence.

Students from Military Families

An enrolled student, age five to eighteen, inclusive, whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted ten days of excused absences in any school year and, at the discretion of the Board of Education, additional excused absences to visit such child's parent or legal guardian with respect to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian.

In the case of such excused absences such child and parent or legal guardian shall be responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's teacher prior to any period of excused absence, and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by such child prior to his or her return to school from such period of excused absence.

Truancy

Connecticut State law defines a "truant" as a child age five to eighteen years, inclusive, who is enrolled in Ledyard Public Schools and has four (4) unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten (10) unexcused absences from school in any school year. Studies have shown that students who are truant are in danger of having significant difficulty in making the same academic progress as their peers who regularly attend school.

Within ten (10) school days after a student's fourth (4th) unexcused absence in a month or tenth (10th) unexcused absence in a school year, the school administration shall hold a meeting with the parent/guardian of the student who has become truant, or with such other

person having control of the truant student, to review and evaluate the reasons for the child being truant.

If such parent/guardian or other person otherwise fails to cooperate with the school administration in attempting to solve the absence problem, the school administrator may file a case with the Department of Children and Families.

Investigating Student Absences

The Superintendent is authorized by the Board to designate one or more District employees to serve as an attendance officer for the purpose of investigating student absences. The role of an attendance officer is to gather/verify information so that school personnel may better understand the factors contributing to the student's absenteeism. This may include a visit to the student's residence.

When a Principal believes that a student's absences, excused or not, are having a negative impact on the student's academic performance and that more information is needed regarding the factors behind the student's absenteeism, the Principal shall recommend to the Superintendent that an attendance officer be assigned to further investigate the situation. Only the Superintendent, or her/his designee, may authorize the use of an attendance officer in Ledyard Public Schools.

Implementation

The Superintendent is responsible for the development of District-wide and building-specific procedures to implement the requirements of this policy. All elementary schools shall use a common procedure regarding student tardiness, absenteeism and truancy. These procedures shall provide for:

- the clear expectation among students and their parents/guardians regarding the need for regular, consistent attendance at school;
- a uniform understanding among staff, students and their parents/guardians of the requirements for excused absences;
- the potential of consequences for unexcused absences; and
- the possibility that a student may be required to receive remedial assistance even when all absences are excused but potentially have negatively impacted their education.

The Board requires that District and building-level procedures developed to implement this policy contain the following specific elements:

1. Annually at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment during the school year, the school administration shall inform students and their parents/guardians of the school attendance requirements, the building-specific procedures regarding absenteeism, and obtain a phone number or other means of contacting the parents/guardians during the school day. This and all subsequent notifications regarding student absenteeism shall be made in such a manner as to be easily understood by both students and their parents/guardians (for example, using an alternative language when the primary language in the home is not English).
2. Each school shall monitor individual student absences; additionally, Ledyard Middle School and Ledyard High School will track student absences for each class.
3. Whenever a child enrolled in grades kindergarten to eight fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and no indication has been received by school personnel that the child's parent or other person having control of the child is aware of the pupil's absence, school personnel shall make a reasonable effort to contact the student's parents/guardians by telephone in regard to the student's absence. If school personnel are unable to reach the student's parents/guardians via telephone, then a letter will be sent to the student's home address requiring the parents/guardians to contact the school. The letter shall include a warning that four (4) unexcused absences from school in a month or ten (10) unexcused absences in a school year may result in a complaint filed with the Department of Children and Families.
4. The District and each school shall have procedures for coordinating services with and making referrals to community agencies providing child and family services. These organizations should be used to address, where appropriate, the student's personal or family issues that may be affecting his or her ability to attend school on a regular basis.
5. Student tardiness and unexcused absences shall be used as factors in determining eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities.

6. Include a tiered series of interventions designed to recognize the factors uniquely affecting a student's attendance and put in place various support actions that can have a positive effect on both their future attendance and academic performance.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents (as amended by PA 98-243, PA 00-157 and PA 18-15)

10-185 Penalty 10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by P.A.11-136, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes and PA 14-198, An Act Concerning Excused Absences from School for Children of Service Members, and PA 16-147, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee)

10-198b State Board of Education to define "excused absence," "unexcused absence," and "disciplinary absence" 10-198d Chronic absenteeism (as amended by PA 17-14 and PA 18-182)

45a-8c Truancy clinic. Administration. Policies and procedures. Report. (as amended by PA 15-25)

10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy - in general
Action taken by State Board of Education on January 2, 2008, to define "attendance."

Action taken by State Board of Education on June 27, 2012, to define "excused" and "unexcused" absences.

PA 17-14 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Education

State Board of Education "*Guidelines for Excused and Unexcused Absences*" dated May 15, 2013

Policy adopted: November 20, 2013

Revised: November 6, 2019

Ledyard Public Schools Safe School Climate Plan Background Information:

As part of Policy 5131.92, the Assistant Superintendent is designated as the Safe School Climate Coordinator. In August 2011 each school principal is designated the Safe School Climate Specialist of their respective school. The responsibility of the Safe School Climate Specialist includes:

- Investigating acts of bullying as established in the School Climate Plan;
- Collect and maintain records of reports and investigations;

- Act as the school official responsible for preventing bullying in the school;
- Complete the biennial Safe School Climate assessment created and distributed by the CSDE beginning in July 2012. The data will be collected by the CSDE and the Safe School Climate Coordinator.

The entire Ledyard Public Schools Safe School Climate Plan is available in the high school main office, on the high school website (www.ledyard.net/lhs), and at the Ledyard Board of Education website (www.ledyard.net).

District Safe School Climate and Title IX Coordinator:

Mrs. Anne Hogsten, Assistant Superintendent

4 Blonder Boulevard, Ledyard, CT 06339, 860-464-9255

Reporting Acts of Bullying at Ledyard High School

Anyone (students, parents, other concerned parties) should report bullying directly to the principal or an assistant principal, but there are a number of options when choosing how to report. Reports may be oral, in the form of email, or through hard copy. Reporting anonymously is possible by mailing or placing a written report directly in the mailbox of the principal. It should be noted that anonymous reporting, while perfectly acceptable, may make the subsequent investigation a bit more difficult. Nonetheless, any form of reporting bullying is far better than choosing not to do so. Complainants will be assisted, as necessary, in submitting the district bullying reporting form.

Board of Education Policy #5131.92 (Bullying)

Bullying

The Ledyard Board of Education promotes a secure and happy school climate that is conducive to teaching and learning and is free from threat, harassment, teen dating violence, and any type of bullying behavior.

Therefore it shall be the policy of the Board that bullying of a student by another student is prohibited. The Board believes that a school environment in which students feel safe, supported, engaged and helpfully challenged is optimal for learning and healthy development. The Board seeks an environment in which students and adults feel

socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically safe; an environment that is free of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

Bullying Definitions

“Bullying” means an act that is direct or indirect and severe, persistent or pervasive which:

- A. Causes physical or emotional harm to the student or damage to the student’s property;
- B. Places an individual in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm, or
- C. Infringes on the rights and opportunities of an individual at school.

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics.

The student against whom the activity is directed must be attending school in the same district as the students engaged in the activity.

“Cyberbullying” means any act of bullying through use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

“Teen dating violence” means any act of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, that occurs between two students who are currently in or who have recently been in a dating relationship.

“Mobile electronic device” means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication between two or more individuals, including, but not limit to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital video disk, or equipment on which digital images are taken or transmitted.

“Electronic communication” means any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic or photo-optical system.

“Hostile environment” means a situation in which bullying among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the school climate.

“School climate/culture” means the quality and character of school life with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the school community between and among students and adults. It reflects norms, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices, and organizational structures.

“Positive school climate” means (A) a school climate in which the norms, values, expectations and beliefs that support feelings of social, emotional and physical safety are promoted, (B) students, parents and guardians of students and school employees feel engaged and respected and work together to develop and contribute to a shared school vision, (C) educators model and nurture attitudes that emphasize the benefits and satisfaction gained from learning, and (D) each person feels comfortable contributing to the operation of the school and care of the physical environment of the school.

“Emotional intelligence” means the ability to (A) perceive, recognize and understand emotions in oneself or others, (B) use emotions to facilitate cognitive activities, including, but not limited to, reasoning, problem solving and interpersonal communication, (C) understand and identify emotions, and (D) manage emotions in oneself and others.

“Social and emotional learning” means the process through which children and adults achieve emotional intelligence through the competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

“Outside of the school setting” means at a location, activity or program that is not school-related, or through the use of an electronic device or a mobile electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by Ledyard Public Schools.

“School employee” means: (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, the Superintendent, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach

employed by or working in Ledyard Public Schools; or (2) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students in Ledyard Public Schools pursuant to a contract with the Board.

Bullying Prohibited

Bullying of any form will not be tolerated in Ledyard Public Schools. The Board prohibits bullying:

- On school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by Ledyard Public Schools, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by Ledyard Public Schools; and
- Outside the school setting if such bullying: (1) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed; (2) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school; or (3) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Disciplinary Actions

Students who engage in any verified act of bullying that falls under the scope of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to the Ledyard Police. If the student who engaged in the bullying is a student with a disability, the student's PPT will review his or her IEP and determine if the student needs additional support or services in order to address the inappropriate behavior. Additionally, any acts of cyberbullying that involve school computers or other technology may result in the loss of privileges to use such school equipment.

Safe School Climate Plan

The Board believes that a comprehensive program involving both staff and students of Ledyard Public Schools is essential to reducing incidents of bullying. To this end, the Board directs the Superintendent to promulgate such administrative rules and procedures as is necessary to implement the following Safe School Climate Plan elements in each school:

1. Enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees and require that students and their parents/guardians be notified at the beginning of each school year of the process by which students may make such reports.
2. Enable the parents/guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying.
3. Require school employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to orally notify the Safe School Climate Specialist, or another school administrator if the Safe School Climate Specialist is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee witnesses or receives a report of bullying and to file a written report not later than two school days after making the oral report.
4. Require the Safe School Climate Specialist to investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports made regarding bullying. Require that the Safe School Climate Specialist give prompt notice that the investigation has commenced to the parents or guardians of the student alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying and to the parents or guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were directed.
5. Require the Safe School Climate Specialist to review any anonymous reports of bullying, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.
6. Include a prevention and intervention strategy, as outlined later in this policy, for school employees to deal with bullying.
7. Require each school to include language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying.
8. Require each school to notify the parents/guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents/guardians of students against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation. The parents will receive the results of the investigation both verbally and by electronic mail, and parents/guardians shall be referred to the "plain language" explanation of the rights and remedies posted on the district's website.
9. Require each school to invite the parents or guardians of the student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed and the policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying. These invitations shall include a description of the response of school employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of bullying.
10. Require each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified act of bullying to a meeting, separated and distinct from the meeting described in step 9, above, to discuss specific

interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of bullying.

11. Require each school to document and maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in the school, maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in the school, make such list available for public inspection, and annually report that number to the Department of Education in such manner as is prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

12. Direct the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetuated bullying incidents by the same individual. Such interventions may include both counseling and discipline.

13. Prohibit discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying.

14. Direct the development of student safety support plans for students against whom an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying.

15. Require the school Principal, or his/her designee, to notify Ledyard Police when the Principal, or his/her designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct.

16. Require that, at the beginning of each school year, each school provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the District's Safe School Climate Plan.

17. Require that all school employees annually complete training on (1) the prevention of and response to youth suicide, and (2) the identification and prevention of and response to bullying. This training should specifically cover District-wide and school-specific procedures regarding these topics. Additionally, all school employees shall complete the annual training provided by the Department of Education on these topics.

Prevention and Intervention Strategy

Each school shall implement prevention and intervention strategy for school employees to deal with bullying and teen dating violence that may include, but is not limited to:

1. Implementation of a positive behavioral intervention and support process or another evidence-based model approach for a safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying and teen dating violence identified by the Department of Education.
2. School rules prohibiting bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts.

3. Adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other specific areas where bullying or teen dating violence is likely to occur.
4. Inclusion of grade-appropriate bullying and teen dating violence education and prevention curricula in kindergarten through high school.
5. Individual interventions with the student(s) presenting bullying behaviors, his/her parents/guardians and school employees, and interventions with the bullied child, his/her parents/guardians and school staff. (If the student who engaged in the bullying is a student with a disability, the student's PPT will review his or her IEP and make adjustments if needed.)
6. School-wide training related to safe school climate.
7. Student peer training, education and support.
8. Promotion of parent/guardian involvement in bullying prevention through individual or team participation in meetings, training and individual interventions.
9. Culturally competent school-based curriculum focusing on social-emotional learning, self-awareness and self-regulation. Funding for the school-based bullying intervention and school climate improvement strategy may originate from public, private, federal, or philanthropic sources. For the purposes of this policy, "interventions with the bullied child," includes referrals to a school counselor, psychologist, or other appropriate social or mental health service, and periodic follow-up by the safe school climate specialist with the bullied child.

District Safe School Climate Coordinator

The Board appoints the Assistant Superintendent as the District Safe School Climate Coordinator who shall:

- Be responsible for implementing the District's Safe School Climate Plan;
- Collaborate with the Safe School Climate Specialists from each school, the Board and the Superintendent to prevent, identify and respond to bullying and teen dating violence in Ledyard Public Schools;
- Provide data and information, in collaboration with the Superintendent, to the Department of Education regarding bullying and teen dating violence; and
- Meet with the Safe School Climate Specialists at least twice during the school year to discuss issues relating to bullying and teen

- dating violence in the District and to make recommendations concerning amendments to the District's Safe School Climate Plan.
- Successfully complete the mental health first aid training provided by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services. (Such training is only required once.)

Safe School Climate Specialists

The Principal of each school, or his/her designee as approved by the Superintendent, shall serve as the Safe School Climate Specialist and shall:

- Investigate or supervise the investigation of reported acts of bullying in the school in accordance with the District's Safe School Climate Plan;
- Collect and maintain records of reports and investigations of bullying in the school; and
- Act as the primary school official responsible for preventing, identifying and responding to reports of bullying in the school.

School Climate Assessments

Yearly each school shall complete an assessment using the school climate assessment instruments, including surveys, approved and disseminated by the Department of Education. The District Safe School Climate Coordinator shall collect the safe school climate assessments for each school, report the results to the Board, and submit them in the manner specified to the Department of Education.

Safe School Climate Committee

The Principal of each school shall establish a committee, or designate at least one existing committee, in the school to be responsible for developing and fostering a safe school climate and addressing issues relating to bullying in the schools. The Principal shall appoint at least one parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school to serve on the committee.

Each school's Safe School Climate Committee shall:

1. Receive copies of completed reports following investigations of bullying;
2. Identify and address patterns of bullying among students in the school;

3. Implement the provisions of the school security and safety plan regarding the collection, evaluation and reporting of information relating to instances of bullying or teen dating violence;
4. Review and amend school policies relating to bullying
5. Review and make recommendations to the District Safe School Climate Coordinator regarding the District's Safe School Climate Plan based on issues and experiences specific to the school;
6. Educate students, school employees and parents/guardians of students on issues relating to bullying;
7. Collaborate with the District Safe School Climate Coordinator in the collection of school data regarding bullying; and
8. Perform any other duties as determined by the school Principal that are related to the prevention, identification and response to school bullying for the school.

Any parent or guardian serving as a member of a Safe School Climate Committee shall not participate in the activities listed in items 1 and 3, above, or in any other activity that may compromise the confidentiality of a student.

Immunity when Acting in Good Faith

No claim for damages shall be made against a school employee who reports, investigates, and responds to bullying or teen dating violence in accordance with the provisions of the Safe School Climate Plan if the employee was acting in good faith in the discharge of his or her duties or within the scope of his or her employment.

No claim for damages shall be made against a student, parent or guardian of a student, or any other individual who reports an act of bullying or teen dating violence to a school employee in accordance with the provisions of the Safe School Climate Plan if such individual was acting in good faith.

The immunity provided by the Connecticut General Statutes does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, reckless, willful or wanton misconduct.

Policy Notification Requirements

This policy, the applicable attendant rules and procedures, and the Board-approved Safe School Climate Plan shall be posted on the

Internet websites for the District and each school and shall be included in any school or District publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and in all student and staff handbooks.

The Superintendent shall develop rules and procedures, which carry out the provisions of this policy. In designing administrative regulations, the Superintendent should consult with the greater school community, including students. In addition, the Superintendent shall provide that students and parents of students are notified of this prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by ensuring the posting of such information at each school and by ensuring inclusion of such information in student and parent handbooks. This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit a reasonable and civil exchange of opinions, or debate that is protected by state or federal law.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-15b Access of parent or guardian to student's records. Inspection and subpoena of school or student records.

10-222d Policy on bullying behavior as amended by PA 08-160, PA 11-232, PA 14-172 and PA 18-15 PA

06-115 An Act Concerning Bullying Policies in Schools and Notices Sent to Parents or Legal Guardians.

PA 11-232 An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws.

PA 14-172 An Act Concerning Improving Employment Opportunities through Education and Ensuring Safe School Climates.

AP 14-235 An Act Concerning Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

PA 19-166 An Act Concerning School Climate

Connecticut General Statutes:

10-220a – In-service training.

10-222d – Policy on bullying behavior.

10-222g – Prevention and intervention strategy re bullying.

10-222h – Analysis of bullying policies.

Public Act 11-232 – An Act Concerning Strengthening of School Bullying Laws

Public Act 14-172 – An Act Concerning Improving Employment Opportunities through Education and Ensuring Safe School Climates

Public Act 14-234 – An Act Concerning Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Policy

LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Revised: August 17, 2011

Policy Revised: April 22, 2015

Policy Revised: July 14, 2021

Sample School Response Form for Acts of Bullying

To report bullying, the student will leave a note in the "Office Suggestion Box" (Located in APO) outlining the following information:

Name of person bullying_____

Date and Time _____

Location of bullying behavior_____

Specific behavior of bully_____

Name of person reporting bullying (optional)_____

Information submitted on this form will be reviewed by Administration.

Once bullying is reported to the building principal, the principal/designee will follow the following guidelines/practices:

- Consult with staff to get a broader perspective of the problem.
- Inform school staff to intervene immediately and/or alert them to the problem.
- Speak to the alleged bully and the victim separately.
- When speaking to the alleged bully:
 - Refer to the school policy/code.
 - Inform the alleged bully why his/her alleged behavior is unacceptable.
 - Consequences which could be imposed.
 - Expected behavior.
- Reassure victim:
 - That all possible steps will be taken to deter behavior from reoccurring.
 - Monitor intervention to ensure safety.
- The principal will notify the parent/guardian of a student(s) who commit verified acts of bullying and will discuss the consequences of those actions and of future actions should the behavior continue.
- Consequence(s): As part of the disciplinary and remedial action, the offender may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action which may include, but is not limited to one or a combination of the following: counseling, awareness training, warning, reprimand, reassignment, transfer, suspension, termination, or expulsion.

	<u>1st Referral</u>	<u>2nd Referral</u>	<u>3rd Referral</u>
Elementary	Up to 3 days parent conference Child Study Team Referral	Up to 4 days parent conference referral to Ledyard Youth Services	Up to 5 days parent conference referral to School Resource Officer
Middle School	Up to 5 days	Up to 10 days	10 days* (Expulsion Hearing)
High School	Up to 5 days	Up to 10 days	10 days* (Expulsion Hearing)

Regulation approved: June 20, 2001 LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Regulation revised: October 8, 2002 Ledyard, Connecticut
 By BOE Policy Cmt.
 Regulation Revised: Nov. 29, 2011
 by BOE Policy Cmt.

Ledyard Board of Education Policy (#5143)

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The Ledyard Board of Education believes that honesty and integrity are essential character traits that every student should develop and exhibit in becoming a responsible citizen. Therefore, the Board prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty within Ledyard Public Schools.

"Academic dishonesty" shall, in general, mean conduct that has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including, but not limited to:

- Cheating on an examination;
- Collaborating with others on an assignment to be presented as one's own work when such collaboration is contrary to the stated or written rules for that assignment;
- Plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed or otherwise obtained) as one's own;

- Stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials;
- Falsifying records of laboratory experiments or other data;
- Submitting, if contrary to the rules of the course or assignment, work previously presented in another course; and
- Knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the previously listed prohibitions, including assisting in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other academic activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Disciplinary Actions

At a minimum, a student will lose credit for an assignment/examination when it has been determined that the student intentionally violated this policy. Additional disciplinary actions may be taken up to and including suspension and expulsion based on such factors as, but not limited to, repeat violations of this policy and whether a student assisted others in violating this policy.

Policy Implementation

Each school Principal shall implement rules and procedures to carry out the requirements of this policy in a manner that is consistent and fair for all students.

The Board supports the use of automated processes, such as "Turnitin.com", to assist in dissuading students from intentionally committing plagiarism.

Teachers in all grade levels shall make their students aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty as delineated in this policy.

Directions for class assignments shall be clear as to whether or not group collaboration is allowed.

Notification

This policy in conjunction with the school procedures and rules regarding academic dishonesty shall be published annually in each school's student handbooks.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-221. Boards of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

Policy adopted: January 17, 1996

Complete revision: December 17, 2008

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY (#5145.5)

Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment

Sexual harassment or any other form of harassment based on protected class status (including, but not limited to race, sex, color, national origin, religion, or disability) will not be tolerated in the Ledyard School District. The Board of Education strictly forbids any form of harassment by students, personnel, individuals under contract, or volunteers subject to the control of the Board. Students who engage in harassment will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

DEFINITIONS Sexual Harassment

• Sexual harassment or any other form of harassment based on protected class status (including, but not limited to race, sex, color, national origin, religion, or disability) will not be tolerated in the Ledyard School District. The Board of Education strictly forbids any form of harassment by students, personnel, individuals under contract, or volunteers subject to the control of the Board. Students who engage in harassment will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion. Definitions Sexual Harassment Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the school's education program or activity. Instances of sexual harassment include quid pro quo, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- pressure for sexual activity
- repeated remarks with sexual or sexually demeaning implications
- unwelcomed or inappropriate touching
- suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning a student's grades or academic standing

All reports of sexual harassment will be handled in accordance with the Title IX Investigation Process outlined in the Regulation associated with Policies 4118.112/4218.112 Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment and 5145.5 Sexual Harassment (Students).

Other Forms of Harassment Based on Protected Class Status

For purposes of this policy, harassment of a student based on protected class status other than sexual harassment consists of verbal or physical conduct when the harassing conduct is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment; the harassing conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or the harassing conduct otherwise adversely affects an individual's work or academic performance.

Civil Rights Officer

Questions, complaints, and other matters concerning harassment will normally be handled by the Assistant Superintendent, who is designated as the District's Civil Rights Officer. The Civil Rights Officer is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state law and Board policy concerning sexual and other forms of harassment. In the alternative, such questions, complaints and other matters including but not limited to investigations may be referred directly to and handled by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Training

Each year, or more frequently if the Board deems it appropriate, students will receive training regarding sexual harassment and related matters. Such training may include a review of this regulation and procedures, discussion, films, or other activities.

Complaint Procedure

Students who believe they have been victims of sexual or other forms of harassment are encouraged to promptly report such claims. Complaints will be investigated and corrective action will be taken as appropriate. Confidentiality, both of the complainant and the accused (respondent), will be respected by all persons involved, consistent with the Board's legal obligations and the necessity to investigate the allegations. Reprisals or retaliation as a result of the reporting of charges of harassment will not be tolerated. Reporting claims of harassment will not affect a student's status, participation in extracurricular activities, grades or work assignments.

A student who believes that he/she has been subjected to behavior that could constitute sexual or other forms of harassment should, whenever possible, immediately inform the alleged harasser that his/her behavior is unwelcome and unacceptable, and that such behavior must stop immediately. It is recognized, however, that the responsibility for ending the harassment rests with the harasser, not the victim.

A student who believes that he/she has been subjected to harassment should next submit a written complaint to the Civil Rights Officer. If the Civil Rights Officer is the alleged harasser, the complaint should be forwarded directly to the Superintendent or his/her designee. Normally, complaints should be made immediately, or as soon after the act of harassment as possible. Complaint forms are available from the Civil Rights Officer, guidance office, building principal, online, and the Superintendent. The complaint should state the name of the complainant and the date of the complaint, the date of the alleged harassment, the name or names of the harasser or harassers, where such harassment occurred, and a statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged harassment.

Any student who makes an oral complaint of harassment to personnel will be provided a copy of this policy and a complaint form, and will be encouraged to submit a written complaint. Failure to provide a written complaint will not, however, preclude investigation and attempted remediation, if necessary, of the complaint. Copies of the complaint form and complaint procedure will be forwarded to parents of any elementary school student who makes a verbal complaint of harassment. All complaints are to be forwarded immediately to the Civil Rights Officer unless that individual is the alleged harasser, in which case the complaint should be forwarded directly to the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Investigation

Within five (5) working days of receipt of a complaint or as soon thereafter as possible, the Civil Rights Officer, or other personnel as appropriate, shall commence an investigation. The investigation should normally include consultation with all individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the complainant, the alleged harasser or harassers, any witnesses to the conduct, and any victims of similar conduct, if known. The investigation shall be carried on discreetly, maintaining confidentiality insofar as possible while still conducting an effective and thorough investigation.

Throughout the entire investigative process, the due process rights of the alleged harasser will be upheld.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator shall provide a written report to the Superintendent, or other appropriate personnel, summarizing the results of the investigation and recommended disposition of the matter. Under normal circumstances, the Superintendent will respond to the investigation within five (5) business days after receiving notification of the results from the investigator. If there is reasonable cause to believe that sexual or other forms of harassment have occurred, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the harassment ceases and will not re-occur. Steps may include discipline of students, up to and including expulsion and/or discipline of employees, up to and including termination of employment.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of his/her complaint, he/she can appeal to the Board of Education. The appeal must include a copy of the original complaint, the specific action or inaction being appealed and a proposed resolution.

Following a finding of harassment, victims may be periodically interviewed by the appropriate supervisor as necessary to ensure that the harassment has not re-occurred and that no retaliation has occurred. Such review will continue for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Civil Rights Officer and/or the Superintendent.

Dissemination, Posting and Discussion of Policy

This policy shall appear in the Student Handbook. This policy shall be discussed with students at least annually and more often as needed. This policy shall be posted in prominent and accessible locations in each school building.

Alternate Complaint Procedures

In addition to filing a harassment complaint through the procedures set forth in this policy, a student may choose to exercise other options, including but not limited to filing a complaint with an outside agency or filing a private lawsuit. A charge of harassment may be investigated by the Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, which may be contacted as follows:

Office for Civil Rights/U.S. Department of Education; 8th Floor
5 Post Office Square, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02109-3921
Telephone # (617) 289-0111
-Email: ocr.boston@ed.gov

Legal Reference:

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000 *et seq.*,
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681

Policy Adopted: May 5, 1993

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Policy Revised: November 2, 2009

Policy Revised: October 21, 2020

SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS ILLEGAL AND IS PROHIBITED BY THE CONNECTICUT DISCRIMINATORY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ACT (Section 46-60(a)(8) of the Connecticut General Statutes)

TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 (42 United States Code Section 2000e *et seq.*)

Sexual harassment means any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect or substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Such conduct may further constitute illegal harassment if based upon other protected class status including: race, color, religious creed, age, sex, pregnancy, national origin, past or present history of mental disorder, mental retardation, physical disability, marital status, ancestry and sexual orientation. Any harassment based on protected class status will not be tolerated.

Examples of **SEXUAL HARASSMENT** include:

UNWELCOME SEXUAL ADVANCES; SUGGESTIVE OR LEWD REMARKS; UNWANTED HUGS, TOUCHES, KISSES; REQUESTS FOR SEXUAL FAVORS; RETALIATION FOR COMPLAINING ABOUT SEXUAL

HARASSMENT; DEROGATORY OR PORNOGRAPHIC POSTERS, CARTOONS OR DRAWINGS.

Remedies for **SEXUAL HARASSMENT** may include:

CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS; BACK PAY; COMPENSATORY DAMAGES; HIRING, PROMOTION OR REINSTATEMENT.

Individuals who engage in acts of sexual harassment or harassment based on protected class status may also be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Contact the Civil Rights Officer, Mrs. Amanda O. Fagan, Principal, 24 Gallup Hill Rd., Ledyard, CT 06339, (860) 464-9600 if you have questions or concerns or believe that you or others are being harassed. Please refer to the policies of the Ledyard Board of Education concerning sexual and other forms of harassment and complaint procedures (Policy #4118 for Personnel and Policy 5145.5 for Students).

If you feel that you have been discriminated against, contact the **Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities**, 90 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106. (Telephone Number: 860-566-3350; TDD Number: 860-566-2301) or **U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights**, 8th floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston MA02109-3921. Telephone: 617-289-0111. Connecticut law requires that a formal written complaint be filed with the Commission within 180 days of the date when the alleged harassment occurred.

If you need additional information, contact:

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.
(Telephone Number: (860) 240-8300).

To report sexual harassment, the Sexual Harassment Reporting Form (Policy #'s 4118 and 5145.5) is available at the Ledyard Public Schools' website (www.ledyard.net), the Board of Education Office on Blonder Blvd., and the high school assistant principals' office.