



Education Built Around You

**ACE Academy
Student-Parent Handbook
2023-2024**

Tutoring Site:
1045 Dearbaugh, Suite 2
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
Phone: (419) 738-4572
Fax: (419) 738-4591
Facebook: Auglaize County Educational Academy
Twitter: ACE Academy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome, Mission and Vision Statements	3
Office Hours / Staff/ Board of Directors	4
School Calendar	5
Equal Education Opportunity	6
Individuals with Disabilities	6
Child Find	6
Student Responsibilities	7
Enrollment/Withdraw Procedures	9
Student Directory Information	10
Student Privacy & Parental Access to Information	10
Confidential Records	11
Attendance Policy	11
Absences & Truancy	12
Educational Activities/Tutoring	13
Grades, Report Cards, Promotion and Credits	15
Graduation Requirements & Testing Requirements	16
Work Permits	17
Computer Usage Policy	18
Code of Conduct	23
Suspension and Expulsion	26
Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, and Anti-Bullying Policy	31
Compacts	37
Signature Sheets	39
Release of Student Directory Information & FERPA	41

Welcome

Dear Students:

Whether you are a newcomer to our school or have previously attended, we hope you will find this school year to be a memorable and exciting one. Cooperation is, of course, the key, and to that end we suggest that you read this handbook thoroughly. It will tell you exactly what we expect of you and what services and benefits you may expect from the school. We are looking forward to helping you have a successful and rewarding year.

Mission:

It is our mission to provide high quality educational experiences in a supportive environment. Through positive relationships, we meet each student where they are and help them build on their strengths to prepare and empower them to pursue their unique goals.

Vision:

To create one of the state’s most effective online schools by using innovative planning and partnerships to prepare secondary students for success today and in the future.

Motto:

Education Built Around You.

Core Values:

Personal Ownership	Active Responsibility Follow through Goal-setting Self-Starting Self-Awareness
Cultivate Quality Relationships	Responsive Engagement Mutual Respect Inclusive Empathy Personal integrity
Growth Mindset	Forward progress High expectations Productive attitude Persistent effort Reflection & Action
Innovation	Student-centered focus Critical thinking Responsive problem solving Dynamic Technology Collaborative Partnerships

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

Tutoring:

Tues. (online only), Wed., and Thurs. – 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. OR 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Buckeye Community Hope Foundation

Mission Statement

The Mission of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is to establish strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.

Board of Directors

Mr. Bob Hager (President)

Mrs. Erica Preston (Vice President)

Mr. Craig Brown

Mrs. Heather Mahaffey

Mrs. Kitt Horn

ACE Onsite Staff:

Name	Position	Email	Extension
Jen Korte	Director	jkorte@aceva.org	1141
Lisa Jordan	Dean of Students	ljordan@aceva.org	1158
Amy Will	Testing/Data Coordinator	awill@aceva.org	1187
Deb Kraft	Secretary	dkraft@aceva.org	1118
Lisa Howell	Student Services Advisor	lhowell@aceva.org	1122
Karissa Hoersten	Special Education Director/CBI Coordinator	khoersten@aceva.org	1117
Kris Howell	Mentor/Tutor/Grant Coordinator	khowell@aceva.org	
Amy Trammell	Mentor	atrammell@aceva.org	
Luke Ruane	Technology	lruane@auglaizeesc.org	1145

Disclaimer: Parent-Student Handbook is based in significant part on policies contained in the Board Policy Manual adopted by the Board of Directors. Those Board Policies are incorporated by reference into the provisions of this Handbook. The Policies are periodically updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to the policies provided in this Handbook since it was printed and disseminated in August 2023. If anything in this Parent-Student Handbook conflicts with a Board Policy, the Board Policy Manual shall supersede the Parent-Student Handbook. If you have questions or would like more information about a specific policy or document, contact the School administrator.

ACE Academy is a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code. The School is a public school and students enrolled and attending School are required to take state tests and other examinations that are prescribed by law. In addition, there may be other requirements for students at the School that are prescribed by law. Students that have been excused from the compulsory attendance laws for the purpose of home education as defined by the Ohio Administrative Code shall no longer be excused for that purpose upon their enrollment at Schools. For more information about this matter, please contact the School Administration or the Ohio Department of Education.

2023-2024 School Calendar

1st Quarter: August 21 – October 20 45 days total

Aug 21: 1st day of online classes
Sept 4: Students work at home; site closed
Sept 12: STAR testing
Sept 26: Student Success Series #1– **all H.S. students on-site**
Oct 10: Staff Meeting day; no tutoring
Oct 16-20: Qtr 1 Intensive Week - Week 9

2nd Quarter: October 23 – January 5 45 days total

Nov 20-24: Fall Break
Nov 27-Dec 15: Fall End of Course exams & re-takes, Grades 10-12 (as needed)
Dec 6 – Parent Meeting, 6-7 pm
Dec 25-29: Christmas Break
Jan 1: Students work at home; site closed
Jan 1-5: Qtr 2 Intensive Week – Week 18
Jan 3-4: 1st Semester Exams

3rd Quarter: January 8 – March 8 45 days total

Jan 9: STAR testing
Jan 15: Students work at home; tutoring site closed
Feb 6: Staff meeting day; no tutoring
Feb 19: Students work at home; tutoring site closed
Feb 27: Student Success Series #2 – **all H.S. students on-site**
Feb 28: ACT Test for all 11th graders
Mar 4-8: Qtr 3 Intensive Week - Week 27

4th Quarter: March 11 – May 10 45 days total

Mar 12: Staff Meeting day; no tutoring
Mar 19, 21, 26 & 28: Spring Test Prep Boot camps
Mar 29 & April 1: Students work at home; tutoring site closed
Apr 2-4: State Testing for English Language Arts (ELA), grades 6-12
Apr 9-11: State Testing for Math, Grades 6-12
Apr 16-18: State Testing for Science & Social Studies, Grades 6-12
Apr 23: Staff Meeting day; no tutoring
May 3: Student Success Series #3 – **all MS & HS students on-site**
May 8 & 9: 2nd Semester Exams
May 10: Last day of school
May 13-17: Intensive Week (not counted in calendar days)
May 21: Graduation, 5:00 p.m.

Equal Education Opportunity

Any form of discrimination or harassment can be devastating to an individual's academic progress, social relationship and/or personal sense of self-worth. As such, the Board of Directors does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of Protected Classes in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students, and does not tolerate harassment of any kind.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students, without regard to their membership in the Protected Classes, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age (unless age is a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the school, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this school. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students. ACE Academy provides an equal educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at school should immediately contact the Dean of Students.

Individuals with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of disability. A student can access special education services through proper evaluation and placement procedures. Parent involvement is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (I.D.E.I.A.) and state law. By law students on 504 Plans or on IEP's shall only be suspended or expelled in accordance with the Board Policy Manual. Please refer to the School's Suspension and Expulsion Policy for more information on this policy.

Child Find- Help ACE Academy Identify Children with Disabilities, Including Students Eligible for Protection Under Section 504

Child Find is the process of locating, evaluating, and identifying children with disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services and/or may be entitled to protection from discrimination based on his/her disability. Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, childcare providers, physicians, and concerned citizens are encouraged to help the school find any child, age birth-21, who may have a disability and is in need of special education and related services. If you suspect a child may have a disability, help is available. Contact the ACE Academy Director at 1045 Dearbaugh Ave. Ste. 3 in Wapakoneta, phone 419-738-4572, or visit www.go2ace.org.

Homeless Students

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the school. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency and will be provided assistance for internet services in the form of Hotspots. For additional information, contact the liaison for Homeless Students at 419-738-4572. As more fully set forth in the Board Policy Manual, please refer to the School's Homeless Student Policy for more information on this policy.

Student Responsibilities

As a student, you are expected to be aware of and to accept your individual responsibilities in the following areas:

The Teaching-Learning Process

You deserve the best instruction that our school is capable of providing. For the efforts of the teachers to be as successful as possible and for you to work and achieve to the best of your ability, you must cooperate with the teachers. Like farming and medicine, teaching is a cooperative art because it involves cooperation with nature to help it produce results. Teachers help the activity of learning that goes on in the minds of the students. Learning is a natural process and unless students work at gaining knowledge and understanding, "...no genuine learning ever occurs, no matter what teachers try to do to make it occur," (Adler).

Respect for the Rights of Others

Every right you have has attached to it an obligation. Your rights must be balanced against the rights of others and their rights must be balanced against yours. The purpose of the school and the requirements of the educational process must be weighed in deciding who has a right to do what and what behavior needs to be modified. That is why our society has laws and why a school has rules. However, if you are one of those students who wants to take full advantage of your rights and opportunities at this school, while at the same time respecting the rights of the others, we will support and help you.

Responsibility for Your Own Actions

You will be held responsible only for the things YOU do or fail to do. What others do or do not do is of little importance in determining whether or not you have accepted your responsibility as a student-citizen. If you choose to follow bad examples set by a few of the other students, you will be held responsible for your actions and your actions only. The decision will be yours and so will the consequences. Your first responsibility, then, is to decide how you should conduct yourself while you are at school. Your second responsibility is to be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions.

Care of Property

The Board of Directors believes that the school should help students learn to respect property and develop feelings of pride in community institutions.

The Board charges each student with responsibility for the proper care of school property and the school supplies and equipment entrusted to his/her use.

All necessary textbooks and computers will be provided to students at no cost. Students will be charged a fee for supplemental materials. However, fees needed to enable the student to participate in course instruction will be reduced/eliminated in accordance with students' eligibility for a free or reduced lunch under the National School Lunch Act.

Students who cause damage to school property shall be subject to disciplinary measures, and their parents shall be financially liable for such damage to the extent of the law, except that students over eighteen (18) years of age shall also be liable for damage they cause.

The Board authorizes the imposition of fines for the loss, damage or destruction of school equipment, apparatus, musical instruments, library material, textbooks, and for damage to school buildings.

The Board may report to the appropriate juvenile authorities any student whose damage of school property has been serious or chronic in nature.

A reward may be offered by the Board for the apprehension of any person who vandalizes school property.

The Board will assume no responsibility for any personal property that students bring on to the school premises.

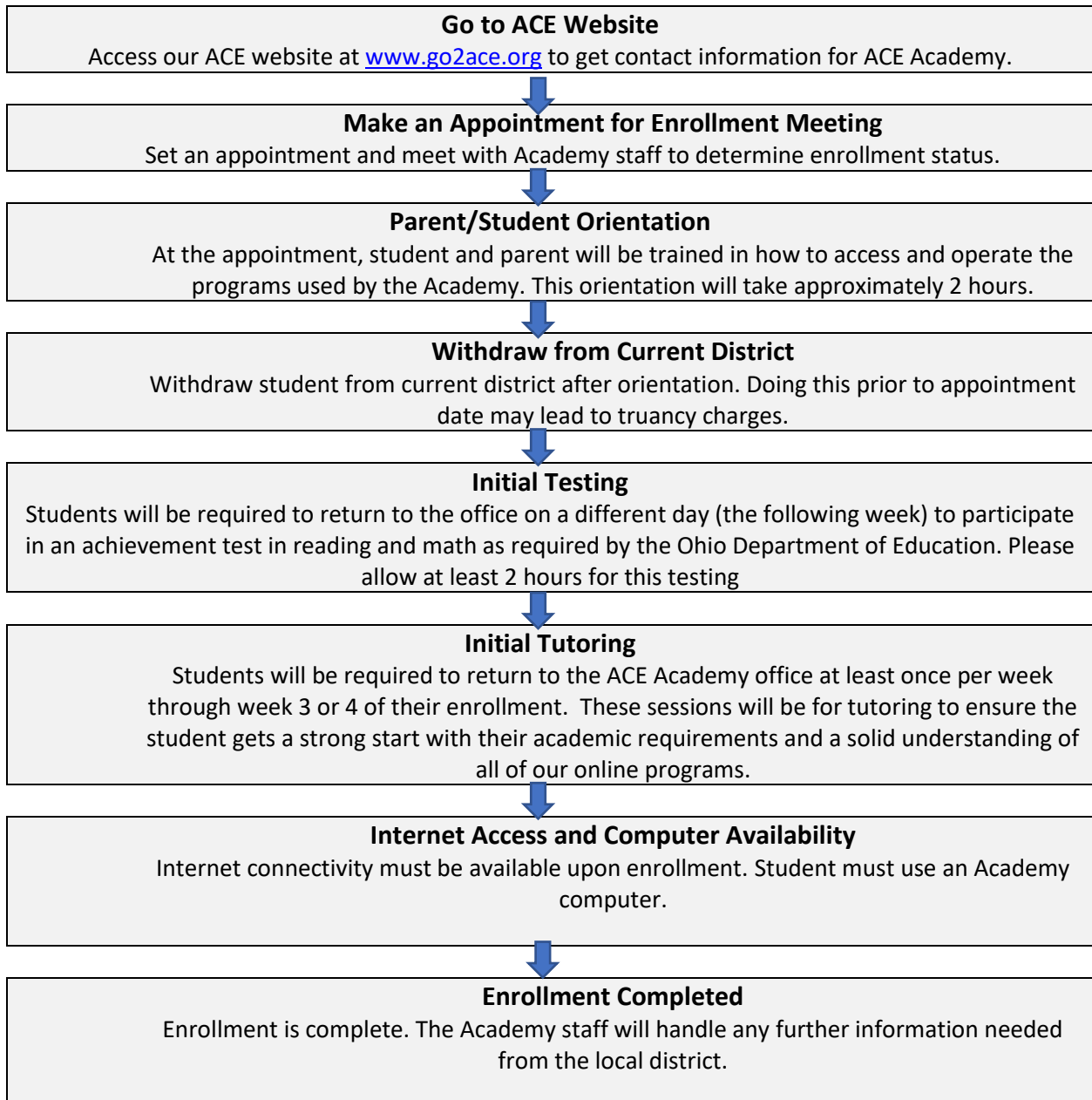
Academic Integrity (see Student Code of Conduct)

We believe the students, staff, and community are stakeholders in the climate and culture of our school. The school was founded on the belief that all students can and must learn in order to achieve success in our society. The community and staff further believe that success begins with personal and academic integrity, which are grounded in honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

Enrollment/Withdraw Procedure

A student must remain enrolled in their current school district until the Academy staff approves their enrollment in the Academy. Any other procedure may cause the parent and student to appear in court for truancy.

ACE Academy Student Enrollment



ACE Academy Student Withdrawal

New District Enrollment

Enroll in new school district.



Withdrawal from ACE Academy & Equipment Return

Complete ACE Academy withdrawal form and return all technology equipment. If the equipment is not returned, student transcripts will not be released. Parent will be billed for any missing items.

Student Directory Information

Personally identifiable information is considered directory information and may be released to any one upon request: student's name, parents' names, address, date of birth, place of birth, telephone number, major field of study, dates of attendance, date of graduation, extracurricular participation, achievement awards and honors. In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board shall release the names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to a recruiting officer for any branch of the United States Armed Forces or an institution of higher education who requests such information.

Parents must inform the Dean of Students of any of the items they do not want released about their child(ren). This must be done in written form each school year prior to September 15th, or within two weeks of receipt of this handbook. No information will be released for profit-making activities or to any requestor outside of the Armed Forces or a Secondary Institution.

Student Privacy & Parental Access to Information

ACE Academy respects the privacy rights of parents and their children. No student shall be required, as a part of the school program, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- a. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents;
- b. Mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
- c. Sex behavior or attitudes;
- d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- e. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- f. Legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- g. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- h. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the building Dean of Students receives the request.

Confidential Records

Confidential records contain educational and behavioral information that has restricted access based on the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Ohio law. This information can only be released with the written consent of the parents, or the adult student. The only exception is to comply with State and Federal laws that authorize the release of such information without consent.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary actions, and communications with family and outside service providers. The school must have the parents' written consent to obtain records from an outside professional or agency. Confidential information that is in a student's records that originates from an outside professional or agency may be released to the parent through the originator and parent should keep copies of such records for their home file. Parents may also provide the school with copies of records made by non-school professional agencies or individuals.

Students and parents have the right to review all educational records generated by the school, request amendment to these records, insert addendum to records, and obtain copies of such records. Copying costs may be charged to the requestor. To review records, please submit written request stating the records desired. The records will be collected and an appointment will be made with the appropriate persons present to answer any questions.

Emergency Medical Forms

The blank form given to all students at the beginning of each school year should be completed and returned within the first week of school. Parents/Guardians must keep the school informed of "daytime" telephone numbers where they or a designated adult may be reached. "Emergency Contacts" must be able to come to school within 45 minutes of a call to pick up a sick or injured child.

Attendance Policy

The Ohio School Attendance Law requires that all children ages six to eighteen to attend school for the full time that school is in session. Generally, active participation in learning is key to achievement. Students are expected to participate in 920 hours of learning opportunities annually. Students should log, on average, 26-32 hours of online work each week and must make adequate academic progress. Parents/guardians are encouraged to partner with the School to ensure active participation.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to make any doctor, dentist, etc. appointments for times other than school hours.	No student shall be suspended or expelled based solely on the number of absences.	The School shall institute intervention strategies as needed including, but not limited to: mandated tutoring, absence intervention plans, parent education, and involvement with the juvenile court system.
--	---	--

Vacations: If a family vacation must be during school, a week's prior notice must be given to the teacher. Only a vacation with a student's family (parent/guardian) may be excused. Arrangements must be made with each teacher to ensure all work is completed in a timely manner.

Injury and Illness

All injuries must be reported. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the school's emergency procedures and attempt to make

contact with the student's parent.

A student who becomes ill while at the school should notify the teacher. The teacher or administrator will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

Reporting Absences

In our online environment, illness and other interruptions do not automatically mean a student will miss school. Hours may be made up/worked in a flexible manner that allows the student to complete all requirements despite the illness/interruption. IF a situation does arise that keeps the student from logging in for more than 24 hours, the parent/guardian should report this absence to the school. Please call the office and/or email to report such circumstances. Any doctor excuses should be faxed or emailed also.

Excessive Absences

A student shall be considered excessively absent when the student is absent (with or without legitimate excuse) 38 or more hours in one school month or 65 or more hours in one school year.

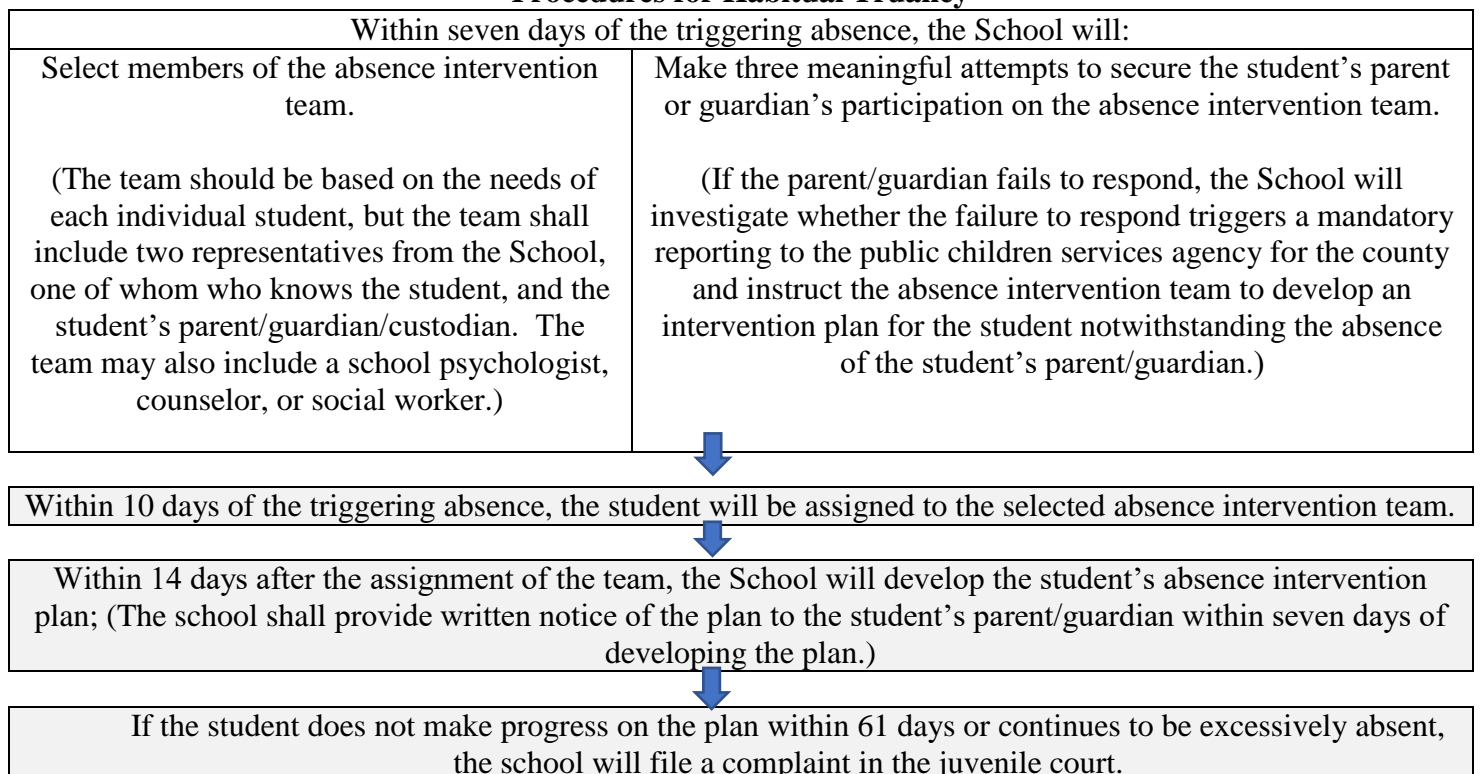
When a student is excessively absent from school:

1. The School will notify the student's parents in writing within seven days of the triggering absence;
2. The student will follow the School plan for absence intervention; and
3. The student and family may be referred to community resources.

Habitually Truant

Habitually truant is defined as being absent without legitimate excuse for thirty or more consecutive hours, forty-two hours or more in one school month, or seventy-two hours or more in a school year.

Procedures for Habitual Truancy



Reporting

The school shall report as soon as practical to the Ohio Department of Education each time a student exceeds the threshold of absences, the date a notice was sent to parents, the date when a student qualifies as habitually truant, when an adjudicated unruly child violates a court order, and when an intervention plan has been implemented.

If the student is violating a court order regarding the student's adjudication as an unruly child for being habitually truant, the Board hereby authorizes the school's administrator or his/her designee to inform the student and parent/guardian of the violation and to notify the Juvenile Court.

Withdrawal

When a student of compulsory age withdraws, the School shall ascertain the reason for the withdrawal. If the reason for the withdrawal is for a reason other than a change in residence and is not enrolled in another program, the School shall notify the registrar of motor vehicles and the juvenile judge in the county in which the school is located. The notice shall be given within two weeks after the withdrawal and failure to enroll in another program permitted by law.

In accordance with Ohio law, a student will be automatically withdrawn from the School if the student without a legitimate excuse fails to participate in seventy-two consecutive hours of the learning opportunities offered to the student.

Educational Activities

Attendance is defined as student participation in monitored and recorded educational activities completed both on the computer and off the computer. Educational activities will be recorded on the computer's log and in the student's activity log.

Students may work longer hours one day and fewer the next. They may also log hours on the weekends or during scheduled holidays. Due to the fact the student's access to a classroom is limited; tracking attendance will be accomplished with the computer log and activity log.

Tutoring & Mandatory Tutoring

Tutoring will be provided according to the schedule posted on the website. Additional tutoring times may be available by appointment. Tutoring times are available for students to obtain additional assistance as needed.

Mandatory Tutoring

Who is required to attend mandatory tutoring?	Students who do not complete their assignments in the designated week, are not passing the course, are working below grade level, or do not meet the 26-32 hour minimum per week may be mandated to be in attendance for tutoring.
What if a student wants to attend but cannot be onsite?	If a student wants/needs to attend tutoring but cannot be on-site, he/she must contact a mentor or other member of the office staff. Other arrangements may be made to help accommodate the student.
What if a student is sick?	Students who are unable to attend due to illness or emergency must notify the school and make arrangements to attend another day. Doctor notes for illness will excuse a student from attending tutoring but are not an excuse for not completing the assigned work for that week.

What do students do with their personal items during tutoring? Can students listen to music?	Students may be asked to place all personal belongings into a locker upon arrival at tutoring sessions. Items include purses, wallets, phones, MP3 players, iPods, etc. Students will not be allowed to listen to personal music products as they will need to use the earphones to hear the class videos for the subjects they are taking.
What happens if students miss required tutoring sessions without a valid reason?	If a student misses mandated tutoring sessions without a valid excuse, it may lead to unruly charges with the juvenile court system.

School Closings & Delays

If the school will be delayed or closed due to bad weather, an announcement will be made on the front page of the Academy Website as well as within Edgenuity. Delays and cancellations are a reason for students to miss mandatory tutoring sessions, but are not an excuse from doing work from home. Exceptions to this rule may occur in extreme weather conditions such as ice storm taking out power for a few days, and will be made at the direction of the Director. Please note that we follow Wapakoneta School’s delay/closing schedule.

Custodial & Non-Custodial Parents, Step-Parents

Rights & Responsibilities – Custodial Parent, Non-Custodial Parents, Step-Parents

Custodial Parent	Non-Custodial Parent	Step-Parent
It is the responsibility of the custodial parent or guardian to provide the school with copies of official court decrees and/or custody papers. The school will refuse to release a child to a natural or adoptive parent where the custodial parent has provided these documents.	A non-custodial parent has the right to obtain copies of school records, progress reports, and cumulative file materials, and to participate in parent-teacher conferences unless the courts have specifically revoked his right. A non-custodial parent may not contact nor communicate with a child at school without the consent of the custodial parent.	Step-parents or care takers may have access to student records and reports and the student at school only if an affidavit is received and signed by the legal guardian or court.

Grades, Report Cards, Promotion and Credits

Parents will receive a progress report every nine weeks. Parents may check progress at any time on Edgenuity and/or Progress Book using the student login.

The percentage grading scale adopted by our district is listed below:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- 59 and below = F

In order to pass a course, the student’s final average for the course must be 60% or better.

Your percentage grade for the quarters and final exams are averaged to get your grade average in each class.

This means that a student who chooses not to complete assignments, study for tests, etc. will end up with a lower final grade than the student who tries but has trouble.

Retention: Middle School students failing two or more core courses (Math, Science, English, Reading and History) for the year will be considered for retention in the same grade.

High School Class Status/Grade Placement:

0 – 4.9 Credits earned	Freshman
5.0 – 9.9 Credits earned	Sophomore
10.0 – 14.9 Credits earned	Junior
15.0 – 20.0 Credits earned	Senior

The minimum student course load is 6 credits per year. Students earning the required number of credits at the beginning of 2nd semester will be placed in the appropriate grade level.

Graduation Requirements/State Testing Requirements for High School:

A student must successfully complete all graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation and receive a diploma. This includes successfully completing all local and state requirements. To be eligible for graduation, all required credits must be completed and you must successfully meet the specific cohort graduation requirements.

State law introduced new, permanent graduation requirements that are available for the classes of 2021 and beyond. Students entering ninth grade between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2019, have the option to meet the [new requirements](#) outlined for the class of 2023 and beyond or meet the requirements of the [original three pathways to graduation](#).

State law introduced new, permanent graduation requirements for students in the class of 2023 and beyond. Students entering ninth grade after July 1, 2019, must meet the [new requirements](#) outlined in state law.

All details can be found on the Ohio Department of Education’s website under [graduation requirements](#).

Per the state of Ohio, the following credits must be met in order to earn a high school diploma.

Subject	Credit
English	4.0 credits
Social Studies (including 0.5 credits Economics and Financial Literacy; 0.5 credits World History; 0.5 credits American Government; 1 credit American History)	3.0 credits
Science (Physical, Biological, and Advanced)	3.0 credits
Mathematics (Must include 1 credit of Alg II)	4.0 credits
Health	0.5 credit
Physical Education	0.5 credit
Fine Art	1.0 credit/2 semesters
*Electives (includes Fine Art requirement)	5 credits
	TOTAL 20.0 credits

*An elective is any course chosen beyond those specifically listed under the graduation requirements.

Ohio's State Tests mandated by the Ohio Department of Education. Review the link on the Ohio Department of Education's website under [end-of-course exams](#) for specific test requirements for your graduation cohort.

Ohio laws requires the School to notify students and their parents that one consequence of failure to complete core curriculum will result in the student's ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio without further coursework.

Tested Subjects:

ELA 10
Algebra I or Integrated Math I
Geometry or Integrated Math II
American History
Biology
American Government
TOTAL

State Testing for Middle School Students:

Students in grades 6 through 8 are given Ohio's State Assessments annually to check their progress as a student and how they rate with their peers in school and across the State. These tests are given during three weeks in the spring and are mandated as to which test is to be given on which date. Students that miss a day of testing due to illness or emergency will be given a chance to make up that test as long as it is done within the time period allowed by the State for make-up testing.

All students will be notified by mail as to when/where they must arrive in order to complete the State Tests.

Standardized Testing/STAR Testing

The Ohio Department of Education requires all 9th-12th grade students in Community Schools to be tested annually to check their grade and age equivalence on testing. The test this school uses is the STAR test. Through standardized testing ACE Academy staff can check that the student is gaining achievement each school year and also watch for difficulties if a low area is detected. Testing scores will be kept in the student's file and a copy will be sent to parents. Students will complete mandatory testing upon enrollment and again during the 4th quarter of the school year. Failure to complete testing may result in mandated tutoring eventually resulting with un-enrollment.

Student in the 11th grade who entered high school on or after July1, 2014 are required per state law to take the ACT in the spring. Specific dates for this test will be listed on the school calendar and posted on the school web site as they are made available to the school. Failure to complete this testing may result in withdrawal from ACE Academy.

Test Security

Students taking competency, achievement, ability, and other standardized tests need to be aware of the following:

1. Testing materials may not be removed from the testing location;
2. Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance from anyone is not permitted;
3. Revealing or discussing actual test questions is not permitted;
4. Instructional materials may not be brought to the testing location unless students are directed to do so;
5. Looking at someone else's answer sheet is not permitted; and
6. Questions or parts of the test booklet may not be copied.

7. Students may not have cell phones, iPods, or any other unauthorized technology on them. An interruption (cell phone ring) is considered against the rules.

Failure to follow these rules may result in the invalidation of the student's test score and disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion.

Course Offerings/Requirements:

Please see the ACE Academy Course Catalog for a specific listing of courses offered as well as a sample Course Layout. In addition to ACE Academy's course offerings, students may also earn credit for CBI, Flex Credit/Independent Study, and/or College Credit Plus. Each of these additional requirements carries its own set of guidelines, policies, and procedures available for review in the Course Catalog. As more fully set forth in the Board Policy Manual, please refer to the School's Credit Flexibility Plan or the College Credit Plus Policy for more information on the Credit Flexibility Plan or College Credit Plus Policy.

Work Permits:

Students who are 14-17 and wish to have a work permit should contact the ACE office. Requirements for a work permit include a physical examination and a certified copy of their birth certificate. The office has forms for the student, physician, and employer to complete. Under state law an employer cannot pay a minor without first having a work permit on file.

Intensive Weeks:

At the end of each 9 weeks, students who are behind on academic requirements may be required to attend onsite sessions known as "Intensive Weeks". Selection of students for attendance at Intensive Week is determined by the ACE Academy staff. Factors taken into consideration include effort and attitude put forth by students (as determined by the staff), number of weeks enrolled in relation to the number of weeks in the course, number of tutoring sessions attended, etc. Students who wish to work ahead to complete more credit for the year may be included in the end of year intensive week at the ACE Academy staff discretion.

Vocational Schools:

Following Ohio Revised Code, ACE Academy students are eligible to attend the vocational school serving the district of residence.

Counseling Services

Counseling services are available through the on-site teachers, director, the Intervention/Prevention Services, or with the school psychologist. Services may be requested through contact with the ACE Academy staff. Individual, group, crisis, college and career counseling are available to all students on an as needed basis.

Fees & Fines

Unpaid fees and fines from a previous school may prevent an official transcript from arriving at ACE Academy and may delay a student from getting the needed classes to apply towards graduation credit.

Once a student graduates or withdraws, all equipment and books must be returned to ACE Academy prior to a student receiving their diploma, or an official transcript being forwarded on to their next school location.

18 Year-Old Students

Under state and federal law, persons who have attained the age of eighteen (18) are considered adults and have all the rights accorded to adults. The adult student is responsible for complying with all attendance and discipline policies. Adult students have the right to write and sign their own excuses to school. Recognizing that the adult student normally continues living with parents at home until graduation, the school reserves the right to continue to verify absences with parents and other sources as necessary.

Parent/Student Authorized Technology and Communications Use Policy

Thank you for your interest in enrolling with the Auglaize County Educational Academy (ACEA). It is ACEA's intent to provide all students with a comprehensive learning experience that meets or exceeds all state educational requirements. While we are confident that we are taking precautions necessary to prevent access to objectionable materials, ACEA cannot warrant against or accept liability for such occurrences and insurance concerns dictate that this form be signed by each student and a parent or guardian of each student.

Parental involvement plays a critical role in the learning process at ACEA. The parent hereby agrees to fully cooperate with the ACEA educational staff in order to facilitate their children's education. ***It is important for the parent to acknowledge that the parent, not ACEA, is responsible for his or her child's behavior. ACEA has no centralized school facility and its most effective means of control is through policies such as this.***

ACEA offers each student tools and equipment necessary to access ACE Academy. ACEA offers laptop PC's to each student. ACEA makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through ACEA will be error-free or without defect. ACEA will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of ACEA or services used to connect with ACEA.

Use of this service is a privilege, and it is the responsibility of each user to utilize these services appropriately. By connecting a computer to the ACEA network, all users (student, teachers, and staff) are required to adhere to all city, county, state and federal regulations, in addition to the following terms of acceptable use. Parent and student understand that a violation of the following policies relating to this computer equipment is prohibited and could lead to disciplinary actions from the loss of nonessential computer functionality up to and including expulsion from ACEA. ***ACEA MUST MAINTAIN HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES FOR SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS OF ACEA'S POLICIES!***

ACEA SYSTEM USE MASTER POLICY

While the policies that follow may appear to be complex, the intent behind them is fairly simple. ACEA access is provided for the sole purpose of educating students. Use or misuse of the ACEA and/or ACEA-provided computer equipment for any other purpose is a violation of policy that could result in personal liability of parent and/or student and furthermore may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. The following policies detail the basic system use master policy:

1. **AGREE TO ACCEPT FUTURE POLICIES.** Student and parent agree to read, follow, and sign acknowledgment of receipt of all policies of ACEA.
2. **RESTRICT ACTIVITY AND MONITOR INFORMATION.** *The ACEA-provided computer equipment is **not the property of the Student or Parent** but is on loan as long as the Student is enrolled with ACEA.* ACEA reserves the right to monitor at any time any computer connected to the network for the gathering of statistics, to ensure reliable operation of ACEA, and to maintain the safety and privacy of its users. This does not include unauthorized reading of data content, but by necessity, does include examining said data when an apparent or suspected breach of the policies set forth in this document has occurred. ACEA may delete any files or programs at any time with or without warning.
3. **INSTALLATION OR DOWNLOADING OF ANY SOFTWARE OR EXECUTABLE FILES ON ACEA-PROVIDED COMPUTER IS NOT PERMITTED.** The existence of any non-ACEA provided software or executable files on a student computer unit shall be considered as evidence of a

violation of this policy and may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from ACEA.

4. Installing ACEA computer equipment (including monitor or printer or other components) to non-ACEA provided computers or networks are not permitted.
5. Student and parent may not move ACEA equipment from their residence unless required to bring for onsite tutoring. ***It is the responsibility of both student and parent to notify ACEA with as much advanced notice as possible of any changing of residence.*** Students must formally withdraw from ACEA in writing when moving out of the state of Ohio. Parent and student are responsible for the cost of relocating phone/cable lines.
6. ACEA EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT BE ABUSED/MISUSED/DISASSEMBLED AND/OR NEGLECTED. It is not acceptable to modify the equipment in any way. You may not open any of the cabinets, or add or remove any internal or external hardware component. You may not download or install any software application. Any unauthorized modifications, removal or additions to the installed software based on the computer system as supplied to the student will be considered a violation of this policy. Parent and student hereby accept responsibility for damages resulting from abuse, misuse, neglect, or disassembly of this equipment.
7. Student and parent agree not to use ACEA to search for or to send for or send to anyone, any material that is profane, obscene, or pornographic, that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence, harassment, or discrimination toward other people or any other unauthorized non-educational or objectionable material. What is appropriate is to be determined at the sole discretion of ACEA. Parent and student shall hold ACEA harmless of any and all liability associated with any activity of student or parent relating to searching for, finding, sending, or viewing any such material encountered. Parent and student agree to report any objectionable material encountered in ACEA immediately. ACEA is not responsible for outside materials transmitted from one student to another or from a non-student to a student.
8. FOR INTENDED USE ONLY. ACEA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PRINTER SUPPLIES. All use of ACEA equipment by the student must be in support of completing the educational tasks presented to student. Student or parent use of computer equipment in a manner other than as described herein is prohibited. Specifically, use of this equipment is restricted to functions necessary to perform ACEA assigned work. ACEA may make an operational determination that particular uses are or are not consistent with the purposes of ACEA.
9. HACKING AND OTHER FORMS OF MISUSE. It is against ACEA policy to use ACEA for illegal purposes. It is not acceptable to use ACEA to transmit, access, request or download libelous, disturbing, pornographic or harassing materials, through e-mail or any other medium. Receipt of any such unwanted materials should be reported to ACEA, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. It is not acceptable to send or receive objectionable files or documents, or to store same documents on any equipment supplied by ACEA. It is not acceptable to use ACEA so as to interfere with or disrupt network operations, networked resources, information or communications traffic. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, propagation of computer “worms” and “viruses”. Purchasing of goods or services, downloading of files or software, sending of non-ACEA e-mail, participating in non-ACEA chat rooms, or attempting to subvert ACEA computer or internet security measures are strictly prohibited. Parent and student are solely liable for any and all damages arising from such actions.

10. **USE OF E-MAIL, E-GROUPS, CHAT, MESSAGE BOARDS AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION.** ACEA students have certain access from communications with other students and teachers. Should student-to-student e-mail become available, this would be a privilege and is not an essential component necessary to receive an ACEA education. Violation of e-mail or chat policy could result in the loss of this privilege, possibly for all students.
- a. Student and parent agree to not post chain letters or engage in “spamming”. Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.
 - b. Students agree to check e-mail frequently, delete unwanted messages promptly, and stay within e-mail quotas.
 - c. Student and parent agree to not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language. This applies to public messages, private messages, and material posted on web pages.
 - d. Student and parent agree to not post information that could cause any form of damage or a danger of disruption.
 - e. Student and parent agree to not engage in personal attacks, including harassing, prejudicial, or discriminatory attacks.
 - f. Student will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. All requests by a recipient to stop sending messages to them must be honored.
 - g. Student will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about any person or organization including ACEA.
 - h. Student and parent will not repost or forward a private message without written permission of the person who sent the message. This policy does not apply to the forwarding of objectionable or disturbing correspondence or postings to an ACEA staff member for reporting purposes.
 - i. Student and parent will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to ACEA or to any other computer system through ACEA or to go beyond your authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person’s account or accessing another person’s files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of “browsing”.
 - j. Student and parent will not use ACEA to engage in any commercial or illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of a person, etc.
 - k. Student and parent will not post or otherwise communicate private information about any person.
11. **PERSONAL SAFETY AND ACEA SECURITY.** Student will not post personal contact information about themselves or other people. Personal contact information includes address of residence, telephone, school address, work address, etc. Student shall not agree to meet with someone they have met on-line without parent or guardian approval. Parents should accompany students to this meeting.

Students are responsible for their individual accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use that account. Parent and student are fully responsible for the actions of all non-authorized users. Under no conditions should passwords be provided or made available to anyone other than ACEA personnel.

12. **STOLEN OR PROBLEMATIC EQUIPMENT.** Should student computer equipment be stolen, parent and student hereby agree to notify ACEA immediately and cooperate in the filing of a police report with the local law enforcement agency. Student and parent furthermore agree to notify ACEA of any problems with software or hardware as soon as detected.
13. **RETURN OF EQUIPMENT.** In the event that a student transfers to another school district, withdraws, graduates, moves out of state, drops out, is expelled or otherwise leaves ACEA, *parent and student are responsible to return all equipment in working order.* Please call 419-738-4572 to arrange for computer return/pickup. *Parent and student are responsible for the replacement cost, (or repair costs, whichever is less) for all ACEA computer equipment not returned within 10 days of separation from ACEA or which is returned damaged.* Please note that this equipment is paid for with State provided funds. *All equipment not returned in accordance with this policy shall be reported to the appropriate authorities.* .
14. **INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER.** High speed internet must be secured by each ACE Academy student/family.
15. **PLAGIARISM AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT.** Student and parent may not plagiarize works found on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours, including but not limited to any use of artificial intelligence, for example ChatGPT. Student and parent must respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when work is inappropriately reproduced that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, the expressed requirement should be followed. Students and parents unsure whether or not they can use a work should request permission from the copyright owner.
16. Use of this service is a privilege, and it is the responsibility of each user to utilize these services appropriately. Routine maintenance and monitoring of ACEA may lead to discovery of violations of ACEA policy or the law. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion of a violation of any ACEA policy or the law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation(s). ACEA will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through ACEA. Any actions that are deemed a violation of these policies may result in termination of services, suspension of expulsion, and/or monetary fine and/or referral to the proper authorities. Users are subject to any applicable school and/or criminal sanctions and procedures.

Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is the established rules and regulations of the school. A violation of any section or rule of this code may result in disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion. The ACE Academy Administration follows progressive levels of discipline for each infraction. However, the Administration reserves the right to skip levels of progressive discipline depending upon the severity of the offense.

Aiding or Abetting Violation of School Rules

If a student assists another student in violating any school rule, they will be disciplined. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

Alcohol

The use, concealment, possession, sale, transmission, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages by students on school grounds or any school activity shall not be tolerated.

Arson

Setting a fire in the school building or on the grounds is hazardous to the total school population. Those who set fires will face suspension or expulsion and will be turned over to the police for prosecution.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations, course assignments, alteration of records, or illegal possession of tests shall be considered cheating; this also includes electronic downloading of information. Likewise, making it possible for another student to cheat makes you as guilty as the student you help. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain an honorable posture and his/her integrity.

Honesty requires that ideas or material taken from another for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, including the use of any artificial intelligence, for example ChatGPT. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or material that he/she takes from another is guilty of plagiarism and is subject to consequences from his/her teacher.

Websites like Brainly, Mathway, Flashcard and Quizlet will be blocked on all school computers. Students attempting to access those sites will be disciplined and may be required to take all quizzes, tests and exams on site.

Depending on the nature and severity of the situation, the administration reserves the right to file charges in court. Penalties may include: failing grade for the assignments involved, failing the course involved, mandatory quiz, test and examination taking on site.

Administrators receive Go Guardian Alerts when students are attempting to access inappropriate sites or topics on school owned computers and will be disciplined accordingly; including and not limited to charges being brought in Juvenile Court.

Computer Etiquette

1. Keep food and drink away from the computers
2. Treat the machine as it was your own. This is a borrowed device and must be returned in working order.
3. Screens can be cleaned with a window cleaner such as Windex.
4. The black casing can be cleaned with rubbing alcohol, alcohol wipe, or window cleaner.
5. Do not use dusting spray as it builds up and will need to be cleaned off with rubbing alcohol.
6. Keep the computer parts off the floor as most household dust comes from the floor area.
7. Carefully plug in cords, cables, earbuds and removable storage (i.e. thumb drives) in the appropriate

ports as to not bend prongs/ports inside the device nor break wires in the cords. This includes plugging chargers into wall sockets, power strips, and avoiding tripping hazards.

8. Never carry the equipment by the screen or while the screen is open; screens and hinges can be damaged from rough treatment, pressure and falls.
9. Charge the battery daily and bring the charger with you when attending school on-site.
10. Do not place decorations (stickers, decals, drawings, writings, etchings, colorings, carvings, skins, etc.) on the equipment.
11. School identification labels and serial numbers may not be removed or destroyed.
12. Equipment must be stored in safe and secure spaces when not in use. Extreme temperatures may be harmful; never leave the equipment in a hot or frozen car.
13. Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (i.e. pens, pencils, notebooks) as this could cause damage to the screen and hinges.
14. Do not place heavy objects on top of, or lean on the lid of the equipment when it is closed as this could cause the screen or plasma to crack or break.
15. Do not use or store equipment near pets as they can cause spills, scratches, dander and fur build-up, and other damages to the equipment. Also, equipment should not be left unattended with pets as accidents have occurred.
16. Do not block the fan while using the Chromebook. This is what keeps the unit from overheating.
17. When equipment is not in use, put it in a bookbag or computer case in a safe location.
18. Profile pictures, avatars, desktop backgrounds and screensavers must be school-appropriate content.

Dress Code

Students are to wear appropriate clothing to school which includes tops that cover the stomach and top of the pants area, no short-shorts, and no low cut shirts showing bras, or cleavage. While sitting, other students and educational personnel are not to be subject to overexposed areas, or underwear hanging out of the pants. Shoes must be kept on the feet at all times and walking barefoot in the school environment is not permitted. This dress code will be enforced anytime a student is onsite for testing, tutoring, etc. The administration reserves the right to send the student home to change.

Drugs/Counterfeit, Controlled Substances

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell, conceal, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant or any of the drugs of abuse defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 3719.011 on school grounds, while on property immediately adjacent to school property, within the line of sight of school property, while on school-provided transportation, at school-sponsored or related functions or activities off the school grounds or at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school. This prohibition also includes any substances substantially resembling an illegal or controlled substance. Any substance or equipment will be turned over to the legal authorities.

If a building administrator has a reasonable individualized suspicion of drug or alcohol use, he/she may request the student in question to submit to any appropriate testing, including but not limited to, a breathalyzer test or urinalysis by law enforcement. All such testing will be conducted by the outside agency/law enforcement in accordance with their policies and not by school personnel.

If a student refuses to take the test, he/she will be advised that such denial leaves the observed evidence of alcohol or drug use unrefuted thus leading to possible disciplinary action. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

Electronic Communication Devices

No electronic communication devices (i.e. cell phones, smart watches, etc.) with or without earphones, are not to be used during the school day unless they are part of the educational plan. If used, they may be

confiscated and disciplinary action may result. Cell phones must be turned off and left in the designated location. Cell phone usage of any kind is not allowable during the school day.

Use of lewd, vulgar, profane, or harassing language as a method to offend, intimidate, or insult others that results in a substantial disruption to school operations will not be tolerated. This includes the use of text messaging and/or the creation or modification of a social networking site or electronic account that specifically results in a substantial disruption to school operations.

Expectations

Students are expected to:

1. Check daily messages and announcements on the school website.
2. Be responsible and let the ACE staff know of any information changes such as change of address, phone number, etc.
3. Message your class teacher if you have any problems or questions about assignments.
4. Plan/schedule/budget your time for the week ahead to get your school work done within the scheduled time period. You should plan to spend 26-32 hours per week on your assignments. A week is from Sunday 12:01 a.m. through Saturday 11:59 p.m. Teachers may grade assignments prior to this deadline.
5. Answer *all* parts of writing assignments/questions in complete sentences. Some will require essay responses which should be 2-3 paragraphs in length with 4-6 sentences per each paragraph.

Extortion

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law. Violators may be suspended or expelled from school.

Fighting, Instigating, or Abetting a Fight

Engaging or abetting a physical confrontation with another person on school grounds, during school or at a school activity will not be tolerated. Punishment will be determined by the severity of the offense and will result in suspension. In instances of unprovoked attack, only the attacker will be disciplined. In the event of any fight, local law enforcement authorities may be notified and may intervene.

False Alarms / Bomb Threats

The pulling of false alarms, the stealing or discharge of fire extinguishers, the threat of a bomb and/or inducing panic is in direct violation of Ohio law. The superintendent also has authority to expel a student for up to one year for making a bomb threat to a school building or any premises at any school activity occurring at the time of the threat. Violators may be suspended or expelled from school and may be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Forgery

Forgery involves false documents, signatures, etc. used to deceive a recipient. Forgery is not allowable in any form within the confines of our school. Violators will receive a warning and disciplinary action as warranted.

Gambling

Gambling is forbidden on school grounds or at any school activity. Violators will receive a warning and disciplinary action as warranted.

Gang Involvement

An individual gang member refers to anyone who threatens to cause or causes harm to another or his or her family or property for the purpose of solicitation or causing membership in any association or organization. A gang is any combination, confederation, alliance, network conspiracy, understanding or similar conjoining,

in law or in fact, of three persons with an established hierarchy that, through its membership or through the agency of any member, engages in a course or pattern of criminal activity. The school prohibits the wearing and displaying of gang apparel. Any student in violation will receive a warning and disciplinary action as warranted.

Hazing

Hazing is defined as doing any act of coercing another, including the victim, to do or initiate any act to any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Hazing activities of any time are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times.

The Board of Directors encourages students who believe that they have been subjected to or have witnesses hazing to promptly report, either orally or in writing, such incidents to the building administrators. The administrator will prepare a written report summarizing the findings of the investigation and recommending the disposition of the complaint. If the investigation results in the substantiated finding of hazing, the administrator shall administer appropriate disciplinary action for all parties involved. If circumstances warrant, a report may be filed with the appropriate local authorities.

Insubordination

There is to be no disrespectful behavior or willful disobedience of the requests and direction of the adults in charge (principals, teachers, substitutes, secretaries, educational assistants, custodians, bus drivers, or other school officials). Violation may result in suspension or expulsion.

Parking Lot / Automobile Regulations

Careless or reckless driving (speed limit is 10 mph), not adhering to parking regulations in the parking lot or leaving school grounds without permission may result in the loss of parking privileges.

Parking in violation of city ordinances may result in ticketing by the local municipality over which the School has no control and for which the School shall not be responsible for costs related thereto.

Profanity and Vulgarity

Students may not use physical gestures or verbal expressions that carry obscene or disrespectful connotations. Students are prohibited from making slanderous remarks which may be interpreted as vulgar or offensive. Violations may result in suspension.

Search & Seizure

To maintain a safe and orderly educational environment, School officials may search the person or property, including vehicles, of students, visitors, and others on School property, during a School sponsored event or at a school testing location, whenever they reasonably suspect a violation of law or of school policies.

School officials may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search.

There is no right or expectation of privacy in School lockers or other storage areas or property owned by the School or its affiliates, contractors, or designees.

Random or periodic general inspections of School property may be conducted by School authorities for any reason or no reason at any time without notice, and without consent.

The Board of Directors of the School hereby authorizes the use of metal detectors and canines for searches.

Smoking, Vaping and/or Possession of Tobacco Products

The possession, transmittal, or use of any tobacco or tobacco-related product is prohibited in the school building, on school grounds, while on property immediately adjacent to school property, within the line of sight of school property, while on school-provided transportation, at school-sponsored or related functions or activities or at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school. This prohibition includes such items as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, lighters, matches, vaping pens, e-cigarettes of any form, and chewing tobacco. Items such as these are not to be on a student's person or in their belongings. Violators will be subject to suspension.

Student Drop-Off / Pick-Up

ACE Academy shares its parking lot with multiple programs and businesses. Please drive slowly and do not play loud music while waiting for your student. Parking spots are designated and we would appreciate your cooperation in adhering to this very important safety issue.

Suspension and Expulsion Policies

ACEA recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of any school, whether by suspension or expulsion, is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student and cannot be imposed without due process.

Students in a digital classroom are not hampered by time and space. They do not have to be in a classroom at a specific time in order to complete their work. They can work during the times that are most convenient for them. However, ACEA students must maintain progress in their academic endeavors and communicate regularly with their teachers. Although much of the school year will be spent in a digital environment, there may be occasions during which a student will be in the presence of other students and staff members at school-related activities. Our rules and regulations are necessary to assure positive learning environment; they are in place to protect every student's opportunity to learn. Whenever behavior interferes with the learning environment, consequences will result. Reasons for suspension and possible expulsion may include the following:

1. Any repeated offenses for which the student has been previously suspended
2. Misuse of or vandalizing school property
3. Disruption of school or school-related activities
4. Threatening or intimidating students or staff
5. Sexual harassment
6. Removing or altering official school documents or records
7. Assault
8. Immoral acts
9. Calling in bomb threats
10. Violation of the school Acceptable Use Policy
11. Possession of deadly weapons at school-sponsored functions
12. Cheating or plagiarism
13. Violating Computer usage contract
14. Violating the Code of Conduct or any Classroom/School policies

Definitions:

Suspension of Driving Privileges

Students between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) who have a valid Ohio driver's license are subject to having it suspended by the State for the following reasons:

1. When a student drops out of school, the school system is required to notify the Registrar of Motor

Vehicles;

2. When a student is suspended/expelled for the use or possession of alcohol or drugs, the school system may notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles;
3. When a student is excessively absent without legitimate excuses for either ten (10) consecutive days or a total of fifteen (15) cumulative days during a semester, the school system may notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

As more fully set forth in the Board Policy Manual, please refer to the School's Suspension & Expulsion Policy for more information on this policy

Theft

Any student found involved in theft of personal or school property or found to be in possession of stolen personal or school property may be subject to suspension or expulsion and may be prosecuted. Restitution will be required.

Trespassing

A student shall not enter upon school grounds or premises of the student's regularly assigned school building after school hours unless the student is present to participate as a member of an extracurricular activity or to attend a school sponsored event where students from his/her regularly assigned school have been invited to attend.

A student already under suspension, emergency removal or expulsion shall not enter upon the ground or premises of the student's regularly assigned school building without the express permission of the principal.

Unauthorized Touching / Abusive Language Toward a School Employee, Student or Other Person

- Abusive language toward a school employee - A student shall not use vulgar, profane or abusive language or gestures toward any school employee.
- Abusive language toward a student or other person – A student shall not use vulgar, profane or abusive language or gestures toward any other student or person.
- Assault toward a school employee – A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or behave in such a manner as to threaten to cause physical injury to a school employee.
- Assault toward a student or other person – A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury to another student or person.
- Suspension/expulsion and/or legal prosecution may result from this behavior.

Unauthorized Use of School or Private Property

Students must obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use of school property, or private property located on school premises, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Vandalism/Theft, Damage, Destruction

1. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or steal or attempt to steal school property.
2. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property of students, teachers, school personnel or other persons or steal or attempt to steal private property either on the school grounds or during a school-sponsored or related activity, function, or event off school grounds.
3. Willful marking or defacing any part of the building or destroying school or personal property is the joint liability of the student and parent. Persons responsible will pay for the repair or replacement of damaged property and may be suspended, expelled, and/or prosecuted.

Weapons

ACE Academy is committed to providing an educational environment which is free of the dangers of firearms, knives, and other dangerous weapons in the schools. Because the school believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the staff. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

The definition of a firearm shall include any weapon or look-alike weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Sections 921-924), which includes any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above. Students are not permitted to bring any toy or look-alike firearms, knives, or other simulated weapons onto school property.

A student shall not use, possess, handle, transmit, sell, or conceal any object that can be classified as a weapon or dangerous instrument while on school grounds, at school-sponsored or related activities, functions or events off school grounds or at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school. Weapons and dangerous instruments shall include any object which is used or may be used to inflict physical harm and any object which is made to look like a weapon or dangerous instrument.

If a student brings a firearm on school property, in a school vehicle, or to any school-sponsored activity, or to any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property owned or controlled by the school, the superintendent may reduce this requirement on a case-by-case basis in accordance with State law. The reasons for reducing the term of the expulsion may include but are not limited to the age of the student, school record, disability and/or individual circumstances.

Students are also prohibited from bringing knives on school property, in a school vehicle, or to any school-sponsored activity. If a student brings a knife on school property, in a school vehicle, or to any school-sponsored activity, the superintendent may expel the student from school, with the same expulsion implications as noted above.

The Board may extend the right to expel a student for reasons beyond the possession of a firearm or knife. Students who possess or use a dangerous weapon, which is defined but not limited to metal knuckles, straight razors, explosives, noxious irritation or poisonous gases, poisons, drugs or other items possessed with the intent to use, sell, harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents or community members, may be subject to expulsion.

Ohio Revised Code requires the superintendent of schools, in certain specifically defined cases, to expel a student from school for up to a period of one year for possessing a firearm or knife, as defined in Ohio law. Additionally, the superintendent has the authority under Ohio law to expel a student for up to one year for violent conduct occurring at school, on other school property, at extra-curricular events, or at any school program or activity if the act will be a criminal offense committed by an adult and if the act results in serious physical harm to persons as defined in Ohio law. Specific guidance regarding one-year expulsions and permanent exclusion may be found in Policy 5610.

Suspension, Expulsion, Emergency Removal, Permanent Removal, Due Process Policy

The School recognizes that exclusion from the educational program is a serious sanction and that suspension and expulsion must follow due process mandates. Additionally, the School will comply with all state and federal law pertaining to students with disabilities.

A student may be disciplined for any violation of the student code of conduct, even if the violation occurs on property not owned or controlled by the School if the violation took place during activities connected with the School or if the behavior is directed at a school official.

Any student suspended or expelled under this policy will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities.

Suspension:

The principal or designee may suspend a student from the School for not more than ten school days. If at the time a suspension is imposed there are fewer than ten school days remaining in the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the suspension takes place, the principal may require the student to participate in a community service program or another alternative program for a number of hours equal to the remaining suspension period. The student shall be required to begin the program during the first full week day of the summer break. A principal may not apply the remaining suspension period to the following year.

Except in the case of a student given an in-school suspension, no student shall be suspended unless prior to the suspension the principal does both of the following:

- (1) Gives the student written notice of the intention to suspend the student and the reasons for the intended suspension;
- (2) Provides the student an opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal or designee and challenge the reason for the intended suspension or otherwise to explain the student's actions.

Expulsion:

The superintendent may expel a student from the School for a period not to exceed the greater of eighty school days or the number of school days remaining in the semester or term in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place. If at the time an expulsion is imposed, there are fewer than eighty school days remaining in the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place, the superintendent may apply any remaining part or all of the period of the expulsion to the following school year. No student shall be expelled under this policy unless, prior to the student's expulsion, the superintendent does both of the following:

- (1) Gives the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of the intention to expel the student;
- (2) Provides the student and the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or representative an opportunity to appear in person before the superintendent or superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the student's actions. The notice required under this section shall include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity of the student and the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or representative to appear before the superintendent or superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the student's action, and notification of the time and place to appear. The time to appear shall not be earlier than three nor later than five school days after the notice is given, unless the superintendent grants an extension of time at the request of the student or the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or representative. If an extension is granted after giving the original

notice, the superintendent shall notify the student and the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or representative of the new time and place to appear.

Unless a student is permanently excluded, the superintendent shall expel a pupil for a period of one year for bringing a firearm to the School, to an extracurricular event, or onto any other property controlled by the Board of Directors of the School. "Firearm" has the same meaning provided in the "Gun-Free Schools Act," a "firearm means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projective by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device, which includes a bomb grenade, a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, or similar device. This definition would also include any weapon that will, or that may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and that has a barrel with a bore of more than one half in diameter. The term does not include an antique firearm. The superintendent may reduce the expulsion time on a case by case basis based upon the student's overall record at the School.

Permanent Exclusion

A student may be permanently excluded from attending any school in the state if the student is convicted of, or adjudicated a delinquent child for, committing an act that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult, when the student was sixteen years of age or older if the act is one of the following:

- Illegal conveyance or possession of deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance or of object indistinguishable from firearm in school safety zone in violation of R.C. 2923.11.
- Carrying a concealed weapon, trafficking in drugs or possession of controlled substances, if the violation was committed on property owned or controlled by the school or at a school activity in violation of R.C. 2923.12, R.C. 2925.03, and/or R.C. 2925.11.
- Aggravated murder, murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, felonious assault, aggravated assault, rape, gross sexual imposition, or felonious sexual penetration in violation of R.C. 2903.01, R.C. 2923.02, R.C. 2903.03, R.C. 2903.04, R.C. 2903.11, R.C. 2903.12, R.C. 2907.02, R.C. 2907.05, and/or the former section R.C. 2907.12 if the violation was committed on property owned or controlled by the school or a school activity if the victim at the time of the commission of the act was an employed at the school.
- Complicity in any of the above violations regardless of whether the act of complicity was committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the school.

If the superintendent of the school obtains or receives proof that a student has been convicted of committing or adjudicated a delinquent child for the commission when the student was sixteen years of age or older of one or more of the above, the superintendent may issue to the school's governing authority a request that the student be permanently excluded from public school attendance in Ohio, if both of the following apply:

(1) After obtaining or receiving proof of the conviction or adjudication, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee determines that the student's continued attendance in school may endanger the health and safety of other students or school employees and gives the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian written notice that the superintendent intends to recommend that the governing authority adopt a resolution requesting the superintendent of public instruction to permanently exclude the student from public school attendance.

(2) The superintendent or the superintendent's designee forwards to the governing authority the superintendent's written recommendation that includes the determinations the superintendent or designee made pursuant to this policy and a copy of the proof the superintendent received showing that

the student has been convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for a violation listed in this section that was committed when the student was sixteen years of age or older.

The School shall follow all requirements for permanent exclusion as described by ORC 3313.66, including providing notice of the possibility of permanent exclusion with each suspension and expulsion notice.

Emergency Removal:

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either within a classroom or elsewhere on the school premises, the principal or assistant principal may remove a student from curricular activities or from the school premises or a teacher may remove a student from curricular activities under the teacher's supervision without the notice and hearing requirements of this policy. If a teacher removes a student, the teacher shall submit in writing to the principal the reason for the removal. If a student is removed under this division from a curricular activity or from the school premises, written notice of the hearing and of the reason for the removal shall be given to the student as soon as practicable prior to the hearing, which shall be held within three school days from the time the initial removal is ordered. The hearing shall be held in accordance with the suspension provision herein unless it is probable that the student may be subject to expulsion, in which case a hearing in accordance with expulsion provision herein shall be held, except that the hearing shall be held within three school days of the initial removal. The individual who ordered, caused, or requested the removal to be made shall be present at the hearing.

Right to Appeal to Board:

Within one school day after the time of a student's expulsion or suspension, the superintendent or principal shall notify in writing the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student and the Board of Directors of the School of the expulsion or suspension. The notice shall include the following reasons for the expulsion or suspension and notification of: (1) the right of the student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal the expulsion or suspension to the Board of Directors of the School or to its designee; (2) the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings; (3) the right to be granted a hearing before the Board of Directors of the School or its designee in order to be heard against the suspension or expulsion; (4) and the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session. The notice shall specify the manner and date by which the student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian shall notify the School's Board of Directors of the student's, parent's, guardian's, or custodian's intent to appeal the expulsion or suspension to the board or its designee. If the superintendent expels a student under this section for more than twenty school days or, for any period of time, if the expulsion will extend into the following semester or school year, the notice shall provide the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitudes and behavior that contributed to the incident that gave rise to the student's expulsion. The information shall include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the appropriate public and private agencies.

If the student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the expulsion or suspension to the Board of Directors of the School or its designee, the student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian shall notify the Board of Directors of the School in the manner and by the date specified in the notice. The student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian may be represented in all appeal proceedings and shall be granted a hearing before the Board of Directors of the School or its designee in order to be heard against the suspension or expulsion. At the request of the student or of the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or attorney, the Board of Directors of the School or its designee may hold the hearing in executive session but shall act upon the suspension or expulsion only at a public meeting. The Board of Directors of the School, by a majority vote of its full membership or by the action of its designee, may affirm the order of suspension or expulsion, reinstate the student, or otherwise reverse, vacate, or modify the order of suspension or expulsion. The Board of Directors of the School or its designee shall make a verbatim record of hearings held under this

division. The decisions of the Board of Directors of the School or its designee may be appealed under Chapter 2506 of the Ohio Revised Code.

This policy shall not be construed to require notice and hearing in the case of normal disciplinary procedures in which a student is removed from a curricular activity for a period of less than one school day and is not subject to suspension or expulsion.

For purposes of this policy, the Board of Directors of the School appoints the Operator as its designee.

Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Consistent with this policy, to the extent the principal may order removal of a student without disabilities, the principal may remove a student with a disability, but not for more than ten (10) school days.

After a child with a disability has been removed from the child's current placement for ten school days in the same school year, during any subsequent days of removal, the school district must provide services.

If a child is removed for a period of time exceeding ten school days and the behavior was not determined to be a manifestation of the disability, the student must continue to receive educational services and receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services.

Change in Placement

The School will notify the parent of the removal decision that constitutes a change in placement for a student with a disability and provide the parent with a copy of the notice of procedural safeguards on the same day as the date of the removal decision.

A change in placement will occur when

- a removal is for more than ten (10) consecutive school days; or
- a series of removals constitute a pattern because;
 - the removals cumulate to more than ten (10) school days in a school year,
 - the behavior of the student is substantially similar to prior incidents, and
 - other factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student is removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another.

Manifestation Determination

Within ten school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability due to a violation of the code of student conduct, the School, parent, and relevant members of the IEP team must review all relevant information in the student's file to determine:

- (3) If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability or
- (4) If the conduct was a direct result of the School's failure to implement the IEP.

If either of these two conditions are found to exist, the conduct must be determined to be a manifestation of the disability.

If the IEP team and other qualified personnel determine that the student's behavior was not related to the disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to students without disabilities may be applied to the student in the same manner in which they would be applied to students without disabilities.

If the IEP team determines that the student's behavior was a manifestation of the disability, the school must either:

1. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment or,
2. If the behavioral plan has already been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan and the implementation plan and modify them if necessary.
 - a. The child must return to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent and the School agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

School personnel may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five school days without regard to whether the behavior is a manifestation of the disability if the student:

1. Carries a weapon to or possesses a weapon at School, on school premises, or to a school function;
2. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at School, on school premises, or at a school function; or
3. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another while at School, on school premises, or at a school function.

Students removed under this section must continue to receive services and receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services.

Appeals

If a parent disagrees with any decision regarding placement or the manifestation determination decision made by the IEP team, the parent may request a hearing. Whenever a hearing is requested, the School will comply with the procedures for an expedited due process hearing.

Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, Anti-Bullying Policy

A safe and civil environment is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying are strictly prohibited, and students who are determined to have engaged in such behavior are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion. This policy details the School's prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (including Cyber-Bullying).

I. Definitions:

A. "Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying" means:

1. An intentional written, verbal, graphic, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students has exhibited toward another student or school personnel (including volunteers or others serving the school), more than once, and the behavior:
 - a. Causes mental or physical harm to the victim; and
 - b. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment
2. Violence within a dating relationship

B. By Electronic Means/Cyber-Bullying: Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying includes electronic acts, which mean an act committed through the use of phones, PDAs, computers, electronic notebooks, game systems, or any other electronic or communication devices. (Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying conducted through electronic devices is sometimes referred to as "Cyber-Bullying".)

C. Location: Acts constituting Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying subject to this policy must occur to and from school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored or sanctioned activities, or in school

transportation in order for the School to be reasonably able to monitor and discern the conduct pursuant to this policy. Cyber-Bullying, subject to this policy, may occur beyond those locations but is covered by this Policy and is strictly forbidden under this Policy.

II. Types of Conduct

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying can include many different behaviors including overt intent to ridicule, humiliate or intimidate another student or school personnel. Examples of conduct that could constitute prohibited conduct may include, but is not limited to:

1. Physical violence and/or attacks;
2. Threats, taunts and Intimidation through words and/or gestures;
3. Extortion, damage or stealing of money, property or possessions;
4. Exclusion from the peer group or spreading rumors;
5. Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature that have the purpose or effect of causing injury, discomfort, fear or suffering to the victim;
6. Repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies and other web-based/online sites (also known as “cyber Bullying”), such as the following:
 - a. Posting slurs on websites or any form of social media;
 - b. Sending or posting abusive or threatening instant messages, emails, texts or communications via social media;
 - c. Using cameras or cameras on any devices to take private or embarrassing photographs of students and sending or posting them online or on any form of social media;
 - d. Using websites or other electronic communication to circulate gossip and rumors to other students;
 - e. Excluding others from an online group by falsely reporting them for inappropriate language to internet service providers.

III. Complaint Process – Reporting Prohibited Incidents

- A. Students, Parents/Guardians, or other individuals may report suspected Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying to any School personnel. The Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee is responsible for receiving complaints alleging violations of this Policy. School personnel who receive a complaint will promptly report or forward it to the Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee for review and action.
- B. Oral reports of suspected prohibited behavior are considered official complaints in the same manner as a written complaint. School personnel who receive an oral complaint will promptly document the complaint in writing, and will promptly forward it to the Chief Administrative Officer for review and action.
- C. Both written and oral complaints shall be reasonably specific as to the actions giving rise to the suspicion of Harassment, Intimidation, and/or Bullying, including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of the prohibited behavior, and the names of any potential witness.
- D. Anonymous Complaints: Individuals who make complaints as set forth above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the School. The anonymous complaints will be reviewed and reasonable action will be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint; and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of Harassment, Intimidation and/or Bullying.

- E. False Complaints: It is a violation of this policy to knowingly report false allegations of Harassment, Intimidation, and/or Bullying. Persons found to knowingly report or corroborate false allegations will be subject to appropriate discipline.
- F. School personnel, volunteers, and students shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy if that person reports an incident in good faith and in compliance with the procedures set forth herein.

IV. School Personnel Responsibilities

A. Teachers and Other School Personnel Responsibilities

1. Teachers and other school personnel, who witness acts of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying, as defined above, will promptly notify the Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee of the event observed by filing a written incident report concerning the events witnessed.
2. In addition to addressing both informal and formal complaints, school personnel are encouraged to address the issue of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying in other interactions with students. School personnel may find opportunities to educate students about Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying and help eliminate such prohibited behaviors through class discussions, counseling, and reinforcement of socially appropriate behavior.
3. School personnel should intervene promptly where they observe student conduct that has the purpose or effect of ridiculing, humiliating, or intimidating another student/school personnel, even if such conduct does not meet the formal definition of “Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying.”

B. Administrator Responsibilities - Investigation and Documentation

1. The Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee shall conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of all complaints of suspected Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying. The Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee shall prepare a written report of the investigation when the investigation is complete. Such report will include findings of fact and a determination of whether acts of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying were verified. When prohibited acts are verified, the Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee shall also prepare a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action. Where appropriate, written witness statements will be attached to the report. It is imperative that Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying be identified only when the specific elements of the definition are met because the designation of such prohibited incidents carry special statutory obligations. However, a determination that misconduct does not constitute Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying under this Policy, does not restrict the right of the Chief Administrative Officer to impose appropriate disciplinary consequences for student misconduct.
2. When an individual reporting a complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint will be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint (with or without discussing it with the alleged perpetrator), subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining individual of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

V. Notification to Parents/Guardians

- A. Perpetrator: If after investigation, acts of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying by a specific student are verified, the Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee will notify, in writing, the parent or guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline will be included in such notification to the extent permitted by law.
- B. Victim: If after investigation, acts of Bullying against a specific student are verified, the Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee will notify the parent or guardian of the victim of such findings. In providing such notification, care must be taken to respect the statutory privacy right, including those set forth in the R.C. § 3319.321 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232q of the perpetrator of such Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.
- C. To the extent permitted by State and Federal privacy laws, parents or guardians of any student involved in a prohibited incident may have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident.

VI. Remedial Actions

- A. Verified acts of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying will result in action by the Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee that is intended to ensure that the prohibition against Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying behavior is enforced, with the goal that any such prohibited behavior will cease.
- B. The School recognizes that acts of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying can take many forms and can vary dramatically in seriousness and impact on the targeted individual and school community. Accordingly, there is no one prescribed response to verified acts of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying. Disciplinary and appropriate remedial actions for an individual who commits an act of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to, and including, suspension or expulsion.
- C. In determining appropriate action for each individual who commits an act of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (including a determination to engage in either non-disciplinary or disciplinary action, as described below), the Chief Administrative Officer will give the following factors full consideration:
 - 1. The degree of harm caused by the incident(s);
 - 2. The surrounding circumstances;
 - 3. The nature and severity of the behavior;
 - 4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
 - 5. Past incidences or continuing patterns of behavior.
- D. When verified acts of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying are identified early and/or when such verified acts of such behavior do not reasonably require a disciplinary response, students may be counseled regarding the definition of Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, its prohibition, and their duty to avoid any conduct that could be considered Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying. Peer mediation may also be used, when appropriate.
- E. When acts of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying are verified and a disciplinary response is warranted, students are subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences. Anonymous complaints that are not otherwise verified, however, will not be the basis for disciplinary action.

- F. Suspension or Expulsion may be imposed, but only after the appropriate procedures have been conducted pursuant to the School's Suspension and Expulsion policy and applicable law. No disciplinary procedure will infringe on any student's rights under the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.
- G. The determination that conduct does not constitute Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying under this Policy, however, does not restrict the right of the Chief Administrative Officer or the Board or both to impose appropriate disciplinary consequences for student misconduct.

VII. Prevention and Intervention Strategies

In addition to the prompt investigation of complaints of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying, and direct intervention when such acts are verified, the School will consider potential strategies to protect victims from additional Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying, and from retaliation following a report and to generally ameliorate the effects of Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying. The following potential strategies, as well as other strategies, may be considered:

1. Supervising and disciplining offending students fairly and consistently;
2. Providing adult supervision during breaks, lunch time, bathroom breaks and in the hallways during times of transition;
3. Maintaining contact with parents and guardians of all involved parties;
4. Providing counseling for the victim if assessed that it is needed;
5. Informing school personnel of the incident and instructing them to monitor the victim and the offending party for indications of harassing, intimidating, and Bullying behavior; instructing personnel to intervene when prohibited behaviors are witnessed;
6. Checking with the victim regularly to ensure that there have been no incidents of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying or retaliation from the offender(s).
7. Responding respectfully to complaints of suspected prohibited conduct.
8. Promoting open communication regarding Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying.
9. Providing professional development and community opportunities to educate and collaborate with school personnel, parents, and community members about addressing Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying.
10. Educating students regarding Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying.
11. Creating a school atmosphere of team spirit and collaboration that promotes appropriate social behavior.
12. Avoiding sex-role stereotypes. Modeling and promoting strategies that instruct student how to work together in a collaborative and supportive atmosphere. Use of peers to help ameliorate the effects of Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying.

VIII. Semi-Annual Reporting Obligations

The Chief Administrative Officer will semi-annually provide the president of the School’s Board of Directors a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the School’s Website, if one exists. The list will be limited to the number of verified acts of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

IX. Publication & Dissemination of Policy

- A. This policy shall be included in the student handbook and in the publication which sets forth the comprehensive rules, standards, and procedures regarding school conduct. The School will annually disseminate this Policy to School personnel, students, and parents.
- B. To ensure school personnel are prepared to prevent and effectively intervene with incidents of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying, the School has incorporated the information about this Policy into its employee training materials.
- C. Students will be provided with age-appropriate information on the recognition and prevention of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying, and their rights and responsibilities under this and other School policies, procedures and rules.

IX. Sexual Harassment

- A. Sexual Harassment is conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
 - 1. Conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the School on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct. (quid pro quo)
 - 2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, and pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the School’s education program or activity.
 - 3. Sexual assault as defined in the Clery Act 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), dating violence 34 U.S.C. 12291 (a)(10), domestic violence 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or stalking as defined in the Violence Against Women Act 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).
- B. Complaints of Sexual Harassment. Procedures for filing and the investigation of allegations of sexual harassment are addressed in compliance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 regulations.

The Designated Title IX Coordinator for the School is:

Name or Title: Director
 Mailing Address: 1045 Dearbaugh Avenue, Ste. 3, Wapakpnetta, Ohio 45895
 Phone Number: (419) 738-4572
 Email: jkorte@aceva.org

VI. Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect

When any staff member suspects abuse or neglect, he/she will first notify the school administrator. The staff member will then call the local reporting agency in the presence of the administrator. The staff member will document the notification. All reports are to be confidential. For further information regarding reporting of child abuse or neglect, refer to the Board's Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting Policy.

Parent and Student Compact

The purpose of this compact is to set expectations for ACE Academy parents and students. Your agreement with and action on the following statements are vital to student success at ACE Academy.

- I believe my student/I have the ability to learn and grow academically.
- I understand that parent/guardian involvement is essential for my student's success.
- We will uphold all policies as outlined in the ACE Student-Parent Handbook.
- We will maintain or have access to continuous Internet service so my student has daily access to ACE Academy.
- I understand that the ACE Academy program includes the curriculum in Edgenuity, tutoring (both onsite and online), and various state and local assessments.
- I will actively ensure that my student participates in all required ACE Academy learning activities.
- We understand the ACE Academy is a public school that adheres to all state compulsory attendance regulations. As such, we understand that students in grades 6-12 must attend school a minimum of 920 hours a year, which is a minimum of 5-6 hours per day. We understand that middle and high school students may need to be academically engaged for up to 8 hours per day to be successful.
- I understand that as the parent/guardian, I am legally responsible for ensuring my student meets minimum attendance standards or be subject to truancy/unruly action which may require legal intervention and/or withdrawal from ACE Academy.
- We agree to participate in all required state and local assessments.
- We will interact with school personnel on a regular basis by checking and responding to email, Schoology messages, voicemail, and/or text messages daily.
- We will work professionally and respectfully with all ACE Academy staff members to ensure the success of students.

As more fully set forth in the Board Policy Manual, please refer to the School's Parent Involvement Policy for more information on this policy.

Teacher Compact

ACE Academy is proud of its talented, committed, highly qualified teachers. ACE Academy teachers agree to the following responsibilities to their students and to their students' families:

- We believe that all students are capable of learning and growing academically.
- We believe that academic progress and success should be measured in multiple ways: state and local assessments, progress in the curriculum, and engagement in regular communication with teaching staff.
- We will remain actively engaged in building positive relationships with our students and their families/support systems.
- We will communicate clearly and regularly with our students so that we can best meet our students' learning needs.
- We will keep accurate records of our students' participation and performance in all learning opportunities.
- We will work as a team with our colleagues, students, and our students' families/support systems to ensure that all students reach their maximum learning potential.

SIGNATURE SHEET

ACE Academy Student-Parent Handbook

I have received, read, and understand the rules and regulations that are stated within this handbook. I understand that failure to follow these rules and regulations could lead to suspension, expulsion or withdraw from the Auglaize County Educational Academy. I/We agree to abide by and support the School's rules and regulations, **INCLUDING THE CODE OF CONDUCT, TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY, HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, AND ALL OTHER POLICIES**, as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. I also agree to pay fees pursuant to the school's fee scheduled as referenced herein for supplemental materials and for damaged property.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Release of Student Directory Information & FERPA

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (“FERPA”)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the ACE Academy receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the ACE Academy Dean of Students a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The ACE Academy Dean of Students will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who ask the ACE Academy to amend a record should write the ACE Academy Dean of Students, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the ACE Academy decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the ACE Academy will notify the parent or eligible student and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to ACE Academy officials with legitimate educational interests. A ACE Academy official is a person employed by the ACE Academy as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the ACE Academy Board; a person or company with whom the ACE Academy has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another ACE Academy official in performing his or her tasks.

An ACE Academy official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the ACE Academy discloses education records without consent to officials of another ACE Academy in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, if the disclosure is for the purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the ACE Academy to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
United States Department of
Education 400 Maryland Avenue,
SW Washington, DC 20202-8520

The school shall provide for the need to effectively notify parents of students identified as having a primary or home language other than English. The school shall also provide for the need to effectively notify parents or eligible students identified as disabled.

STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

While FERPA permits schools to adopt a policy allowing the release of Directory Information Policy under which "directory information" concerning students may be released to the public under certain circumstance, schools are not required to do so. Whereas the School has not adopted such a policy, the School's practice in compliance with FERPA is not to release education records or personally identifiable information in the absence of explicit consent from a parent or student over the age of eighteen.

If a parent or eligible student does not want ACE Academy to disclose directory information from a student's education records without prior written consent, they must notify the school by returning the ANNUAL OPT-OUT OPTIONS FORM printed below each ACE Academy year.

- A. **Armed Services Data** - grades 11 and 12 only: In addition, federal and state laws require ACE Academy receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ("ESEA") to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents or students have advised the ACE Academy that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

Similarly, in accordance with the State of Ohio statutes schools must release to military recruiting officers the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12, UNLESS the parent/guardian or student has checked "2" in the ANNUAL OPT-OUT OPTIONS FORM and has signed, dated and returned the form.

B. ANNUAL OPT-OUT OPTIONS FORM

If you wish to allow all of the student data as defined in "A" and "B" to be published/distributed, you do not need to return this form.

Options 1, 2, and/or 3: Place a check in the applicable box(es) and provide a signature at the bottom before returning this form

1. Deny student data as defined in "B" from distribution to the armed services:
2. Deny student data as defined in "A" from publication or distribution:
3. Deny only the following student data as defined in "A" and/or "B" from publication or distribution:

[PLEASE LIST THE SPECIFIC DATA FROM SECTION "A" and/or "B" THAT YOU DO NOT WANT RELEASED]

If you checked any of the boxes under options 1, 2, or 3, you MUST complete and sign section "D" below and return this completed form to the Westonka Educational Service Center by Friday, Sept. 8. Doing so will EXCLUDE student data from being published or released. If you have any questions, please contact ACE Academy staff at 419-738-7452.

- C. **SIGNATURES:** If you opt to deny student data from publication and release, this form MUST be signed by the parent/guardian or adult student (18 years-of-age or older).

Student name

Parent/Legal Guardian of Student (if student under 18)

Student's signature (if 18 years or older)

NOTE: This request remains in effect for the current ACE Academy year only. This completed form must be returned to ACE Academy at the beginning of each year.