

# SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

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PHOENIX CHARTER ACADEMY CHELSEA

School Year 2018-2019

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## PHOENIX CHARTER ACADEMY MISSION

Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School Chelsea challenges resilient, disconnected students with rigorous academics and relentless supports, so they take ownership of their futures and succeed in high school, college, and beyond, as self-sufficient adults.

## 7 ASPECTS OF A PHOENIX SCHOLAR

- S --- Service
- C --- Community
- H --- Hope
- O --- Opportunity
- L --- Leadership
- A --- Achievement
- R --- Respect

## BELL SCHEDULE

2018-2019

Phoenix Academy Bell Schedule SY 2018-2019						
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:30am	30 min.	Team Huddle	Teacher Work Time	Team Huddle	Teacher Work Time	Team Huddle
8:30-9:00am	30 min.	Student Entry/Supervision				
9:00-9:25am	25 min.	Morning Meeting	CREW	CREW	CREW	CREW
9:30-10:25am	55 min.	Period 1				Period 1/2
10:28-11:33am	55 min.	Period 2				Period 3/4
11:36-12:31pm	55 min.	Period 3				Period 5/6
12:34-1:03pm	29 min.	Lunch				Community
1:07-2:02pm	55 min.	Period 4				Professional Development
2:06-3:01pm	55 min.	Period 5				
3:05-4:00pm	55 min.	Period 6				
4:00-4:10pm	10 min.	Dismissal				
4:10-5:00pm	50 min.	Teacher Work Time/Team Huddle				

## RIGOROUS ACADEMICS AND RELENTLESS SUPPORT

**There are two pillars that are central to helping you achieve at Phoenix:**

### ✓ Rigorous Academics - High Expectations

We believe all students can, regardless of history or background, achieve great things at Phoenix by meeting our rigorous standards for academic and social-emotional skills.

### ✓ Relentless Support

We understand that all students need supports in order to succeed. Therefore, all staff members are deeply dedicated to holding high expectations, while simultaneously supporting scholars with many of the issues that can get in the way of coming to school and focusing on learning. The rest of this document will explain what relentless support means for scholars at Phoenix.

## ACADEMICS AT PHOENIX CHARTER ACADEMY

*Phoenix Charter Academy offers a **rigorous academic program** that is designed to meet the needs of all students, including many students who have not found success in traditional school environments. We offer relentless supports that scaffold the academic program. Phoenix's school design and instructional methods include a number of proven, research-based, best practices, for small, urban, high poverty schools.*

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements at Phoenix reflect a greater focus on academic skills, rather than a simple accumulation of credits. A scholar's progress toward achieving mastery on the critical standards and competencies for each course will determine their placement and progress toward graduation. High attenders who invest effort and focus during daily lessons typically progress to graduation more rapidly because they can show mastery of the required skills and competencies as a direct result of this effort and focus.

PCA offers a college-style system in which scholars take independent term long courses, and enroll in new courses at the end of each quarter. Scholars receive graduation credit for the quarters they complete with a C- (70) or above. Scholars can retake courses or continue to work toward mastery until they finally achieve mastery on major assessments. Our goal is to hold scholars to high standards, while also giving them more opportunities to achieve academic success. The more scholars attend and engage their focus and energy in the learning of daily lessons, the faster they can progress to mastery and to graduation.

Scholars will earn credit towards graduation in courses each term by showing mastery on major assessments that are aligned with the Phoenix Competencies, the Massachusetts Standards for English Language Arts, Math and Science Standards, or the WIDA Standards for English Language Learners.

Subject Area	Graduation Requirements
Literacy and Humanities	<p>Mastery of the major standards and competencies of Category I, II and III Literature courses in reading, writing, research and public speaking.</p> <p>Scholars must pass the ELA MCAS exam in order to earn a high school diploma in Massachusetts. Phoenix scholars are expected to earn Proficient or Advanced status on MCAS in order to demonstrate college readiness.</p>
Math	<p>Mastery of the major standards and competencies of Integrated Math I, Integrated Math II (formerly known as Geometry) and Algebra II.</p> <p>Based on their STAR assessment and demonstration of mastery on Math assessments, scholars may need to take Math Seminar or Transitions to Algebra in order to develop the required skills for success in Integrated Math I.</p> <p>Scholars must pass the Math MCAS exam in order to earn a high school diploma in Massachusetts. Phoenix scholars are expected to earn Proficient or Advanced status on MCAS in order to demonstrate college readiness.</p> <p>Statistics or Pre-Calculus is highly recommended for scholars who are pursuing admission to a four year college. These are offered as on-line courses or as dual enrollment courses at our partnering community colleges.</p>
Science	<p>Mastery of the equivalent of at least three lab focused Science courses: Intro to Science, Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics.</p>

	Scholars must pass one Science MCAS exam (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics) in order to earn a high school diploma in Massachusetts. Phoenix scholars are expected to earn Proficient or Advanced status on MCAS in order to demonstrate college readiness.
Health and Wellness: Personal Growth Project	<p>Scholars will complete a Personal Growth Project that demonstrates the social and emotional skills needed to succeed in college and careers. they will demonstrate a mastery level of a C- (70%) or above on the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Self assessment of strengths and areas for growth on the Phoenix Competencies</li> <li>● a personal narrative essay describing their growth on the Phoenix Competencies and their goals for continued growth to prepare for college and careers</li> <li>● a creative project that demonstrates their growth on the Phoenix Competencies</li> <li>● a presentation of their Personal Growth Project during an Academic Exhibition or at Community Meeting (a requirement for graduating seniors)</li> </ul> <p>College Prep or Senior Seminar Class: Scholars learn about college opportunities and the college and financial aid application process through research, college visits, and college counseling.</p>
College and Career Readiness	<p>All students will complete a College and Career Portfolio that demonstrates college and career readiness by achieving a mastery level of a C- (70%) or above on the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Graduate Plan that is created at orientation and has been reviewed and updated each academic term</li> <li>● Career Pathways Project/Plan</li> <li>● College applications</li> <li>● College Persistence Plan</li> </ul>
Arts & Technology	Scholars meet this requirement through the integration of arts and technology across the Phoenix courses.
AP courses, on-line electives and dual enrollment in local colleges	Scholars who are pursuing admission to four year colleges are strongly encouraged to take advantage of AP courses, online electives and dual enrollment courses at local partner colleges to ensure that their academic record is as competitive as possible for admissions and potential financial aid opportunities.

## TRANSFER OF CREDITS FROM PREVIOUS SCHOOLS

Phoenix scholars can transfer credits for any previous high school courses in which they earned a C- (70) or above. New scholars should be aware that since Phoenix is a mastery based academic program, their level of mastery of the standards and competencies will determine which courses

they are enrolled in and how rapidly they progress to graduation. High attenders who invest effort and focus during daily lessons typically progress to graduation more rapidly because they master critical skills and competencies faster.

## PROMOTION POLICY

PCA scholars are only promoted when they have demonstrated mastery of the academic standards for a course. Scholars receive credit when they have demonstrated 70% mastery (C-) or above in a given subject.

Scholars can earn credit and be promoted to the next level of courses each quarter through two different pathways:

<p><b>Pathway 1: Mastery Portfolio: Accelerated Pathway</b></p>	<p>Scholars develop and present a Mastery Portfolio that shows mastery of the major standards and competencies of the course. Scholars demonstrate academic mastery on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● QPAs and mini-QPAs (projects and performances)</li> <li>● Interim Assessments (Midterm and Final Tests)</li> </ul> <p>In ELA and Math, the STAR assessment is also used to determine that scholars are mastering high school level standards and competencies.</p> <p>Scholars can nominate themselves to prepare and present a Mastery Portfolio or may be nominated by a staff member. The Mastery Portfolio is rigorous, but offers an opportunity for scholars to accelerate their pace to graduation.</p> <p>Scholars who are high attenders and who invest great effort and focus in daily lessons are typically ready to show mastery on standards and competencies and progress to graduation at faster rates.</p> <p>The Mastery Portfolio also includes a Personal Growth Project where scholars present their goals and growth on the Phoenix Competencies, which are essential for success in school, college and life.</p>
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<b>Pathway 2: Earning Credit Each Academic Term by Showing Mastery on the Major Assessments of the Course for Each Term</b>	Scholars can earn credit for each academic term when they have shown mastery of at least a C- or 70% average. This is typically a slower pathway to graduation.
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### **English Language Learners Mastery Based Portfolio Promotion Process**

English Language Learners will prepare and present a Mastery Based Portfolio each quarter to ensure that their placement in English Language courses match their learning needs and to accelerate their progress toward readiness for Category I, II and III courses- and graduation. In every academic term, English Language Learners can apply for promotion to a higher level of English Language instruction and/or to Category I. When scholars apply for promotion through the Mastery Based Portfolio pathway, they will work with administrators, their CREW Leaders and teachers to assemble and present a Mastery Based Portfolio that includes:

- Grades from across courses and CREW that show that the scholar is consistently passing or excelling in those courses
- Current examples of Quality Performance Assessments (QPAs) from two different subject areas that show how the scholar has revised/improved work and has demonstrated mastery of critical skills and content
- ACCESS data and any additional WIDA aligned assessments
- STAR assessment data for Literacy/Reading and Math and the scholar’s reflections on his/her data: The STAR Assessment will be administered to all scholars in the fall and spring to measure growth and to identify key learning needs.
- A Personal Growth Project that tells the story of the scholars growth on the Phoenix Competencies and the scholar’s goals and plans for future growth

A team of administrators and teachers will review the scholar’s Mastery Based Portfolio and Personal Growth Project with the scholar and will collectively determine whether the scholar has achieved sufficient mastery on academic skills and content and the Phoenix Competencies or if the scholar would benefit from additional learning and practice in the current level of English Language courses and should re-apply at a later date.

## **ASSESSMENT PLAN: WAYS TO MEASURE AND DEMONSTRATE LEARNING**

Phoenix educators work to create learning environments that are rigorous, relevant and engaging and our assessments provide a variety of opportunities and modes for scholars to demonstrate mastery of content, skills and the Phoenix Competencies. Scholars will have opportunities to demonstrate their learning throughout the year on the following assessments:

<b>Assessment: Ways to Measure and Demonstrate Learning</b>	<b>Description</b>
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<p>Quality Performance Assessments (QPAs)</p>	<p>QPAs are the dominant form of assessment at Phoenix and allow scholars to demonstrate their learning through engaging, rigorous and relevant projects, performances, and assignments that reflect the tasks they will do in college and in 21st century career pathways. Scholars should expect to revise their QPAs multiple times until they reach mastery.</p> <p>All Phoenix schools will showcase their learning on QPAs to the school community during Academic Exhibition Events at least once per quarter to celebrate progress and provide practice sharing learning with authentic audiences.</p>
<p>Personal Growth Project</p>	<p>Scholars will develop projects and portfolios that demonstrate their goal setting, development, and self-assessment on the Phoenix Priority Meta-Cognitive and Social Emotional Skills as these are the most important factors that predict success in college and career.</p>
<p>College and Career Portfolio</p>	<p>College and Career Portfolio that demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Graduate Plan that is created at orientation and has been reviewed and updated quarterly</li> <li>● Career Pathways Project/Plan</li> <li>● College applications</li> <li>● College Persistence Plan</li> </ul>
<p>Interim Assessment (IA) Midterm and Final Tests in ELA and Math</p>	<p>Scholars will take a network-aligned assessment as a Midterm Test and Final Test in Category I-III ELA and Math each quarter.</p>
<p>STAR Assessment in Literacy/Reading and Math</p>	<p>Scholars will take the STAR assessment at the point of enrollment and in the fall and spring to measure their growth and to pinpoint critical learning needs. The STAR assessment is also used as part of the portfolio promotion process to evaluate student mastery and to assess a scholar's readiness to master the learning of the next course or level of learning.</p> <p>Scholars participating in the Phoenix Tutoring Program will demonstrate mastery and learning needs using the STAR assessment so that tutors can pinpoint learning needs and match tutoring to the scholar's personal needs.</p>
<p>ACCESS and quarterly WIDA aligned Quality Performance Assessments (QPAs)</p>	<p>Scholars in the English Language Learners program will take the ACCESS exam in January of each year and will complete QPAs aligned to the WIDA standards for</p>

	<p>English Language Development.</p> <p>ACCESS scores determine when a scholar has developed enough mastery of the Speaking, Reading, Writing and Listening WIDA standards to exit formal English Language Learners services.</p>
MCAS Exam (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) for English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science	<p>In Massachusetts, scholars need to pass the MCAS Exam for English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and a Science course in order to earn a high school diploma. Scholars who are making academic progress and have entered Category II ELA and Integrated Math II: Geometry take the MCAS. Phoenix scholars are expected to perform well above the passing level in the Proficient or Advanced levels as college prep scholars. Scholars can take a Science MCAS that matches the Science course in which they are enrolled.</p>
Advanced Placement (AP) Exams	<p>Scholars in Category III or above are encouraged to take Advanced Placement courses and to earn scores on AP exams that will count toward college credit and allow them to save money on college tuition.</p>
Accuplacer	<p>All seniors are required to take and retake the Accuplacer college placement test until they earn scores in Reading, Writing and Math that will ensure that they place into college level courses and are not required to retake and pay for high school courses during their first year of college.</p> <p><a href="#">Accuplacer College Placement Exam Information</a>  All Category II, III and senior scholars are strongly encouraged to spend additional time practicing with the <a href="#">free Accuplacer practice app</a> and <a href="#">free Accuplacer prep resources</a> tools to achieve the highest scores possible each time they take the tests.</p>
SAT/ACT	<p>All seniors are required to take the new SAT (<a href="#">new Scholastic Aptitude Test</a>) and/or the ACT (<a href="#">American College Testing Exam</a>) at least once and are encouraged to retake the test to improve their scores.</p> <p>Critical preparation for SAT/ACT and Accuplacer happens in Category I-III Literature and Math courses, in tutoring, and in Senior Seminar. All Category II, III and senior scholars are strongly encouraged to spend</p>

	<p>additional time taking and retaking Khan Academy’s free online SAT prep course to achieve the highest scores possible each time they take the tests. <a href="#">Free online Khan Academy SAT prep course</a></p>
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**PROGRESS REPORTS & REPORT CARDS**

Scholars will receive midterm progress reports and report cards each academic term. Progress reports and report cards are mailed home and shared with scholars in CREW within one week after the end of the academic term. This ensures that scholars can update their Path to Graduation swiftly and adjust where needed to accelerate to graduation. Scholars will conference and review goals and graduation plans with CREW Leaders each time these are published. Adult supporters are encouraged to call and/or meet with CREW Leaders at Adult Supporter Nights and individual conferences during the year to review progress and develop support plans for scholars.

**PHOENIX COMPETENCIES**

Scholars will have frequent opportunities to develop, practice, and reflect on the development the Phoenix Competencies, the skills and habits that are most critical for success in college and 21st century careers. The research on the habits and behaviors that result in success in college and beyond is clear ([Research Review on College Persistence](#) and [Gates Millennium Scholars Study](#)). Scholars will practice these skills and habits throughout their experiences at Phoenix to ensure that they are ready to succeed in the college and career pathways of their choice when they graduate.

*Phoenix Competencies*

Learn from the Past	Reason Quantitatively
Lead Inquiry	Navigate Conflict
Read Critically	Use Tools Skillfully
Develop Self Knowledge and Sustain Wellness	Build Community
Express Oneself Boldly	

# RELENTLESS SUPPORT FOR PHOENIX SCHOLARS

Providing scholars with relentless support is the second pillar of the Phoenix Mission.

- 1) Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Support – helping to resolve and remove barriers that interfere with coming to school and succeeding.
- 2) Academic Support – creating opportunities for scholars to get extra extra help and individualized support in academic content areas.
- 3) Cultural Support – programming and routines that encourage youth development, a strong and supportive community, and positive relationships.

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND FRAMEWORK

The Phoenix tiered practices system promotes holistic wellness and data based, restorative, targeted interventions for its participants.

**Tier 1: (All school) Culturally Responsive Environment; Classroom Strategies with Accommodation Plan; Restorative Mindset, Approach and Practices:** Tier 1 community mindset and culture building practices are observed by the whole school community to establish, maintain and practice guidelines that become school wide agreements based on shared community values (community, resilience, rigor, relentlessness, ownership, success, and self-sufficiency). These collaborative practices extend from the Restorative, relational “with” model and provide a proactive approach to school safety, communal culture and collective responsibility. Measures within this tier are preventative and celebrate identity, build character, appreciate backgrounds, seek understanding for behavioral causes and build a healthy, positive mindset through positive youth development and faculty supports. Coaches and faculty members promote classroom practices that have clear procedures, rituals and routines that observe trauma informed practices; there is identified Restorative Circle practice culture within classes and throughout the community; and a safe environment created through the investment of all community members.

**Tier 2: Intensified Classroom and Small Group Interventions, Restorative Mindset, Conferencing, Counseling and Consensus:** Tier 2 responsible interventions are supported by the whole school community but coordinated by administration and scholar success team members. The facilitation of the practices associated with this tier extend the relational “with” model and our dedication to communal culture and collective responsibility but add and emphasize the element of problem solving. Collaborators in these efforts seek foremost to repair relationships, resolve minor and persistent conflicts between community members, and manage difficulties and disruptions to classrooms and the whole school community. Measures within this tier are responsive and involve reasonable skill level to facilitate since more time, some planning and formal follow up is included. Tier 2 Circle practice includes but is not limited to: harm

Circles, whole class problem solving Circles, restorative conferences, scripted questions, and peer councils.

**Tier 3: High-Risk Individual Interventions, Restorative Re-Entry:** Tier 3 responsive interventions seek resolutions as best as possible, through the management and coordination of school administration and the collaboration and cooperation of students, adult supporters and the whole school community. This tier involves processing more serious incidents and issues. The facilitation of the practices associated with this tier further extend the relational “with” model and our dedication to communal culture and collective responsibility by greatly emphasizing the elements of strategic problem solving, reintegration and safety. School community leaders engage in a formal collaborative process that involves more time, planning and formal follow up. Highly skilled and licenced individuals facilitate and mediate incidents, harm and miscommunications, in cooperation that honors and respects all parties. Tier 3 Restorative practice includes but is not limited to: harm Circles, whole class problem solving Circles, restorative conferences, re-entry Circles, scripted questions, consensus agreements, peer councils, and CREW supports

**Restorative Practices Tiers**

	<b>Tier 1: (All school) Culturally Responsive Environment; Classroom Strategies with Accommodation Plan; Restorative Mindset, Approach and Practices</b>	<b>Tier 2: Intensified Classroom and Small Group Interventions, Restorative Mindset, Conferencing, Counseling and Consensus</b>	<b>Tier 3: High-Risk Individual Interventions, Restorative Re-Entry</b>
<b>Social / Emotional Learning</b>	Embedded in teaching; explicit Social Emotional Learning SEL instruction; culturally responsive teaching methods, cultural proficiency, Modeling from adults, SEL youth and adults practice SEL skills competencies	Student and Adult Self to inform targeted plan and support focusing on building relationship and re-establishing trust	SEL guides intervention process and supports development of resilience, empowerment and communication skills

<b>Mental &amp; Physical Health</b>	Screening prevention and wellness promotion; physical education and healthy school environments	Group Counseling; support to staff and family; coordinated referral process with follow up; monitoring health education screenings	Crisis counseling; individual support medical, dental, vision services
<b>Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports</b>	Supports; school wide behavioral guidelines, agreements and expectations; acknowledgement of positive behavior; data based planning	Self-monitoring behavior contracts; small group social skills (Sankofa, Bese-Saka, Jovenes Nobles)	Cognitive behavioral therapy / counseling; wrap-around and other parent focused assistance; inter-agency services (Roca)
<b>Restorative Justice (mindset, practices and approach)</b>	Community building Circles; Restorative chats, data based planning; adult supporter contact (phone, email, or text), verbal redirection to guidelines or agreements; role play of values and community cultural practices (CREW); written reflection; Circle practice (exploration of values), guideline establishment - reference to school wide values; routines and rituals that acknowledge guidelines; interest based groups; clubs; mentoring programs, Sankofa, Bese Saka, Non-violent communication	Conferencing; problem solving Circles, Circle Back, adult supporter notification; check-in / check-out; mentoring; peer mediation; referral to SST, IEP Team supports, school counselor, after school, pro-social recreational activity; community service, Conflict resolution, talking Circles, Referral to SST; Positive Behavior support Plan, Referral to community based organization, Social Skills group, Sankofa, Bese Saka, Jovenes Nobles	Family group conferencing and counseling, re-entry process, community conferencing, peer counsel hearing, consensus agreement, behavior support plan, follow up, point people, healing Circles, follow-up Circles, Scholar Success Teams, schedule change, loss of privileges; chance to earn, reparations, offended / offender mediation, social skills group, 504 assessment, Daily behavioral contract support, conflict mediation, reprimand by admin, In-school suspension, revision of IEP,
<b>Community Values:</b>	Community, Resilience, Rigor, Relentlessness, Ownership, Success,		

<b>Example Phoenix Chelsea</b>	and Self-Sufficiency
<b>Competencies:</b>	1) Read Critically 2) Learn from Past 3) Lead Inquiry 4) Develop and Sustain Self-Knowledge, Wellness and Self-Love 5) Express Oneself Boldly 6) Reason Quantitatively 7) Build Community 8) Navigating Conflict 9) Use Tools Skillfully

## SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS

### **Counseling**

Phoenix scholars may need intermittent or long-term counseling. While much of this counseling may not be offered directly by a Phoenix staff member at school, we do refer scholars to the appropriate counseling services. We believe that dealing with crisis through active talk-therapy is important in order to continue growing as an individual.

### **Case Management, Crisis Intervention and Outside Referral**

Phoenix partners with many social service organizations in the local community to help provide support for the diverse range of issues our scholars are facing. Phoenix Charter Academy, in each of its three cities, has developed lasting relationships with local courts, health centers, probation offices, the Department of Children and Families, and other appropriate organizations, in order to better serve our scholars. It is the goal of the Scholar Success Team to ensure that scholars receive the appropriate help from these outside organizations when needed.

### **Advocacy**

Scholars at Phoenix often need help navigating the systems of local and state agencies that are in place to provide services. Phoenix is continually building its capacity to provide help through the legal and social advocacy of our scholars.

### **Behavioral Growth**

Scholars will have frequent opportunities to develop, practice, and reflect on the development of the core habits of mind and behaviors. Phoenix believes these core habits are critical for success in classes, college, and post college career pathways in the 21st century.

### **Targeted attendance and retention supports**

Phoenix scholars may face multiple barriers and/or have a history of attendance challenges. Phoenix takes an active approach to helping students learn the skills of showing up and being on time through clear expectations, incentives, and structured programming. Phoenix will use multiple strategies to work with students to maintain positive attendance. Phoenix conducts weekly attendance progress checks in CREW, and staff members do phone outreach regularly to encourage students to come to school and stay in class. For students that are demonstrating



patterns of missing school we will create attendance cohorts/support networks and individual success plans that will include incentives, outreach calls and home visits.

### **School Social Workers**

It is challenging being a teenager and young adult. The challenges that face our scholars can make it hard to focus, therefore taking time away from their learning and, thus, their ability to thrive at Phoenix. Therefore, it is the goal of the school, and of our Scholar Success Team, to help scholars set goals for themselves. These goals are aimed at ensuring that scholars gain the stress management and emotional regulation skills that are needed for them to remain successful at school. Every Phoenix school has 1-2 social workers to facilitate this process. The social workers are here to help scholars that are struggling with things like depression, anxiety, problems at home, with family, and at school, and other non-academic barriers, while also trying to graduate. The social workers are also available to help connect scholars to the resources that they may need, such as housing, transportation, healthcare, childcare, outside counseling, and other case management needs.

### **Onsite Childcare**

Every Phoenix school has the unique ability to meet the needs of parenting teens through our on-site childcare, called the “Phoenix Little Scholars Center”. This program allows parenting scholars to arrive at school, drop their children off at the onsite daycare, and attend class, while their children can begin their own education under the care of our experienced early childcare teachers. Parenting scholars also take parenting classes with classroom teachers and daycare staff.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORTS**

### **Path to Graduation Planning and Progress**

Because Phoenix is different from many of the traditional schools that scholars are coming from, the path to graduation (course requirements, credits, timeline) might be different from what students expect. All scholars, in partnership with their CREW Leader, develop a Path to Graduation, which includes personal and academic growth goals and objectives and will be what scholars and CREW Leaders use to discuss progress and growth. These plans are flexible documents that are updated regularly as the scholar meets goals and develops new ones and will also be used in partnership with Mastery Portfolios. Scholars can expect to check their academic and personal progress within CREW once a week. However, it is the scholar’s responsibility to know the details of their Path to Graduation, which will include specific courses and skills that scholar will need to graduate.

In some cases, a scholar at Phoenix may progress more quickly in an academic content area based on their skill level and mastery of content. In other cases, a scholar may think that they have earned credit or mastered a course, but their testing indicates that they have not mastered the core skills. Phoenix will work with the scholar to help him/her catch up, either through individual skill building or re-enrolling in a course. It is Phoenix’s commitment to balance both

ensuring that students graduate 100% ready for college, work and life as well as helping students complete high school on the fastest track possible.

### **Special Education Referrals and Academic Support**

Upon enrollment at Phoenix, all scholars will receive the appropriate outreach and monitoring necessary to determine their eligibility for special education services. Teachers communicate with one another and SST regularly regarding individual scholar needs. The general education team, in coordination with the Academic Support Department (ASD), provides scholars with necessary interventions when appropriate. Scholars requiring additional support may enter the Instructional Kid Talk (IKT), a weekly process where a team of teachers collaborates with the ASD and other staff members in order to structure prevalent interventions and gather scholar specific data. Scholars may also be referred for special education testing by Phoenix staff, a parent, self-referral, or another adult supporter. If a parent or adult supporter is concerned about a scholar's progress in the general curriculum and would like to make a referral for a special education evaluation, or for additional interventions within the general education classroom, they may do so by contacting the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, the Head of School, or the scholar's CREW Leader at 617-889-3100.

### **Personalized Learning Blocks (X Block)**

Scholars have the opportunity to work on their assignments with the aid of tutors or teachers as part of regularly scheduled classes. During a personalized learning block, scholars can get help with skills that have challenged them and/or extend and enrich their learning.

### **Phoenix Education Residency - AmeriCorps**

One of the most unique aspects of the Phoenix Model is our ability to provide targeted and individualized academic support through members of our Phoenix AmeriCorps Education Residency Program. The mission of the Phoenix AmeriCorps Education Residency Program is to improve our scholar's college matriculation and success rate. Members lead one-on-one or one-on-two tutoring classes, expand extracurricular opportunities at Phoenix, and serve as additional culture leaders at Phoenix.

### **CREW Leader Calls**

CREW Leaders are often the best way to get quick updates on a scholar's progress. CREW Leaders are expected to call home twice per month, including and especially when a scholar misses a day of school. You can get contact information for your scholar's CREW Leader by calling the school.

## **CULTURAL SUPPORTS**

### **New Scholar Orientation**

Scholars who are new to Phoenix will be part of a multi-day process of orientation. While orientation may look slightly different across each Phoenix school, there are 3 major goals:

- Help scholars new to Phoenix get to know how the school operates and the core expectations.

- Help Phoenix staff get to know important things about the new scholar including his/her academic profile, strengths, challenges, interests and future goals.
- Help create lasting relationships between the new scholar and staff and peers.

### **CREW- Community, Responsibility, Engagement Workshop**

CREW is a small group time that was created with the purpose of building positive relationships and a supportive community. Each scholar is assigned to a CREW when they enroll at Phoenix, with two staff members serving in the role of CREW Leaders.. Special attention is paid to matching scholars and their families to a CREW Leader who can, as best as possible, communicate fluently with adult supporters. All scholars, in partnership with their CREW Leaders, develop a Personal Growth Plan and College/Career Success Plan, which include personal and academic growth goals and objectives and will be what scholars and CREW Leaders use to discuss progress and growth. These plans are flexible documents that are updated regularly as the scholar meets goals and develops new ones and will also be used in partnership with Mastery Portfolios.

CREW will also serve as the primary space in which scholars and staff will engage in community and relationships building circles to foster the implementation of Tier I restorative practices across the school community. These practices are proactive and responsible in nature and promote a school culture that leverages relationships as the key to student growth and progress. Once a week CREW Leaders and scholars will engage in circle practice to actively value and affirm community, relationships, and identity.

CREW activities are meant to help students have a sense of personal agency and ownership over their time at Phoenix, create opportunities for community and belonging, and concrete skill building on the core meta cognitive/social emotional skills - such as communication - that are essential to future success in life. CREW is a credit bearing course and scholars are required to be present every day. CREWs and CREW Leaders may change over the course of a student's time at Phoenix based on student needs and interest.

### **Community Meeting**

The Phoenix week begins and ends as a whole community with a school-wide meeting held in the school's auditorium, also called "The Nest". Community Meetings last 15 to 30 minutes, and are a time for the scholar body as a whole to focus on the days ahead, share news and notices, and respond to events and/or occurrences that have transpired during the week. Community Meetings are led by staff and scholars alike and all scholars are welcome to be part of Community Meetings. Scholars are encouraged to take part in the Community Meeting Leaders Committee, which is a group of scholars who meet weekly to plan and practice leading community meeting. Friday Community Meetings are often a time to celebrate the week's accomplishments.

### **Academic Exhibitions and Showcases**

All Phoenix scholars will showcase their learning on the projects and performances completed in classes to the school community during Academic Exhibition Events at least once per academic

term. These are designed to celebrate progress and to provide scholars with practice communicating and presenting their learning to authentic audiences.

### **Student Government**

The Phoenix Chelsea Student Government will be composed of elected officers representing the different students Phoenix serves. An election for representatives from each CREW and officers will be held in the fall. The Student Government will meet every other week with the Head of School to advise and construct solutions for matters relevant to students experience and success at Phoenix.

## **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT PHOENIX**

### **Adult Supporter Advisory & Action Committee**

Parents and adult supporter advisory committee meets at the school quarterly (more often if necessary). During these meetings, the group discusses the state/culture of the school, the services provided to scholars, and to plan activities for the staff, scholars, and parents/adult supporters of the school. Any parent or adult supporter that is interested in joining the committee should contact the school. Parents of scholars with an IEP at Phoenix are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings. In addition to the Advisory & Action Committee, there is a special parent group for the parents or adult supporters of scholars who receive Special Education Services. Parents will be informed of their rights regarding Special Education as covered by state law.

### **Adult Supporter Conferences/Scholar Celebrations**

Once per-quarter, parents and adult supporters will be formally invited to attend a conference, an open house, or a Celebration of Work at the school. These meetings will allow parents and adult supporters to meet with individual teachers and come to the school to see scholar work.

### **CREW Leader Calls**

CREW Leaders are often the best way to get quick updates on a scholar's progress. CREW Leaders are expected to call home twice per month, including and especially when a scholar misses a day of school.. You can get contact information for your scholar's CREW Leader by calling the school.

### **Visiting Phoenix**

Phoenix invites families to visit our school at any time. In order to ensure the safety of the learning environment, all visitors must first report to the main office and sign in. Unless otherwise required by law, only visitors that are listed by our scholars and their adult supporters on their entry paperwork will be granted access to a scholar. If a scholar needs to meet with a social worker, probation officer etc., the scholar's listed adult supporter must provide written or verbal permission. If someone who is not listed as an adult supporter attempts to visit a scholar, they will be asked to leave the building. Phoenix reserves the right to deny entry to anyone whose presence might endanger the safety of its scholars and staff, or who disrupt the learning environment. Visitors are encouraged to make an appointment beforehand with the person(s) they wish to see.

# PHOENIX SCHOLAR ATTENDANCE

**Showing up, on time, and ready to participate is one of the most critical skills for succeeding in life.** You will hear this from Phoenix staff all of the time. We know that many Phoenix scholars show up in other areas of their life even if they struggle to show up at school. We want to help scholars to build the skills to come to school so that this will not be an issue in their future school and profession. According to education research, a student's attendance directly correlates to his/her success in high school. At Phoenix, we will encourage – at every opportunity - scholars to come to school, to come on time and stay in class. We know that many scholars that come to Phoenix have struggled with attendance at other schools. One of our deepest commitments is to help scholars develop the skills and remove barriers to show up for school and for themselves.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Scholars at Phoenix are expected to attend school every day.** The more time a scholar is in school and in class, the faster he/she will demonstrate mastery in required content areas and graduate. Attending school and staying in class to learn, is the **foundation** for making progress as a scholar at Phoenix.

Phoenix responds immediately when a scholar misses a day of school- multiple staff members in the building will reach out to a scholar or an adult supporter after an absence. At the heart of our focus on regular attendance is the commitment to help scholars understand when the impact of not showing up to school may interfere with the ability to master content and progress. The consequence for missing school is simple: the less school you attend, the less time you are learning and the longer it may take to graduate.

We will initiate more intensive interventions when a scholar accrues his or her third absence in an academic term. Additionally, we build positive incentives for scholars who maintain fewer than 3 absences throughout a term (off campus lunch, for example). Among other things, Phoenix will engage in a whole school campaign to advertise the academic consequence that results when scholars do not attend school regularly, which will include public awareness and celebrations that emphasize the goal of 3 or fewer absences in an academic term.

Our data tells us that when a student misses fewer than 5 days of school in an academic term, he or she will pass about 66% of enrolled classes. When the number of absences hits 5, on average a student will only pass about 55% of enrolled classes. The academic impact of not attending school regularly follows this trend:

Connection between attendance and passing rates:

# Absences	<5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45
Avg % of classes passed	66.2%	54.8%	45.3%	37.4%	32.3%	18.3%	12.5%	7.6%	6.8%

Phoenix will use multiple strategies to work with students to maintain positive attendance. Phoenix conducts weekly attendance progress checks in CREW, and staff members do phone outreach regularly to encourage students to come to school and stay in class. For students that are

demonstrating patterns of missing school we will create attendance cohorts/support networks and individual success plans that will include incentives, outreach calls and home visits. This is how much we believe that showing up to school and to class is absolutely critical to learning and graduating.

Here is what scholars can expect within each school academic term:

- A phone call home from a CREW Leader, member of the Scholar Success Team, or other staff for every absence
- Absence # 3 –scholar is assigned to an attendance cohort or support group, managed by a Phoenix staff member and focused on building a smaller community of support and incentives to stay in school
- Absence # 4 – scholar receives a home visit
- Absence # 5 – scholar receives a letter home and request for a meeting with scholar’s adult supporter to develop an additional plan in place for school attendance
- Absence # 6 – scholar is asked to meet with a member of the school leadership team to review progress, path to graduation and the impact of attendance
- Absence #7 – Scholar receives a home visit and will be part of attendance cohorts and supports for upcoming quarters.

For the purposes of this handbook, Phoenix makes no differentiation between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. But, we do work with students to map out and anticipate life challenges – health, court, work, parenting responsibilities – that could impact attendance and develop strategies to help scholars get to school.

**It is possible to lose a slot at Phoenix because of chronic absences.** When a scholar stops attending school for 10 consecutive days, he/she may lose their seat at the school to a student on the waitlist, subject to the notification and exit interview requirements under the law (outlined below).

**Legal notification process is as follows:** Parents/guardians of all of our scholars must notify Phoenix of any absences within 3 days of the absence. All letters should be turned in to the front desk. If this notification is not received, administrators will notify the parents or guardians of the absence. Additionally, Phoenix will notify the parents/guardians of any scholar who has missed 2 or more periods unexcused over the course of 5 days (consecutively or cumulatively), or who has missed 5 days unexcused within a school year. Phoenix will offer the parent/guardian a meeting focused on developing an action plan for increased scholar attendance. The action plan will be developed jointly, and may include input from the parent/guardian, school personnel, and other agency officials who are involved with the scholar or family. (M.G.L. c. 76, sec. 1B.)

No scholar will be considered permanently unenrolled unless and until the following has occurred: (1) scholar has been absent from school for 10 consecutive days; and (2) the administrator has sent written notice to the scholar and parent/guardian, within 5 days of the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive absence, of a meeting and exit interview with the scholar. (M.G.L. c. 76, sec. 18.)

Written Notice:

- The notice shall be written in the primary language of the parent/guardian and in English.

- The notice shall provide 2 possible dates and times for the exit interview, but shall indicate that the parties should agree on a date and time. It should include the contact information for arranging the exit interview.
- The notice shall provide a 10-day window for scheduling the interview, but may be extended, upon parent/guardian request, by not more than 14 days.

#### Exit Interview

- The Head of School or designee shall oversee the exit interview process. The process may proceed without the parent/guardian, so long as there was a good faith effort to include the parent/guardian in the process.
- The interview shall include discussing the reasons for the absences and/or desire to leave school permanently, and to discuss and consider alternative education and alternative placements.
- The exit interview will include other appropriate personnel from the school, e.g. teachers, guidance staff, social workers, administrators.

This process will not apply to a scholar who presents Phoenix with a notice of withdrawal from the charter school and verification of a transfer to another public, charter, or private school in which he/she is enrolling. A scholar who transfers out of Phoenix will be immediately withdrawn and they forfeits his/her spot.

## OUT-OF-CLASS POLICY

**Every minute of class time matters. Scholars need to be in class to learn and make progress towards graduation.** Many Phoenix scholars come to Phoenix behind in one or more subjects and this makes time in class and learning even more critical to a speedy graduation.

**Like attendance, the most important consequence for missing class time is missing learning time and slowing down progress to graduation.** Like most schools, Phoenix will use a system of break passes to represent agreements between scholars and teachers. Scholars will be expected to manage their own timeliness with passes and may be supported to go back to class if they have lost track of time.

**Hallways disruptions can happen when a scholar is out of class and they interfere with creating a focused learning environment for every scholar.** If this becomes a scholar or school pattern, Phoenix will work individually with scholars and collectively with school culture and rules to ensure that hallways are free of noise so that scholars can learn.

**What if skipping class becomes a problem?** Phoenix will always try to work with scholars to understand if there are issues interfering with the ability to be in class. The first step will be to discuss what is going on and figure out actions to address the issue. If a scholar shows repeat patterns of class cutting – which include excessive lateness, abusing bathroom or other pass privileges, walking out of class without teacher agreement, the following steps will be followed to support scholar success:

- First incident – One-on-one meeting with the classroom teacher supported by a member of the Scholar Success Team, a member of Leadership Team, or a scholar’s CREW Leader
- Second incident – Call to adult supporter
- Third incident - problem solving circle facilitated by Manager of Scholar Success
- Multiple, repeat incidents - Loss of key privileges such as ability to use passes during that class, off campus lunch, the ability to work independently in a designated setting.

## PUNCTUALITY POLICY

Being on time is a critical aspect of attending school and making academic progress. Considered as being a part of Phoenix’s attendance policy, Phoenix invests time and resources to support scholars in getting to school on time, and maintains high expectations of scholars ability to meet this critical expectation.

**Scholars are expected to arrive at school between 8:15 and 8:59 am.** We encourage scholars to come early to school because the pre- class morning time can be spent in the nest having breakfast or working independently on school work in assigned areas with a designated teacher.

### **Lateness Policy and Interventions**

Phoenix is committed to coaching students to arrive to school on time each and every day of the school year. Whereas we view punishments for lateness as unnecessary barriers to scholars’ academic progress, we recognize that natural consequences arise for students who are chronically late to school. In alignment with our relentless support of scholars and our commitment to developing student identities, Phoenix will put into place interventions that both welcome students into our community and address directly the root cause as to what is preventing a scholar from arriving to school on time. Students who arrive after 9:00 in the morning will check in with an identified staff member to be marked present for the day. Phoenix will welcome scholars into the building whenever they arrive, but if they arrive after the start of a class period then they will participate in one (or more) of the following activities:

1. Between 9:01 and 9:30- participation in LaunchPad Circle in the Nest to explore reason for lateness, set and review goals for the day, develop resolutions to improve punctuality
2. Between the start and conclusion of any class period- meet with an identified staff members to review reason for lateness, review Grad Plan, Personal Growth Plan, College/Career Success Plan, work independently in the front foyer on assignments or progress toward portfolio

**Scholars should prioritize communication with the school in the event they are running late due to a family or personal emergency. Should a student arrive with a note from an appointment, he or she may proceed to their regularly scheduled class.**

**Anytime after 9 will be considered late** because it has a high likelihood of resulting in the scholar arriving late to the first school activity of the day. Scholars that arrive after 9:00 will need to check in with an identified staff member to get a pass, be marked present and track



patterns of lateness prior to entering community meeting or CREW or class. This applies unless a scholar has a personalized schedule with a later start time.

**Patterns of lateness to school** will be addressed through one on one meetings or small groupings to create support strategies and structures. The first meeting will occur with a CREW Leader at the 3<sup>rd</sup> lateness in a quarter and will include a call to an adult supporter.

**Scholars who leave school for lunch must return on time in order to maintain off campus lunch status.** Returning late from lunch for the first time will result in a warning and the second time will result in the loss of this privilege for the remainder of the quarter.

**Incentives for being on time-** Because being on time is an essential part of school and life success, Phoenix has developed a special set of incentives to encourage and support scholars to master this skill and persevere in the face of life challenges.

## CELEBRATING SCHOLAR ATTENDANCE

Scholars who demonstrate excellent attendance and punctuality will be recognized through school-wide incentives, including feathers, high rollers, and other forms of incentives and celebrations.

Attendance will be celebrated in community meetings through the **monthly** recognition of:

- Perfect Attendance
- Most improved attendance
- And the creation of CREW- based attendance competitions.

## PHILOSOPHY OF CODE OF CONDUCT

Phoenix Charter Academy strives to create an environment where learning comes first. A calm, consistent and positive culture that is focused on achievement is vital to the success of our scholars. Any disruption is viewed as damaging to the learning environment. School wide consistency of expectations is central to this strategy. While we seek to work with all scholars, including many who have struggled with behavioral issues in past schools, we also believe that the way to support **ALL** scholars is through maintaining clear expectations for scholarly conduct and supporting scholars through consistent teaching and learning of scholarly habits through clear expectations, supports and consequences that are consistent across staff member and situation. Many schools have levels or tiers for thinking about behavior and consequences. Below is Phoenix's approach:

- **Community wide strategies for teaching and modeling core school and scholarly expectations.** Examples of this include CREW and Circle Backs as structure for positive relationship development, teaching and learning of Phoenix Competencies, clearly articulated school norms and system of commendation, warning, and feathers for reinforcing those norms, and a relentless focus on attendance – coming to school on time and staying in class.

- **Targeted strategies for individuals and small groups struggling to meet school and scholarly expectations.** Example of this include student success plans, strong connections to community agencies and families, on site social workers, attendance cohorts and other small groups.

- **Interventions for students who have broken core safety / community norms.** Examples of this include suspensions, collaborative safety planning (with adult /community supporters), counseling and referrals, community restoration.

**Circle Backs** are the anchor practice at the core of Phoenix’s approach to helping students and staff members maintain strong and respectful relationships that are the foundation of a positive and high expectations learning environment. All Phoenix schools utilize circle backs to help repair relationships that have been harmed by conflicts as well as to prevent patterns of misunderstanding that can turn into larger conflicts. Circle Backs can be requested by anyone in the school community and can also be a required part of a process for managing situations that have become unsafe, disrespectful, or not conducive to the learning environment.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

We hold scholars to the highest standards of academic integrity. While we encourage scholar collaboration and scholars supporting each other in their academic endeavors, intentional cheating or plagiarism is not appropriate and we are committed to teaching our scholars to develop their understanding and skills in this area.

Academic integrity violations include:

- Copying another scholar’s homework or classwork.
- Copying off of another scholar during a test, quiz, or other independent assessment.
- Communicating with another scholar in any way during a test, quiz, or other independent assessment.
- Creating an unauthorized “cheat sheet” for use during a test, quiz, or other independent assessment.
- Violating a teacher’s communication expectations regarding a take-home assessment.
- Engaging in plagiarism.

It is important to coach scholars around academic integrity and to teach them explicitly what is, and what is not, acceptable in an academic setting.

Committing any academic integrity violation may result in the following consequences:

- Revising the assignment or completing an alternate assignment (an assignment may be made up at the discretion of the Director of Curriculum and Instruction)
- Parent or adult supporter called by teacher

- Restorative project to learn norms and expectations for academic integrity and teach them to others

Scholars with repeated instances may be subject to additional consequences at the discretion of the Director of School Culture and/ or the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, or a designee.

## LUNCH POLICY

Phoenix offers breakfast and lunch on campus every day of the week.

Scholars with a GPA of 3.0 and above and/or with fewer than 3 absences for the academic term on their personalized academic plans will have off campus lunch privileges for as long as they maintain either status and return on time from lunch consistently. We also trust that scholars will be excellent community members in the Chelsea community and will demonstrate actions that show respect and a sense of responsibility for making the Chelsea community stronger with all of their interactions.

## ON/OFF CAMPUS

While scholars are wearing the Phoenix uniform, they are representing Phoenix. Scholars are expected to be kind and respectful of our neighbors and their property. A scholar found on private property without written permission, and scholars who litter or disrespect neighbors' property, will be held accountable for their actions as decided by the Director of School Culture and/or a designee.

## SMOKING

Phoenix ***strongly*** discourages smoking due to the extreme health hazard that it poses. According to Massachusetts state law, persons under the age of 18 are not allowed to purchase cigarettes and cigars, and no scholar may use tobacco within the school buildings, the school facilities, on school grounds, or on school buses. Therefore, Phoenix's policy is that no person under the age of 18 is allowed to smoke during school hours – anywhere. No persons that are under the age of 18 are allowed to smoke in school campus, including the parking lot. **Scholars who smoke on school grounds or in school buildings will be subject to disciplinary action, including the possibility of suspension from school.**

## UNIFORM POLICY

In order to allow scholars to focus on learning, decrease distraction, and to create a sense of community identity, Phoenix has a mandatory scholar uniform. Scholars must wear the uniform, whether on campus or at a Phoenix-sponsored event, unless told otherwise by a staff member. **Scholars must arrive at school in uniform and remain in uniform throughout the day.**

Scholars who are not in uniform will be asked to get in uniform and will be subject to scholar discipline guidelines.

A scholar who is dual-enrolled at Bunker Hill Community College may arrive to school in business casual attire that is outside of the mandatory community uniform. Attending college is an incredible milestone for any young person, and we want to celebrate our scholars' status as college students on campus at Phoenix Chelsea. Students who divide their time between Phoenix and Bunker Hill may wear the same outfit on each campus, maintaining a level of professionalism and comfort that identifies them as a dual-enrolled member of our community. We understand the impact of having students at Phoenix simultaneously earn college credit, and we want to promote that opportunity as much as possible. Students wondering why some may be out of uniform will be met with an enthusiastic, "Because I'm in college- you should try it!"

Any drug- or gang-related clothing or accessories are strictly prohibited. Phoenix reserves the right to confiscate or prohibit scholars from wearing any clothing or accessories that may be construed as drug- or gang-related or as inappropriate attire for school.

Please refer to the chart below for detailed uniform information.

White, uniform, collared shirts are available for purchase from the main office for \$10. Also available are gray fleece sweaters for \$20 and cardigans for \$22.

### Complete Dress Code and Uniform Information

Clothing Item	Approved Style	Approved Colors	Comments
Shirts	Phoenix-issued shirts with the Phoenix Charter Academy logo (either MCAS, Phoenix Mission, or Oxford shirts), or college shirts from an accredited 2 or 4-year institution.	Phoenix-issued shirts or college shirts of any color	<b>Scholars should look neat and professional at all times.</b> All shirts must be buttoned. No waist-length, tight-fitting, or navel-revealing shirts. No shirts may be worn inside-out or half-on/half-off. No ripped shirts. No logos or designs should be visible from beneath shirt. Shirt cannot be tied in any way in the front or back. Undershirts must be white.
Sweaters, sweatshirts	Phoenix-issued sweater/fleeces or non-hooded college sweatshirts are allowed.		Phoenix gear is usually black, white, purple, orange or gray. College sweatshirts or fleeces can be any color.
Pants or Shorts	Standard cloth pants (cotton), wool blend, or small weave corduroy, fitted at the waist level.	Khaki	<b>Scholars should look neat and professional at all times.</b> Appropriate pants do not include jeans, sweatpants, or

			<p>athletic pants, and must fit professional guidelines.</p> <p>Pregnant scholars who are showing will be permitted to wear elastic-waist pants after communication with the SST or a social worker. Shorts must fall to a scholar's fingertips and have no slits above this point. Pants must not have holes, rips, or tears in them. Pants must sit at or above waist and cover all underwear or shorts worn under pants.</p>
Skirts	Standard cloth (cotton), wool blend, or small weave corduroy.	Khaki	Skirts must fall to a scholar's fingertips and have no slits above this point. No blue jean skirts or multi-colored skirts are allowed.
Belts	No big or otherwise inappropriate belt buckles.	Preferably black, white, or brown, but any color allowed	Belts are encouraged to hold pants on the waist level. If a scholar has pants that are falling down and revealing underwear or shorts under the pants, scholars will be asked to wear a belt or given rope to keep pants at waist level. Belts must sit at or above the waist.
Shoes	Personal preference, but must be appropriate for school. Loafers or tie shoes are suggested.	Any color	No tags or homemade designs on sneakers or shoes. No flip flops or sandals designed to look like flip flops. All laced shoes must be tied. No cleats or house shoes may be worn.
Hats, scarves, and other headwear	None		No hats or headgear may be worn inside the school building, except for religious reasons (adult supporters must send a note). Bandanas cannot be visible or hanging from pockets. Scarves can be worn appropriately around neck during winter months only.
Hair, makeup, jewelry	Appropriate to dress code		No sunglasses inside of building.

Eyewear	Prescription glasses or contacts are allowed.		No sunglasses inside of building.
Beads, special shoe laces, etc.			Phoenix reserves the right to prohibit scholar from wearing any potentially gang-related clothing and accessories that might endanger the safety of the community.

# POSITIVE RECOGNITIONS AT PHOENIX

## FEATHERS

Phoenix uses an incentive and merit system called *feathers*. Feathers are awarded to scholars for many reasons but generally fall into three areas:

- Going above and beyond
- Community building or community leadership contributions
- Personal growth, especially in an area of persistent challenge for the scholar

Feathers are personalized and meant to help each and every student recognize growth and contribution. Scholars will receive feathers, much in the same way that they will work with staff - based on their individual strengths, challenges, and development.

Examples of behaviors and activities which are often recognized with feathers are listed below:

- Scholar made scholarly contributions to the learning community.
- Scholar helped a peer overcome a challenge
- Scholar modeled Phoenix expectations for the community
- Scholar demonstrated progress/growth toward a set goal or a challenging task.
- Scholar tackled more challenging work in a positive manner.
- Scholar attended extra help or enrichment activities and demonstrated scholarly behaviors.

The schedule for rewards that may be purchased for feathers is shown below:

<b>Number of feathers</b>	<b>Redeemable Item</b>
5 feathers	Phoenix Reusable Water Bottle
10 feathers	Phoenix Pen
15 feathers	Binder
20 feathers	Phoenix swag
35 feathers	Phoenix Mission T-Shirt
50 feathers	Phoenix fleece
65 feathers	Movie Passes

100 feathers	Professional Dress Day
150 feathers	Free lunch of your choice

\*This is a sample of what scholars can purchase with feathers. This list will change and adapt over the course of the school year.

## COMMUNITY BEADING

During Community Meeting, scholars and staff have the opportunity to recognize each other through the ritual of describing the reason for recognition and awarding beads. Beads can be given for many reasons: a specific accomplishment, a hope for someone, a personal quality, overcoming an obstacle, community leadership. Beads are given to and by both scholars and staff.

## CREDIT CEREMONIES

At the conclusion of each academic term, Phoenix will celebrate scholars for the credits they earn through the completion of any unit of study. Scholars will not only receive a certificate for each credit they earn, but we will also recognize them publicly in front of the whole school community.

## POSITIVE PHONE CALLS

Teachers and staff make positive phone calls home to make parents aware of the fabulous achievements of their scholar. These are our favorite calls to make at Phoenix!

## OFF CAMPUS LUNCH PRIVILEGE

Scholars can earn the opportunity to go off campus for lunch through both their academic progress and consistent regular attendance. After the first week of each academic term, a scholar with 3 or fewer absences on their personalized schedule and/or a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) will automatically qualify for off campus lunch. Scholars maintain their off campus lunch status throughout an academic term, provided they still have a 3.0 GPA and/or accrue no more than 3 absences. If a scholar fails to return to school by the end of lunch at 1:03pm then he or she will lose the privilege until he/she demonstrates readiness to be on time.



## HIGH ROLLERS CLUB

Scholars who reach goals for attendance (3 or less absences), grades (all A's and B's) may be eligible for the High Rollers Club. Entry into the Club will be determined by the Director of School Culture and/or Head of School. Members of the Club earn special rewards, due to the trust they have earned through their excellent conduct. These special rewards include:

- Scholars may earn 100 feathers at the start of each quarter that they are members of the Club.
- Scholars may earn 4 movie passes at the start of each quarter that they are members of the Club.
- Scholars may be invited to a special lunch, paid for by Phoenix, held every quarter that they are members of the Club.
- Other items as decided by the Director of School Culture and/or Head of School.

Please note: If a member of the High Rollers Club loses the trust of the community through one or several actions, that member will lose all rewards and privileges associated with membership. The Director of School Culture and/or Head of School, in cooperation with the rest of the staff, will determine if and when this is necessary and if/ how the scholar may have the opportunity to repair the community relationships/ trust and regain Club privileges.

## HONOR ROLL

Scholars who achieve an average of B or higher during any academic term will receive a black embroidered Phoenix Honor Roll shirt in recognition of their hard work and commitment. Honor Roll shirts may be worn as part of the school uniform.

## PHOENIX AWARD

The Phoenix Award is given yearly to the scholar who has “risen out of the ashes”- he or she has excelled academically during the year, and embodies all 7 aspects of a SCHOLAR.

# EXPECTATIONS OF A SCHOLAR

**Working with students to ensure a consistent, structured and safe learning environment is at the core of Phoenix.** We expect that students will meet our baseline behavior expectations of being on time and ready to learn, being safe and respectful at all times. **Noticing, naming and commending or redirecting scholarly behavior** is the core practice that Phoenix staff will use with scholars to support individual learning and development of scholarly behavior and a positive community wide culture that supports learning. Below are some of the strategies Phoenix schools use throughout the course of the school year:

- Redirects
- Commendations/Feathers
- Community and Relationship Building Circle Practice
- Problem Solving Circles and Restorative Chats
- Harm Circles and Healing Circles
- Adult Supporter Calls and Conferences
- One on one student to staff discussions
- Circle Backs
- Positive Behavior Support Planning
- Small group conferencing
- Community Restoration Projects
- Suspension and Restorative Re-Entry

**The following outlines the core expectations for every Phoenix Scholar:**

**Be prepared for class and ready to learn:**

Scholar Behavior	Staff Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unprepared for class (no binder, pencil)</li> <li>● Head down on desk during class</li> <li>● Chewing gum</li> <li>● Being out of uniform/dress code violations</li> <li>● Being late to class</li> <li>● Unapproved use of cell phone in class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reteach</li> <li>● Redirect</li> <li>● Circleback</li> </ul> <p>Repeat behaviors may result in additional support strategies including but not limited to community building circles, restorative chats, and/or values and guidelines circles.</p>

**Be respectful at all times:**

Scholar Behavior	Staff Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Horseplay (running in hallways, jumping down stairs, play-grabbing at people in the hallways, etc.)</li> <li>● Using profanity or other non-scholarly language</li> <li>● Distracting other scholars (including inappropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reteach</li> <li>● Redirect</li> <li>● Circleback</li> </ul> <p>Repeat behaviors may result in</p>

<p>use of cell phones)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Drawing on desks, walls, or other school property</li> <li>● Misusing bathroom pass/loitering in halls</li> <li>● Misusing 5-minute breaks/space</li> </ul>	<p>additional support strategies including but not limited to placement in a social skills small group, conferencing, problem solving circles, and/or Positive Behavior Support Plans.</p>
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**Be Safe at all times:** The following behaviors are considered unsafe by Phoenix and Massachusetts state law / regulations and may result in serious consequences.

<p><b>The following are also violations according to Massachusetts state law, or Massachusetts Board of Education regulations, and will require further disciplinary consequences, including the possibility of suspension:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Smoking within 100 yards of the school, or neighbor’s property</li> <li>● Swearing at or threatening school neighbors</li> <li>● Smoking inside the school</li> <li>● Coming to school high or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. NOTE: Phoenix reserves the right to offer scholars drug testing.</li> <li>● Using intimidating or threatening language including racial / sexual slurs</li> <li>● Stealing</li> <li>● Bullying (see mandated policies below)</li> <li>● Direct threats of violence toward other scholars</li> <li>● Physical altercations</li> <li>● Repeat refusal to follow staff direction and create a disruption for others</li> <li>● Intentionally bringing outsiders into the school building to do harm</li> <li>● Destruction/vandalism of school property</li> <li>● Use, possession, sale, or transfer of alcohol</li> <li>● Additional infractions may be included in this category at the discretion of the Administrative Team in discussion with staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adult Supporter phone call and/or conference</li> <li>● Family group conferencing/counseling, restorative re-entry, healing circles, consensus agreements, and/or Behavior Support Plans. .</li> <li>● Please see suspension and expulsion sections below for applicable violations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The following offenses are grounds for possible expulsion</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use or possession of a weapon (any object which is capable of causing minor to severe bodily harm).</li> <li>● Possession, use, sale, or transfer of controlled substance (M.G.L. c. 71, sec. 37H)</li> <li>● Assault on educational staff (M.G.L. c. 71, sec. 37H)</li> <li>● Commission of a felony where the scholar’s continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school (M.G.L. c. 71, sec. 37H1/2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please see expulsion section below.</li> </ul>

## CELL PHONES

In order to avoid disruption of learning and culture, the use of cell phones is not permitted at Phoenix with the exception of school lunch and school breaks. Cell phones should not be used during lunch or school breaks to provoke conflict or cause harm in the community. Cell phones are expected to be out of sight during classes- all scholars in our community have Chromebooks to use for any academic research, and clocks are routinely updated throughout the building. Students frequently ask why we focus so much on appropriate use of technology in the classroom. The answer is quite simple: multitasking on phones interferes with brain focus and prevents learners from embedding learning in their long term memories and progressing to graduation more rapidly. It also interferes with being a present, mindful and active listener during collaboration with teachers and fellow scholars.

Appropriate cell phone use extends to listening to and/or searching for music in class. During lessons and during class time, scholars are expected to participate actively in class, as both listeners and contributors to the overall learning environment. Scholars are not given the opportunity to opt out of a lesson by listening to music on their phones, with or without headphones. Unless scholars are given explicit permission by a classroom teacher during independent work time, listening to music is not permitted.

Should a scholar demonstrate persistent struggle to appropriately manage cell phone use in class, he or she will be invited to join a Circleback led by the classroom teacher and the Manager of Scholar Success. A conflict between members of our community (student to student, student to staff, staff to staff) signals a lack of relationship between individuals or that harm has been done to a relationship. The Circleback is a Tier II restorative and responsive intervention to examine harm done to a relationship and develop resolutions to repair it. With cell phones specifically, participants will build resolutions to get to the heart of why a student is choosing not to manage technology in class. Additional restorative interventions could include problem-solving circles, talking circles, adult supporter notification, conflict resolution, Positive Behavior Support Plan, and/or participation in a social skills group.

Scholars may lose the privilege of carrying their phone in the building should he or she develop a chronic pattern of technology misuse in the classroom. The loss of phone privileges would be accompanied by a meeting with the Manager of Scholar Success and/or Director of School Culture to design a success plan.

Adult Supporters are requested to avoid interrupting scholars at school. However, in the event of a medical or other family emergency please use the following emergency numbers:

## LOCKER POLICY

Lockers are made available for student use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. However, lockers are not to be used to store items, which cause (or can reasonably be foreseen to cause) an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or items forbidden by state law or school rules. A student who uses a locker that is the property of the school is presumed to have no expectations of privacy in that locker or the locker's content.

The student's use of the locker does not diminish the school's ownership or control of the locker. The school retains the right to inspect the locker and its contents to ensure that the locker is being used in accordance with its intended purpose, and to eliminate fire or other hazards, maintain sanitary conditions, attempt to locate lost or stolen materials such as weapons, illegal drugs or alcohol, or any other material forbidden by school rules.

In order to implement the school policy concerning student lockers, the school has the following rules and regulations:

1. LOCKS: The school will retain access to student lockers by keeping a master list of combinations or retaining a master key. Students may not use their own locks to prevent access to lockers by school officials, nor may they exchange locks with another student. Unauthorized locks may be removed without notice and destroyed. Each year, students will pay a nonrefundable fee for locker usage. The school will replace all lost or damaged locks, and students will be charged for their replacement.
2. USE OF LOCKERS: Lockers are to be used to store school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. Lockers shall not be used to store items, which cause (or can reasonably be foreseen to cause) an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or items, which are forbidden, by state law or school rules. Students will be expected to keep their lockers clean and orderly. There are to be no stickers affixed to the lockers, either inside or out. Students are not to write on the inside or outside of the lockers with any writing instrument, whether permanent or non- permanent.
3. AUTHORITY TO INSPECT: The school retains the right to inspect lockers to ensure they are being maintained. The principal or a member of the staff designated by the principal shall conduct all inspections of student lockers.
4. INSPECTION OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENT LOCKERS: The inspection of a particular student's locker will not be conducted unless the principal or her designee has a reasonable suspicion to believe that the locker to be inspected contains items which cause (or can reasonably be foreseen to cause) an interference with school purposes or an educational function, which are forbidden by state law or school rules, or which pose an imminent and serious threat to health and safety necessitating the general search of part or all of the lockers. Whenever an individual student's locker has been inspected under this rule without the student's presence, the principal or her designee shall notify the student of such inspection as soon as practicable thereafter.

5. INSPECTION OF ALL LOCKERS: An inspection of all lockers in the school may be conducted if the principal believes that such an inspection is necessary to prevent, impede, or substantially reduce the risk of an interference with school purposes or an educational function, a physical injury or illness to any person, damage to personal or school property, or a violation of state law or school rules. Examples of circumstances justifying a general inspection of a number of lockers are when the school receives a bomb threat, when evidence of student drug or alcohol use creates a reasonable belief of an unusually high level of student use, at certain times of the school year to check for specific school supplies or equipment, or when there is a reasonable belief that weapons are stored in the lockers. If a general inspection of a number of lockers is necessary, then all lockers in the defined inspection area will be examined. Students will not necessarily be given the opportunity to be present while a general inspection is being conducted.
6. STUDENT MATERIAL: When conducting an inspection pursuant to these rules, the inspector shall take care to avoid disrupting the contents of the locker or intruding unnecessarily into any student's written material located in the locker. In addition, as to written materials, the inspection will be kept to the minimum level necessary to determine that such material is not contraband or being used to conceal contraband.
7. DISPOSAL OF CONFISCATED CONTRABAND: The principal or her designee may dispose of all contraband confiscated from lockers, as he or she deems appropriate. Options include return to the proper owner or place (unless it poses a threat to health or safety), use as evidence in a student discipline proceeding if possession of the contraband constitutes a ground for suspension or expulsion.
8. LOCKER CLEANING: Nothing in these rules shall affect members of the custodial staff, who at the direction of a supervisor, clean out lockers from time to time in accordance with a general housekeeping schedule or clean out the locker of a student no longer enrolled in the school.

## SCHOLAR SEARCHES

Phoenix will conduct searches of scholars and their property, including backpacks, where there is a reasonable suspicion that the scholar has violated school rules and that the evidence of such violations is in his/her possession. School lockers and desks, which are assigned to scholars for their use, still remain the property of PCA, and scholars should, therefore, have no expectation of privacy in these areas. Such areas are subject to searches by school officials at any time. Searches will be conducted with the respect of the privacy and interests of scholars to the fullest degree possible, but will also balance those concerns with our predominant interest in maintaining scholar safety and discipline. Searches will be reasonable in inception and scope; emergency situations notwithstanding, searches will take place in the presence of a school administrator and at least one other staff member. The parent(s) or guardian of a searched scholar will be notified as soon as possible to inform them that a search of their scholar is about to or has

just occurred. Should a scholar refuse to cooperate with a search request, the school will confiscate the property in question.

## CLASS DISRUPTION AND REMOVAL FROM CLASS

Providing a safe, thriving environment for students to learn and staff to work is our foremost priority at Phoenix Charter Academy. When a scholar's behavior escalates to the point that his or her safety is at risk or the safety and stability of the school community is jeopardized, he or she may be removed from the learning environment. Removal from the immediate environment may be a necessary first intervention before students can engage in further restorative processes to repair a relationship or harm done to the community. Phoenix relies on restorative processes such as harm circles, mediation, or family-group conferencing to respond to these disruptive behaviors in a restorative, non-punitive manner. We seek to address root causes of the harm, support accountability for the offender, and promote healing for the victim(s), the offender, and the school community.

An emergency removal may be used in the event a scholar demonstrates a pattern of disruptive behavior that impacts the safety and education of the individual and/or school community. Phoenix provides supported re-entry to scholars that emphasizes individualized support following an emergency removal or suspension. We strive to welcome young people back into the school community in a manner that incorporates community and school-based resources and promotes student accountability and achievement.

**Emergency Removal:** A Head of School may remove the scholar from school temporarily when a scholar is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the scholar poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the Head of School's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. The temporary removal shall not exceed two school days following the day of the emergency removal. The Head of School shall: (a) make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the scholar and the scholar's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal; (b) Provide written notice to the scholar and parent as provided for a hearing (see above "Due Process"); (c) provide the scholar and parent an opportunity for a hearing with the Head of School before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Head of School, scholar, and parent. Any decisions regarding the suspension of the scholar should be rendered on the same day as the hearing with a written decision no later than the following school day. A Head of School may not remove a scholar from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the scholar's safety and transportation.



# PHOENIX CHARTER ACADEMY POLICIES

## PHOENIX CHARTER ACADEMY NETWORK

### EXPULSION POLICY

#### **Expulsion Pursuant to M.G.L. CH. 71, §37H AND §37H½**

Students are subject to expulsion (i.e. permanent exclusion from school) pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 71, §37 and §37H½ by the Head of School, as set forth in detail below.

#### *Expulsion under M.G.L. ch. 71, §37H*

Students are subject to expulsion for the following offenses:

- Possession of a dangerous weapon
- Possession of a controlled substance
- Assault on staff member or other educational personnel

#### *Expulsion under M.G.L. ch. 71, §37H½*

Students are subject to expulsion when convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency if the Head of School determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

#### Due Process Procedures M.G.L. ch. 71, §37H and §37H½

When considering expulsion of a student from school for possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or assault on a staff member, pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 71, §37H, the student may be suspended for up to ten school days pending a hearing before the Head of School to consider additional discipline, up to and including expulsion from school.

The following Due Process Procedures apply to M.G.L. ch. 71, §37H and/or §37H½:

1. First, the Head of School or designee will have an informal hearing with the student. At this informal hearing, the student (1) shall be informed of the reason for the hearing, (2) shall be given the opportunity to present his or her side of the story, and (3) shall be informed if a formal hearing will take place to consider additional discipline. If the Head of School or designee deems delay of the hearing necessary to avoid danger or substantial disruption, this process may occur immediately after, rather than before, the suspension goes into effect.

# PHOENIX CONTINUAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES POLICY

Any student who is serving an in-school suspension, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of his or her removal from the classroom or school. The Head of School shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten consecutive days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and to make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan. The Head of School shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. M.G.L. c. 76, sec. 21; 603 CMR 53.13.

For students protected by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA, educational services that allow the student to progress through the general education curriculum and to progress toward his/her IEP goals will be provided if the student has been suspended/ expelled for more than 10 cumulative days in a school year. 34 CFR 300.530(d).

# PHOENIX TECHNOLOGY POLICY

PCA students are NOT allowed to:

- Enter into or initiate an Internet chat session using Instant Messenger, Yahoo Messenger, etc., unless specifically granted permission by a staff member for class.
- Have any food or drink while using a laptop or Academy desktop or other computer provided by PCA; Download any music files or photos over the Internet unless specifically granted permission by a staff member and for a class assignment or project; play games online;
- login to Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, or any other social media sites.
- View web sites not directly related to a classroom assignment unless specifically granted permission by a staff member and for a class assignment or project;
- Waste or take supplies, such as paper, accessories, mice, disks, etc;
- Use inappropriate language while using our school network of computers to transmit a message of any kind;
- Illegally copy documents, software, and other materials;
- Allow others to use their network accounts. Network storage areas should be treated like lockers. Designated school personnel may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that the system is being used responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on school file servers will always be private.
- Send hate or harassing or mass e-mail. Receipt of inappropriate mail should immediately be reported to a teacher or administrator. Encryption is not permitted.
- Post personal information about one's self or another person on a non-school website, including such items as residential address, telephone number, or certain school information;
- Use the PCA network and Internet connection for commercial purposes; steal computer hardware components, tamper with a computer or software, pirate software residing on school computers; attempt to gain unauthorized access to any computer that is a part of the Internet including file and web servers.
- The act of simply probing another computer to find computer security weaknesses is considered an illegal activity; PCA students are NOT allowed to attempt to disrupt normal computer operation or network operation in any fashion so that users are limited or stopped from accessing other computers on the network (including the Internet). Activities such as downloading a virus onto a computer or spreading a virus over a network of computers constitutes an illegal action.

Consequences for violations of the technology policy will be determined at the discretion of the Head of School and Director of School Culture.

# PHOENIX BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION POLICY

## **1. Describing and Prohibiting:**

PCA defines “Bullying” as the repeated use by one or more students or a member of the school staff of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim’s property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying shall include cyberbullying”:

“Cyber-bullying”, bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying shall also include (i) the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying.

Students who participate in bullying will immediately receive consequences perhaps as severe as suspension.

All bullying is prohibited. This includes and is not limited to retaliation for bullying or for after disclosure of bullying by target. Cyberbullying of all types (as defined above) is also prohibited. Retaliation of bullying or of victims who report bullying is also prohibited and will result in severe disciplinary action. Retaliation is defined as “getting back” at any student for a perceived wrong. This includes any type of aggression or cyber response to an action by another student.

## **2. Reporting Procedures:**

### **Reports received by Staff:**

All accusations of bullying will be taken seriously. First, a formal report will be logged in PowerSchool by a staff member. Further, all reports will be cc’d to the Director of School Culture and the Head of School.

Second, the parent or adult supporter of the victim and accused bully will be notified by the Director of School Culture and/or the Head of School.

For retaliatory behavior, the same procedures are to be followed:

- Make record of report in PowerSchool

- Cc Head of School and Director of School Culture
- Director of School Culture or Head of School will then follow up with parents of both victim and accused and begin investigation (see below)

**Reports received by Parents:**

First, parents or adult supporters should call the Director of School Culture or Head of School to report bullying.

Parents or adult supporters can also disclose to another staff member who will notify the Director of School Culture or Head of School. Any staff member who receives such a report will be asked to record the report in PowerSchool.

For retaliatory behavior, the same procedures are to be followed:

- Report to Director of School Culture, Head of School, or teacher
- Make record of report in PowerSchool
- Cc Head of School and Director of School Culture
- Director of School Culture or Head of School will then follow up with parents or adult supporters of both victim and accused and begin investigation (see below)

To make an **anonymous report** of either bullying or retaliation, parents can leave a message at the Head of School’s voicemail at 617 889 3100 ext. 135 or the Director of School Culture’s voicemail at 617 889 3100 ext. 120.

**Reports received by or shared by students:**

Students will be given confidential space to confide or share what they know or have experienced. After a disclosure, the above protocols will be followed, beginning with reporting to the Director of School Culture or Head of School.

To make an **anonymous report** of either bullying or retaliation, students can leave a message at the Head of school’s voicemail at 617 889 3100 ext 135 or the Director of School Culture’s voicemail at 617 889 3100 ext. 120. Students may also anonymously fill out the attached form.

**Anonymous Report of Bullying or Retaliation**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is victim a member of the PCA student community?**

**Is the perpetrator or accused a member of the PCA student community?**

**Please share as much as you can about what is happening:**

**Thank you for taking care of your community.**

**This form should be dropped off in the SSC drop box. You do not need a staff present to complete this form.**

**3. Investigation Procedures:**

After receiving any reports of bullying and or retaliation, the Head of School and/or Director of School Culture will begin an investigation in the following ways:

- Interview each party (accused and victim) and take written statements After said interview, make a report in PowerSchool under each student’s account
- Call each adult supporter to share information gleaned in interview
- Meet and make decisions as to evidence of bullying. If proper evidence shows that there is evidence of an “unsafe environment”, disciplinary procedures will begin

#### **4. Disciplinary Action and Protection of Target and others:**

##### Discipline:

The consequences for bullying or retaliation may include suspension and detention as well as other forms of reparation to the community. Upon re-entry to school the student (aggressor) must then sign a contract committing to ceasing all similar types of behavior.

When appropriate and necessary, parents and adult supporters will be notified of their right to contact local police and file formal complaints. All parents will be informed of their right to pursue criminal charges when appropriate through the Springfield and Springfield Police Departments. Additionally, the school reserves the right to file charges against a student who endangers the school community.

##### Prevention:

In order to prevent further acts of bullying, all parents and adult supporters of students accused or targeted in bullying will be asked to reread the bullying policies and protocols of PCA. Next, parents will be given weekly updates as to their student’s behavior by the advisor through a check-in phone call. Further, the Director of School Culture will build in Advisory lesson plans that target prevention for the entire school population.

##### Safety of Target and Others:

To ensure the safety of the target, PCA will hold a safety plan meeting with an adult supporter and the target. At this meeting, a strategy will be put in place to provide a safe place for the target to go (physically) and report (verbally or in written form) any incident that continues to threaten his/her safety.

Further, all targets will be provided an opportunity to meet with the Academy Social Worker after reporting bullying. She will determine if other case management needs are evident.

In an effort to maintain the safety of all students who report bullying, anonymous reporting systems are in place. Further, all students who feel threatened or triggered by bullying or harassment can request a meeting with the Director of School Culture and/or Social Worker.

Students who report feeling unsafe because of:

- Reporting bullying/retaliation
- Providing information to help an investigation of bullying/retaliation
- Witnessing an act of bullying/retaliation

will all be given the above opportunities. Further, their parents or adult supporters will be called and all parties will be invited to a meeting.

Students at PCA have the benefit of being able to leave class and visit the Student Support Center whenever issues (inside or out of school) are preventing their learning. This time away

from class will be extended to all parties who fit the above description.

### **5. False Accusation and Retaliation:**

PCA students will be informed at the beginning of every quarter of the consequences for making a false accusation of bullying or retaliation. As stated in the PCA Student Handbook, any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying is subject to suspension from school for up to three days, depending upon the incident. The Head of School and Director of School Culture will follow regular suspension procedures. Upon return, the student must bring a parent or other guardian to discuss the false accusation and apologize to the person or parties accused. The suspension will be listed on the student's permanent record.

Phoenix Charter Academy views retaliation against a target for disclosure, another and more egregious incident of bullying. Therefore, students who retaliate in any way towards a target during or after an investigation of bullying are subject to consequences including suspension or possibly expulsion from school, depending upon the severity of the incident.

### **6. Support Services:**

Phoenix Charter Academy takes seriously its responsibility to all who are affected by a bullying incident including the targeted student(s), the aggressor student(s) and the appropriate family members of involved student. Currently, we have one Director of School Culture, two full time social workers, a counseling intern and three case management staff that work with individual students on socio-emotional needs, depending upon the incident.

The targeted student will be offered counseling from the school social worker and support from the Director of School Culture as the incident is resolved and afterwards, for as long as the student needs. If the parent prefers an outside agency, PCA will make arrangements for the student to see a counselor or therapist at a neighboring agency. We currently have partnerships with three counseling agencies.

Aggressor students, after facing school consequences, may need to also see the school counselor or an outside counselor, depending upon the severity of the incident. The Student Support Team and the families of all interested parties will have input into this decision but ultimately the Director of School Culture, Head of School and school social workers will make a plan to keep the involved students and the school community safe.

The school social worker and other support staff will also offer short term counseling services to any parent or guardian and any appropriate family members that need support around a particular bullying incident.

The Director of School Culture will call and check in with parents of both targeted and aggressor students at least two weeks after an issue is resolved in order to see how both families are feeling about school safety and support at school.

### **7. Protection of all Students:**

All Phoenix Charter Academy students have a right and expectation of the protections and supports listed above regardless of status including race, age, gender, national origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical, emotional or mental ability, or educational or academic ability.

## **8. PCA Staff Training/ Professional Development on Bullying Procedures and Prevention:**

### Professional development plan:

All Phoenix staff will be trained on Bullying Procedures and Prevention.

## **9. Adult Supporter Information:**

Bullying protocols and procedures will be an ongoing topic during Adult Supporter Advisory Council meetings. These meetings occur quarterly. Parents and adult supporters will be trained on the nuances of bullying and the important role technology plays in bullying and victimizing students.

Parent component of bullying and intervention curriculum will be sent home annually.

This training will be run by the Head of School and Director of School Culture and will include the following:

- Defining bullying of all types
- Dynamics of bullying
- The internet and cyberbullying and online safety
- Bullying prevention
- Communicating with PCA staff and reporting incidents to PCA staff
- Reinforcing PCA's prevention plans at home (all training materials will also be mailed home)

To help with reinforcement of Advisory lesson plans, all advisors will be checking in with parents and adult supporters to answer questions about PCA's prevention plans.

Further, since parents are integral to the reintegration and rehabilitation of both targets and accused, they will be communicated with regularly through the advisor. PCA will respond to questions and concerns of parents as they develop.

All parents will receive a copy of approved bullying plans via mail.



## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Phoenix Charter Academy does not discriminate in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its services, programs and activities, on the basis of race, color or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI); on the basis of sex, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; on the basis of disability, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); or on the basis of age, in accordance with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1974 (ADEA). In addition, no person shall be discriminated against in admission to PCA on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, sex, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement, as required by M.G.L. c. 71, §89(1); 603 CMR 1.06(1); M.G.L. c. 76, § 5. Finally, no person shall be discriminated against in obtaining the advantages, privileges or access to the courses of study offered by PCA on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation as required by M.G.L. c. 76, § 5. PCA does not discriminate in making employment decisions based on race, religion, creed, national origin, political affiliation, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, color, age, genetics or disability, as prohibited by M.G.L.c.151B and other federal laws.

For any related questions, please contact Head of School, Title IX and 504 Coordinator, at 617-285-5162.

## PHOENIX GRIEVANCE POLICY

Both the school and the Board work in conjunction with one another to hear and resolve any complaints. If a problem arises, both the school and the Board encourage the complainant to address the problem directly with the staff member(s). If the complainant is dissatisfied with the proposed resolution by the appropriate faculty or staff member, a meeting should be scheduled with the Chief Executive Officer.

If this meeting does not resolve the relevant complaint, the complainant should follow the guidelines set by M.G.L. c. 71, § 89(jj) and 603 CMR 1.10. If an individual believes that the school has violated any provision of the charter school law or regulations, he or she may file a formal complaint with the Board of Trustees. After receiving the complaint, the Board must send a written response to the individual within 30 days. 603 CMR 1.10(2). If the Board does not address the complaint to the individual's satisfaction, the individual may submit the complaint to the Commissioner of Education. 603 CMR 1.10(4). A parent/guardian may file a complaint with DOE at any time if he or she believes that the school has violated any federal or state law or regulation. 603 CMR 1.10(6).

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

## **Discipline**

(a) Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a controlled substance as defined in chapter ninety-four C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Head of School.

(b) Any student who is charged with a violation of paragraph (a) shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing; provided, however, that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at said hearing before the Head of School.

After said hearing, a Head of School may, in his discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the Head of School to have violated paragraph (a).

(c) Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the superintendent of his appeal. The student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this section.

## **Counseling and Resources**

School counseling personnel shall have access to information and strategies necessary to facilitate referrals to community services for the wide variety of mental health challenges that students experience, including substance use. A resource list for the network of services available through the agencies in their areas shall be established and maintained.

## **Staff Education**

All faculty and staff shall be provided training on the early warning signs and behaviors that indicate a student may be experiencing substance use problems, and will be aware of building-based referral systems and other protocols to follow.

## **Substance Abuse Prevention Curriculum**

Phoenix's curriculum will implement an evidence based substance abuse prevention program appropriate for the age level that demonstrates cultural competency.

Training and Professional development will be provided to all staff on implementing evidence-based programs and effective strategies for preventing substance use.

## **Verbal Screening**

(a) The school shall utilize a verbal screening tool to screen pupils for substance use disorders. Screenings shall occur on an annual basis and occur at 2 different grade levels as recommended by the department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the department of public health. Parents or guardians of a pupil to be screened pursuant to this section shall be notified prior to the start of the school year. Verbal screening tools shall be approved by the department of elementary and secondary education, in conjunction with the department of public health. Deidentified screening results shall be reported to the department of public health, in a manner to be determined by the department of public health, not later than 90 days after completion of the screening.

(b) A pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian may opt out of the screening by written notification at any time prior to or during the screening. The school will comply with the department of elementary and secondary education's regulations relative to consent.

(c) Any statement, response or disclosure made by a pupil during a verbal substance use disorder screening shall be considered confidential information and shall not be disclosed by a person receiving the statement, response or disclosure to any other person without the prior written consent of the pupil, parent or guardian, except in cases of immediate medical emergency or a disclosure is otherwise required by state law. Such consent shall be documented on a form approved by the department of public health and shall not be subject to discovery or subpoena in any civil, criminal, legislative or administrative proceeding. No record of any statement, response or disclosure shall be made in any form, written, electronic or otherwise, that includes information identifying the pupil.

(d) The department of elementary and secondary education shall notify each school district in writing of the requirement to screen students for substance use disorders pursuant to this section. School districts with alternative substance use screening policies may, on a form provided by the department, opt out of the required verbal screening tool. The form shall be signed by the school superintendent and provide a detailed description of the alternative substance use program the district has implemented and the reasons why the required verbal screening tool is not appropriate for the district.

(e) No person shall have a cause of action for loss or damage caused by an act or omission resulting from the implementation of this section.

## **Policy Review**

The Substance Abuse Policy shall be reviewed and revised periodical as appropriate.

# MASSACHUSETTS LAW PERTAINING TO STUDENT ARRESTS (CH 71§37H1/2) POLICY

Notwithstanding the provisions of section eighty-four and sections sixteen and seventeen of chapter seventy-six:

(1) Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Head of School or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by said Head of School or headmaster if said Head of School or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and the reasons for such suspension prior to such suspension taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such suspension; provided, however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.

The student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent in writing of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the suspension. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the student's request for an appeal. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Head of School or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the suspension.

(2) Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency, the Head of School or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if such Head of School or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion; provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.

The student shall have the right to appeal the expulsion to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent, in writing, of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the expulsion. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Head of School or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal

within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the expulsion.

Any school district that suspends or expels a student under this section shall continue to provide educational services to the student during the period of suspension or expulsion, under section 21 of chapter 76. If the student moves to another district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student under an education service plan, under section 21 of chapter 76.

# MASSACHUSETTS LAW PERTAINING TO HAZING

## (CH. 269 § 17-19)

Whoever is a head of school organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment. The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action. Added by St.1985, c.536; amended by St.1987, c.665. CH. 269. S18. Duty to Report Hazing Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars. Added by St.1985, c.536; amended by St.1987, c.665.

CH. 269. S.19. Hazing Statues To Be Provided; Statement of Compliance and Discipline Policy Required:

Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary

education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary schools, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of regents and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.



# PCA RESTRAINT POLICY & PROCEDURES

Authority. 603 CMR 46.00 is promulgated by the Board of Education pursuant to M.G.L. c. 69, § 1B, and c. 71, § 37G. Scope. 603 CMR 46.00 governs the use of physical restraint on students in publicly funded elementary and secondary education programs, including all Massachusetts public school districts, charter schools, collaborative education programs and special education schools approved under 603 CMR 28.09, except as provided in 603 CMR 18.05(5)(h). Our handbook reflects the recent changes to the restraint regulations which are set to take effect on January 1, 2016.

Physical restraint may be used only in the following circumstances:

- (a) Non-physical interventions would not be effective; and
- (b) The student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm to self and/or others.

Physical restraint in a public education program shall be limited to the use of such reasonable force as is necessary to protect a student or another member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm.

Physical restraint is prohibited in the following circumstances:

- (a) As a means of punishment; or
- (b) As a response to property destruction, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm.

Nothing in the state regulations (603 CMR 46.00) or this handbook prohibits:

- (a) The right of any individual to report to appropriate authorities a crime committed by a student or other individual;
- (b) Law enforcement, judicial authorities or school security personnel from exercising their responsibilities, including the physical detainment of a student or other person alleged to have committed a crime or posing a security risk; or

Physical restraint is the use of bodily force to limit a student's freedom of movement. It does not include touching or holding a student without the use of force for the purpose of directing the student.

In accordance with 603 CMR 46.06, school are required to report on restraint as follows:

1. Program staff shall report the use of physical restraint as specified in 603 CMR 6.06(2) after administration of a physical restraint that results in any injury to a student or staff member, or any physical restraint of a duration longer than five minutes
2. The program staff member who administered the restraint shall verbally inform the program administration of the restraint as soon as possible, and by written report no later than the next school working day. The written report shall be provided to the Head of School or director of the program or his/her designee, except that the Head of School or director shall prepare the report if the Head of School or director has administered the restraint.
3. The Head of School or director of the program or his/her designee shall verbally inform the student's parents or guardians of the restraint as soon as possible, and by written

report postmarked no later than three school working days following the use of restraint. Notification shall be made in the language customarily used to communicate with the student's parent/ guardian.

The written report to the administration and parent/ guardian shall include:

- a) The names and job titles of the staff who administered the restraint, and observers, if any; the date of the restraint; the time the restraint began and ended; and the name of the administrator who was verbally informed following the restraint.
- b) A description of the activity in which the restrained student and other students and staff in the same room or vicinity were engaged immediately preceding the use of physical restraint; the behavior that prompted the restraint; the efforts made to de-escalate the situation; alternatives to restraint that were attempted; and the justification for initiating physical restraint.
- c) A description of the administration of the restraint including the holds used and reasons such holds were necessary; the student's behavior and reactions during the restraint; how the restraint ended; and documentation of injury to the student and/or staff, if any, during the restraint and any medical care provided.
- d) For extended restraints, the written report shall describe the alternatives to extended restraint that were attempted, the outcome of those efforts and the justification for administering the extended restraint.
- e) Information regarding any further action(s) that the school has taken or may take, including any disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed on the student.
- f) Information regarding opportunities for the student's parents or guardians to discuss with school officials the administration of the restraint, any disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed on the student and/or any other related matter.

Additional information, including a copy of applicable state regulations, can be obtained from Director of School Culture.

A copy of the regulations may also be obtained at  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr46.html>.

## PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW POLICY

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act defines new standards for teacher quality. Under NCLB, teachers must hold a Massachusetts teaching license at the Preliminary, Initial, or Professional level and demonstrate subject matter competency in the areas they teach. NCLB standards apply to the subject matter taught by teachers. For example, a teacher may be qualified to teach one subject but not another. With this in mind, we are doubling our efforts to make sure all teachers at our school are appropriately assigned to teach classes that reflect their qualifications.

Under the law, school districts must annually notify the parents/guardians of each student attending any Title I school that they may request information about the qualifications of their child's teacher and teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver through which the State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of your child's teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field or discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, give their qualifications.

Phoenix Charter Academy is committed to providing quality instruction for all students and does so by employing the most qualified individuals to teach and support each student in the classroom. If you would like to receive any of the information listed above for your child's teacher, please contact Emily Dixon, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

# HOMELESS STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES POLICY

PCA Homeless Youth Liaison: 413-273-1236

To the extent practical and as required by law, PCA will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs and school nutrition programs.

Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Being abandoned in hospitals;
5. Awaiting foster care placement;
6. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
7. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings;
8. Migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples.

PCA's liaison for homeless students and their families is the Academy's Social Worker.

To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing.

Instead of remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may enroll in the school in the attendance area in which the student is actually living, or other schools.

Attendance rights by living in attendance areas, other student assignment policies, or intra and inter-district choice options are available to homeless families on the same terms as families resident in the district.

If there is an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the district's decision and their appeal rights in writing. The district's liaison will carry out dispute resolution as provided by state rule. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending

resolution of the dispute.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to district policies. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the district liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to district policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with district policies, including compliance with the state's address confidentiality program when necessary.

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin in this district, the districts will coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student, or will divide the costs equally. The district's liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. This coordination includes providing public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters and soup kitchens. The district's liaison will also review and recommend amendments to district policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

# DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:

The Board of Trustees of Phoenix Charter Academy, in compliance with the rules and regulations pertaining to total nondiscrimination, have established these procedures whereby a complaint related to the violation, interpretation of application of either Title IX or Chapter 622 (282) rules and regulations may be resolved. Students and/or their adult supporters are encouraged to use the grievance procedures when they have a complaint.

The Board of Trustees has designated a Title IX Coordinator for the purpose of coordinating efforts to comply with Title IX/Chapter 622 (282) rules and regulations. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for acting as an advisor to any/all parties at any stage of these procedures to ensure that proper steps are followed. The coordinator may also act as mediator when requested to do so by both parties.

For students and/or adult supporters that would like to initiate formal proceedings in regards to a discrimination and/or harassment grievance, please write out a clear statement of your complaint including all the facts as you see them. The following information should be included: your name and home address; a description of what happened including names and addresses of person(s) involved, time, date and as many other details as you can remember; and any other information you think is important to help people understand your concerns. Give a copy of your written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide a copy to all parties involved. You will be given a hearing and will receive a written response. All hearings and investigations will follow due process procedures which guarantee that both parties will have the right and opportunity to present evidence, witnesses and to question witnesses at all steps. Confidentiality will be maintained by the involved parties at all levels

The Title IX Coordinator will conduct an investigation of the formal complaint and provide a written decision to both parties within twenty school days of its receipt. The Title IX Coordinator will enact appropriate action towards anyone found to be in violation of discrimination and/or harassment policies as stated above.

If you disagree with the decision of the Title IX Coordinator, you may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Board of Trustees within five school days after you receive the written decision.

The Board of Trustees will, within thirty school days of the receipt of the grievance, investigate and will respond via a written decision. The Board of Trustees will submit a copy of the decision and the reasons therefore to both parties and to the Title IX Coordinator.

The above time frames may be extended by mutual agreement.

In cases where it is determined that it is confirmed that harassment and/or discrimination has taken place between students, the Head of School will develop consequences that align with our handbook.

In cases where it is determined that it is confirmed that harassment and/or discrimination has taken place between staff and student, the staff will be referred to the Network Director of HR and consequences will align with the personnel policy.

# CONCUSSION POLICY

Phoenix Charter Academy seeks to prevent concussion and provide a safe return to activity for all students after an injury, particularly after a head injury. In order to effectively and consistently manage these injuries, the Athletic Department abides by the following procedures that have been developed to aid in ensuring that concussed athletes are identified, treated and referred appropriately, receive appropriate follow-up medical care during the school day, including academic assistance, and are fully recovered prior to returning to athletic activity.

Phoenix Charter Academy has designated its Head of School (and his/her staff) who has administrative authority to oversee the implementation of these policies and protocols governing the prevention and management of sports-related head injuries. In addition, the Head of School will be responsible for: (1) supporting and enforcing the protocols, documentation, training and reporting outlined in this policy; (2) supervising and reviewing that all documentation is in place; (3) reviewing, updating and implementing policy every two years and including updates in annual training and student and parent handbooks.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires annual safety training on sports-related concussion, including second impact syndrome, for coaches, certified athletic trainers, trainers, volunteers, school nurses, school and team physicians, athletic directors, directors responsible for a school marching band whether employed by a school or school district or serving as a volunteer, parent or legal guardian of a child who participates in an extracurricular athletic activity and student who participates in an extracurricular athletic activity. At Phoenix Charter Academy, school personnel are required to complete free, online training (either the National Federation of High Schools or the CDC's Heads Up Concussion training) or attend a training event organized by the athletic department and approved by the Department of Public Health.

Each student athlete must have a physical examination on an annual basis, i.e. within 12 or 13 months of the student's last physical examination (to allow for insurance coverage of the examination). Any student athlete who does not have a current physical on file with the Director of Operations, prior to the first day of try-outs/practice, is not eligible to participate until a new/updated physical is turned in. If the student's physical examination expires during the sports season, he/she must have an updated physical examination to continue to participate in the sports season

The Massachusetts concussion law requires athletes and their parents to inform coaches about prior head injuries at the beginning of each sports season. This reporting is done via the [Pre-participation Head Injury/Concussion Reporting Form](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/com-health/injury/preparticipation-reporting-form.pdf) <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/com-health/injury/preparticipation-reporting-form.pdf> and should be completed by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the student. It must be submitted to Phoenix Charter Academy's Director of Operations, prior to the start of each season a student plans to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity. At the start of each sports season, the Director of Operations will review all pre-participation forms. At Phoenix Charter Academy head injuries or suspected concussions (after a bump, blow or jolt to the head or body) sustained during extracurricular athletic activities must be reported by the



coach as soon as possible to the Head of School. Athletes who experience signs or symptoms of a concussion should not be allowed to return to play.

If a student athlete receives a blow to the head and any signs or symptoms are present – or if the student is suspected of having a head injury – the coach must remove the student from play/practice and the student will not return to play/practice that day. The student will be referred to their primary care physician or if unavailable, emergency room. The coach will also be responsible for notification of parents/legal guardians.

All students at Phoenix Charter Academy must be cleared to return to play/practice by a licensed medical professional (physician, NP in consultation with a physician, CAT in consultation with a physician or neuropsychologist in coordination with the physician managing the student's recovery) after the graduated return to play has been completed.

## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

Trustees will respond to all complaints made to the Board in compliance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 89(11), 603 CMR 1.10, as outlined below:

(1) A parent, guardian, or other individuals or groups who believe that the Academies have violated or are violating any provision of M.G.L. c. 71, § 89, or 603 CMR 1.00 may file a complaint with the Board of Trustees.

(2) The Board of Trustees shall respond no later than 45 days from receipt of the complaint in writing to the complaining party.

(3) The Board of Trustees shall, pursuant to a complaint received under 603 CMR 1.09, or on its own initiative, conduct reviews to ensure compliance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 89, and 603 CMR 1.00. The Academies and the specific individuals involved shall cooperate to the fullest extent with such review.

(4) A complaining party who believes the complaint has not been adequately addressed by the Board of Trustees may submit the complaint in writing to the Commissioner, who shall investigate such complaint and make a written response.

(5) In the event the Academies are found in non-compliance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 89, or 603 CMR 1.00, the Commissioner or Board may take such action as deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to, suspension or revocation of the charter, or referral of the matter to the District Attorney, the Office of the Attorney General, or other appropriate agencies for action.

(6) A parent, guardian, or other individuals or groups who believe that the Academies have violated or are violating any state or federal law or regulation regarding Special Education may file a complaint directly with the Department.

# STAFF CONTACTS

All general instruction teachers, academic support teachers, administrators, and support staff can be reached by calling the main office line at 617-889-3100. The following individuals can be reached by email or phone according to the details below:

## **Leadership Team**

Liz Murray, Interim Head of School- [lmurray@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:lmurray@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 617-356-2997

David Baird, Director of School Culture- [dbaird@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:dbaird@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 617-483-2060

Amy Ciaraldi, Director of Operations- [aciaraldi@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:aciaraldi@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 781-808-1161

Melanie Roche-Laputka, Director of Curriculum and Instruction- [mroche-laputka@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:mroche-laputka@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 857-287-1133

Alex Curty, Director of Child Development Center- [acurty@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:acurty@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 781-775-0599

## **Scholar Success Team**

J D. Fergus, Manager of Scholar Success- [jdfergus@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:jdfergus@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 857-329-5568

Andrea Layton, Manager of College and Career Success- [alayton@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:alayton@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 857-329-5567

Bianca Carreiro, Social Worker- [bcarreiro@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:bcarreiro@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 857-329-5569

## **Scholar Recruitment/Community Engagement**

Carolyn Acosta, Recruitment and Community Engagement Specialist- [cacosta@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:cacosta@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 617-548-3397

## **General Information**

Jasmin Arroyo, Front Office Manager- [jarroyo@phoenixcharteracademy.org](mailto:jarroyo@phoenixcharteracademy.org); 617-889-3100

Title IX Coordinator, Sara Ofosu-Amaah

Level 504 Coordinator, Marc Lewis

# SCHOLAR HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## FORM

I have read and understand the Phoenix Student Handbook, Code of Conduct and Uniform Addendum. I understand that I have the right to keep a copy of this document for my records.

In order to best support our scholars, PCA may share information whenever we determine that it is in the best interest of the student and the school community, including, but not limited to, information with respect to or concerning academic issues, discipline, social issues, criminal issues, or where there are other concerns for the health, welfare or safety of the student or others. We will also disclose information whenever we have a legal duty to do so, including duties imposed by statute, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education rules and regulations and the regulations of other governmental bodies. Absent a court order or emergency, we will not disclose health related information, including use of birth control or the existence of a pregnancy without the consent of the student/guardian.

By signing below, I am agreeing to the terms outlined in the PCA Student Handbook and all documents therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name (Adult Supporter)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**