



Student/Parent Handbook 2022-2023

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learn4life.org

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SCHOOL HOURS OF OPERATION

Learn4Life-Charleston office operates all year, with enrollment available at any time of the year. Learn4Life High School will follow the state of South Carolina Public Charter School District enrollment and lottery outlined in the state of South Carolina regulations (see page 5).

The school office hours of operation are 7:30 am – 4:30 p.m. The school offers a flexible schedule including an AM Cohort (8:00am-12:00pm) and PM Cohort (12:15pm-4:15pm). The Cohort schedule will be implemented Monday-Thursday. Students will be assigned to cohorts based on choice and available space, per administrator approval. Students will be required to participate in an online learning/independent learning or CTE instruction on Fridays.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Learn4Life–Charleston is to provide personalized learning, career training, and life skills. Learn4Life–Charleston strives to re-engage students who have either dropped out or who are in danger of dropping out of school. Learn4Life–Charleston will do this by increasing their personal and academic skills by supporting them in becoming career, college, and/or military ready according to their own personal paths.

This mission exists in direct alignment with the principles of the South Carolina Charter Schools Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-10 et seq.) and is specifically designed to:

- Improve student learning
- Increase learning opportunities for students
- Create new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system, with the goal of closing achievement gaps between low performing student groups and high performing student groups

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN “EDUCATED PERSON” IN THE 21ST CENTURY

An “educated person” in the 21st century is, at the least, a high school graduate who understands that education is a lifelong process, and that people are continually learning. An educated person in the 21st century has developed self-motivation and confidence to accomplish multiple responsibilities and handle daily life challenges successfully. He or she has successfully obtained a certificate or degree related to a career pathway and is able to apply knowledge and skills in the workplace. He or she fits the profile of the South Carolina graduate and shall have the knowledge, skills, and opportunity to be college ready, career ready and life ready for success in the global, digital and knowledge-based world.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Leadership: Learn4Life-Charleston students actively serve their local community and workforce system by mastering skills of financial literacy, entrepreneurship (or professional skills), and teamwork.
2. High School Completion: Learn4Life-Charleston students attain higher levels of education by acquiring career pathway exploration and guidance, occupational skills training, and a high school diploma.
3. Post-secondary Success: Learn4Life-Charleston graduates are lifelong learners who are prepared to contribute to the workforce through continuing education offered in the context of aligned industry occupations, obtainment of a certificate or degree, or job placement.

SCHOOL OBJECTIVES

Learn4Life-Charleston utilizes an Individualized Learning Plan. Credits will be given in specific subjects. The assignments will follow the South Carolina state standards for English/Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies (history, government, economics and geography), visual arts, and physical education. The education program offered in grades 9 through 12 shall include a course of study that provides an opportunity to meet the requirements necessary for post-secondary admission into advanced learning programs. Learn4Life-Charleston collaboratively sustains a variety of partnerships with community stakeholders to ensure the delivery of comprehensive support services to students. Partners include non-profits, other secondary and post-secondary education institutions, and social service agencies. Certain federally funded youth programs and South Carolina law allow public schools to enroll youth through the age of 21.

Students will be assigned a teacher who will evaluate the study assignments and provide testing materials. The tests will be completed for a percentage grade (i.e.: A=100%-90%, B=89%-80%, C=79%-70%, D=69%-60% and F=59%-0%).

On a regular basis, consistent with the written Individual Student Learning Plan, the assigned teacher and/or counselor, student, and parent, as applicable, shall evaluate the student's educational program. The assigned teacher will have the final authority regarding the student's educational program, except students who qualify for special education services whose services and outcomes will be determined by an Individual Education Plan (IEP) team, pursuant to law.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to successfully complete 24 credits for graduation. The following subjects and credits are requirements for graduation:

| Subject | Credits Required |
|---|-------------------------|
| ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS | 4.0 |
| MATHEMATICS | 4.0 |
| SCIENCE | 3.0 |
| U.S. HISTORY AND THE CONSTITUTION | 1.0 |
| ECONOMICS | 0.5 |
| U.S. GOVERNMENT | 0.5 |
| OTHER SOCIAL STUDIES | 1.0 |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION OR JUNIOR ROTC | 1.0 |
| COMPUTER SCIENCE (INCLUDES | 1.0 |
| FOREIGN LANGUAGE OR CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION | 1.0 |
| ELECTIVES | 7.0 |
| TOTAL | 24 |

Learn4Life offers courses in multiple formats, including in-person, online, independent learning packets, dual enrollment and Career Technical Education courses. Students are placed in a course based on previous credits earned, assessment scores, and career interests, when applicable. Students shall have the opportunity to earn endorsements within each high school CTE pathway; however, earning an endorsement is not a requirement for graduation.

Students enrolling at Learn4Life High School entering their freshman year, middle school who have been awarded HS credit, will need to show a transcript or other documentations that shows satisfactory completion of high school content course or equivalent. The high school courses on the transcript must be a currently approved courses for grades 9-12 in the state of South Carolina or equivalent.

GRADUATION CEREMONY AND HONORS

Learn4Life-Charleston offers two graduation ceremonies – one in the Spring and one in the Fall – for our graduating seniors. The Graduation Ceremonies celebrate the graduating students that have culminated their high school studies during the year. Learn4Life-Charleston also invites graduating seniors to be considered candidates for delivering a speech during the graduation ceremony.

WHO ENROLLS AT LEARN4LIFE-CHARLESTON

Students enroll at Learn4Life-Charleston for a great variety of reasons. Most have left school before graduation and now want the opportunity to move toward their goals. Some students have found the personalized instruction and flexible time requirements suit their needs better than a traditional school. Some students come to us to make up classes and then return to traditional campuses; others only need a few classes to graduate. Learn4Life-Charleston provides appropriate support and guidance to employed students or to those who are seeking employment. It is Learn4Life-Charleston's desire to accommodate each individual's need.

We welcome all students at Learn4Life-Charleston. You might belong at Learn4Life-Charleston if you:

- Have stopped going to school
- Have not graduated
- Have adult responsibilities
- Work better in a personalized learning/independent study mode
- Need to make up classes in order to be prepared for graduation
- Have unavoidable scheduling conflicts that keep you from attending a traditional school
- Are interested in early graduation
- Enjoy a small educational setting

Grades Served and Age Limits

Learn4Life-Charleston serves students in grades 9 through 12 and through the age of 21. Twelfth grade students who turn 21 while enrolled at Learn4Life-Charleston will remain enrolled at Learn4Life-Charleston until the end of the school year.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

Students may confirm enrollment by submitting enrollment forms. After student enrollment is confirmed,

students are required to submit enrollment documents, including immunization records, updated transcripts, and withdrawal grades from their previous school. Students are accepted throughout the entire school year from July 1 to June 30 for enrollment in the current or following school year. Learn4Life-Charleston will request an official transcript from the previous school when the student is officially enrolled. Student and parent must complete orientation to begin attending school.

Per the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless youth have the right to immediate enrollment, even if they do not have transcripts, immunization records, or proof of residence. Unaccompanied homeless youth have the right to immediate enrollment without proof of guardianship.

The Alternative Education campus definition does not preclude students that are NOT high risk from enrolling at Learn4Life High School. While preference is given to students who are “high risk” is not exclusive. Learn4Life High School is open to enrollment for all students that fall within the age and grade range of an alternative education high school.

Parents and students need to inform the school office of any changes that occur during the school year regarding addresses, telephone numbers, and emergency and alternate emergency contact persons. Information provided within the emergency cards will only be used to respond to specified emergency situations, not for any other purpose.

Lottery

Timing and Notice

As directed by the charter of Learn4Life–Charleston, when the number of applications exceeds capacity, Learn4Life–Charleston will implement a lottery in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 59-40-50, to determine student enrollment. A lottery is a random selection process that determines the order of enrollment of student applicants. The lottery shall take place within 30 days after the closing date of the application period. Parents and/or guardians of all affected applicants will be notified of the date on which the lottery will occur.

Conduct

The lottery will be conducted via lottery selection software. Due to Learn4Life-Charleston’s designation as an Alternative Education Campus (AEC), the enrollment lottery will be weighted for students who are classified as “high-risk” in accordance with South Carolina Code 59-40-111(A)(3)(a)-(I). The Principal or designee will conduct the computerized lottery. This ensures that the admissions list and the waiting list are selected randomly.

Procedures

The lottery will be paused momentarily after the computerized lottery fills all available seats allowed by the enrollment cap. The drawing will then continue, and the randomly selected students will be used to create a waiting list. As space becomes available, applicants on the waiting list will be called in the order that they were selected, beginning with the student selected first.

Wait List

The roster for admission will include the students whose names were drawn in the lottery order equal to the number of enrollment openings. The remaining names will compose the wait list by order of the students’ lottery numbers.

Single Year Wait List

There is no appeal process when an applicant is denied admission because of lottery results. Acceptance to the school, through standard enrollment or the lottery, may not be deferred to another year.

Student Appeal Process

In the event that an applicant believes they were denied admission for a reason other than the results of a lottery, the student may appeal the denial to the school's sponsor, South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD). The appeal must be in writing and state the grounds on which the appeal is based, and the written appeal must be provided to both SCPCSD and to the school. The decision made by SCPCSD will be binding on the student and the school per S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 59-40-50(C)(1).

Racial Composition

Learn4Life–Charleston serves students statewide and strives to mirror the racial composition of the SCPCSD. Racial composition is not a factor in lottery placement.

Immunizations

All students must provide proof that all state required immunizations are up to date as a condition of enrollment. The immunization status of all students will be reviewed periodically. Pursuant to South Carolina Code Ann. Sect. 44-29-180, and South Carolina Code of Reg. 61-8, “no superintendent of an institution of learning, no school board or principal of a school...may...enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.... Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school or day care facility to which the child or person has been admitted.” A South Carolina Certificate of Immunization must be signed a licensed physician or his/her authorized representative.

Below is a list of vaccinations required by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for entry:

| Vaccine | Grade | Grade Level Requirement |
|------------------------------------|-------|---|
| Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis | 5K-12 | Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday |
| Tdap Booster | 7-12 | One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine. This dose of Tdap may be included as one of the doses needed to meet the requirement for Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis. To meet the school requirement for Tdap, the vaccine must be given on or after the child's 10th birthday. |
| Polio | 5K-10 | Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|
| | 11-12 | Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) with at least one (1) dose received on or after the 4th birthday OR four (4) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) before the 4th birthday (if all doses separated by at least four weeks) Follow CDC recommendations for students 18 years of age and older. |
| Measles, Mumps, and Rubella | 5K - 12 | Two (2) doses of MMR vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least four weeks. |
| Hepatitis A | 5K-2 | Two (2) doses of Hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least six months. |
| Hepatitis B | 5K-12 | Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine, with the third dose received >24 weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose |
| Varicella | 5K-8 | Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least four weeks or a positive history of the disease |
| Varicella | 9-12 | One (1) dose of varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease. |

Immunization Exemptions

Medical Exemptions

The Medical Exemption section of the SC Certificate of Immunization should only be completed when a child has a permanent or temporary medical reason for exclusion from the receipt of vaccine(s). The Medical Exemption section must be completed by a licensed Physician (MD or DO) or his/her authorized representative (e.g., Physician's Assistant or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse). For temporary medical exemptions, an expiration date in the future is documented when the next immunizations are due.

Religious Exemptions

A religious exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption stating that one or more immunizations conflicts with their religious beliefs. The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption can only be obtained from a DHEC health department. The parent or guardian must sign the DHEC form in the presence of a notary.

Special Exemptions

The school may issue a SC Certificate of Special Exemption signed by the principal to transfer students while awaiting arrival of medical records or who have been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received. This exemption is only valid for 30 calendar days for the current enrollment and may be issued only once. At the expiration of the Certificate of Special Exemption, a student must produce a valid SC Certificate of Immunization, a valid SC Certificate of a Medical Exemption, or a valid SC Certificate of Religious Exemption.

Students Not Meeting Requirements

Those students who do not meet the State guidelines may be excluded from school until the requirements are met. Students who have been exposed to a communicable disease for which they have not been immunized may be excluded from school at the discretion of the School. Students who do not meet the State requirements shall be referred to their physician or local health department. The School will provide families a written notice indicating which doses are lacking.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Learn4Life-Charleston is committed to providing a safe working and learning environment where all individuals are afforded equal access and opportunities. Learn4Life-Charleston does not discriminate based on race, sex, gender, gender identity, religion, color, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in the provision of educational opportunities and benefits, in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

Learn4Life-Charleston adheres to all provisions of federal law related to students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (“IDEA”).

Learn4Life-Charleston does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including discrimination, intimidation, or bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, by any employee, independent contractor, or another person with which Learn4Life-Charleston does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, students, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender. Learn4Life-Charleston will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

STUDENTS, PARENTS, GUARDIANS: KNOW YOUR EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

Your Child has the Right to a Free Public Education

- All children in the United States have a right to a free public education. The Constitution requires that all students have an equal educational opportunity regardless of immigration status and regardless of the immigration status of the students’ parents or guardians.

Information Required for School Enrollment

When enrolling a child, schools must accept a variety of documents from the student’s parent or guardian to demonstrate proof of the child’s age or residency. You never have to provide information about citizenship/immigration status to have your child enrolled in school. Also, you never have to provide a Social Security number to have your child enrolled in school **Confidentiality of Personal Information**

- Federal and state laws protect student education records and personal information. These laws generally require that schools get written consent from parents or guardians before releasing student information, unless the release of information is for educational purposes, is already public, or is in response to a court order or subpoena.

- Some schools collect and provide publicly basic student “directory information.” If they do, then each year, your child’s school must provide parents/guardians with written notice of the school’s directory information policy and let you know of your option to refuse the release of your child’s information in the directory.

Family Safety Plans if You Are Detained or Deported

- You have the option to provide your child’s school with emergency contact information, including the information of secondary contacts, to identify a trusted adult guardian who can care for your child in the event you are detained or deported.
- You have the option to complete a Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian of the Person, which may enable a trusted adult the authority to make educational and medical decisions for your child.

Right to File a Complaint

- Your child has the right to report a crime or file a complaint to the school if he or she is discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or bullied based on his or her actual or perceived nationality, ethnicity, or immigration status.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Learn4Life-Charleston offers a curriculum enabling and preparing students for entrance into college, trade school, and/or the workforce. We offer a diploma that meets all of the State of South Carolina requirements and enables the student to be enrolled in a wide array of colleges, universities, and other institutions, which require a high school diploma.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Our classes consist of core curriculum, career technical education, and electives developed to continually ensure that all content areas are infused with college and career readiness content. Students have their transcripts evaluated and take assessment tests to determine the appropriate level of instruction. The order in which the instruction is offered is purposely done to maximize learning.

Learn4Life-Charleston offers the required core classes necessary to meet all State Standards and graduation requirements, according to South Carolina State law.

For English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students, Learn4Life-Charleston will administer an English language proficiency assessment, and written communication will be provided by Learn4Life-Charleston to notify the parent/guardian when their student has been identified as an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) student. This notification also describes the school’s language development program placement, which allows the parent/guardian to make an informed choice regarding the best program option for their student learning English. Learn4Life-Charleston provides tutoring, specialized reading instruction and/or academic skills-targeted support depending on the students’ Individual English Language Development Plan (IELDP).

Intervention courses, such as Read 180 or Math 180 will be required of students who need additional support in English Language Arts and Mathematical foundations, as determined by district assessments....????

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

The changing nature of work in our society requires that students develop the appropriate work skills, habits, and attitudes that may be transferred to a variety of employment situations. The Career Technical Educational program aims to provide students with relevant career education and experience in preparation for the working world while earning credit.

The CTE Program design ensures that all students gain awareness of their own interests and talents and the opportunity to explore related careers in specific sectors and industries. In the introductory CTE program, all students learn basic employability skills that, in combination with the results of unique career surveys, direct them to possible career and post-secondary education pathways. Students may proceed beyond the introductory CTE program into a more specialized pathway program and course of study that aligns with a chosen career field. CTE pathway programs offer SC CTE Curriculum Standards-aligned concentrator and capstone courses, which provide deeper instruction and hands-on learning opportunities. Work-based learning experiences are combined with coursework and can serve as a bridge to internships and employment after graduation.

PART-TIME WORK

Learn4Life-Charleston recognizes that part-time jobs can give students needed supplementary income, valuable work experience, and enhanced self-esteem.

ATTENDANCE AND CREDIT

Students must attend school on their scheduled days and times. The student's attendance is taken daily, and per class period; failure to attend school will be considered an absence, thus, subject to local truancy laws.

Attendance for online courses is determined by coursework completion, and number of minutes logged into the online course system (i.e. Edgenuity). Students are required to sign into the online system daily to complete online coursework.

Students must wear their school-issued ID at all times when on campus. A student will be considered truant if he or she is not regularly attending school. Attendance at a naturalization ceremony can be an excused absence.

Attendance policy

Students are expected to attend school on time, everyday. School start time depends upon the cohort selected (AM or PM). Consistent daily attendance is expected in order for students to make academic progress. Students may not accumulate ten (10) or more consecutive days of unlawful absences within a school year, or they will be dropped from enrollment. .

Lawful absences include but are not limited to: seriously ill students whose attendance would be bad for their health or the health of other students; when there is a death or serious illness of a student's immediate family member; missing school because of a religious holiday; going to necessary doctor's appointments; and absences approved by the principal in advance for school related activities or other extenuating family circumstances. A student is typically considered a truant if he has three unlawful absences in a row or five unlawful absences in one year.

Unlawful absences include but are not limited to: absences you don't know about; absences you know about but are not considered by the school as a good reason for missing school; and skipping school. Parents should contact the school when your students will be absent. Contact your child's school via phone, if your child must miss school; put the reason your child missed school in a note; or send a doctor's note, if you have one. Notes should be turned in as soon as possible, or the note may not help the absence count as lawful. If you do not contact your child's school about the absence, it will be an unlawful absence no matter what the reason.

The principal has the final decision in all matters concerning attendance. Days missed because of an approved school function are counted as school-related absences. All absences of three days or more must be pre-approved by the principal.

Please turn in all excuse notes to the front desk.

Excuses

Within one week after returning to school, students must submit a written excuse to the front desk explaining the absence, signed by parent(s) or guardian, and accompanied, if applicable, by a doctor's statement. If students do not do so, the absence will be considered unlawful. The excuse should contain the following information:

- Date excuse was written.
- Reason for the absence.
- Date of absence.
- Telephone number where parent or guardian can be reached.
- Signature of parent, guardian, and/or doctor.

Note: Attendance is taken by –class period; therefore, sign-in or sign-out may cause a variance in number of absences in individual classes.

Truancy

When a student accumulates 3 unexcused/unlawful absences, the truancy process will be initiated. The school will work with the family to create an Attendance Support Plan to help the student avoid additional absences. The school will make every effort to develop strategies and intervention to support the student's positive attendance. Student and parent are required to participate in the Attendance Support Plan. Failure to do so will result in continued absences that will have a negative impact on the student academically. Continued unlawful absences equal to 5 days are considered habitually absent and may result in a referral to the Department of Social Services. Additional absences, more than 7, are considered chronically absent and may result in a referral to the Family courts.

E-Learning Requirements

Learn4Life's Virtual Model consists of teachers assigning lessons and assignments. The teacher will schedule all assignments. Due dates will be given, and grades will be recorded. The teacher will have a check-in with students weekly.

Attendance for virtual days is determined by whether a student submits assignments or participates in assigned activities in accordance with the teacher's posted requirements. Students who submit assignments or participate in assigned learning experiences by the deadline established by the teacher will be considered present. Students who fail to submit assignments or participate in assigned learning experience(s) by the deadline established by the teacher should be considered absent. Whether the absence is "excused" or "unexcused" will be established by school procedures and policies and be consistent with state law and regulations.

Online Class Attendance Policy

Online class attendance is determined by whether a student participates in assigned activities in accordance with the online site. Students who participate in assigned learning experiences or submits completed assignments during the week the assignment is assigned, will be considered present. Students who fail to participate in assigned learning experience(s) should be considered absent. Whether the absence is "excused" or "unexcused" will be established by school procedures and policies and be consistent with state law and regulations.

In order for a student to receive credit, a passing grade of "D" or better is required. If the failed course is required to meet SC Graduation Requirements, the student will be scheduled to retake the class. If the course is a prerequisite for a later/higher level course, the failed course must be successfully completed before advancing to the next class. If the failed course was an elective, the student has the option to retake the course to receive credit and recalculate their GPA.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

Students who are functioning below grade level, may be required to take an intervention course in math or English and satisfactorily complete it in order to advance to grade-level math and English. Students are encouraged to make an appointment with their content area teacher for individual support, log in to weekly

teacher office hours and use our tutoring support program (via online/phone support). Personal, one-on-one assistance is offered to encourage and build academic excellence. All students are encouraged to participate in our tutoring program.

TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Learn4Life-Charleston will provide textbooks, supplemental materials, and other learning supplies for the student's use. If these materials are lost, damaged, or abused, the student may be charged a replacement cost in accordance with state law.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Learn4Life-Charleston shall comply with all the applicable State and Federal laws to serve students with disabilities, including but not limited to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act.

Students with Exceptional Needs/IEPs

A student with exceptional needs who has an IEP and enrolls into Learn4Life-Charleston from a district not operating programs under the same special education local plan will receive free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those described in the previously approved IEP, in consultation with the parents, for a period not to exceed 30 days. By that time, Learn4Life-Charleston shall adopt or amend the previously approved IEP or develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP consistent with federal and state law.

In the case of an individual with exceptional needs who has an IEP and transfers into Learn4Life-Charleston, the school shall continue, without delay, to provide services comparable to those described in the existing approved IEP that is consistent with federal and state law. Section 504

Learn4Life-Charleston recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that no qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of the School. Any student who has an objectively identified disability that substantially limits a major life activity, including, but not limited to learning, is eligible for accommodations by the School. The parent of any student suspected of needing or qualifying for accommodation under Section 504 may make a referral for an evaluation to the Principal or designee. A copy of Learn4Life-Charleston's Section 504 policies and procedures is available upon request.

If a parent is concerned that their child needs special education services or accommodations due to a disability or exceptionality, that parent shall notify the school in writing, indicating the concern as to why they believe their child will benefit from such services. The school will begin the process of observation, data collection and evaluation of the students within 30 days of the parents notice. The parent(s) is expected to participate in any IEP or 504 meetings or pre-meeting convened for the purposes of data collection, review or to determine if services are required.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Any students desiring to transfer to another school will need to return all textbooks and other school issued materials and complete a withdrawal form. Students under 18 years of age will need a parent to accompany them during the withdrawal process. All required documents will be available in the school's office.

PUPIL RECORDS, INCLUDING CHALLENGES, DIRECTORY INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

Annual Notification

The following shall serve as Learn4Life-Charleston's annual notice to parents/guardians and students of Learn4Life-Charleston's general information policies regarding Pupil Records, Including Challenges, Directory Information, and Information Sharing.

FERPA Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records and protects the privacy of those records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five (45) days after the day Learn4Life-Charleston receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or designee a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. Learn4Life-Charleston official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

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

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask Learn4Life-Charleston to amend a record should write the school Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If Learn4Life-Charleston decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the parent or eligible student of the decision and their right to a hearing regarding the amendment request. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before Learn4Life-Charleston discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent as described below.

Learn4Life-Charleston's request for written or parental or guardian consent for release of student information must include the following information: (1) the signature and date of the parent, guardian, or eligible student providing consent; (2) a description of the records to be disclosed; (3) the reason for the release of information; (4) the parties or class of parties receiving the information; and (5) if requested by the parents, guardians or eligible student, a copy of the records to be released. Learn4Life-Charleston shall permanently keep the consent notice with the record file.

The parent, guardian, or eligible student is not required to sign the consent form. If the parent, guardian, or eligible student refuses to provide written consent to release student information that is not otherwise subject to release, Learn4Life-Charleston shall not release the information.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Learn4Life-Charleston to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office

Learn4Life-Charleston shall avoid disclosing information that might indicate a student's or family's citizenship or immigration status if FERPA does not authorize the disclosure. Charter School personnel shall take the following action steps upon receiving an information request related to a student's or family's immigration or citizenship status:

- Notify a designated Charter School official about the information request.
- Provide students and families with appropriate notice and a description of the immigration officer's request.
- Document any verbal or written request for information by immigration authorities.
- Unless prohibited, provide students and parents/guardians with any documents issued by the immigration-enforcement officer.

FERPA does permit Learn4Life-Charleston's disclosure of personally identifiable information from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires Learn4Life-Charleston to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. Learn4Life-Charleston may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining the prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student in the following instances:

1. To other school officials, including teachers, the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests within the educational agency or institution. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom Charter School has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in §99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1)- (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§99.31(a)(1)).
2. To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2)).
3. To authorized representatives of the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency in the parent or eligible student's State (SEA). Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of §99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35).
4. In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4)).
5. To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a state statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to §99.38. (§99.31(a)(5)).

6. To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, Learn4Life-Charleston, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§99.31(a)(6)).
7. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7)).
8. To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8)).
9. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9)).*
10. To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10)).
11. Information that Learn4Life-Charleston has designated as “directory information” under §99.37 (§99.31(a)(11)), as more fully described below.

* *Except for investigations of child abuse, child neglect, or child dependency, or when the subpoena served on Learn4Life-Charleston prohibits disclosure, Learn4Life-Charleston shall provide parental or guardian notification of any court orders, warrants, or subpoenas before responding to such requests.*

Directory Information

The following shall serve as Learn4Life-Charleston’s annual notice to parents/guardians and “eligible students” to attend Learn4Life-Charleston’s directory information policies.

FERPA requires that Learn4Life-Charleston, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. Learn4Life-Charleston shall require written parental or guardian consent to release student information unless the information is relevant for a legitimate educational interest or includes directory information only. Neither exception permits disclosing information to immigration authorities for immigration-enforcement purposes; no student information shall be disclosed to immigration authorities for immigration-enforcement purposes without a court order or judicial subpoena. Directory information does not include citizenship status, immigration status, birthplace, or any other information indicating national origin (except where Learn4Life-Charleston receives consent as required under state law).

Learn4Life-Charleston may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent unless you have advised Learn4Life-Charleston to the contrary in accordance with school procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Learn4Life-Charleston to include this type of information from your child’s education records in certain school publications. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A playbill, showing your student’s role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists or postings;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent’s prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings, publish yearbooks or are identified by Learn4Life-Charleston as entities that have a legitimate need to know and/or organizations who request directory information in the furtherance of Learn4Life-Charleston’s valid interests. Learn4Life-Charleston has determined that it will release directory information to requestors that engage in information

dissemination related to South Carolina charter school issues. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised Learn4Life-Charleston that they do not want their student’s information disclosed without their prior written consent. (Section 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act)

Learn4Life-Charleston has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student’s name
- Student’s address
- Parent/guardian’s address
- Telephone listing
- Student’s e-mail address
- Parent/guardian’s e-mail address
- Photograph
- Date of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participating in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Intended future plans, such as college acceptance, workforce attainment, etc.
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, a password, etc. (However, a student’s SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

If you do not want Learn4Life-Charleston to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child’s education records without your prior written consent, you must notify Learn4Life-Charleston in writing within ten (10) days of your enrollment date.

OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Learn4Life-Charleston has the right and responsibility to control access and activity to ensure the safety, physical, and mental well-being of those on its campus. Please remember that you, as a student, have enrolled subject to these conditions. Students will be issued an ID card at the time of enrollment. Students shall wear their ID cards at all times when on campus. Students that come to school without their school-issued ID will receive a verbal reminder that students IDs are required for safety and immediate verification of students’ identity.. Students that continually do not bring their ID may be subject to disciplinary action. Students that have lost their school-issued ID will be assessed a replacement ID one time at no cost.

School Environment:

- Learn4Life-Charleston is an alcohol, tobacco, vape/e-cigarette, drug and weapon-free environment. The student understands that his/her teachers cannot administer nor provide non-prescription or prescription medications with the exception of epinephrine auto-injectors pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 59-63-95.
- Loitering is not permitted in or near the school area.
- Students are allowed to take a nutrition break if needed and approved by the student's teacher.
- Students are asked not to play car audio systems loudly while parked near the school.

Classroom area:

- Parents, guardians, family, or friends are welcome to set up an appointment to meet with teachers or other staff members. During school hours access to the classroom area will be limited in order to protect academic time. The reception area is available for anyone waiting for a student to complete his/her classroom appointments.
- Students must understand that when they enter the Learn4Life-Charleston learning center area or classroom area, they are expected to engage in instruction and complete their work. Students are not permitted to leave and re-enter the learning center/classroom area at will. Learn4Life-Charleston has a closed campus. A parent will be required to sign a student out, if a student's needs to leave early for an appointment or other reasons. Students must wear their IDs at all times while on campus.
- Cell phones are NOT permitted in the learning area, due to privacy and safety measures. Students will be provided with a safe space to store cell phones during the learning time. We are committed to providing a focused, quiet and structured learning environment; therefore, cell phones must be turned in daily. In the event of an emergency parents may call the front office, or students may use the phone in the reception area to avoid distraction or disruption of other students.

Student Behavior:

- Learn4Life-Charleston practice Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) to teach, practice and reinforce behavior expectations with students. Students are expected to meet expectations. When expectations are not met, consequences will be assigned up to suspension or expulsion. There are a variety of consequences, rewards and supports that will help students experience success behaviorally. Learn4Life-Charleston staff will also use restorative and trauma informed practices in their approach to student behavior and social emotional needs.
- In the event of any direct threat, violent act, possession of any weapon, narcotics, illegal substance, or any other act considered illegal by the State of South Carolina, the student will be suspended and/or expelled from Learn4Life-Charleston, and criminal charges may be filed against the student. In the case of a student with exceptional needs who has an individualized educational program, an IEP team meeting would take place to determine if a change of placement is necessary for the student.

Students are expected to follow a class schedule and attend small group instruction as well as individual appointments scheduled with teachers, tutors, educational aide, counselors, or principal. Students are not allowed in the learning center area if it is not a scheduled time for the student.

Dress Code:

- Any dress that is considered gang-related, vulgar, or that mocks others based on race, gender, religion, color, national origin, or any other protected class may be prohibited. Students shall not wear clothing

that exposes their midriffs, buttocks, or undergarments. Hats are not allowed in the building.

Lobby Telephone Access:

- The student telephone, provided in the reception area, is not for personal use. Students needing to make transportation arrangements or emergencies may use the telephone.

Rules:

- Teachers will post, discuss, and reinforce classroom rules within the classroom setting. These rules are specific to the classroom, and work in concert with schoolwide expectations.

Safety Drills:

- According to state regulation Learn4Life High School will schedule and implement emergency protocol and activate emergency practice drills throughout the school year. Students shall participate in and practice all safety drills that occur while they are on campus. It is imperative that all students know and understand all safety protocols. You may request to review the complete updated management plan for asbestos-containing material in school buildings. (40 CFR 763.93).

Academic Dishonesty including plagiarism, cheating, or copying the work of another, using technology for illicit purposes, or any unauthorized communication between students for the purpose of gaining advantage during an examination—is strictly prohibited. Teachers often expect, even encourage, students to work on assignments collectively. This is okay, as long as whose work being presented is clearly relayed.

- **Collaboration** is to work together (with permission) in a joint intellectual effort.
- **Plagiarism** is to commit literary theft; to steal and pass off as one's own ideas or words, and to create the production of another. When you use someone else's words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the writer or speaker credit by citing the source. Even if you revise or paraphrase the words of someone else, if you use someone else's ideas, you must give the author credit. Some Internet users believe that anything available on-line is public domain. Such is not the case. Ideas belong to those who create and articulate them. To use someone else's words or ideas without giving credit to the originator is stealing.
- **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, copying, or giving an assignment to a student to be copied (unless explicitly permitted by the teacher). Cheating also includes using, supplying, or communicating in any way unauthorized materials, including textbooks, notes, calculators, computers, or other unauthorized technology, during an exam or project.
- **Forgery or stealing** includes, but is not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to exams or answers to an exam, altering computer or grade-book records, or forging signatures for the purpose of academic advantage.

The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on specific evidence provided by the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from others. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary as well as academic penalties. Parental Involvement:

- Parental involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to or continued enrollment at Learn4Life-Charleston. We encourage and value parent partnership, and believe it is one of the keys to school success. Parent involvement can take many forms and we honor the support parents can provide, while navigating the demanding job of parenting.

Students will understand that Learn4Life-Charleston Personalized Learning/Independent Study Program is an optional educational alternative, and that no pupil is required to participate in this program.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Trauma-Sensitive and Restorative Practices Policy

Learn4Life-Charleston is dedicated to being a student-centered organization. Accordingly, it recognizes a standardized, effective behavior management system is key to ensuring students feel supported and have the opportunity to be successful in school. The school has embraced a trauma-sensitive approach when considering student behavioral issues by examining what happened in a particular incident rather than faulting the student's character. To support this perspective, Learn4Life-Charleston practices setting clear parameters around expectations for both students and educators, thereby limiting or reducing unwanted behaviors while also using restorative practices to maintain the relationships of respect when an incident does occur. Recognizing that a high percentage of our school's students have experienced adverse childhood experiences, these systems help us create a safe learning environment in which students feel valued, respected and are able to work at their own pace to get back on track in their academic and personal lives.

Suspension and Expulsion Policy

This Pupil Suspension and Expulsion Policy has been established in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students at Learn4Life-Charleston. Learn4Life-Charleston is committed to an annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions and expulsions and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension or expulsion.

When the Policy is violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction. This policy shall serve as Learn4Life-Charleston's policy and procedures for student suspension and expulsion, and it may be amended from time to time without the need to amend the charter so long as the amendments comport with legal requirements. Learn4Life-Charleston staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students. Suspension is a consequence that may be determined by the principal in response to egregious behaviors that take place during the school day, school related activities or other behaviors that pose a threat to safety and well-being of students and staff. The Learn4Life-Charleston board may order the suspension or expulsion of any pupil for the commission of any crime, gross immorality, gross misbehavior, persistent disobedience, or violation of written rules. This Policy and its Procedures will be printed and distributed as part of the Student Handbook and will clearly describe discipline expectations.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of the Policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff, or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.

Learn4Life-Charleston administration shall ensure that students and their parents/guardians are notified in writing upon enrollment of all discipline policies and procedures. For new students, this requirement can be fulfilled by providing parents/guardians and students with the approved Family Student Handbook for Learn4Life-Charleston at the time of enrollment. For continuing students, they will be provided with a copy of Learn4Life-Charleston's rules related to discipline, suspension, and expulsion at the beginning of the school year.

Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension or expulsion.

A student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom Learn4Life-Charleston has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of

2004 (“IDEA”) or who is qualified for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion and is accorded the same due process procedures applicable to general education students except when federal and state law mandates additional or different procedures. Learn4Life-Charleston will follow all applicable federal and state laws when imposing any form of discipline on a student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom Learn4Life-Charleston has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability or who is otherwise qualified for such services or protections in accordance with due process to such students.

Learn4Life-Charleston will adhere to state laws prohibiting the use of seclusion and behavioral restraint techniques, except as allowed by law.

Learn4Life-Charleston shall involuntarily remove no student for any reason unless the student's parent or guardian has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five school days before the effective date of the action. The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder, and shall inform him or her of the right to initiate the procedures specified below for suspensions before the effective date of the action. If the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder initiates the procedures specified below for suspensions, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until Learn4Life-Charleston issues a final decision. As used herein, “involuntarily removed” includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions or expulsions pursuant to the suspension and expulsion procedures described below.

A. Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Students

A student may be suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any time, including but not limited to: a) while on school grounds; b) while going to or coming from school; c) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

B. Enumerated Offenses

1. Discretionary Suspension Offenses. Students may be suspended for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:
 - a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
 - b) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
 - c) Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
 - d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.
 - e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
 - f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to electronic files and databases.
 - g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to electronic files and databases.

- h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping products, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a pupil.
- i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug, e-cigarette, or vaping paraphernalia.
- k) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to electronic files and databases.
- l) Possessed an imitation firearm or weapon, i.e., a replica of a firearm or weapon that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm or weapon as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm or weapon.
- m) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault or committed a sexual battery.
- n) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- o) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drugs Soma, Adderall, Ritalin, Oxycodone, or other prescription medication.
- p) Engaged in or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, “hazing” means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil.
- q) Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property, which includes but is not limited to electronic files and databases. For purposes of this section, “terroristic threat” shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime that will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family’s safety, or for the protection of school property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
- r) Committed sexual harassment. For the purposes of this section, the conduct must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual’s academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.
- s) Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in the act of hate violence.

- t) Intentionally harassed, threatened, or intimidated school personnel or volunteers and/or a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/or student(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.
- u) Engaged in the act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act, directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel.
 - 1) “Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or gesture or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that have or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
 - a. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student’s or those students’ person or property.
 - b. Causing a reasonable student to experience a detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
 - c. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
 - d. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by Learn4Life-Charleston.
 - e. Insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption or interference in the operation of the school.
 - f. Damaging a student’s personal property.
 - 2) “Electronic Act” means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or another wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
 - a. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
 - b. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A “burn page” means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
 - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. “Credible

impersonation” means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.

(c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. “False profile” means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.

c. An act of cyber sexual bullying.

(a) For purposes of this clause, “cyber sexual bullying” means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (a) to (d), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or another visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.

(b) For purposes of this clause, “cyber sexual bullying” does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

(c) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

(d) Reprisal or retaliation against a person who reports an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying is prohibited.

d. A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1)(a)-(b).

2. Non-Discretionary Suspension Offenses: Students must be suspended and recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:

a. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or another dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of an object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a school employee who has been granted authority to provide permission, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal.

3. Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students may be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:

a. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.

- b. Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
- c. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 44-53-110 *et seq.*, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- d. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined by S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 44-53-110 *et seq.*, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
- e. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- f. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to electronic files and databases.
- g. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to electronic files and databases.
- h. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping products, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a pupil.
- i. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- j. Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 44-53-110 *et seq.*
- k. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to electronic files and databases.
- l. Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e., a replica of a firearm or weapon that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm or weapon as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm or weapon.
- m. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined by S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 16-3-600 *et seq.*, or committed a sexual battery as defined in by S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 16-33-600 *et seq.*
- n. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- o. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma Adderall, Ritalin, Oxycodone, or other prescription medication.
- p. Engaged in or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, “hazing” means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or

disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil.

- q. Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property, which includes but is not limited to electronic files and databases. For purposes of this section, “terroristic threat” shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime that will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family’s safety, or for the protection of school property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
 - r. Committed sexual harassment. For the purposes of this section, the conduct must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual’s academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.
 - s. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in the act of hate violence.
 - t. Intentionally harassed, threatened, or intimidated school personnel or volunteers and/or a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/or student(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.
 - u. Engaged in the act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
- 1) “Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct or gesture, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that have or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
- a. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student’s or those students’ person or property.
 - b. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
 - c. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
 - d. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability

to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by Learn4Life-Charleston.

- e. Insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption or interference in the operation of the school.
 - f. Damaging a student's personal property.
- 2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or another wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
- a. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
 - b. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
 - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
 - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
 - c. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
 - (d) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or another visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
 - (e) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
- 3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.
- 4) A pupil who aids or abets the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another

person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline.

4. Non-Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students must be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined pursuant to the procedures below that the pupil:
 - a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or another dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of an object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal.

If it is determined by the Administrative Panel and/or Board of Directors that a student has brought a firearm or destructive device, as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, on to campus or to have possessed a firearm or dangerous device on campus, the student shall be expelled for one year, pursuant to the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994. In such instances, the pupil shall be provided due process rights of notice and a hearing as required in this policy.

The term “firearm” means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.

The term “destructive device” means (A) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including but not limited to: (i) bomb, (ii) grenade, (iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (v) mine, or (vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses.

C. Suspension Procedures

Suspension shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

1. Conference

The suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Principal, or Designee with the student, and his or her parent whenever practical,

The conference may be omitted if the Principal, or Designee determines that an emergency situation exists. An “emergency situation” involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety, or health of students or Charter School personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and the student shall be notified of the student’s right to return to school for the purpose of a conference.

At the conference, the pupil shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him or her and shall be given the opportunity to present his or her version and evidence in his or her defense. This conference shall be held within a reasonable amount of time unless the pupil waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason, including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization. No penalties may be imposed on a pupil for the failure of the pupil’s parent or guardian to attend a conference with Charter School officials. Reinstatement of the suspended pupil shall not be contingent upon attendance by the pupil’s parent or guardian at the conference.

2. Notice to Parents/Guardians

At the time of the suspension, an administrator or designee shall contact the parent/guardian by telephone, written means or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If Charter School officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent/guardian respond to such requests without delay.

3. Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Expulsion

Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five (5) consecutive school days per suspension. Upon a recommendation of expulsion by the Principal, or Designee, the pupil and the pupil's parent/guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the pupil should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. In such instances when Learn4Life-Charleston has determined a suspension period shall be extended, such extension shall be made only after a conference is held with the pupil or the pupil's parents unless the pupil and the pupil's parents fail to attend the conference.

This determination will be made by the Principal, or Designee upon either of the following:

- 1) the pupil's presence will be disruptive to the education process, or
- 2) the pupil poses a threat or danger to others.

Upon either determination, the pupil's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

4. Homework

Upon the request of a parent, a legal guardian or other person holding the right to make education decisions for the pupil, or the affected pupil, a teacher shall provide to a pupil, who has been suspended from school for two or more school days, the homework that the pupil would otherwise have been assigned.

If a homework assignment that is requested pursuant to the above and turned into the teacher by the pupil either upon the pupil's return to school from suspension or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher, whichever is later, is not graded before the end of the academic term, that assignment shall not be included in the calculation of the pupil's overall grade in the class.

D. Authority to Expel

Students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing. The procedures herein provide for such a hearing and the notice of said hearing, as required by law.

A student may be expelled either by the Learn4Life-Charleston Board of Directors following a hearing before it or by Learn4Life-Charleston Board of Directors upon the recommendation of Administrator, to be assigned by the Board of Directors as needed. The Administrator may recommend expulsion of any student found to have committed an expellable offense, and the Board of Directors shall make the final determination.

E. Expulsion Procedures

Unless postponed for a good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days after the Superintendent, Principal, or Designee determines that the pupil has committed an expellable offense.

In the event an Administrator expels the student, it will make a recommendation to the Board for a final decision whether to expel. The hearing shall be held in closed session (complying with all pupil confidentiality rules under FERPA) unless the pupil makes a written request for a public hearing in open session three (3) days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least ten (10) calendar days before the date of the hearing. Upon mailing the notice, it shall be deemed served upon the pupil. The notice shall include:

1. The date and place of the expulsion hearing;
2. A statement of the specific facts, charges, and offenses upon which the proposed expulsion is based;
3. A copy of Learn4Life-Charleston's disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation;
4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to provide information about the student's status at Learn4Life-Charleston to any other school district or school to which the student seeks enrollment;
5. The opportunity for the student and/or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or to employ and be represented by counsel or a non-attorney advisor;
6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing;
7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing;
8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf, including witnesses.

F. Special Procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses

Learn4Life-Charleston may, upon a finding of good cause, determine that the disclosure of either the identity of the witness or the testimony of that witness at the hearing or both, would subject the witness to an unreasonable risk of psychological or physical harm. Upon this determination, the testimony of the witness may be presented at the hearing in the form of sworn declarations that shall be examined only by Learn4Life-Charleston. Copies of these sworn declarations, edited to delete the name and identity of the witness, shall be made available to the pupil.

1. The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of his/her right to (a) receive five days' notice of his/her scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of his/her choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.
2. Learn4Life-Charleston must also provide the victim with a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.
3. At the discretion of the entity conducting the expulsion hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he or she may leave the hearing room.
4. The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.

5. The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.
6. Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the entity presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The entity conducting the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany him or her to the witness stand.
7. If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, Learn4Life-Charleston must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to Learn4Life-Charleston. The entity presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising his or her discretion to remove a person from the hearing whom he or she believes is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.
8. The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness, and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.
9. Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in public at the request of the pupil being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by means of closed-circuit television.
10. Evidence of specific instances of a complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard.

G. Record of Hearing

A record of the hearing shall be made and shall be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made.

H. Presentation of Evidence

While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of judicial hearings. A recommendation by an Administrator to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed an expellable offense. Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay. Sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the Board or Administrator determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm.

If the hearing is held at a public meeting due to a written request by the expelled pupil and the charge is committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his or her testimony heard in a session closed to the public.

The decision of the Administrator shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation

to the Board of Directors, which will make a final determination regarding the expulsion. The final decision by the Board of Directors shall be made within ten (10) school days following the conclusion of the hearing. However, if the Board does not meet on a weekly basis, its decision on whether to expel a student shall be made within 40 school days after the student is removed from his/her school of attendance. The decision of the Board of Directors is final.

If the Administrator decides not to recommend expulsion, the pupil shall immediately be returned to his/her educational program.

I. Written Notice to Expel

The Principal or designee, following a decision of the Board of Directors to expel, shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the Board of Directors' adopted findings of fact, to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following: (a) Notice of the specific offense committed by the student; and (b) Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with Learn4Life-Charleston.

The Principal or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the authorizer. This notice shall include the following: (a) The student's name; and (b) The specific expellable offense committed by the student.

J. Disciplinary Records

Learn4Life-Charleston shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at Learn4Life-Charleston. Such records shall be made available to the authorizer upon request.

K. No Right to Appeal

The pupil shall have no right of appeal from expulsion from Learn4Life-Charleston as Learn4Life-Charleston Board of Directors' decision to expel shall be final; however, the expulsion shall last for the period of one year, after which time, the student may apply for reenrollment

L. Expelled Pupils/Alternative Education

Parents/guardians of pupils who are expelled shall be responsible for seeking alternative education programs, including, but not limited to, programs within the County or their school district of residence. Learn4Life-Charleston shall work cooperatively with parents/guardians as requested by parents/guardians or by the school district of residence to assist with locating alternative placements during the expulsion.

M. Special Procedures for the Consideration of Suspension and Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

1. Services During Suspension

Students suspended for more than ten (10) school days in a school year shall continue to receive services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting (which could constitute a change of placement and the student's IEP would reflect this change), and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP/504 Plan; and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. These services may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting.

2. Procedural Safeguards/Manifestation Determination

Within ten (10) school days of a recommendation for expulsion or any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, Learn4Life-Charleston, the

parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP/504 Plan, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine:

- a. If the conduct in question was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability; or
- b. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the local educational agency's failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan.

If Learn4Life-Charleston, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that either of the above is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability.

If Learn4Life-Charleston, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team make the determination that the conduct was a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP/504 Team shall:

- a. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such child, provided that Learn4Life-Charleston had not conducted such assessment prior to such determination before the behavior that resulted in a change in placement;
- b. If a behavioral intervention plan has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan if the child already has such a behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; and
- c. Return the child to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent and Learn4Life-Charleston agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

If Learn4Life-Charleston, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability and that the conduct in question was not a direct result of the failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan, then Learn4Life-Charleston may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to students without disabilities.

3. Due Process Appeals

The parent of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or Learn4Life-Charleston believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, may request an expedited administrative hearing through the Special Education Unit of the Office of Administrative Hearings or by utilizing the dispute provisions of the 504 Policy and Procedures.

When an appeal relating to the placement of the student or the manifestation determination has been requested by either the parent or Learn4Life-Charleston, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer in accordance with state and federal law, including 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k), until the expiration of the forty-five (45) day time period provided for in an interim alternative educational setting, unless the parent and Learn4Life-Charleston agree otherwise.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(3), if a parent/guardian disagrees with any decision regarding placement or the manifestation determination, or if Learn4Life-Charleston believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, the

parent/guardian or Charter School may request a hearing.

In such an appeal, a hearing officer may: (1) return a child with a disability to the placement from which the child was removed; or (2) order a change in the placement of a child with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of such child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others.

4. Special Circumstances

Charter School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct.

The Principal, or designee may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability in cases where a student:

- a. Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
- b. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
- c. Has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

5. Interim Alternative Educational Setting

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP/504 Team.

6. Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services

A student who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has violated Learn4Life-Charleston's disciplinary procedures might assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if Learn4Life-Charleston had knowledge that the student was disabled before the behavior occurred.

Learn4Life-Charleston shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The parent/guardian has expressed concern in writing, or orally if the parent/guardian does not know how to write or has a disability that prevents a written statement, to Charter School supervisory or administrative personnel, or to one of the child's teachers, that the student is in need of special education or related services.
- b. The parent has requested an evaluation of the child.
- c. The child's teacher, or other Charter School personnel, has expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child, directly to the director of special education or to other Charter School supervisory personnel.

If Learn4Life-Charleston knew or should have known the student had a disability under any of the three (3) circumstances described above, the student may assert any of the protections available to IDEA-eligible

children with disabilities, including the right to stay put.

If Learn4Life-Charleston had no basis for knowledge of the student's disability, it should proceed with the proposed discipline. Learn4Life-Charleston shall conduct an expedited evaluation if requested by the parents; however, the student shall remain in the educational placement determined by Learn4Life-Charleston pending the results of the evaluation.

Learn4Life-Charleston shall not be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if the parent has not allowed an evaluation, refused services, or if the student has been evaluated and determined to not be eligible.

TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND BULLYING POLICY

Discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are all disruptive behaviors, which interfere with students' ability to learn, negatively affect student engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. As such, Learn4Life-Charleston prohibits any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying altogether. This Policy is inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means. This Policy should be translated into the student's primary language if at least 15 percent of the students enrolled in Learn4Life-Charleston speak a single primary language other than English.

As used in this Policy, discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are described as intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication or cyber-bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, pregnancy, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, ancestry, race or ethnicity, immigration and citizenship status, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, age, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. In addition, bullying encompasses any conduct described in the definitions set forth in this Policy. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as "misconduct prohibited by this Policy."

To the extent possible, Learn4Life-Charleston will make reasonable efforts to prevent students from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond, address and report on such behaviors in a timely manner. Learn4Life-Charleston staff that witness acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.

Moreover, Learn4Life-Charleston will not condone or tolerate misconduct prohibited by this Policy by any employee, independent contractor, or another person with whom Learn4Life-Charleston does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This Policy applies to all employee, student, or volunteer actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. Learn4Life-Charleston will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of such misconduct prohibited by this Policy and take appropriate corrective action if warranted.

Definitions

Prohibited Unlawful Harassment

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement, or interfering with school because of sex, race, or any other protected category
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment

- Deferential or preferential treatment based on any of the protected classes above

Prohibited Unlawful Harassment Under Title IX

Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et. seq; 34 C.F.R. § 106.1 et. seq) prohibits harassment on the basis of sex. In accordance with these existing laws, discrimination on the basis of sex in educational institutions is prohibited. All persons, regardless of sex, are afforded equal rights and opportunities and freedom from unlawful discrimination in education programs or activities conducted by Learn4Life-Charleston.

Learn4Life-Charleston is committed to providing an educational environment free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action.

Sexual harassment consists of sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (a) Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual's education, academic status, or progress; (b) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of educational or academic decisions affecting the individual; (c) the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; and/or (d) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an individual who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against him/her or against another individual.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
 - Rape, sexual battery, molestation, or attempts to commit these assaults.
 - Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body.
- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions, or other sexual comments, such as:
 - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
 - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an individual for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any individual to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
 - Subjecting or threats of subjecting a student to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making the student's academic performance more difficult because of the student's sex.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the educational environment, such as:
 - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning, or pornographic or bringing or possessing any such material to read, display or view in the educational environment.
 - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the educational environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning, or pornographic.
 - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an individual by sex in an area of the educational environment (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this Policy.

Prohibited Bullying

Bullying is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct or gestures, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act. Bullying includes one or more acts committed by a student or group of students that may constitute sexual harassment, hate violence, or creates an intimidating and/or hostile educational environment, directed toward one or more students that have or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable pupil* or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil's or those pupils' person or property.
2. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
3. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
4. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by Learn4Life-Charleston.
5. Insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption or interference in the operation of the school.
6. Damaging a student's personal property.

* *“Reasonable pupil” is defined as a pupil, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs pupil, who exercises care, skill and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with his or her exceptional needs.*

Cyberbullying is an electronic act that includes the transmission of harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

Electronic act means the creation and transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or another wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
2. A post on a social network Internet Website including, but not limited to:
 - a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A “burn page” means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in the definition of “bullying” above
 - b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of “bullying” above. “Credible impersonation” means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated
 - c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of “bullying,” above. “False profile” means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
3. An act of “Cyber sexual bullying” including, but not limited to:
 - a. The dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual

- recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in the definition of “bullying,” above. A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or another visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
- b. “Cyber sexual bullying” does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
 - c. Images that include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or another visual recording of a minor shall also be reportable to law enforcement under S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 16-15-305 *et seq.* addressing the dissemination or obscene material.
4. Notwithstanding the definitions of “bullying” and “electronic act” above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures

Learn4Life-Charleston has adopted the following procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying.

1. Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures

Learn4Life-Charleston advises students:

- a. To never share passwords, personal data, or private photos online.
- b. To think about what they are doing carefully before posting and emphasizing that comments cannot be retracted once they are posted.
- c. That personal information revealed on social media can be shared with anyone, including parents, teachers, administrators, and potential employers. Students should never reveal information that would make them uncomfortable if the world had access to it.
- d. To consider how it would feel receiving such comments before making comments about others online.

Learn4Life-Charleston informs school employees, students, and parents/guardians of Learn4Life-Charleston’s policies regarding the use of technology in and out of the classroom. Learn4Life-Charleston encourages parents/guardians to discuss these policies with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with such policies.

2. Education

Learn4Life-Charleston employees cannot always be present when bullying incidents occur, so educating students about bullying is a key prevention technique to limit bullying from happening. Learn4Life-Charleston advises students that hateful and/or demeaning behavior is inappropriate and unacceptable in our society and at Learn4Life-Charleston and encourages students to practice compassion and respect each other.

Learn4Life-Charleston educates students to accept all student peers regardless of protected characteristics (including but not limited to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identification, physical or cognitive disabilities, race, ethnicity, religion, and immigration status) and about the negative impact of bullying other pupils based on protected characteristics.

Learn4Life-Charleston’s bullying prevention education also discusses the differences between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors and includes sample situations to help students learn and practice appropriate behavior and to develop techniques and strategies to respond in a non-aggressive way to bullying-type behaviors. Students will also develop confidence and learn how to advocate for themselves and others, and when to go to an adult for help.

Learn4Life-Charleston informs school employees, students, and parents/guardians of this Policy and encourages parents/guardians to discuss this Policy with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with this Policy.

3. *Professional Development*

Learn4Life-Charleston informs employees about the common signs that a student is a target of bullying, including:

- Physical cuts or injuries
- Lost or broken personal items
- Fear of going to school/practice/games
- Loss of interest in school, activities, or friends
- Trouble sleeping or eating
- Anxious/sick/nervous behavior or distracted appearance
- Self-destructiveness or displays of odd behavior
- Decreased self-esteem

Learn4Life-Charleston also informs employees about the groups of students determined by Learn4Life-Charleston, and available research, to be at elevated risk for bullying. These groups include but are not limited to:

- Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth (“LGBTQ”) and those youth perceived as LGBTQ; and
- Students with physical or learning disabilities.

Learn4Life-Charleston encourages its employees to demonstrate effective problem-solving, anger management, and self-confidence skills for Learn4Life-Charleston’s students.

Grievance Procedures

1. *Reporting*

All staff are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and if they observe or become aware of misconduct prohibited by this Policy, to intervene as soon as it is safe to do so, call for assistance, and report such incidents. The Board requires staff to follow the procedures in this policy for reporting alleged acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy.

Any student who believes they have been subject to misconduct prohibited by this Policy or has witnessed such prohibited misconduct is encouraged to immediately report such misconduct to the Principal.

Complaints regarding such misconduct may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

While the submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to submit a written report to the Principal. Oral reports shall also be considered official reports. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on an anonymous report.

Students are expected to report all incidents of misconduct prohibited by this Policy or other verbal or physical abuses. Any student who feels they are a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, the Principal, a staff person, or a family member so that the student can get assistance in resolving the issue in a manner that is consistent with this Policy.

Learn4Life-Charleston acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. All reports shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. This includes confidentiality safeguards for immigration status information and keeping the identity of the reporter confidential, as appropriate, except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation and/or to resolve the issue, as determined by the Principal or administrative designee on a case-by-case basis.

Learn4Life-Charleston prohibits any form of retaliation against any reporter in the reporting process, including but not limited to a reporter's filing of a complaint or the reporting of instances of misconduct prohibited by this Policy. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the reporter.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six (6) months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. All staff will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment as required by law.

2. *Investigation*

Upon receipt of a report of misconduct prohibited by this Policy from a student, staff member, parent, volunteer, visitor, or affiliate of Learn4Life-Charleston, the Coordinator or administrative designee will promptly initiate an investigation. In most cases, a thorough investigation will take no more than seven (7) school days. If the Coordinator or administrative designee determines that an investigation will take longer than seven (7) school days, the Coordinator or administrative designee will inform the complainant and any other relevant parties and provide an approximate date when the investigation will be complete.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Coordinator or administrative designee will meet with the complainant and, to the extent possible with respect to confidentiality laws, provide the complainant with information about the investigation, including any actions necessary to resolve the incident/situation. However, in no case may the Coordinator or administrative designee reveal confidential information related to other students or employees, including the type and extent of discipline issued against such students or employees.

All records related to any investigation of complaints under this Policy are maintained in a secure location.

3. *Consequences*

Students or employees who engage in misconduct prohibited by this Policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

4. *Right of Appeal*

Should the Complainant find the Coordinator's resolution unsatisfactory, the reporting individual may, within five (5) school days, file an appeal with the Designated Appeals Committee. In such cases, at least three (3) School employees who are unfamiliar with the case and who have been previously designated and trained for this purpose shall be assembled to conduct a confidential review of the Complainant's

appeal and render a final decision.

Training

Learn4Life-Charleston shall educate students about the negative impact of bullying other students based on their actual or perceived immigration status or their religious beliefs or customs.

Learn4Life-Charleston shall also train teachers, staff, and personnel to ensure that they are aware of their legal duty to take reasonable steps to eliminate a hostile environment and respond to any incidents of harassment based on the actual or perceived characteristics noted above. Such training shall, at a minimum, provide Charter School personnel with the skills to do the following:

- Discuss the varying immigration experiences among members of the student body and school community;
- Discuss bullying-prevention strategies with students, and teach students to recognize the behavior and characteristics of bullying perpetrators and victims;
- Identify the signs of bullying or harassing behavior;
- Take immediate corrective action when bullying is observed; and
- Report incidents to the appropriate authorities, including law enforcement, in instances of criminal behavior.

INTERNET SAFETY AND CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Introduction and Policy

Access to the Internet has been provided to students for their educational benefit. The Internet allows students to connect to information resources around the world. Every student has a responsibility to use the Internet in an appropriate and productive manner. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of Learn4Life-Charleston's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communication. It is the policy of Learn4Life-Charleston to (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent authorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use or dissemination of personal indemnification information of minors; and (d) comply with all applicable state and federal laws. To ensure that all students are responsible and productive Internet users, the following guidelines have been established for using the Internet at school or on Charter School technology that applies but is not limited to school computers.

Acceptable Uses of the Internet

Students are responsible for using the Internet in an effective, ethical, and lawful manner and for educational purposes only. Appropriate databases may be accessed for educational information as needed.

Unacceptable Uses of the Internet

The Internet should not be used for personal gain or advancement of individual views. Use of the Internet for personal and inappropriate purposes, including, but not limited to, visiting pornographic websites, social media websites, chat sites, downloading music, etc., is strictly prohibited and will result in school disciplinary action and/or legal action. Unacceptable uses also include unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking" and other unlawful activities, and unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors. It is prohibited for students to use Learn4Life-Charleston's Internet services for any non-

educational purposes.

Access to Inappropriate Materials

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (“Internet Filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography or to any materials deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Software

To prevent computer viruses from being transmitted through the system, there will be no unauthorized downloading of any software. All software downloads will be done through Learn4Life-Charleston’s Technology Team.

Copyright Issues

Copyrighted materials belonging to entities other than Learn4Life-Charleston may not be downloaded, and students are not permitted to copy, transfer, rename, add or delete information or programs belonging to others unless given express written permission to do so by the owner of the materials or programs. Failure to observe copyright or license agreements may result in disciplinary action from Learn4Life-Charleston or legal action by the copyright owner.

Security

Learn4Life-Charleston reserves the right to access and monitor all messages and files on the computer system. Internet messages are public communication and are not private. All files and communications, including text and images, can be disclosed to law enforcement or other third parties without the prior consent of the sender or receiver.

Bullying and Harassment

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any kind is prohibited. In addition, no messages or any messages with intimidating, derogatory, or inflammatory remarks about an individual or group’s race, religion or religious affiliation, national origin, immigration status, physical attributes, or sexual preference may be transmitted. See the “Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying” policy section herein for further details.

Education, Supervision, and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of Learn4Life-Charleston’s staff to educate, supervise, and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and law.

- A. **Learn4Life-Charleston will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the school’s Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote Learn4Life-Charleston’s commitment to:** The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the school’s Internet Safety and Code of Conduct Policy
- B. Student safety with regard to safety on the Internet; appropriate behavior while online, on social networking websites and in chat rooms; and cyberbullying awareness and response;
- C. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge in writing that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the school's acceptable use policies.

Violations

Violations of any guidelines listed above may result in disciplinary action up to and including permanent expulsion from Learn4Life-Charleston. If necessary, Learn4Life-Charleston will advise appropriate legal officials of any illegal violations.

GOOGLE APPS FOR EDUCATION

Learn4Life-Charleston utilizes **Google Apps for Education** for classroom collaboration among students, teachers, and staff. This section describes the tools and student responsibilities for using these services. As with any educational endeavor, a strong partnership with families is essential to a successful experience.

Tools

The following suite of productivity tools are available to each student and hosted by Google as part of Learn4Life-Charleston's online presence in **Google Apps for Education**:

Email – an individual email account for school use managed by Learn4Life-Charleston

Calendar – an individual calendar for providing the ability to organize schedules, daily activities, and assignments

Documents – a work process, spreadsheet, drawing, and presentation toolset that is similar to Microsoft Office

Sites – an individual and collaborative website creation tool

Using these tools, students can work together to create, edit, and share files in real-time and access websites for Learn4Life-Charleston related projects, and communicate via email with other students and teachers. These services are entirely online and available 24/7 from any computer with Internet access, and there are never any ads. Additionally, all data created by the students and stored in the cloud remain the property of each student. Examples of student use include showcasing class projects, building an electronic portfolio of the school learning experience, working in small groups on presentations to share with others.

Guidelines

Guidelines for the responsible use by students of **Google Apps for Education** include the following:

Official Email Address

All students will be assigned an email account. This account will be considered the student's official school email address until such time as the student is no longer enrolled with Learn4Life-Charleston.

Prohibited Conduct

Refer to the separate "Internet Safety and Code of Conduct Policy" topic in this Parent-Student Handbook.

Access Restrictions

Access to and use of student email is considered a privilege accorded at the discretion of Learn4Life-Charleston. Learn4Life-Charleston maintains the right to immediately withdraw the access and use of these services, including email, when there is reason to believe that violations of law or Learn4Life-Charleston policies have

occurred. In such cases, the alleged violation will be referred to the site administrator for further investigation and resolution.

Security

Learn4Life-Charleston cannot and does not guarantee the security of electronic files located on the Google systems. Although Google does have excellent security and a dynamic content filter in place for email, Learn4Life-Charleston cannot assure that users will not be exposed to security breaches and/or unsolicited information.

Privacy

The general right of privacy will be extended to the furthest degree possible in the electronic environment. Charter School and all electronic users should treat electronically stored information in individuals' non-public files as private. However, users of student email are strictly prohibited from accessing files and information other than their own, except as they may be intentionally created for online file sharing among students and teachers. Learn4Life-Charleston reserves the right to access the school's Google systems, including current and archival files of user accounts when there is reasonable suspicion that unacceptable use has occurred.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

All Charter School employees, independent contractors, advisors, and volunteers (collectively "Personnel") have a responsibility to maintain only appropriate communications with students at all times. With the advances in communication technology, Learn4Life-Charleston recognizes that more opportunities exist for school and non-school related communications between Personnel and students. As the opportunities increase for such communications, Personnel and students have an increased responsibility to ensure that all forms of communication between Personnel and students are appropriate and comply with applicable law and requirements to protect against inappropriate and unsolicited electronic and text messages.

Learn4Life-Charleston realizes that there are many convenient and efficient means of communication available to Personnel who need to contact students. For example, Personnel can contact students via telephone, school e-mail accounts, a school-wide notification system, text messaging, and/or other forms of electronic and social media.

Personnel and students should be respectful and courteous to other individuals. Each individual should consider the appropriateness of any content before sending the message to another. The sender will be solely responsible for what he/she communicates. Inappropriate content that may include discriminatory remarks, harassment, threats of violence, lewd, sexually explicit, or similar inappropriate or unlawful conduct will not be tolerated and may subject the sender to disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion.

When sending electronic communications, including but not limited to SMS/MMS text messages and other forms of social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.), permission should be obtained from each recipient to whom such communications are sent. This is referred to as an "opt-in process."

Changes to the permission forms previously submitted to Learn4Life-Charleston via the enrollment package may be made by completing a new permission form and submitting it to Learn4Life-Charleston. The permission form does NOT grant permission for students to send or receive social messages from fellow students, friends, or family during the school day.

Learn4Life-Charleston is not responsible for and does not pay for charges that may be incurred by students/parents/guardians for sending or receiving a text or other electronic messages. Parents and students should check with their wireless carrier for any applicable text messaging and/or data usage charges.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

Employees are mandated reporters under S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 63-7-310, and as defined by law and administrative regulation, and are obligated to report all known or suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect that are supported by facts which warrant a finding by a preponderance of evidence that abuse, or neglect is more likely than not to have occurred. Mandated reporters shall not investigate any suspected incidents but rather shall make a report to the appropriate law enforcement agency responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect or to the county department of social services.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Protecting the health and well-being of all students is of utmost importance to the school. The school has adopted a suicide prevention policy which will help to protect all students through the following steps:

1. Students will learn about recognizing and responding to warning signs of suicide in friends, using coping skills, using support systems, and seeking help for themselves and their friends. This will occur in all health classes.
2. Each school will designate a suicide prevention coordinator to serve as a point of contact for students in crisis and to refer students to appropriate resources.
3. When a student is identified as being at risk, the student will be assessed by a school employed mental health professional who will work with the student and help connect him or her to appropriate local resources.
4. Students will have access to national resources which they can contact for additional support, such as:
 - The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-8255 (TALK) www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
 - The Trevor Lifeline (866) 488-07386 www.thetrevorproject.org
5. All students will be expected to help create a school culture of respect and support in which students feel comfortable seeking help for themselves or their friends. Students are encouraged to tell any staff member if they, or a friend, are feeling suicidal or in need of help.
6. Students should also know that because of the life-or-death nature of these matters, confidentiality or privacy concerns are secondary to seeking help for students in crises.
7. For more details, please see the full *School Policy on Suicide Prevention*.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER AND VISITATION POLICY

While Learn4Life-Charleston encourages parents/guardians and interested members of the community to visit Learn4Life-Charleston and view the educational program. Learn4Life-Charleston also endeavors to create a safe environment for students and staff. Additionally, school volunteers can be extremely helpful to our teachers and valuable to our students. We thank all parents and community members for their willingness to volunteer in this manner.

Nevertheless, to ensure the safety of students and staff as well as to minimize interruption of the instructional program, Learn4Life-Charleston has established the following procedures to facilitate volunteering and visitations during regular school days:

Volunteers

Parents, guardians, or community members who are interested in volunteering in the classroom must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Volunteers who will volunteer outside of the direct supervision of an employee shall be (1) fingerprinted and (2) receive background clearance prior to volunteering without the direct supervision of a credentialed employee.
2. A volunteer who will have frequent or prolonged contact with students shall have on file with Learn4Life-Charleston a certificate showing that, upon initial volunteer assignment, the person submitted to a tuberculosis risk assessment and, if tuberculosis risk factors were identified, was examined and found to be free of infectious tuberculosis. If no risk factors are identified, an examination is not required.
3. Volunteering must be arranged with Learn4Life-Charleston Principal or designee at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.
4. Volunteer hours may be limited to a monthly maximum number of hours at the discretion of the principal or designee.
5. Prior to volunteering, the volunteer should communicate with the Principal and/or teacher to discuss the expectations for volunteering needs. Parent/guardian volunteers are there to benefit the entire class and are not in a class solely for the benefit of their own child. Volunteers must follow the instructions provided by Learn4Life-Charleston staff. Classroom rules also apply to volunteers to ensure minimal distraction to the teacher. If a volunteer is uncomfortable following the direction of the teacher or aid, the volunteer may leave their volunteer position for that day.
6. The information gained by volunteers regarding students (e.g., academic performance or behavior) is to be maintained in strict confidentiality.
7. Volunteers shall follow and be governed by all other guidelines indicated elsewhere in this Policy. This includes, but is not limited to, the process of registering and signing out of the campus at the main office as indicated below.
8. This Policy does not authorize Learn4Life-Charleston to permit a parent/guardian to volunteer or visit the campus if doing so conflicts with a valid restraining order, protective order, or order for custody or visitation issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Visitation

1. Visits during school hours should first be arranged with the Principal or designee and teacher, if applicable, at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. If a conference is desired, an appointment should be set with the teacher during non-instructional time, at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. Parents seeking to visit the school during school hours must first obtain the approval of the teacher and the Principal or designee.

Unless specifically authorized, parents, guardians, family, and friends are not permitted in the classroom area. The reception area is available for anyone waiting for a student to complete his/her classroom appointments.

2. All visitors shall register in the Visitors Logbook and show valid ID. Visitors must wear a visitors ID badge while in the school building or grounds during regular school hours.

When registering, the visitor is required to provide the following information:

- Name
- Age, if less than 21;
- Reason for the visit or purpose in entering school grounds;

- Proof of identity; and
 - Any other information as required by law.
3. While on campus, visitors are to enter and leave classrooms as quietly as possible, not converse with any student, teacher, or another instructional assistant unless permitted, and not interfere with any school activity. No electronic listening or recording device may be used in a classroom without the teacher's and Principal's written permission.
 4. Before leaving campus, the visitor shall return the Visitor's Permit and sign out of the Visitors Logbook in the main office.
 5. The Principal, or designee, may refuse to register a visitor or volunteer if it is believed that the presence of the visitor or volunteer would cause a threat of disruption or physical injury to teachers, other employees, or students.
 6. The Principal or designee may withdraw consent to be on campus even if the visitor has a right to be on campus whenever there is reason to believe that the person has willfully disrupted or is likely to disrupt Learn4Life-Charleston's orderly operation. If consent is withdrawn by someone other than the Principal, the Principal may reinstate consent for the visitor if the Principal believes that the person's presence will not constitute a disruption or substantial and material threat to Learn4Life-Charleston's orderly operation. Consent can be withdrawn for up to fourteen (14) days.
 7. The Principal or designee may request that a visitor who has failed to register or whose registration privileges have been denied or withdrawn promptly leave school grounds. When a visitor is directed to leave, the Principal or designee shall inform the visitor that if he/she reenters the school without following the posted requirements, he/she will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Any visitor that is denied registration or has his/her registration revoked may request a conference with the Principal. The request shall be in writing, shall state why the denial or revocation was improper, shall give the address to which notice of conference is to be sent, and shall be delivered to the Principal within fourteen (14) days of the denial or revocation of consent.

8. The Principal shall promptly mail a written notice of the date, time, and place of the conference to the person who requested the conference. A conference with the Principal shall be held within seven (7) days after the Principal receives the request. If no resolution can be agreed upon, the Principal shall forward notice of the complaint to Learn4Life-Charleston's Board of Directors. Learn4Life-Charleston Board of Directors shall address the Complaint at the next regular board meeting and make a final determination.
9. The Principal or designee shall seek the assistance of the police in managing or reporting any visitor in violation of this Policy.

Penalties for violating this Policy shall be handled in accordance with board policy and applicable state law.

PARENT/STUDENT PUBLICATION & USE OF STUDENT WORKS

Learn4Life-Charleston produces several types of publications or other forms of printed or visual media, including video and photographs, throughout the year that show students engaged in school-related activities. For example, we have newsletters that consist of information from the school and feature student writings and/or photographs of students. In addition, we have a website that is on the internet and provides anybody, anywhere with information regarding Learn4Life-Charleston and may also have pictures or other visual media of students engaged in school-related activities. Learn4Life-Charleston also produces publications or other forms of printed or visual media to increase public awareness and promote the continuation and improvement of education

programs through the use of mass media, displays, brochures, etc.

Students featured in any of these publications will only be identified by their first name if any identification is given. No other personal information (e.g., ages, addresses, phone numbers, etc.) will be used. No personal compensation can be given for pictures, works, and/or other forms of printed or visual media used.

Students will be requested to sign Learn4Life-Charleston's Permission for Publication Form upon enrollment, and upon completion and return to Learn4Life-Charleston, this form grants Learn4Life-Charleston permission to publish student pictures, works, and/or other forms of printed or visual media of your student (engaged in school-related activities) in Learn4Life-Charleston's publications. Students have the right to opt out of the Permission for Publication. If they do so, they will not be included in any publications.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

As members of the Learn4Life-Charleston community, all students are expected to conduct themselves with honor and academic integrity. All students will follow appropriate citation guidelines to ensure that proper credit is given to the authors or creators of any work used.

Learn4Life-Charleston's Plagiarism Policy defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged unless the information is common knowledge. What is considered "common knowledge" may differ from course to course. Sources may include but are not limited to the information found on the Internet, books, articles, and media presentations and recordings. Requirements for citing material are as follows:

A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures, or photos without citing the exact source in the body of the assignment. This includes the following examples:

- Directly quoting another person's actual words, whether oral or written;
- Using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
- Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
- Borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
- Offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections.

Lack of Academic Integrity

Cheating involves submitting work in an assignment or exam that is not your own. It can include the following:

- Copying someone else's work
- Allowing someone else to copy your work
- Having someone else complete your work for you
- Using unauthorized materials to help you complete your work
- Accessing social media sites on the internet to help you complete your work

If an instructor detects plagiarism or cheating, the instructor may recommend (depending on the severity) one of the following:

- The reduced grade for the assignment or exam

- No credit for the assignment or exam
- The reduced grade for the course
- Recompletion of the assignment in question
- Completion of an alternate assignment or exam

Under no circumstances will a student be permitted to cheat or plagiarize, and disciplinary measures will be taken in the event this type of student misbehavior continues.

SCHOOL CRIME REPORT ACT SUMMARY

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 59-63-310 et seq., the provisions of the Act require that school districts shall quarterly report criminal activity to the S.C. Department of Education. The Attorney General shall supervise the prosecution of school crimes. Failure of a school administrator to report criminal conduct or failure to report school-related crime shall subject the school administrator and the school district to payment of a party's attorney's fee and costs associated with an action to compel compliance with the Act.

Accordingly, when a student is convicted of or adjudicated delinquent for assault and battery against school officials, assault and battery or a high and aggravated nature on school grounds, an offense with a weapon or distribution or trafficking, immediate notice of the student's conviction or adjudication shall be provided to the school.

Tobacco Policy

Learn4Life-Charleston maintains a tobacco and alternative nicotine product free campus in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Sect. 59-1-380. The use of tobacco, products containing tobacco or nicotine products is prohibited on school grounds and at all school sponsored events. Prohibited items include but are not limited to cigars, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping products, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, chew packets, and betel.

Notice

This notice will be communicated by printing this policy in the school's employee and student-family handbooks. In addition, tobacco-free signs prohibiting the use of tobacco on school grounds will be posted in high visibility locations at Learn4Life-Charleston.

Enforcement

Students, staff, parents/families, contract and other workers, volunteers, visitors, and other members of the public are required to comply with this tobacco-free policy. Learn4Life-Charleston will enforce this policy through appropriate disciplinary actions for violators, including but not limited to, the following:

Students

Administrator and parent of legal guardian conference, mandatory enrollment in tobacco prevention education or cessation programs, community service, in-school suspension, suspension from extracurricular activities, or out-of-school suspension.

Staff

Verbal reprimand, written notification in personnel files, mandatory enrollment in tobacco prevention education, voluntary enrollment in cessation programs, or suspension.

Contract Workers or Other Workers

Verbal reprimand, notification to contract employer, or removal from school property.

Visitors

Verbal request to leave school property or persecution for disorderly conduct for repeated offenses.

All Learn4Life-Charleston staff members are expected to enforce the policy under the direction of the principal.

Assistance

Learn4Life-Charleston will collaborate with the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, and the South Carolina Department of Education, as appropriate, to implement the policy, including as part of tobacco education and cessation programs and substance use prevention efforts.

Parent's Right to Know

A parent/guardian of a Learn4Life-Charleston student may request the following information regarding their child's teacher:

- Whether the teacher has met the South Carolina certification requirements for the grade level and subject area(s) in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which South Carolina qualifications or certification criteria have been waived.
- The college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher.