

DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Darien, CT

Series C-19

COVID-19 Policies and Regulations

POLICY CONCERNING TEMPORARY POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (NEW)

The Darien Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic (the “COVID-19 Pandemic”) has prompted changes in laws, rules, and guidance affecting Board policy and school district operation, and requiring the Board and the administration of the Darien Public Schools (the “Administration”) to implement certain changes consistent with such laws, rules, and guidance. The Board further recognizes that the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic are continually changing, and that the Board and the Administration must be prepared to adapt and evolve as appropriate and/or required. In all circumstances, the Board prioritizes safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff while continuing to educate students in accordance with state law.

In light of these circumstances, it is the policy of the Board to provide for temporary amendments to certain existing Board policies and administrative regulations, and to enact or authorize Board policies and administrative regulations on new topics, to the extent appropriate and/or required by applicable laws, rules, and guidance regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic (the “COVID-19 Policies and Regulations”). Such amendments and additions are guided by the need to (1) safeguard the health and safety of students and staff while continuing to educate students in accordance with state law; (2) adhere to all applicable laws, rules, and guidance; and (3) preserve flexibility for the Board and the Administration to account for further changes related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

All COVID-19 Policies and Regulations shall be identified as such in the header of the Policy or Regulation with an indication that such policy or regulation is part of Series C19 (COVID-19 Policies and Regulations). COVID-19 Policies and Regulations that are amendments to existing policies or regulations shall have the identifier “C19” added after the applicable series number. In addition, all amendments to existing Board policies and administrative regulations shall be identified as such through the use of yellow highlighting and either bolded italicized text (for additions) or strikethrough text (for deletions). All Board policies and administrative regulations on new topics shall be identified as such in the title of the Policy or Regulation with the notation, “(NEW).” To the extent any conflict exists between a COVID-19 Policy and Regulation and an existing Board policy or administrative regulation, the COVID-19 Policy and Regulation shall control during any period in which the COVID-19 Policy and Regulation is in effect.

The COVID-19 Policies and Regulations shall remain in effect up to and including June 30, 2021, unless otherwise noted in the individual policy or unless the Board or the

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Administration (as appropriate) shortens or extends the term of any COVID-19 Policy and Regulation through appropriate Board or administrative action. Absent any further Board or administrative action (as appropriate), effective July 1, 2021, the COVID-19 Policies and Regulations shall be repealed automatically and the Board's policies and administrative regulations in effect prior to the enactment of the COVID-19 Policies and Regulations shall be reinstated.

The Board and/or the Administration (as appropriate) shall provide for further amendments to existing Board policies and administrative regulations, further additions to Board policies and administrative regulations, and revisions to any previously adopted COVID-19 Policies and Regulations to the extent appropriate, required, and/or warranted. In addition, the Board and the Administration shall have the authority to follow all applicable laws, rules, and guidance to the extent any such laws, rules, and guidance are not incorporated into any existing Board policy and/or administrative regulation. To the extent any conflict exists between any such laws, rules, and/or guidance and an existing Board policy or administrative regulation, the law, rule, and/or guidance shall control during any period in which the Board and the Administration exercise their authority to follow such law, rule, and/or guidance.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221

Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together, Connecticut State Department of Education (June 29, 2020)

ADOPTED: October 13, 2020