

Policy

Political Activities Policy

School personnel, with the responsibility of significant influence over learners, share in the obligation to develop political and civic concepts in the students of the District. Use of instructional activities along with related materials and resources aligned to the approved curriculum can lead to the development of these concepts.

Age appropriate political and civic instructional activities presented with expertise, sensitivity, and understanding, such as mock elections, student discussions and debates, essay and report writing, oral and media presentations, and other similar activities, politically balanced and free from the bias of personnel, are of assistance in promoting responsible student citizenship. Speeches by elected officials to students on non-partisan issues or speeches by elected officials addressing both sides of a political issue can add to civic understandings.

Conversely, while at work or on school property, school personnel shall not make statements on behalf of the school district, shall not interfere with the political or civic rights of a colleague, shall not use district resources to promote or oppose a political candidate or political view, and shall not circulate literature, post signs, wear buttons or utilize similar activities to promote or oppose a political candidate or political view. School (~~including~~ **excluding** student publications created with District resources **to the extent required by law**) publications shall not provide information promoting or opposing a political party, candidate, or political view. The above does not apply to activities on Election Day when schools are closed, to the actions of school personnel off school property before or after the work day, to activities that occur in the teachers' room and to the distribution of materials in teacher mailboxes, and to the publication of factual information and the position of the School Committee regarding the school budget and the issuance of bonds.

Adopted and Effective 3-13-18

Student Internship Program Policy

Internships are voluntary, work-based experiences for high school students that provide an opportunity to explore a career interest or to apply skills learned in a course or program. While internships may be paid or unpaid and may occur before, during, or after the school day or during school vacations or the summer months, credits will only be awarded after the completion of a successful internship experience, which may include other related activities. One-half (1/2) elective credit will be awarded after the successful completion of sixty (60) hours and one (1) elective credit will be awarded after the successful completion of one-hundred and twenty (120) hours. Up to two (2) elective credits may be earned by students toward the fulfillment of graduation requirements. Related details and internship program expectations shall be provided to students in advance of the approval of an internship experience. Internships do not include field-based experiences that are part of a course or program curriculum.

Internship sites, which may be proposed by the school or student, will be approved following a site visit. The purpose of the visit by school personnel is to (1) review the expectations of the Chariho internship program, (2) provide a copy of the internship handbook, (3) confirm that the internship site is safe, (4) provide conflict resolution procedures and (5) explain placement and student evaluation activities.

Students participate in internship experiences at their own risk. School transportation is not provided. Insurance coverage is not provided to participating students by the District. Parents of participating students, unless students are eighteen (18) years of age or older, must sign a Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement prior to participation in the Student Internship Program.

Adopted 3-13-18; Effective 7-1-18

ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

POLICY AND DEFINITION

- I. The Chariho Regional School District recognizes the problem of child abuse and neglect and its duty to establish policies advancing its responsibility to protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through ~~injury~~ **abuse** and/or neglect, **and who have been a victim of sexual abuse by another child or by an employee, agent, contractor, or volunteer of an educational program.**

To this end, the District's policy is to require mandatory reporting **by all employees within 24 hours** to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) of known or suspected instances of child abuse and neglect, **and of children who have been a victim of sexual abuse by another child or by an employee, agent, contractor, or volunteer of an educational program.** Any employee with knowledge or reasonable suspicion of child abuse and neglect shall report same to the building leader. It shall be the responsibility of the building leader (principal, assistant principal or director) to make the report, in the presence of other employees who are aware of the abuse or neglect. (This does not relieve the responsibility of employees knowledgeable of child abuse and neglect to report to DCYF if they are unwilling or unable to join the building leader.)

Further, for its employees and/or agents, the District supports ~~inservice~~ training concerning the risk factors and indicators of child abuse and neglect, the district's policy and reporting procedures relative to child abuse and neglect, and community resources available to help children and families.

The District recognizes conditions leading to child abuse and neglect are many and complex and require community-wide efforts to eliminate or ameliorate; to this end, it supports and encourages the involvement of its employees in organized efforts to combat child abuse and neglect, including community child abuse teams, primary prevention programs and parent education.

- II. Definitions used in this policy unless the specific context indicates otherwise:
- A. "Child" means a person under the age of 18 years of age.
- B. "Abused and/or neglected child" means a child whose physical or mental health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when a parent or other person responsible for his welfare:
1. inflicts, or allows to be inflicted upon the child, physical or mental injury, including excessive corporal punishment; or
 2. creates or allows to be created a substantial risk of physical or mental injury to the child, including excessive corporal punishment; or

3. commits or allows to be committed against the child an act of sexual abuse; or
4. fails to supply the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care, though financially able to do so or offered financial or other reasonable means to do so; or
5. fails to provide the child with a minimum degree of care or proper supervision or guardianship because of unwillingness or inability to do so by situations or conditions such as, but not limited to, social or psychiatric problems or disorders, mental incompetence, the use of a drug, drugs, or alcohol to the extent that the parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare loses the ability or is unwilling to properly care for the child; or
6. abandons or deserts the child; or
7. ~~allows, permits or encourages the child to engage in prostitution as defined by the provisions of Chapter 34 of Title II entitled "Prostitution and Lewdness", General Laws of the State of Rhode Island;~~ sexually exploits the child in that the person allows, permits, or encourages the child to engage in prostitution as defined by the provisions in § 11-34.1-1 et seq., entitled "Commercial Sexual Activity"; or
8. ~~allows, permits, encourages or engages in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming or depiction of the child for commercial purposes as defined by RI General Laws 11-9-1 and 11-9-1.1; or~~ sexually exploits the child in that the person allows, permits, encourages, or engages in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depiction of the child in a setting that, taken as a whole, suggests to the average person that the child is about to engage in, or has engaged in, any sexual act, or that depicts any such child under eighteen (18) years of age performing sodomy, oral copulation, sexual intercourse, masturbation, or bestiality; or
9. commits or allows to be committed any sexual offense against the child as defined by the provisions of RI law Chapter 37, Title II of the General Laws entitled "Sexual Assault", as amended; or
10. ~~commits or allows to be committed against any child an act involving sexual penetration or sexual contact if said child is under fifteen years of age; or if said child is fifteen years or older, and (1) force or coercion is used by the perpetrator, or (2) the perpetrator knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally incapacitated, mentally defective or physically helpless.~~ commits, or allows to be committed, against any child an act involving sexual penetration or sexual contact if the child is under fifteen (15) years of age; or if the child is fifteen (15) years or older, and (1) force or coercion is used by the perpetrator, or (2) the perpetrator knows, or has reason to know, that the victim is a severely impaired person as defined by the provisions of § 11-5-11, or physically helpless as defined by the provisions of § 11-37-1.

III. Immunity from Liability - Any person participating in good faith in making a report pursuant to this Chapter 40 of the RI General Laws shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. Any such participant shall have the same immunity with respect to participation in any judicial proceedings resulting from such report. (40-11-4)

IV. Internal Reporting Procedures

- A. The District shall make available a form to document all instances of child abuse and neglect and a release form to be used in the event that DCYF takes custody of a child during the school day. The forms shall be completed and filed by the building leader in a manner so directed by the Superintendent of Schools.
- B. School personnel shall maintain confidentiality as to any suspected case of child abuse and neglect and will share information concerning such cases with others on a "need to know" basis. In any case, the identity of the reporter is not to be disclosed to any family member or other person who is not specifically required to know by this reporting procedure or RI General Laws.
- C. The building principal leader may notify the child's parents or guardian that a suspected incident of child abuse or neglect has been reported to DCYF. In no case will such a disclosure be made to the parents or guardian when it is determined this would create a threat to the well being of the student or other members of the family, or when DCYF directs school personnel not to communicate this information to the family.
- D. When called upon, school personnel are legally obligated to cooperate fully with DCYF in their investigation of any case of suspected child abuse or neglect.

~~REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT~~

~~A. Prior to reporting~~

- ~~A. School personnel are encouraged to consult with the building principal and other appropriate specialists (e.g., school nurse, school social worker, school psychologist).~~
- ~~B. The building principal may question the child suspected of being abused or neglected; however, in no case should the child be subjected to undue pressure. In questioning the child, specifics as to who, what, when, where and why should be noted.~~

Reporting

- ~~C. School personnel who have reasonable cause to know or suspect any child has been abused or neglected shall report, within 24 hours, the suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF 1-800-RI-CHILD). Reports should be made as early in the school day as possible to allow DCYF to respond before the child leaves school for the day.~~

- D. ~~School personnel shall inform the building principal of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect and of any reports of same to DCYF.~~
- E. ~~When reporting a suspected case of child abuse or neglect to DCYF, school personnel will complete and submit to the building principal the, "suspected child abuse and/or neglect reporting form" (see attached).~~
- F. ~~If, during the school day, DCYF takes custody of any student in accordance with RI General Laws 40-11-5, the building principal or his/her designee, will complete the "release form" (copy attached) and have it signed by the DCYF representative.~~

B. ~~DCYF Investigation~~

C. ~~Records~~

- A. ~~Files of suspected child abuse or neglect reporting forms and release forms will be maintained by the building principal in a locked file. These forms will be destroyed after being held for seven (7) years, or as determined by legal statute.~~

Chariho Regional School District**Chariho Area Career and Technical Center
-CHARIHotech-****Application and Admission Procedures**

459 Switch Road
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894
(401) 364-6869

Application Materials:

Application forms may be obtained from and submitted to the Chariho Area Career and Technical Center website at www.chariho.k12.ri.us/ctc-application. Assistance in completing these application materials is available by contacting the Director of the Chariho Area Career and Technical Center by phone at 364-6869 or by email at Gerald.Auth@chariho.k12.ri.us. For early acceptance, application forms must be submitted by February 15.

Applications received from students who are residents of Block Island, Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Jamestown, Narragansett, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, Westerly and West Greenwich will receive priority for early acceptance over those received from elsewhere in Rhode Island. In accord with Rhode Island General Law 16-21.1-2, transportation to the Chariho Area Career and Technical Center will be provided by the school districts in Region IV (Washington County, Jamestown, West Greenwich).

Admissions Timeline:

~~November~~**October-January**~~February~~**Students and parents/guardians** in each district identified above will have the opportunity to participate in Career Center **Orientation Information Sessions and other related activities. An Open House will be conducted by the Center.** Pertinent information related to the Center's programs will be distributed **disseminated throughout the recruitment period.**

~~November-February~~ ~~The Chariho Area Career and Technical Center will conduct an Open House and other related events for all interested students and their parents/guardians.~~

February Applications from Region IV districts are due at the Chariho Area Career and Technical Center by February 15.

March Students will be notified of early acceptance by March 15.

February 15 and Forward Applications will continue to be accepted from all Rhode Island districts. Qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis where space is available. A waiting list will be established where space is not available.

Admissions and Program Continuation Criteria:

Age and Grade Criteria: All Center programs are four-year programs. Thus, preference for admission is given to students entering or repeating grade nine. Grade

ten students in good academic standing may also be admitted into four-year programs on a space available basis. All students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve may apply for admittance and will be accepted on a space-available basis but may not fully complete the selected program. On a case-by-case basis, students may request placement above that normally assigned to their grade level when they present evidence of successful relevant experience, which may take place in or out of school.

Academic Criteria

All applicants to the initial level of a program, including those from Chariho, must have scored at the 'approached expectations' level or better on the grade seven or state assessments in English language arts and mathematics. Prior to acceptance, those students who did not score at this level must take an alternate assessment administered by the Director (or designee) and must demonstrate achievement at no lower than the grade six levels in both areas. As an alternative, the sending middle or high school may provide documentation (i.e., transcripts, portfolio of work, alternate assessments) to the Director which demonstrates achievement at these levels. Students must earn a passing grade in their chosen career and technical center program to proceed to the next level of that program.

Student Conduct Criteria All applicants to the initial level of a program, including those from Chariho, must show evidence of no prior instances in the school or community of endangering behavior or substance abuse, as defined in the High School Standards for Student Behavior. On a case-by-case basis and at the request of the sending district or parent, the Superintendent of Schools may allow students with a violation(s) to enter on a probationary or trial basis for a specified period of time. In said instances, written agreements may be required among students, parents, sending districts, and Chariho.

Allocation of Seats

Prior to the early acceptance date of February 15, each district in Region IV shall be allocated seats in each program based upon its grade nine eight school enrollment. After February 15, seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis to all qualified students from the state.

Over-enrolled Programs Program Acceptance

In cases where the number of qualified applicants exceeds available seats space or where a specific high school district has exceeded its allocation of seats, a public lottery will be held to select among those students who apply meet the entrance criteria. A program waiting list will be established for those students not selected in the lottery. Pending confirmation of compliance with academic and student conduct criteria, preliminary acceptance notifications will be disseminated. Final acceptance notifications will be issued when it has been determined that the above referenced criteria have been met.

Removal from Programs

In programs that require safety standards (i.e., OSHA), students must consistently meet those expectations. In the event that a student fails to consistently meet safety standards, a retraining opportunity will be

provided and documented. Following retraining and documented continued failure on the part of a student to meet safety standards, the Superintendent will remove the student from his/her career and technical center program, with notification **and return of the student to the sending district. Chariho students will be rescheduled into alternative courses.**

Appeals

All decisions related to admissions and continuation of enrollment may be appealed in accord with the timeline established in the District's Appeals Policy, which may be found at <http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/policy>.

Approved by Chariho School Committee 3/27/12, 11/10/15, 11/15/16, 10/24/17, **3/13/18**