

STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027



UPDATED: AUGUST 2026

PASSAIC COUNTY TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

PCTI · PCTI STEM Academy · www.pctvs.org

KEY CONTACTS & DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Board of Education

Michael Coscia, President

Damaris M. Solomon, Esq., Vice President

Glenn L. Brown, Commissioner

Aleksandra Tasic, Esq., Commissioner

Kesha Drakeford, Commissioner / Passaic County Executive County Superintendent

Central Office Administration

Joseph W. Sabbath, Chief School Administrator

Christine Kahwaty, Business Administrator / Board Secretary

Kenneth McDaniel, Director of School Services

Michael Coscia, Director of Research, Planning & Evaluation

Al Abdelaziz, Director of Operations & Human Resources

Mark Frederick, Director of Student Personnel Services

Kimberly Salma, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction

Fernando Colon, Communications Manager / Special Projects

Yesenia Berta, Administrative Assistant to CSA

Marinelly Tavaréz, Human Resources Manager

Roberto Rubino, Chief Information Officer

Theresa Curreri, Assistant Board Secretary

District Administration

John DePalma, Director of Continuing Education

Michele Rizzo, Director of Special Services

Nic Nese, Director of Athletics

Boaz Laor, Supervisor of Student Personnel Services

Dr. Ines Drummond, Supervisor of Student Personnel Services

Lori Henry, Supervisor of Student Personnel Services

PCTI Administration

Antonio Garcia, Principal

Adam Christopher, Assistant Principal for Class of 2027

Denise Martinez, Assistant Principal for Class of 2028

Megan Ala, Assistant Principal for Class of 2029

Jerry Castaneda, Assistant Principal for Class of 2030

Darrlyn Alexander, Supervisor of Instruction (Physical Education/ROTC/CTE)

Tenaya Bascomb, Supervisor of Instruction

Mark Cacace, Supervisor of Instruction (CTE / Work-Based Learning)

Joseph Petrocelli, Supervisor of Instruction (CTE)

Michael Pettruccelli, Supervisor of Instruction (Science / CTE)

Marc Foti, Supervisor of Instruction (Math / CTE)

Maureen Wacha, Supervisor of Instruction (ELA / CTE)

Matthew DiGise, Supervisor of Instruction (Social Studies/World Languages / CTE)

PCTI STEM Administration

Joaquim Johnson, Principal

Catiana Valik, Assistant Principal for Class of 2027 & 2029

Mohamed Khairullah, Assistant Principal for Class of 2028 & 2030

Stephanie Neris, Supervisor of Instruction (Math, Engineering, Computer Science)

Dessislava Dimova, Supervisor of Instruction (Science, Biotechnology, Biomedical & Life Sciences)

District Offices

PCTVS Campus Services (Transportation Coordination / ID Badges / Student Lockers / Parking), Kenneth McDaniel

Attendance Office, Kenneth McDaniel

Civil Rights Compliance Officer / Affirmative Action, Jerry Castaneda

Anti-Bullying / HIB, Catiana Valik

Student Success Office, Kenneth McDaniel

Section 504 Coordinator, Michele Rizzo

Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Scott Cumberbatch

Important Phone Numbers

Main Telephone Number: (973) 790-6000 · For Operator Assistance call (973) 790-6000

Chief School Administrator	(973) 389-4201
Business Office	(973) 389-4218
Board Secretary	(973) 389-4204
PCTI Principal	(973) 389-4259
PCTI STEM Academy Principal	(973) 389-4227
Student Personnel Services Department	(973) 389-4232
Athletic Director	(973) 389-4106
Student Success Office	(973) 389-4221
Campus Services (Transportation, Student ID, Lockers, and Parking)	973-389-2047
PCTI STEM Academy Student Success Office	(973) 389-7238
PCTI Attendance Office	(973) 389-4223
PCTI STEM Academy Attendance Office	(973) 389-4166
PCTI Nurse's Office	(973) 389-4225/4226
PCTI STEM Academy Nurse's Office	(973) 389-2235
School To Careers Office	(973) 389-4279
Adult Continuing Education Office	(973) 389-4101
BSI/ESL	(973) 389-4297
Special Services	(973) 389-4197
Custodial/Maintenance Dept.	(973) 389-4288/4290
Technology Dept.	(973) 389-3001

DISCLAIMER — NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: Passaic County Technical-Vocational School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE) and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, familial status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, social or economic status, etc. PCTVS does not enter into any contracts or agreements with any person, agency, or organization that discriminates in employment practices or the provision of benefits and services. PCTVS is committed to providing equal rights and equitable access to participation in all instructional programs and extracurricular activities without discrimination of any kind.

BELL SCHEDULE

FULL DAY SCHEDULE

Dismissal 2:56 PM

Per. 1	Per. 2	Per. 3	Per. 4	Per. 5	Per. 6	Per. 7	Per. 8	Per. 9
8:10 AM– 8:56 AM	9:01 AM– 9:41 AM	9:46 AM– 10:26 AM	10:31 AM– 11:11 AM	11:16 AM– 11:56 AM	12:01 PM– 12:41 PM	12:46 PM– 1:26 PM	1:31 PM– 2:11 PM	2:16 PM– 2:56 PM
		P.3 LUNCH	P.4 LUNCH	P.5 LUNCH	P.6 LUNCH	P.7 LUNCH		
1.1 8:10–8:30 AM	2.1 9:01–9:21 AM	3.1 9:46–10:06 AM	4.1 10:31–10:51 AM	5.1 11:16–11:36 AM	6.1 12:01–12:21 PM	7.1 12:46–1:06 PM	8.1 1:31–1:51 PM	9.1 2:16–2:36 PM
1.2 8:30–8:56 AM	2.2 9:21–9:41 AM	3.2 10:06–10:26 AM	4.2 10:51–11:11 AM	5.2 11:36–11:56 AM	6.2 12:21–12:41 PM	7.2 12:46–1:06 PM	8.2 1:51–2:11 PM	9.2 2:36–2:56 PM

DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE

Dismissal 2:56 PM

Per. 1	Per. 2	Per. 3	Per. 4	Per. 5	Per. 6	Per. 7	Per. 8	Per. 9
10:00 AM– 10:40 AM	10:44 AM– 11:12 AM	11:16 AM– 11:44 AM	11:48 AM– 12:16 PM	12:20 PM– 12:48 PM	12:52 PM– 1:20 PM	1:24 PM– 1:52 PM	1:56 PM– 2:24 PM	2:28 PM– 2:56 PM
		P.3 LUNCH	P.4 LUNCH	P.5 LUNCH	P.6 LUNCH	P.7 LUNCH		
1.1 10:00–10:20 AM	2.1 10:44–10:58 AM	3.1 11:16–11:30 AM	4.1 11:48 AM– 12:02 PM	5.1 12:20–12:34 PM	6.1 12:52–1:06 PM	7.1 1:24–1:38 PM	8.1 1:56–2:10 PM	9.1 2:28–2:42 PM
1.2 10:20–10:40 AM	2.2 10:58–11:12 AM	3.2 11:30–11:44 AM	4.2 12:02–12:16 PM	5.2 12:34–12:48 PM	6.2 1:06–1:20 PM	7.2 1:38–1:52 PM	8.2 2:10–2:24 PM	9.2 2:42–2:56 PM

EARLY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

With student lunches • Dismissal 1:06 PM

Per. 1	Per. 2	Per. 3	Per. 4	Per. 5	Per. 6	Per. 7	Per. 8	Per. 9
8:10 AM– 8:42 AM	8:47 AM– 9:15 AM	9:20 AM– 9:48 AM	9:53 AM– 10:21 AM	10:26 AM– 10:54 AM	10:59 AM– 11:27 AM	11:32 AM– 12:00 PM	12:05 PM– 12:33 PM	12:38 PM– 1:06 PM
		P.3 LUNCH	P.4 LUNCH	P.5 LUNCH	P.6 LUNCH	P.7 LUNCH		
1.1 8:10–8:24 AM	2.1 8:47–9:01 AM	3.1 9:20–9:34 AM	4.1 9:53–10:07 AM	5.1 10:26–10:40 AM	6.1 10:59–11:13 AM	7.1 11:32–11:46 AM	8.1 12:05–12:19 AM	9.1 12:38–12:52 PM
1.2 8:24–8:42 AM	2.2 9:01–9:15 AM	3.2 9:34–9:48 AM	4.2 10:07–10:21 AM	5.2 10:40–10:54 AM	6.2 11:13–11:27 AM	7.2 11:46–12:00 PM	8.2 12:19–12:33 PM	9.2 12:52–1:06 PM

TESTING SCHEDULE: NO STUDENT LUNCHES

Dismissal 12:41 PM

School hours: **8:10 AM – 12:41 PM** • Students report directly to assigned testing locations • No student lunches are served
Faculty and staff will be dismissed via announcement on emergency closures.

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ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER NETWORK/COMPUTERS AND RESOURCES

Students are responsible for good behavior on computer networks/computers just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the computer network/computers are often public in nature. Policies and Regulations governing behavior and communications apply. The school district's networks, Internet access and computers are provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to computer network services/computers is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required.

Network access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility. Individual users of the district computer network/computers are responsible for their behavior and communications over the computer network/computers. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for the actions of individuals utilizing the computer network/computers who violate the policies and regulations of the Board.

Computer network/computer storage areas shall be treated in the same manner as other school storage facilities. Computer network/computer administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will always be private.

Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio, and other potentially offensive media. Behavior including but not limited to the following are prohibited:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures.

- Using obscene language and/or accessing visual depictions that are obscene as defined in section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code.

- Using or accessing visual depictions that are child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code.

- Using or accessing visual depictions that are harmful to minors including any pictures, images, graphic image file or other visual depiction that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or

- Depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way, with respect to what is suitable for minors, sexual acts, or conduct; or taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others.

- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks/ computers.

- Violating copyright laws.

- Using another's password.

- Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files.

Intentionally wasting limited resources.

Employing the network/computers for commercial purposes; and/or

Engaging in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer networks/computers are provided.

- Taking possession of a device that was not assigned to you.

Information Content and Uses of the System

Users agree not to publish on or over the system any information which violates or infringes upon the rights of any other person or any information which would be abusive, profane, or sexually offensive to an average person, or which, without the approval of the system administrators, contains any advertising or any solicitation of other members to use goods or services. The user agrees not to use the facilities and capabilities of the system to conduct any business or solicit the performance of any activity, which is prohibited by law.

Because the school district provides, through connection to the Internet, access to other computer systems around the world, students and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) understand that the Board and system administrators have no control over content. While most of the content available on the Internet is innocuous and much of it a valuable educational resource, some objectionable material exists. The Board will provide students with access to Internet resources only in supervised environments and has taken steps to lock out objectionable areas to the extent possible, but potential dangers remain. Students and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are advised that some systems may contain defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or otherwise illegal material. The Board and the system administrators do not condone the use of such materials and do not permit usage of such materials in the school environment. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) having accounts on the system should be aware of the existence of such materials and monitor home usage of the school district computer network. Students knowingly bringing such materials into the school environment will be disciplined in accordance with Board policies and regulations and such activities may result in termination of such student's accounts on the computer network and their independent use of computers.

Acceptable Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools (PCTVS) supports the ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance learning, creativity, and innovation. AI tools, including those that generate text, images, or other content, may be used to support student productivity and engagement when permitted by a teacher.

Students must follow these expectations when using AI:

- Cite or acknowledge any AI-generated content used in academic, creative, or official work.
- Evaluate AI outputs for accuracy, bias, and reliability.
- Do not enter sensitive or personal information into AI platforms.
- Do not use AI to misrepresent work, create misinformation, or engage in harmful behavior.

Misuse of AI, including plagiarism, unauthorized use, or violations of assignment guidelines, will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the district's Student Code of Conduct and technology policies.

Teachers will explain when and how AI may be used for assignments. Students will be informed regularly about permitted and prohibited uses to ensure AI is used responsibly and in support of academic integrity.

On-Line Conduct

Any action by a student or other user of the school district's computer network/computers that is determined by a system administrator to constitute an inappropriate use of computer network/computers resources or to improperly restrict or inhibit other members from using and enjoying those resources is strictly prohibited and may result in limitation on or termination of an offending member's account and other action in compliance with the Board policy and regulation. The user specifically agrees not to submit, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or otherwise illegal material; nor shall a user encourage the use, sale, or distribution of controlled substances. Transmission of material, information, or software in violation of any local, state, or federal law is also prohibited and is a breach of the Consent and Waiver Agreement.

Users and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) specifically agree to indemnify the Passaic County Technical Vocational School District and the system administrators for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the Board relating to, or arising out of any breach of this section by the user. Computer network/computer resources are to be used by the user for his/her educational use only; commercial uses are strictly prohibited.

Software Libraries on the Network

Software libraries on the network are provided to students as an educational resource. No student may install, upload, or download software without the expressed consent of the system administrator. The system administrators, at their sole discretion, reserve the rights to refuse posting of files and to remove files. The system administrators, at their sole discretion, further reserve the right to immediately limit usage, terminate the account, or take other action consistent with the Board's policies and regulations of a member who misuses the software libraries.

Real-Time, Interactive, Communication Areas

The system administrators, at their sole discretion, reserve the right to monitor and immediately limit the use of the computer network/computers or terminate the account of a member who misuses real-time conference features (talk/chat/Internet relay chat).

Email

All messages sent and received on the school district computer network must have an educational purpose and are subject to review. The Board reserves the right to cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any E-mail transmitted on the school district computer networks or computers.

Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Passwords to the system should not be easily guessable by others, nor should they be words which could be found in a dictionary. Students should immediately notify a system administrator if a password is lost or stolen, or if they have reason to believe that someone has obtained unauthorized access to their account. Any student identified as a security risk will have limitations placed on usage of the computer network/computers or may be terminated as a user and be subject to other disciplinary action.

Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of system privileges and other disciplinary measures in compliance with the district's code of conduct discipline code. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the system, or any of the agencies or other network/computers that are connected to the Internet backbone or of doing intentional damage to hardware or software on the system.

Printing

The printing facilities of the computer network/computers should be used judiciously. Printing for other than educational purposes is prohibited.

Violations

Violations of the Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Disciplinary action shall be taken as indicated in [Policy](#) and [Regulation No. 2361](#), Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources, [No. 5600](#), Student Discipline, [No. 5610](#), Suspension and No. 5620, Expulsion as well as possible legal action and reports to the legal authorities and entities.

Determination Of Consequences for Violations

The consequences for violations of this policy shall be determined by the District Administration in matters relating to the use of computer networks/computers and by the principal in matters of school suspension. The Superintendent or designee and the Board shall determine when school expulsion and/or legal action or actions by the authorities are the appropriate course of action.

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated in [Regulation No. 2361](#) and other appropriate consequences, which include but are not limited to:

Use of Computer Network/Computers only under direct supervision.

Suspension of computer / network privileges.

Revocation of computer / network privileges.

Code of conduct consequences up to and including out-of-school suspension.

Expulsion from school; and/or legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

All students enrolled in any Advanced Placement course offered by the district are required to take the course's Advanced Placement exam. The Advanced Placement exams are taken to gain college credit or advanced placement at the college level.

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes who do not take the Advanced Placement exam for the course will only be awarded General weighting (see Regulation 2624).

Advanced Placement Test Fee Program

The Advanced Placement Test Fee (APTF) program is a federal grant program that enables states to pay part or all of the costs of advanced placement test fees for students who are enrolled in an advanced placement class and qualify as low-income students who are enrolled in an advanced placement course and plan to take an advanced placement test. The program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who take advanced placement tests and receive scores for which college academic credit is awarded. Any student who takes an Advanced Placement Test without being enrolled in an Advanced Placement class is not eligible for financial support.

For the purposes of this policy, "low-income" shall be defined as an individual who is determined to be a child, age 5 through 19, from a low-income family, based on eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches under the National School Lunch Act.

Awards may be used only to support advanced placement test fees for low-income students. Fees for the College Board Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Cambridge International (CI) tests taken by low-income students are covered.

The NJ Department of Education may use its APTF grant to pay a portion of the exam fee for low-income students, contingent upon receipt of a supplemental federal grant award.

As a district participating in the APTF program, the Board of Education shall provide each student taking the Advanced Placement test the same dollar reimbursement amount. This dollar amount shall be calculated annually according to the directions posted on the NJDOE website under Advanced Placement Test Fee Program.

When the portion of the AP exam fee is determined for eligible (free and reduced lunch students) and non-eligible students, the Guidance Department shall notify students and their parents of the amount of fee which is their responsibility.

Should a particular student not take the examination after qualifying to do so, and paying the required fee, the Guidance Department shall be responsible for both securing and returning such funds to the student and/or his/her parents/guardians.

Parents/guardians shall be notified of the AP Test Fee Program, through printed materials sent home with the AP students, as well as other communications methods, as determined by the administration, informing them of the required per exam fee for each exam taken.

The district will not be responsible for any fees for Advanced Placement exams when the Advanced Placement course is not offered by the district. These fees will be the sole responsibility of the student.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE/SEXUAL HARASSMENT

PCTVS is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive educational environment. Discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other protected characteristic is strictly prohibited in all aspects of policy, procedures, and practice.

Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical contacts of a sexual nature. Whenever such conduct is severe and pervasive and has the purpose or effect of unreasonably altering or interfering with school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment, the student shall have cause for complaint. Any student, who believes that they are a victim of sexual harassment by another student or a school employee, must notify an administrator, faculty member, or counselor. All reports of harassment will be submitted to the Sexual Harassment Officer. The Officer shall identify and recommend the correction or removal of impermissible bias based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affection or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability. Consequences will be imposed as per the district's policies and code of conduct.

Civil Rights / Title IX / Section 504 / Sexual Harassment Contacts

Affirmative Action/Civil Rights Compliance Officer (Title II, VI, IX, etc.)	Jerry Castaneda, Assistant Principal 973-389-4142 jcastaneda@pctvs.org · Rocco Building
District Title IX Coordinator	Scott Cumberbatch, Supervisor 973-389-2014 scumberbatch@pctvs.org
District Section 504 Coordinator	Michele Rizzo, Director of Pupil Personnel Services 973-389-4197 mrizzo@pctvs.org
Sexual Harassment Officers	Mohamed Khairullah, Assistant Principal · 973-389-2007 · mkhairullah@pctvs.org Lori Henry, Supervisor of Student Personnel Services · 973-389-7225 · lhenri@pctvs.org Darrlyn Alexander, Supervisor · 973-389-4140 · dalexander@pctvs.org Kim Salma, Supervisor · 973-389-4190 · ksalma@pctvs.org

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUGS

The drinking, use, or possession of any alcoholic beverage or controlled, dangerous substances (drugs) in the school or on the school grounds is prohibited by borough ordinance (#824), NJ Statutes, and [Board of Education Policy #5530](#). Any student who drinks, uses, or possesses alcoholic beverages or controlled dangerous substances, or who is under the influence while on school grounds shall be subject to possible suspension and recommendation to the board of education for expulsion. A report may also be made to the police department.

In accordance with State law, any student who is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be promptly reported to an administrator. If such an incident occurs on school property or during a school-related activity, the student may face suspension from school and will be required to undergo a mandatory substance screening. Before the student can be reinstated to school, a conference involving the student's parent/guardian will be necessary.

A school nurse will be immediately informed and will conduct a preliminary physical examination. An administrator shall notify the parent/guardian and arrange for an immediate examination by a doctor. PCTVS will assume the cost of such an examination if the school's selected provider is used. If the doctor is selected by the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian will assume the cost of such examination. If no doctor is available, the student shall be taken to the emergency room of the nearest hospital or medical out-patient facility for examination accompanied by the parent/guardian, if available, or an administrator. The student shall be examined and tested as soon as possible for the purpose of diagnosing whether the student is under such influence.

The Commissioner of Education has stated that administrators do not have the discretion to investigate a referral to validate the observations made by the referring staff member or the reasonableness of the staff member's conclusions. Administrators who have students referred to them for possible drug or alcohol use, must in every instance have them tested for alcohol and/or drugs and have them medically examined. Further action, including a report to the police, will be taken as outlined in Chapter 387, Laws of 1988, State of New Jersey, and the board's Drug-Free School Zone Policy.

No student found to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall be returned to school until she/he has submitted a doctor's report certifying that the student is physically and mentally able to return. Any student who sells, or offers for sale, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled, dangerous substance on school property shall be reported to the police and charges will be filed by the principal or his/her designee. Suspension shall be immediate, and a recommendation shall be made to the board of education for expulsion from school. The use of electronic smoking devices is prohibited on school grounds and all other places smoking is prohibited by the New Jersey Smoke Free Air Act (N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 et seq.). Therefore, any student caught using an electronic smoking device is in violation of law and school policy regardless of what is in the device.

Violations of the prohibition on use and possession of electronic smoking devices on school grounds, at school sponsored events, and on school buses will lead to disciplinary

measures such as suspension from school, mandatory counseling/intervention programs, and possible involvement of law enforcement authorities. It is essential for all students to comply with the vaping and electronic smoking device prohibition to ensure a healthy and safe school environment for everyone. Without exception, students who are found in possession of vaping materials or suspected of using them will be required to undergo a substance screening.

Tobacco & E-Cigarettes

Smoking, or possession of tobacco, vape pens, vape mods, and vape paraphernalia by students is prohibited in school buildings, on school property (this includes school buses), and at all school-related activities. Violators will be suspended from school. Additional violations will be subject to extended periods of suspension. In addition to suspension, students found to have tobacco (including vape pens, vape mods, and vape paraphernalia) products and/or paraphernalia in their possession will have them confiscated and will be subject to mandatory substance abuse screening.

ANTI-GANG ACTIVITY

The presence of members of gang associations and gang association activities on campus or at off-campus, school-sponsored activities are likely to cause a substantial disruption or material interference with school and school activities. A “gang” is defined as a group that identifies itself using a name, unique appearance, or language, including hand signs, the claiming of geographical territory, or the espousing of a distinctive belief system that frequently results in criminal activity.

The following activities are prohibited at school or at school-related activities:

No student shall wear or display clothing or other objects that are commonly considered evidence of membership or affiliation with any gang.

No student shall commit any act, or use any speech, verbal or nonverbal, showing membership in, or affiliation with, a gang.

No student shall commit any act that furthers gangs or gang activity including, but not limited to, wearing garb, or displaying symbols directly associated with affiliation with a known local gang, soliciting others for membership in any gangs or inciting other students to act with physical violence upon any other person. Such acts are presumed to undermine the school’s basic mission and will create an immediate danger to the orderly operation of the school.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY/ PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

To participate in any athletics competition students must be present for a minimum of four school hours. Students assigned to ISS or OSS are not eligible to participate in practices, competitions until the assigned ISS or OSS is fulfilled. Participation in athletic competitions is a privilege and may be revoked due to egregious behavior, poor attendance, or poor academic performance.

According to NJSIAA regulations, to be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) of the 10th grade or higher, or the second year of attendance in the secondary school or beyond, a student:

Must have passed 30 credits of the 120 required by the State of New Jersey for graduation during the immediately preceding academic year.

To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30) of the 9th grade or higher, a student must:

Must have passed the equivalent of 15 credits of the 120 required by New Jersey for graduation. Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.

ATHLETIC INSURANCE

PCTVS provides insurance to help cover accidental injury to students while participating in interscholastic athletics. Coverage is also provided for cheerleaders and those who perform with the marching band. This coverage, paid for by the board of education, provides payments on an excess basis only. This means that only a portion of the hospital and surgical expenses not covered by other insurance will be covered by this plan, up to policy limits. Other benefits are provided on a primary or non-excess basis.

ATTENDANCE

School attendance shall be a factor in the determination of a student's promotion or retention, or loss of credit. Only extenuating circumstances should permit the promotion of a student who has been in attendance fewer than 159 days during the school year. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and adult students may appeal a promotion or retention decision to the principal and ultimately the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designees, whose decision shall be final.

A student with fewer than 155 days of attendance for any full-year course(s) for the required 180 days may lose credit for a course(s), which could impact enrollment and/or graduation of a student.

To participate in any athletic competition or extra-curricular activity, students must be present for a minimum of four school hours. Students assigned to ISS or OSS are not eligible to participate in practices or competitions until the assigned term is fulfilled. Participation in athletic competitions or an extra-curricular activity is a privilege and may be revoked due to egregious behavior, poor attendance, or poor academic performance. "Attendance" is a student's presence in school and in the classroom/room, or participation in daily instructional activities delivered remotely, to which he/she is assigned at the times scheduled for instruction or other school activities.

A student will be considered to have attended school for the school day if he/she has been present at least four hours during the school day or has participated in the Remote Learning Activities under the guidelines set forth in the Remote Learning Continuity Plan. However, the student will be counted as absent from any scheduled classes the student misses. A student who is not present in school because of his/her participation in an approved school activity (such as a field trip, meeting, cooperative education assignment, or athletic competition) will be considered to have been in attendance.

What are excused absences from classes and/or the school day? [All excused absences require readily verifiable documentation. If the source of the documentation cannot be verified, it will not be accepted.]

Total absences, excused and unexcused, cannot exceed 21 absences.

A verified, authentic physician-documented illness

Death of a family member

Proof of visiting a college or university or an interview with an admissions officer at an institution of higher education – up to three days per school year for students in grades 11 and 12 ONLY.

State-approved religious observances

Required attendance at a CST, Guidance, SAC meeting, or an IEP service appointment

Suspension from school (ISS or OSS)

Proof of a court-ordered appearance

Proof of examination for a driver's license

Necessary medical appointments during school hours (Due to disruptions to the educational program, families are encouraged to schedule medical appointments outside of the scheduled school day)

Participation in on-site college presentations or registrations at PCTVS
CTE trips, competitions, or extended curricular activities

Student activity-related competitions

What are unexcused absences from classes and/or the school day?

A non-verifiable doctor's visit or emergency medical appointment

A non-verifiable visit or interview with an admissions officer of an institution of higher education

A non-verifiable examination for a driver's license

A non-verifiable court appearance

A non-verifiable Guidance, SAC, CST, or IEP meeting

Participation in a club meeting during the school day

Classes missed after an early dismissal from school by a Nurse

Early exit and late arrivals not covered under excused absences

Cuts to any class

Missing 20-minutes or more of a scheduled class, without permission, constitutes a "Cut"

Notice of Unexcused Absences

In keeping with the Board of Education's policy regarding student attendance, the following warnings and notifications have been implemented:

Daily automated telephone calls are made to parents/guardians of absent students on days when students are marked absent.

— Fifth (4th) absence: Parents notified via regular email/mail.

— Tenth (9th) absence: Parent notified. The Attendance Officer will request a conference with the parent and student. The School Counselor and/or Case Manager will be notified.

— Fifteenth (13th) absence: Parent notified by the Attendance Officer. A mandatory parent conference is required. This conference will include the Attendance Officer, the Grade-level Assistant Principal, and the student's School Counselor. The Attendance Officer will develop an attendance contract for the student.

Sixteenth (16th) absence: Parents notified of the loss of credit for the school year. Students who exceed the maximum number of unexcused days absent without valid/approved documentation will lose credit for the year and may be placed in an alternate educational setting for all related periods for the remainder of the school year. Without valid/approved documentation, no appeals process will be granted. Students who have accumulated more than 16 absences may also be referred for transfer to the home district.

Students who exceed the maximum number of unexcused absences without valid/approved documentation will lose credit for the year. A letter will be sent to the parent informing that the child has been placed in “no credit” (NC) status.

The parent will have five days from receipt of the communication to appeal against the decision with evidence, e.g., verified, authentic medical notes, legal documentation, etc. No further appeals will be granted beyond this 5-day timeline; students may be placed in an alternate educational setting for the remainder of the school year because of losing course credit. Students that are 16 years of age or older may also be dropped from the rolls and referred for transfer to their home district.

Readmission to School After an Absence

A student returning from a medical absence of any length must present a verified, authentic dated and signed document from a physician within ten (10) school days for an absence to be considered “excused”.

A note explaining a student’s absence for non-communicable illness for a period of more than five school days must be accompanied by a physician’s statement of the student’s illness.

A student who has been absent by reason of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease must present to the school nurse written evidence of being free of communicable disease, in accordance with [Policy No. 8451](#).

Assignments during absences

A student who anticipates an excused absence due to a temporary or chronic health condition may be eligible for home instruction in accordance with [Policy No. 2412](#). The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or adult student must request home instruction whenever a student will be absent for a period of 10 days or greater.

Students absent for any reason are expected to make up the work missed. The student is responsible for requesting missed assignments and any assistance required. Teachers will provide make-up assignments as necessary.

A student who missed a test because of an absence shall be offered an opportunity to take the test within two days of his/her return to school.

If the make-up work or test is not turned-in an extension may be granted if extenuating circumstances exist and the student shows initiative in seeking to complete the work, with the approval of the Principal or designee. If there is a disagreement regarding the definition of extenuating circumstances, the Principal shall have the final decision.

Students on Home Instruction for an extended period of time will receive an Incomplete (I) for all coursework until such time as the teacher(s) can assess the student's work and an appropriate determination of a grade can be made.

Denial of Course Credit

The teacher will determine the credit to be awarded to a student for make-up work, subject to the rules set forth in this section. Where class participation is a factor in the learning process, the teacher may consider a student's absences in determining a final grade, except those absences for the observance of a student's religious holiday or for a suspension from school cannot adversely affect the student's grade. The teacher may record an incomplete grade, in accordance with Regulation No. 2624, for a student who has not had full opportunity to make up missed work.

A student will be denied credit for a course when they have been absent from school or the course for 16 days or more of class sessions in a full-year course, 12 class sessions for Physical Education, 8 class sessions for a semester course, 5 class sessions in a trimester course, or 4 class sessions in a quarter-year course, whatever the reason for the absence, except for those reasons outlined in policy, or absences caused by a student's suspension will not count toward the total.

Students who have lost credit due to attendance violations in a full-year course may retake the course (120 hours) by enrolling in an approved NJDOE credit recovery program. A student, in accordance with [Policy/Regulation 5410](#), may be retained or lose credit for a course(s) for the full year or denied graduation when he/she has not attended school for at least 159 of 180 days of the school year. The absences recorded for this student may be either excused or unexcused except in the circumstances cited in the statute.

Co-curricular Activities

Students may be denied participation in co-curricular activities if their attendance fails to meet the standards set forth in [Policy No. 2430](#).

Students may be denied participation in athletic competitions or student activity competitions/events if their attendance fails to meet the standards set forth in [Board Policy No. 2431](#).

No student who is absent from school for observance of a religious holiday may be deprived of any award or of eligibility for or opportunity to compete for any award.

Appeal

The parent(s)/guardian shall file a written appeal with copy to the appropriate Attendance Officer and Assistant Principal within five school days of receiving notice of the action. The Attendance Officer or the Assistant Principal will schedule an appeal conference no later than seven days after receiving the student's appeal.

If the parent(s)/guardian(s) is not satisfied, he/she may submit a written request to the Principal for consideration by an Attendance Review Committee.

CLASS RANK

Class rank is computed for all students at the end of each semester under the guidelines established in [Board Policy 5430](#). Class rank is used internally and is available to be shared with institutions of higher education or potential employers, at the request of the parent(s)/guardian(s). Class rank is not published for external review and is not included on official transcripts. However, it may be utilized for internal course placement.

CUSTODIAL RIGHTS

The law establishes the presumption that both parents share equally in the care and responsibility of their children, N.J.S.A. 9:2-4. The high school administration is justified in presuming, therefore, in the absence of a notice to the contrary, that each natural or adoptive parent of a child has equal rights and responsibilities. We cannot presume as school officials that one parent, or the other has been granted custody or that another custodial arrangement forecloses the rights of the non-custodial parent. We require that the parent who has assumed sole custody of the child bear the burden of rebutting the assumption established above. Please bring this information to the attention of the principal's office with all necessary supporting documentation as soon as possible.

CUTS TO CLASS

Every student is expected to attend all of his/her classes every day of the school year. One cannot expect to learn the material and get satisfactory grades unless she/he attends class on a regular basis and concentrate on all schoolwork. PCTVS does not permit or condone class “cuts”. A “cut” is defined as:

- An unexcused absence based upon a student’s decision not to attend a full class session without prior administrative approval

- Missing 20 minutes or more of a class without authorization

- Accumulation of three tardies to class

At a minimum, students will be issued one day of After School Detention (ASD) for each cut accumulated.

Cutting a class or being truant from school may result in a “zero” for any work assigned or due that day. If it is determined that a student cut a class when a test was given, the student will receive a zero on the test and will not be allowed a make-up opportunity. Excessive cutting will result in removal from class. Other disciplinary consequences may be imposed at the discretion of the administration.

Students will be held fully responsible for their attendance. A student who has cut a full year class four (4) times will not receive credit for that course and must complete a 120-hour make-up course to qualify for credit. After a loss of credit a course cannot be made up in the 60-hour Summer School credit recovery program. A loss of credit in a Career and Technical Education course cannot be made up.

NOTE: A half-year course will have a maximum of two (2) cuts prior to the loss of credit for the course. Physical Education will have a maximum of three (3) cuts and Health/Driver’s Education courses will have a maximum of two (2) cuts prior to loss of credit.

The following procedures will be followed regarding cuts in full-year courses:

First Cut

- Parent notification

- One Day ASD

Second Cut

- Parent notification

- One Day ASD

- Guidance Counselor notified

Third Cut

- Parent conference will be requested

- Notification sent home to parent indicating the possible loss of credit if one more additional cut is accrued.

- Two Days ASD

Guidance Counselor notified

Fourth Cut

- Parent conference

- Student is issued Loss of Credit

Guidance Counselor notified

Loss of Credit Schedule

- Will be issued for a full-year course when a fourth cut is verified

- Will be issued for a half-year course when a second cut is verified

- Will be issued for Physical Education when a third cut is verified

Will be issued for Driver's Education or Health when a second cut is verified

PCTVS's summer school does not offer credit recovery opportunities when students receive loss of credit during the regular school year. Third party credit recovery programs may charge a fee for students to attend.

DISORDER AND DEMONSTRATION

The Board recognizes the right of each student to attend school for the purpose of receiving an education. The disruption of the educational program by disorder or any other purposeful activity will not be tolerated. Disorder is any deliberate activity by an individual or a group, whether peaceful or violent, which interferes with the normal operation of the school. Students shall not be disturbed in the exercise of their constitutionally guaranteed rights to assemble peaceably and to express ideas and opinions, privately or publicly, provided that such exercise does not infringe on the rights of others and does not interfere with the operation of the school.

Activities which shall be disallowed by the Board include those which:

Materially disrupt class work or cause substantial disorder or invasion of others' rights.

Involve the use of obscenity or themes considered to be harmful to the normal development of impressionable students.

Involve slanderous or libelous statements.

Involve threats of physical violence.

Advertise or sell products or services for unauthorized commercial gain.

DISSEMINATION OF PRINTED MATERIAL

The principal must approve before printed material is disseminated or posted on school grounds, otherwise, students are prohibited from disseminating printed material (leaflets, flyers, etc.). Students are prohibited from posting information on school grounds. Violators will be subject to consequences including, but not limited to, removal of all related material from campus, restitution, ASD, ISS, or OSS.

DRIVER'S TEST

A student scheduled by the Motor Vehicle Department for a driver's examination during school hours is required to pick up an official form from the attendance office prior to the appointment. This form must be completed and returned to the office prior to the test, and the student will be excused for a maximum of two and one-half hours. No student will be excused to accompany another student who is being tested. No student will be excused to receive a driver's permit. A student who takes time off will receive an unexcused absence for each class missed.

DROPPING OR CHANGING COURSES/ CTE PROGRAM

Changing course levels or courses will only be considered when a grave error in scheduling, course level misplacement, or change in IEP is noted. All other requests for change of course, teacher, or CTE program will not be considered.

EARLY DISMISSAL REQUESTS

We are legally responsible for the care, safety, and wellbeing of all students, regardless of age, until such time as they are released into the trust and care of a parent, guardian, or emergency contact listed in PowerSchool. Students should not request early dismissal from school for purposes of Medical/Dental appointments or other such personal appointments which can be made on the student's own time.

When signing your child out of school early, please be reminded of the following: A student with fewer than 159 days of attendance for the required 180 days may not be promoted to the next grade level and/or may lose credit for a course(s) which could impact the promotion and/or graduation of a student.

A Parent/Guardian picking up a student during the school day is required to present official identification (driver's license and/or picture I.D.). A student will not be released from school without presentation of valid identification. An unexcused absence will be recorded for every course missed.

Please note the following about the signing-out process:

No student (unless enrolled in an off-campus STC position), regardless of age, is permitted to leave campus unless a parent, guardian, or emergency contact listed in PowerSchool signs the student out through the Attendance/Nurses Office.

Emancipated or independent students must have an emergency contact on file in PowerSchool whom we can contact for dismissals.

If an emergency contact listed in PowerSchool arrives on campus to sign a student out, the parent or guardian will be called, and verification/authorization must be obtained prior to the student leaving.

The Attendance Office will process early dismissal requests in the manner outlined above for students leaving campus up to 2:30 pm. In the event of an emergency, contact the Attendance Office to receive administrative permission.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND STUDENTS

The Board of Education's policy on electronic communications, guided by N.J.S.A. 18A:36-40, addresses both teaching and support staff interactions with students via electronic means, such as email, text, and social media. It acknowledges the educational benefits of these tools while recognizing the vulnerability of staff members and students. For the purposes of these policies, "improper electronic communications" includes communications with inappropriate content or those conducted in a manner not aligning with established protocols as defined in these policies.

Inappropriate Content: Includes sexual content, promotion of illegal activities like drug use or gambling, discussions of personal romantic relationships, use of profanity or obscene language, bullying, attempts to establish personal relationships beyond professional duties, and sharing private information about others.

Acceptable Protocols: Emails must be sent through the school district's system and be limited to professional topics. Personal email addresses shouldn't be shared. Cell phone communications are generally prohibited, except with prior approval for specific professional needs. Text messaging should target the whole class or activity group, also requiring prior approval. Any communication on social networking or other internet-based media is allowed only through approved platforms, with access extended to all relevant parties.

Reporting Responsibilities: If a student sends an improper electronic communication as defined in these policies, the staff member must report it to the Principal or designee by the next school day. The Principal or designee will then act to stop such communications.

Violations by either staff or students can lead to disciplinary action. These rules apply at all times during the staff's employment and the student's enrollment, including holidays and breaks.

Refer to [Policy 3283](#) and [4283](#) for additional details.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event of snow days or other emergency school closings, our Automated Emergency Phone Message may be activated, and announcements may be placed on our website.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students must be present for a minimum of four school hours in order to participate in any extra-curricular activities scheduled after the school day. Students assigned to ISS or OSS are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities until the assigned ISS or OSS is fulfilled. Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege and may be revoked due to egregious behavior, poor attendance, or poor academic performance.

FIELD TRIPS

Appropriate behavior and dress are required of all students and all school rules (re: smoking, drugs, and alcohol) apply. Any student going on a school sponsored trip must have the written/electronic permission of a parent before leaving on the trip. Permission forms will be provided by the teacher in charge prior to the trip. Students must always remain with the group and no student will be permitted to leave the group early or remain when the group returns. No student is required to participate in a field trip, and those who do not participate will not be penalized but are expected to attend school as usual. On specific trips, students may be asked to dress more formally than required at school. Jackets and/or dress shirts and ties for boys and conservative apparel for girls are considered proper on these trips. Eligibility to participate in school trips may be limited or revoked based on a student's academic status, attendance records, and/or behavioral concerns.

FIGHTING

Fighting on school grounds, school buses, and at school sponsored events is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. A fight is defined as a physical altercation, including but is not limited to hitting, punching, slapping, poking, grabbing, pulling, tripping, kicking, and pinching occurring between two or more students. Any student who engages in such actions as defined above may be subject to consequences including but not limited to out of school suspension, parent conference, counseling, psychiatric clearance before being allowed to return to school, long-term suspension, expulsion, referral to law enforcement for the issuance of a citation for disorderly conduct.

FINAL EXAMS

Final Exams are required and will be administered to all students, regardless of academic standing or achievement. Requests for special exemptions will be considered only in the most extenuating circumstances.

FINAL EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

No student will be approved to take final exams prior to their regularly scheduled time unless they are involved in a school approved activity.

Students participating in school-approved activities may be provided with the option of taking final exams when they return or waiving the final exams with the approval of the school administration and faculty. Final grades will be computed based on work completed prior to the final exam schedule.

Requests for the early administration of final exams for vacation travel, school visitations, camp experience, etc. will be denied.

Students who choose to miss regularly scheduled exams must make-up the exam no later than 5 days after the close of the school year. Incomplete final exams will be changed to a grade of "F" after this time limit has been exceeded. Students on approved medical leave during the final exam schedule will take them as soon as they are physically able to do so. The final exam will be administered under supervision.

FINES/OBLIGATIONS

Monetary fines will be issued to students should any damage to, or loss of, issued school property take place during the school year. This may include, but is not limited to, lost, stolen, or damaged locks, textbooks, ID cards, Chromebooks/chargers, calculators, etc. to the school. Students will have their diplomas withheld until the fines are collected.

FUND RAISING

The Board prohibits the collection of money in school or on school property or at any school-sponsored event by a student for personal benefit. Collection of money by school organizations approved by the Board shall be approved by the Principal. Collections by organizations outside the schools or by students on behalf of such organizations must be approved by the Superintendent.

GRADING

The student must meet requirements of the course/subject and must achieve a minimum grade of 65 for a final passing grade. Honors and Advanced Placement courses are “weighted” to reflect the quantity and quality of coursework required for successful completion of these courses. Grade weights will be applied as stipulated under Board of Education Regulation #2426.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Satisfactory completion of the following academic and CTE course credits shall qualify a student for the award of a State endorsed diploma:

All students must earn a minimum of 167.5 credits in courses designed to meet all the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards including, but not limited to, the following credits:
20 credits in language arts literacy aligned to grade nine through twelve standards

15 credits in mathematics, including Algebra I or the content equivalent ("content equivalent" is defined at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.3), including geometry or the content equivalent effective with the 2010-2011 grade nine class; and a third year of mathematics that builds on the concepts and skills of algebra and geometry and that prepares students for college and 21st century careers effective with the 2012-2013 grade nine class.

15 credits in social studies, including satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 18A:35-2; five (5) credits in world history; and the integration of civics, economics, geography, and global content in all course offerings.

15 credits in science, including at least five (5) credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent; one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course, which shall include chemistry, environmental science, or physics.

5 credits in health, safety, and physical education during each year of enrollment, distributed as one hundred fifty minutes per week, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 7 and 8;

5 credits in visual and performing arts.

5 credits in world languages or student demonstration of proficiency as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2ii (2).

2.5 credits in financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy.

Technological literacy, consistent with the Core Curriculum Content Standards, integrated throughout the curriculum.

55 credits in Career and Technical Education /CTE education:

Grade 9: 12.5 credits

Grade 10: 12.5 credits

Grade 11: 12.5 credits

Grade 12: 17.5 credits

Each student is required to successfully complete four years of Career and Technical Education /CTE training.

Students entering at grades ten or eleven must satisfactorily complete thirty credits of Career and Technical Education /CTE respectively.

Electives as determined by the high school program sufficient to total a minimum of 167.5 credits. As defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.3, "credit" means the award for the equivalent of a class period of instruction which meets for a minimum of forty minutes, one time per week during the school year or as approved through N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2.

Students who must retake a course or subject may only earn or be awarded credits from New Jersey school districts.

Students who wish to take a course or subject (up to 6 credits per academic year) not previously taken and for which credits or advanced course placement may be awarded may

only earn credits from New Jersey school districts or colleges with prior approval by the Principal or designee.

Grades from a course or subject (up to 6 credits per academic year) not previously taken and for which credits or advanced course placement may be awarded shall not be factored into the students' grade point average.

Students may take only up to 24 total credits for courses or subjects not previously taken during their time as a student.

Students who wish to enroll in an online course subject for retake purposes, take a course, or subject not previously taken and for which credits or placement may be awarded, may only earn credits using an online program that has received prior approval of the administration.

Up to six credits per academic year will be awarded upon successful completion of an approved NJDOE credit-recovery course.

The district will not assume responsibility for any costs of enrollment, fees, course materials, or required technology for such courses.

Grades from an NJDOE credit-recovery program or subject (up to 6 credits per academic year) not previously taken and for which credits or advanced course placement may be awarded will not be factored into the students' grade point average.

Any student enrolled in an NJDOE online credit-recovery program will be required to take the course final exam on the premises of Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools on the date or dates determined by PCTVS administration.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The Board of Education has established a policy that recognizes the rights of students, parents, and citizens to grieve educational and/or administrative issues relating to the public schools. The PCTVS grievance procedure includes the following steps.

Grievances involving allegations of bias and/or discrimination of any kind, including those related to Section 504 of the Civil Rights Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act should be reported immediately to administration using the Grievance forms available on the district webpage under District>Affirmative Action/Civil Rights Compliance. If one cannot access the Grievance forms for any reason, then please formalize notification as much as reasonably possible (i.e.: email, written report, personal notification to administration via phone or in-person, etc.).

Grievant will attempt to resolve any problem with the staff member and his/her supervisor through a formal conference. If the problem is not resolved, then a formal grievance procedure begins at Step 2.

The matter will be reported to the Principal who will take reasonable and prudent steps to resolve the complaint. A conference will be held between the school principal and the grievant.

If problem is not resolved with the Principal, the grievant may request a conference with the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

If grievance is still unresolved after a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools, the grievant may request a hearing with the Board of Education. In some cases, it may be necessary to include a meeting with the affirmative action officer. Also, there may be other instances where issues arise, which cannot be resolved at the district level and may include an appeal to the Commissioner of Education.

HALL PASSES

Official hall passes are mandatory whenever a student is excused from class. The teacher's decision to issue or not issue a pass is final. Students are not permitted to wander around campus. Hall passes are always required to go to the lavatory, library, offices, and other classes/shops. Electronic hall passes may be used, in lieu of traditional hall passes. Hall passes must be given/shown to the teacher/staff monitoring the area. Corrective action will be taken in matters where students possess and/or attempt to utilize unauthorized or otherwise fraudulent passes to gain access to unassigned areas of the building. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain a pass when necessary. Students found in the hall during class, shop, or cafeteria periods without an official pass will be escorted to the Office of Student Success or a Supervisor's Office for corrective action.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

PCTVS is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students and works diligently to ensure no one is subject to harassment, intimidation, bullying, and/ or discrimination, of any kind, in the school environment. Complaints of inappropriate treatment should be reported immediately to the school. PCTVS takes these reports very seriously and all incidents are formally investigated. Reporting options include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following methods.

“Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying” reporting on district/school webpage. See:

Direct notification to a District/School HIB Coordinator or Specialist in-person, via phone, or email. See: “See Something – Say Something” feature in the “Tech Life” APP using a cell phone or computer.

Direct communication, in writing whenever possible, with any school administrator, educator, counselor, or coordinator.

The Board of Education authorizes a prompt investigation of reports and violations and complaints of harassment, intimidation and bullying in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)6. The following investigation procedure shall be used for all allegations of harassment, intimidation, or bullying:

An investigation shall be initiated by the Principal or the Principal’s designee within one school day of the report of the incident and shall be conducted by a school’s Anti-Bullying Specialist.

The Principal may appoint additional personnel who are not school Anti- Bullying Specialists to assist in the investigation.

The investigation shall be completed as soon as possible, but not later than ten school days from the date of the written report of the incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

If there is information relative to the investigation that is anticipated but not yet received by the end of the ten-day period, the school Anti-Bullying Specialist may amend the original report of the results of the investigation to reflect the information.

The results of the investigation shall be reported to the Superintendent of Schools within two school days of the completion of the investigation, and in accordance with regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

The Superintendent of Schools may decide to provide intervention services, establish training programs to reduce harassment, intimidation, or bullying and enhance school climate, impose discipline, order counseling because of the findings of the investigation, or take or recommend other appropriate action.

The results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next Board of Education Meeting following the completion of the investigation, along with information on any services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action taken or recommended by the Superintendent.

Parents or legal guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation shall be entitled to receive information about the investigation, in accordance with Federal and State law and regulation, including the nature of the investigation, whether the district found evidence of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, or whether discipline was imposed, or services provided to address the incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. This information shall be provided in writing after the results of the investigation are reported to the Board of Education.

A parent or legal guardian may request a hearing before the Board of Education after receiving the information.

This hearing shall be held within ten days of the request.

The Board shall meet in executive session for the hearing to protect the confidentiality of the students; and

At the hearing, the Board may hear from the school Anti-Bullying Specialist about the incident, recommendations for discipline or services, and any programs instituted to reduce such incidents.

At the next Board of Education meeting following its receipt of the report, the Board of Education shall issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent's decision. The Board's decision may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with the procedures set forth in law and regulation, no later than ninety days after the issuance of the Board's decision.

A parent, student, legal guardian, or organization may file a complaint with the Division on Civil Rights within one hundred eighty days of the occurrence of any incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on membership in a protected group as enumerated in the "Law Against Discrimination," P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.).

HOME INSTRUCTION

For those students who are medically unable to attend school for 5 or more consecutive days, bedside home instruction can be provided by a certified teacher via video-conferencing tools. Families requesting home instruction must complete a Home Instruction Request form (available from the Health Office).

A student's re-entry requires a second doctor's note indicating that the student is fit to return to school. While a student is receiving Home Instruction, the student shall not be permitted to participate or attend any school sponsored activities. While a student is receiving Home Instruction, the student shall not be actively employed in either a school sponsored School to Career employment position or a non-school sponsored employment position.

Students on Home Instruction for an extended period will receive an Incomplete (I) for all coursework until such time as the teacher(s) can assess the student's work and an appropriate determination of a grade can be made.

HONOR ROLL

Principal's Honor Roll: An average of A- in all subjects, with no subject lower than a B.

Honor Roll: An average of B+ in all subjects, with no subject lower than B-.

HONORS/AP COURSES

Student eligibility for Honors/AP courses will be based on established course prerequisites. These prerequisites may include academic performance, teacher recommendation and satisfactory performance on standardized tests, and other factors, as determined by administration. All students enrolled in AP courses must take the AP exam.

ILLNESS

If your child has a persistent illness, upset stomach, contagious illness or has had a fever greater than 100 degrees F. in the 24 hours before the start of the school day, s/he should be kept home from school, symptom-free without medication, for 24 hours. In the event your child has contracted a contagious illness, i.e., influenza, strep, chicken pox, whooping cough, MRSA, Cocksackie's, COVID-19, etc., you must notify the school nurse so that this illness may be recorded on the student's health record and the nurse can monitor the possible spread of communicable diseases within the school building.

LAPTOPS (DISTRICT-ISSUED LAPTOP)

Access to Internet Material

In accordance with the “Children’s Internet Protection Act” (CIPA), Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools will use appropriate filtering measures to limit the exposure of students to indecent or objectionable material on the Internet while the device is connected to the school network. Furthermore, District staff will monitor student use of the device while on campus and provide guidance in the appropriate use of the device and access to the global Internet. Parents/guardians agree to monitor the student use of the device while off campus and are encouraged to establish rules of usage with the student.

Bringing the District-Issued Laptop to School

It is imperative that students bring their District-Issued laptop and charging unit to school each day for their learning. Teachers will be designing their lessons and classrooms based on students having access to their District-Issued laptop. The district-Issued laptop must be kept in the carrying bag at all times when it is not being used.

Charging of District-Issued Laptops

It is the students’ responsibility to have their District-Issued laptops charged each day when they come to school. During a normal school day, a typical District-Issued laptop fully charged (through a normal electrical outlet) can be used the entire day for classes with no additional charging required. The school cannot allow “one student” to charge a District-Issued laptop during class due to the disruption to the learning environment that this may cause. If a student comes to class with a District-Issued laptop that is not charged, specific academic consequences may occur for the student. Establish a routine at home for charging the district-Issued laptop so that it can charge overnight. The charging time of the district-Issued laptop and responsibility is very similar to the charging of a cell phone.

District-Issued Laptop Damages and Care

If a District-Issued laptop is damaged the school needs to be notified immediately. If a student damages a laptop, the student/student’s family is responsible for paying repair costs according to the Cooperative Loss Agreement. If a laptop is intentionally damaged, judged by the administration to be intentionally damaged, or is severely damaged due to the student’s negligent or irresponsible behavior, the student will be responsible for paying the entire cost of repair or replacement. A student who accidentally damages a School-issued laptop will be issued a temporary laptop until the original laptop is repaired and returned to the student.

District-Issued Laptop Problems

It is always a student's responsibility to maintain a 100% working laptop. If the student's District-Issued laptop is not working properly, the student needs to take the District-Issued laptop to the Technology Office. If the District-Issued laptop cannot be fixed immediately, the student will be issued a different District-Issued laptop to use on a temporary basis. Do not attempt to remove or change the physical structure of the District-Issued laptop, including keys, screen cover or plastic casing. Doing so will void the warranty, and the student/family will be responsible for 100% of the repair or replacement cost.

Damage Fees

Students and families are financially responsible for a fine (payable to Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools) for damage to the District-Issued laptop. Students who accumulate a third occurrence of damage to the District-Issued laptop will no longer receive a District-Issued device.

Electronic Recording Capabilities

Any electronic recordings obtained with the device must be for instructional/educational purposes only. Students must obtain prior approval from a staff member to use the audio, image, or video recording capabilities of the device. Students should ask all individuals to be recorded for their permission before starting the recording. No recording should start without the permission of all the individuals being recorded. In addition, electronic recordings obtained with the device may not be shared, published, or re-broadcasted for any reason by the student without obtaining the permission of the district and all individuals present in the recording. Furthermore, students should be aware that State and Federal laws in many instances prohibit secret or recording undertaken without the knowledge and consent of the person or persons being recorded. Violations of State and Federal recording laws will be reported to the proper authorities and may result in criminal prosecution.

Laptop Care Reminders

Keep your District-Issued laptop in a safe place. The district recommends the use of a protective sleeve or carrying bag. Do not leave the District-Issued laptop on the floor where it might be stepped on or within reach of small children or pets. Do not leave it in a car or anywhere it might be exposed to extreme temperatures. Laptops left in bags in unattended classrooms or other areas are considered "unattended" and may be confiscated by faculty or staff as a protection against theft. If confiscated, the student will receive a warning before getting the laptop back. If the laptop is confiscated a second time, the student may be required to get a parent signature acknowledging financial responsibility before getting the laptop back, along with other potential appropriate consequences. Unattended and unlocked equipment, if stolen – including at school – will be the student's responsibility. Exposure to liquids will severely damage a laptop and will result in large repair costs. Water, soda, juice, power drinks, coffee, etc. will all ruin your District-Issued laptop completely. Keep your friends' food and liquid away from your laptop. Open cans

of soda and cups of coffee (even those with lids) are especially dangerous. Do not put a bottle of water/soda/etc. in your backpack with your laptop, even if it is sealed.

Loss Fees

Students and families are financially responsible for full reimbursement (payable to Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools) for the loss of the school-issued laptop.

Only One User

Do not allow anyone else to use your District-Issued laptop other than your parent or guardian. Loss or damage that occurs when anyone else is using it will be your responsibility.

Privacy

The Administration reserves the rights to examine, restrict, or remove electronic data from devices assigned to students. Students and their parent/guardians understand the assigned device may record or collect information on the student's activity or the student's use of the device. Students and parents/guardians further understand that all communication sent or received while connected to Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools network infrastructure and services can potentially be recorded and archived. The District reserves the right to share any of such archived records with law enforcement authorities if deemed appropriate by the District. In addition, the District reserves the right to use the geolocation features of the device to track its location in case it is lost or stolen. The District shall not use any of the recording or geolocation capabilities of the device in a manner that would violate the privacy rights of the student or any individual residing with the student.

Software and Applications

Students are allowed to install software ("apps") on the device. The Technology Department reserves the right to audit and remove any software in the student assigned device at any time. Students and parents/guardians understand that the Technology department may require the installation of software that will have access to personal information stored in the student assigned device (e.g., Mobile Device Management software). Students and their parents/guardians agree to install and not to tamper with any software the Technology Department requires in the student assigned device. Furthermore, students and their parents/guardians agree not to unlock locked-out features, gain elevated access, or replace the operating system provided with the device.

Student Access to Internet:

- At school, students will have access to the Internet through the school server. When not at school students can access the Internet if they have Internet access available to them in their home or other locations. The security system of the school will also be in place when students access the Internet outside of the school. Therefore, sites that are "blocked" at school will also be "blocked" in all other locations where students access the

Internet. Parents are recommended to monitor their student's time on the District-Issued laptop along with their activities on the District-Issued laptop during their 24/7 access at home.

Students Access & Monitoring

Ultimately, the District-Issued laptop is the property of the school, and the school has the right to determine what is appropriate and to search the District-Issued laptop, if necessary, at any time. The district's website monitoring software allows the district to block websites that are inappropriate for students whether they are accessing the web via the district wireless network or if they are connected to the Internet in their homes. This software also includes screen monitoring which allows school employees or classroom teachers to monitor multiple student laptop screens at one time. Students who access inappropriate sites during the school day or are accessing sites that are not related to the class that they are in will face disciplinary action from the teacher and/or the administration.

Student Use in Classrooms

Students will be required to take their District-Issued laptop to each classroom each day, unless told differently by the teacher for that specific day. Teachers may request at any time for students to shut their School- issued laptops.

LOCKERS/LOCKER ASSIGNMENTS

PCTVS students may be assigned lockers and issued combination locks for use while enrolled in the district. Students can request a hall locker by completing a hall locker request form in PowerSchool. Only district-issued locks are permitted to be used on district lockers. Students are not permitted to change locker assignments. Students are not allowed to share lockers with other students. Students found to be in violation of these expectations will be assigned disciplinary consequences. Students will be assessed a \$10.00 replacement fee for damaged or lost district-issued combination locks. Physical Education locks may be requested through the Physical Education Department. The district encourages the use of Physical Education locks, as the district is not responsible for items left in gym lockers unattended. All lockers on the premises are the property of PCTVS. Lockers constitute school property and are subject to search, at any time, under reasonable suspicion, as deemed necessary by school administration.

School lockers are to be used to store school-related material and items of personal dress. No flammable or explosive materials, alcoholic beverages, drugs, dangerous substances, drug paraphernalia, dangerous articles, etc. are to be kept in district lockers. Violators will receive consequences if any of these items are found. Graffiti, stickers, and other markings are prohibited on district lockers. Students and their parents are liable for damage the student causes to student lockers and school property. Students are to report any locker/lock-related problems to the Campus Services Office.

LOST OR STOLEN ARTICLES

The board has theft insurance coverage for property and equipment owned by the district. The board does not carry insurance that covers theft of property owned by parents, students, or staff. Any such items, if stolen, would be more properly covered under the parent's homeowner's policies. Students must always keep their school lockers closed and locked and should not give their combination to other students.

MEDICATIONS

Should your child be required to take medication during school hours, you will need to provide the following to a school nurse:

For a Prescription medication

A written order from the child's doctor indicating the name of the drug, the exact dosage, the time schedule for administration and the diagnosis of the condition for which the medication has been prescribed. Forms may be obtained from the school nurse.

Written permission from the parent/guardian to administer the medication.

The medication in its original container labeled with the student's name, name of the medication, dosage, and its expiration date.

Any medical equipment needed to administer the medication such as nebulizer tubing, insulin syringes, blood glucose testing strips, etc.

For an Over the Counter (OTC) medication

Please note that written orders from the student's doctor are necessary for over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen. These medications also need to be provided for the student, as the school does not stock these medications.

Medications, along with written orders by the doctor, should be brought to the school nurse's office on the first day of school, or as soon as the medication is prescribed during the school year. Medications must be brought to school by a parent or guardian. Unused medication and/or supplies must be picked up by the parent/guardian on the last day of the school year.

Medications which have been prescribed as a self-administered medication may be sent home with the student provided that the end of the year letter authorizing such is returned to the school nurse. If the parent/guardian does not pick up the medication on the last day of school, the school nurse will properly dispose of any medication left in the Health Office.

OUT OF SCHOOL CONDUCT

The Building Principal or a designated staff member may impose consequences for student behavior that occurs off school grounds, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6. This authority may be exercised when such behavior threatens the physical or emotional safety, security, or well-being of students, staff, or school property, as provided under N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2. Consequences may also be applied when off-campus conduct substantially disrupts the orderly operation or discipline of the school.

PARKING/DRIVING ON CAMPUS

Parking on campus is a privilege, not a right. The parking lots are primarily for school staff and official visitors; however, PCTVS may grant eligible seniors and approved co-op students permission to park on campus under the conditions below. PCTVS is not responsible for theft, vandalism, fire, weather-related damage, or any other damage to vehicles or personal property parked on school grounds. Students are responsible for securing their vehicles by locking doors, closing windows, and removing or concealing valuables. School officials may search vehicles parked on school property when permitted by law and school policy.

Parking Terms

Term One: September 1, 2026 – January 25, 2027.

Term Two: February 1, 2027 – June 30, 2027.

Co-op students may park on campus only on the days they leave early for work; failure to follow this rule will result in automatic loss of parking privileges.

Eligibility Requirements

All outstanding financial obligations to PCTVS must be cleared before applying.

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75.

Parking privileges will be revoked if a student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.75 during the parking term.

Seniors without access to school transportation or who live 20 or more miles from the school may receive priority at the discretion of the Campus Services Office.

Students must submit a valid driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance before parking credentials will be issued.

Rules and Regulations

Students may not visit, move, or occupy vehicles during the school day without permission.

Students may not leave campus during the school day except through established dismissal procedures.

Parking credentials, including tags, decals, or dash placards, must be displayed as directed. Vehicles parked in unauthorized areas, in staff or visitor spaces, or without proper credentials may be towed at the owner's expense.

Students must immediately report any change to their license plate or vehicle information to the Campus Services Office.

Students must obey all school rules, speed limits, motor vehicle laws, and all directions issued by security and other school personnel.

PCTVS parking credentials are non-transferable and may not be shared.

Students assigned a parking space should drive regularly; spaces are intended for daily drivers, not occasional use.

Students driving a different vehicle than the one originally registered must email the Campus Services Office at cmckoy@pctvs.org or PCTVSCampusServices@pcti.tec.nj.us.

Replacement campus parking credentials cost \$10.00 each.

Athletic parking passes may be issued at the discretion of the Campus Services Office for the athletic season and may not be transferred or shared.

The Campus Services Office will contact students when parking has been approved.

Suspension or Revocation

Parking privileges may be suspended or revoked at any time for safety, behavioral, parking, academic, or attendance-related violations. These may include reckless driving, speeding, unauthorized departure from campus, endangering others, out-of-school suspension, Student Code of Conduct violations, substance abuse violations, parking in unauthorized areas, counterfeit permits, permit sharing, failure to display a permit, repeated parking violations, accumulating three detentions during the school year, or accumulating six or more tardies in a semester. PCTVS may also revoke privileges for other conduct deemed inappropriate by the administration.

Please note that being tardy to school 6 times or accumulating 9 unexcused absences will result in the revocation of parking privileges.

Parking Contact

For parking inquiries, contact the PCTVS Campus Services Office at cmckoy@pctvs.org or 973-389-2047.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is an activity class, one must take part to derive benefit from the course. Occasionally, a student may not feel well enough to participate in the activities even though she/he is present in school. On such occasions, the student should report before school to the school nurse. A temporary excuse of up to three consecutive days may be granted by the nurse. An excuse for more than three days will be granted with the presentation of a valid doctor's note.

A student, who is medically excused from physical education participation and has accumulated 5 nonparticipation days, will be required to complete a current event assignment for each subsequent nonparticipation day for class credit. If a current event assignment is not received for each day, then a grade of "0" will be received for the day.

A student, who is medically excused from swimming activities but is still able to participate in an alternate activity will be required to do so or a grade of "0" will be received for the day. Students who are excused from participation are to remain in the class unless reassigned by the supervisor.

A student, who is present in class and does not participate in physical education class will receive a grade of "0" for the day.

A student, who accumulates 5 absences in physical education class will be required to complete a current event assignment for each subsequent absence for class credit. If a current event assignment is not received for each absence, then a grade of "0" will be received for each day absent.

Athletes are excused from participation only upon the approval of the supervisor.

Students who are 18 years or older are to have their excusable notes submitted to the Physical Education supervisor prior to the class. The supervisor will approve or disapprove the note. Only one note will be approved per grading period unless there are extenuating circumstances.

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING

Plagiarism, the use of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own without acknowledgment of their source, whether it be from print sources or from the Internet, is not permissible. Students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. This means that they will not engage in any of the following acts:

Cheating on examinations, including but not limited to, the non-authorized use of books or notes, the use of crib sheets, copying from other students' papers and exchanging information with other students orally, in writing, or by signals, obtaining copies of the examination illegally and other similar activities.

Plagiarism is not permitted in term papers, themes, essays, reports, images, take-home examinations, and other academic work. Plagiarism is defined as stealing or use without acknowledgment of the ideas, words, formulas, textual materials, online services, computer programs, etc. of another person, or in any way presenting the work of another person as one's own.

Falsifications, including forging signatures, altering answers after they have been graded, the insertion of answers after the fact, the erasure of grader's markings, and other acts that allow for falsely taking credit.

Generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor.

A student found to have engaged in, on the first offense, may be subjected to a full range of penalties including, but not limited to reprimand and loss of credit for all the work that is plagiarized.

The teacher is authorized to withhold credit in the work tainted by academic dishonesty.

The teacher will notify the students' parent or guardian via telephone or email.

The teacher will file a referral with the Office of Student Success.

The Office of Student Success will determine if further discipline of the student is appropriate and determine the nature of the discipline on a case-by-case basis.

Each verified case of Cheating or Plagiarism will remain a part of the student's records.

Subsequent infractions are subject to increased disciplinary consequences including but not limited to suspension.

Examples of acts of plagiarism:

Turning in someone else's work as your own

Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit

Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks

Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation

Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit

Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up much of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on “fair use” rules).

“What is Plagiarism? – Plagiarism.Org”. Plagiarism.org. N. p., 2017. Web. 6 July 2017

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All students are expected to participate in the pledge of allegiance each morning. Conscientious objectors must remain respectful, throughout.

PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS

Students' grades and progress will always be available to parents and students via Power School. Parents and students who lose their login information should contact the Guidance Office. Printed Progress Reports and Report Cards will be mailed to those parents who wish to receive a "hard copy." Requests for hard copies can be made by calling or emailing your guidance counselor.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS & GRIEVANCES

See [Policy](#) & [Regulation](#) 9130 for procedures for how general complaints and grievances are filed and addressed by administration. See PCTVS webpage under “District” and each schools webpage under “Students” and “Parents.”

REFERRAL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Any student who may be experiencing physical, sensory, communication, cognitive, learning and/or social/emotional difficulties including students who may be disabled and advancing from grade to grade can be referred to the IEP team at PCTVS by parents/guardian(s), staff member(s), or the adult student. A referral request must be in writing and given to the student's guidance counselor. The Director of Student Services will forward the referral to the Director of Special Services with all required information. The Director of Special Services will forward the request without delay to an assigned case manager who shall contact the parent to arrange for a meeting with the IEP team (CST members, parent(s)/guardian(s), adult student, non-adult student, regular education teacher, special education teacher, guidance counselor). Written notice shall be sent to all invited participants. Prior to a referral, interventions in the regular public-school program shall be provided to alleviate educational problems, unless the nature of these difficulties warrants a direct referral to the IEP team.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

According to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j) regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law. The law provides that:

Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such an absence. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination.

To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent.

Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence.

Such absence must NOT be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or any similar form.

This list can be found on the New Jersey Department of Education's web site:
www.state.nj.us/education.

RETURN TO DISTRICT

Any student whose academic record indicates an inability to meet the requirements for a high school diploma or whose attendance or discipline record reflects an inability or unwillingness to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct may be returned to their home district. [**5115 - RETURN TO SENDING SCHOOL DISTRICT BY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**](#)

RULES OF CONDUCT

All students are bound by federal and state laws, policies of the Board of Education, and the administrative regulations of PCTVS. In addition, students shall not:

- Be insubordinate to teachers or other school staff members or disregard their instructions or demonstrate lack of respect for their authority.
 - Create disorder or disruptions on school premises.
 - Use, threaten, or incite the use of physical force against other students, staff members, or visitors to the school.
 - Steal, damage, or deface the property of other students, staff members, or the district.
 - Engage in the sexual and/or other harassment of students or staff members.
 - Violate codes of conduct adopted for organizations of students.
 - Possess or use weapons or any implement intended to harm others.
 - Use foul, abusive, derogatory, or demeaning language, including racial and ethnic remarks.
 - Convey information about other students or staff members known to be false.
 - Act so recklessly as to endanger the safety of others.
 - Procure the property of others by threat or intimidation.
 - Enter school premises or any specific portion of the premises without permission and without authority.
 - Vandalize school property, real or personal.
 - Create litter on school property.
 - Be truant from school or class.
 - Cheat or otherwise engage in academic dishonesty.
 - Persistently refuse to complete homework and other assignments.
 - Engage in illegal gambling.
 - Smoke on school property.
 - Falsify an excuse or any school document.
 - Set fire to or cause a fire in any way on school premises.
 - Possess or explode a firecracker or other explosive device on school
 - Sound or cause to be sounded a false alarm for fire, bomb, or other condition or circumstance hazardous to others.
 - Possess, use, or distribute a substance in violation of [Policy No. 5530](#).
 - Join a secret society prohibited by law.
 - Intentionally cough, spit, or sneeze in the direction of others.
 - Engage in any other activity expressly prohibited by a school staff member in authority.
- The consequences for violating rules of conduct will be implemented by administration.

SAFETY IN CTE COURSES/VIOLATIONS OF SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Students found to be in violation of established safety rules and regulations or engage in horseplay in class/shop will be subject to disciplinary action. All students are expected to conduct themselves and use equipment in a safe manner as dictated by school policy. Safety in a CTE course is a very important concern for everyone. Specific CTE safety rules and regulations provide safety standards to govern the use of tools, machines, equipment, and protective devices. The CTE teacher is held responsible for the condition of the CTE tools and equipment, and he/she shall have full authority for its uses for instructional purposes. Accident prevention is everyone's concern and as such, requires every student participating in CTE education to be responsible for his/her safety. Students must carefully follow teacher instructions. Students cannot engage in "horseplay" or other atypical behavior, which may endanger themselves or those around them. Students are required to wear all prescribed safety protective devices whenever CTE activities warrant their use.

For added safety, in vocations where foot injuries may occur, the wearing of sneakers, soft-covered shoes, or open-toe sandals is not permitted. Every student engaged in such CTE activities must wear a leather top street shoe. The wearing of excessively long hair around rotating machinery is not permitted. Hairnets or other tie-back devices that will retain hair close to the scalp must be worn to deter possible accidents caused by hair being entangled around or pulled into the rotating or moving machinery. Students having allergies aggravated by dust or fumes should check with their family physician for participatory direction.

SECTION 504 SERVICES

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly known in the schools as “Section 504,” is a federal law passed by the United States Congress with the purpose of prohibiting discrimination against disabled persons who may participate in, or receive benefits from, programs receiving federal financial assistance. In the public schools specifically, section 504 applies to ensure that eligible disabled students are provided with educational benefits and opportunities equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

Under section 504, a student is considered having a medical condition/disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Section 504 also protects students with a record of an impairment, or who are regarded as having an impairment from discrimination on the basis of disability. Students can be considered disabled and can receive services under section 504 even if they do not qualify for, or receive, special education services under the IDEA. While IEPs fall under Special Education Law, 504 Plans fall under the Office of Civil Rights, with the intent that students who qualify are provided equal and reasonable access to education.

To be eligible under a 504 plan, there are two requirements: First, a determination of whether a student has a qualifying disability needs to be based on a review/evaluation of all pertinent information but need not necessarily include a formal medical diagnosis; however, routinely this is obtained and shared as part of the pertinent information by which to establish the qualifying disability. Once the medical condition/disability has been determined the next consideration is whether that disability substantially limits the child’s ability to learn in a general education classroom (which is one of the major life activities). This can include learning, reading, communicating, and thinking. Evaluative data from observations, record review, teacher input is reviewed in addition to the medical documentation to determine whether and what types of accommodations may be required to provide equal access to learning in the general education setting. In comparison, to be eligible under an IEP, a child has one or more of the 13 disabilities listed in IDEA; the disability must impact substantially on the child’s educational performance and/or ability to learn and benefit from the general education curriculum, and the child must need specialized instruction in order to appropriately progress in school.

Procedures are followed by a knowledgeable committee in making decisions regarding this federal law. To be eligible for Section 504 the committee must identify:

- Physical or mental impairment
- Substantial limitation
- Impact on educational performance

Process of Referral for a 504 Plan

Request for a section 504 plan should be sent to the grade level assistant principal (see below) for your student’s campus.

District Section 504 Coordinator: Michelle Rizzo

Grade Level Section 504 Coordinators

Passaic County Technical Institute

12th Grade - Mr. Jerry Castaneda
11th Grade - Mr. Adam Christopher
10th Grade - Mr. Denise Martinez
9th Grade - Ms. Megan Ala

PCTI STEM Academy

10th & 12th Grade - Mr. Mohamed Khairullah
9th & 11th Grade - Mrs. Catiana Valik

TRANSPORTATION

Under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1, all public secondary school students in grades 9 through 12 residing more than two-and-a-half miles from their school are entitled to transportation. This entitlement extends to students classified with special needs who either meet these distance requirements or for whom transportation is stipulated in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Legal Obligation for County Vocational/Career & Technical Education High Schools

Local Boards of Education are legally obligated to provide transportation to County Vocational/Career & Technical Education high schools (see N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:19-2.3). In the event of transportation-related concerns, please contact your local Board of Education to express your issue.

Campus Services Office

The PCTVS Campus Services Office takes pride in efficiently coordinating and managing the district's student transportation efforts from A.M. student pick-up to 2:56 P.M. student dismissal. We understand the importance of safe and reliable transportation for our students. We collaborate with sending districts' transportation offices and contracted student transportation service providers to maintain the highest standards for student safety and transportation efficiency. Student well-being and security are our top priorities. For inquiries and assistance regarding student transportation at Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools, please reach out to our dedicated Campus Services Office or Campus Services Aide:

Transportation Coordination Contacts

Cedric McKoy, Campus Services Officer — (973) 389-2047 — cmckoy@pctvs.org
Monica Akins, Campus Services Aide — (973) 790-6000 ext. 5005 — Email Monica Akins
Kenneth McDaniel, Director of School Services — (973) 389-4221 — Email Kenneth McDaniel

Familiarize yourself with our transportation guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable commuting experience for all PCTVS students.

Bus Safety

Arrive at the bus stop at least ten minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
Wait in an orderly fashion, away from the edge of the road, and avoid horseplay.

Boarding and Exiting

Enter and exit the bus in a single-file line, using the handrail.
Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching or departing.

Seating Arrangements

Where applicable, follow assigned seating arrangements
Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
Students are not allowed to save seats. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Conduct on the Bus

Keep noise levels to a minimum to ensure a safe and focused environment.
Refrain from engaging in disruptive behavior, including shouting, pushing, or throwing objects.

Respect for the Driver

Follow the instructions of the bus driver and bus aide promptly and respectfully.
Address drivers and aides with courtesy and refrain from distracting drivers while driving.

Emergency Procedures

Familiarize yourself with emergency exit locations and procedures. You will receive training during the school year.
Remain calm and follow the driver's instructions in case of an emergency.

Personal Belongings

Keep personal belongings secure and avoid obstructing the aisle.
Do not bring oversized items or objects that may pose a safety hazard.

Prohibited Items

Refrain from bringing items such as weapons, hazardous materials, or anything that may endanger others.

Personal Safety

Stay seated while the bus is in motion, and keep all body parts inside the bus.
Do not extend objects, including electronic devices like phones or cameras, out of windows.

Crossing the Street

When disembarking the bus, wait for the driver's signal before crossing the street.
Cross in front of the bus, maintaining eye contact with the driver.

Communication

Report any issues or concerns to the bus driver or school authorities promptly.
Inform the bus driver if there is a need to disembark at a different stop.

Substance-Free Environment

Do not bring or consume controlled substances, including vape devices and alcohol, on the school bus.

Following the PCTVS student code of conduct as well as the transportation guidelines listed above will greatly contribute to a safe and enjoyable transportation experience for all PCTVS students. Your cooperation is vital to maintaining a secure and efficient transportation system. Stay informed about conduct expectations and essential guidelines for a secure travel

environment. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student Success to consult with the appropriate student success grade-level coordinator.

Transportation-Related Questions and Concerns

Feel free to contact the Campus Services Office at (973) 389-2047 for any concerns regarding drop-off and dismissal, home-to-school or school-to-home transportation concerns or assistance. Transportation for athletics, student organizations, field trips, co-op opportunities, and other extracurricular affairs is coordinated through our Maintenance Department, accessible at 973-389-4293.

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Is Fostered and Reinforced Via The Office of Student Success

Appropriate school climate and positive student behavior begin with a sound instructional program and dedicated, involved professional staff. The teacher is the primary authority in any given situation whether it be in the classroom, hallway, cafeteria, athletic event, or any other area or activity where the teacher may be present. Redirection may be required to correct inappropriate student behavior that is preventing students from doing their best in school or adversely affecting others.

The staff members' actions may include one or more of the following:

Individual student-counselor-teacher conferences,
Teacher-student conferences,
Administrator-teacher conferences, or
After School Detention.

More serious infractions of the rules may require In-School Suspension, Out-Of-School Suspension, or Expulsion.

Warnings, Coaching, Redirection, Conferencing, and After School Detention (ASD) are used to address less serious infractions while keeping students in school and classes.

When assigned to ASD, students are to report no later than 3:10 p.m. and remain until dismissed. Students are required to complete a prepared redirection/behavior modification assignment. Students are required to be in the appropriate student uniform, wear a student ID, and comply with the rules set by the ASD monitor.

In-School Suspension (ISS) is used for infractions of policy and procedure which do not require immediate removal from school. A student is suspended from his/her regular schedule to a corrective instructional environment with certified staff. Students will complete assignments to remain up to date in each class. Students assigned ISS are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities other than academic tutoring opportunities until the full suspension has been served.

Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS) is assigned for major infractions and/or continued misconduct. A student assigned OSS may not come to school during the length of the suspension and may not take part in any school activity. A parent conference is required before the student is re-admitted to school.

Long Term Suspension or Expulsion may be recommended when the Assistant Principal and Office of Student Success staff have exhausted other intervention efforts for behavior modification.

The complete Code of Conduct, [board policy 5600](#), is available for reference on the . Students and parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the contents of this policy and this handbook. Doing so promotes a clear understanding of the expectations and guidelines that contribute to a positive and inclusive educational experience.

Code of Conduct Infractions

Restorative Practices at PCTVS provide an opportunity to address student behavior through reflection, accountability, and repairing harm. These practices may be used as an alternative to, or in conjunction with, traditional disciplinary responses to support student growth, restore relationships, and promote a positive school community. These practices focus on repairing harm through inclusive processes that bring students and educators together. Restorative Practices emphasize accountability, making amends, and facilitating dialogue between affected parties. The concept of restorative practices is based on three pillars:

Harms and Needs - Empathy and awareness are required to understand the harm that was done as well as the factors that might have contributed to the situation.

Obligation (to make things right) - This entails a moderated process that helps stakeholders understand, discuss, and resolve the problem.

Engagement - All parties — victim, offender, and the broader community — are involved in the dialogue and the healing process.

When/Where deemed appropriate, PCTVS will try to employ restorative approaches that are designed to empower students to learn from their mistakes, to understand the impact of their actions, and to grow personally in their ability to problem-solve and make responsible decisions. The goal of any restorative practice is to build a sense of community in the school community by:

- Providing pathways to repair harm

- Bringing together individuals impacted by an issue in a dialogue

- Achieving a common understanding

- Coming to an agreement about resolving the conflict and moving forward

PCTVS will use a plethora of innovative restorative behavior modification and student-centered learning strategies aimed at rebuilding relationships, respecting the school community, taking responsibility, repairing damage, and reintegrating students back into the fold.

Our restorative approach does not eliminate the application and use of traditional consequences for inappropriate, negative, harmful, destructive, violent behavior, and/or repeated misconduct.

****Restorative Intervention Workshop** The restorative intervention workshop is a comprehensive extension of the district's After School Detention (ASD) program. Its aims are as follows:

- Promoting Restorative Practices and Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) in the district.

- Integrating an educational and cognitive behavioral intervention component into the ASD program.

- Providing group work opportunities for students to address negative or unhelpful thought and behavior patterns.

- Assisting students in recognizing how their emotions and thoughts influence their actions.

- Supporting students in developing new coping strategies and behavior change techniques to handle stressors and problematic situations.

Offering referral services for situations that require individualized support outside of the program.

Achieving optimal student success using a team approach, incorporating various education professional within the scope of fostering positive behavioral changes among students that find themselves referred to the Office of Student Success.

The overall goal of the Restorative Intervention Workshop is to empower students to understand and modify their behaviors, promoting positive emotional well-being and healthier responses to common challenges high school students may encounter.

To be eligible for this program, students must be referred by school staff or parent request in lieu of traditional disciplinary consequences like ASD, ISS, and OSS. Students will not be able to participate in the program without written consent/approval from a parent/guardian. See for additional details.

Section 1

Disregard of Safety / Running in Common Areas

Not in Assigned Area / SmartPass Violation

Uniform / Dress Code Violation

1st offense: 1 to 2 days ASD. 2nd offense: 3 days ASD. 3rd offense: 1 day ISS. Beyond 3rd offense: In-school or out-of-school suspension determined by the administration.

Section 2

Cell Phone Violation

Face Covering or any other face-altering item

Littering

Temporary ID Badge Violation (the accumulation of five (5) or more temporary IDs in a trimester)

Use of audio devices / speakers

1st offense: 1 day ASD. 2nd offense: 2 days ASD. 3rd offense: 3 days ASD. Beyond 3rd offense: In-school or out-of-school suspension determined by the administration.

Section 3

Earbuds / Headphones

Eating / drinking in unapproved areas

ID Badge / lanyard violation

1st offense: 1 day ASD. 2nd offense: 2 days ASD. 3rd offense: 3 days ASD. Beyond 3rd offense: 1 full day ISS per infraction, with progressive consequences.

Section 4

Failure to comply with After School Detention

1st offense: 1 additional day of ASD for each missed day. 2nd offense: 1 additional day of ASD for each missed day (not to exceed 4 days). 3rd offense: 2 days ISS and 1 additional day of ASD for each missed day. Beyond 3rd offense: 2 days OSS and 1 additional day of ASD for each missed day.

Section 5

Failure to comply with In-School Suspension
OSS to be determined by administration for any offense.

Section 6

Academic Dishonesty / Plagiarism
Disruption
Campus driving / Parking Violations
Dishonesty
Disrespect
Distributing food, drinks, or other items without the Board of Education's approval
Forged pass or forged notes
Gambling
Horseplay
Improper language
Instigation
Insubordination
Leaving school without permission
Misuse of mobile phones, computers, and/or network/software including artificial intelligence
Safety violations
Sagging pants
School bus violations
Skateboards, water pistols, toy weapons, rollerblades, etc.
Wrongful entry

Any of the following to be determined by administration via the Office of Student Success:
multiple days In-School Suspension; 1-5 days Out-of-School Suspension; mandatory substance abuse screen; civil/criminal complaint filed with the police/prosecutor's office. Educational programs promoting appropriate behavior. Restorative practices and alternatives such as reflection papers, educational modules, conflict resolution, detention, counseling, evaluations, conferencing, program suspension, network suspension, the Restorative Intervention Workshop, and other behavior modification strategies may be substituted and/or included as consequences for behavioral infractions (see our approach to Restorative Practices below). Students assigned to ISS or OSS are ineligible for school athletics, field trips, co-op, special programs, and/or extracurricular activities until the assigned ISS or OSS is fulfilled.

Section 7

Arson
Assault / Fight
Assault with a Weapon
Attempted Assault
Bomb Scare
Dating Violence
Extortion
False Fire Alarm
False reporting of a code of conduct or policy violation

Fireworks (possession / use of)
Gang activity
Harassment / HIB
Intentionally supplying false information during an administrative investigation
Sexual Harassment / Assault
Theft
Threats
Unauthorized use of video / recording devices
Use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, vape paraphernalia, or drugs
Vandalism
Weapons — Possession / Use (Tasers, Stun Guns, Knives, Razors, Real or Replica Firearms, etc.)

Any of the following to be determined by administration via the Office of Student Success: up to 10 days Out-of-School Suspension; mandatory psychiatric evaluation; mandatory substance abuse screen; civil/criminal complaint filed with the police/prosecutor's office; and/or recommendation of long-term suspension (more than ten days), out-of-district placement, expulsion, or return to sending district. Educational programs promoting appropriate behavior. Restorative practices and alternatives such as reflection papers, educational modules, conflict resolution, detention, counseling, conferencing, program suspension, network suspension, the Restorative Intervention Workshop, Positive Alternatives to School Suspension, and other behavior modification strategies may be substituted and/or included as consequences for behavioral infractions when deemed appropriate (see our approach to Restorative Practices below). Students assigned to ISS or OSS are ineligible for field trips, co-op, special programs, and/or extracurricular activities until the assigned ISS or OSS is fulfilled.

SCHOOL STORE (TECH BULLPEN)

The PCTI school store is located in the Upper Lobby and is open daily.

The PCTI STEM school store is located by the Lecture Hall on the third floor and is open each Wednesday.

Hours of operation are:

7:30 am – 9:00 am

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Items can also be purchased online ([link](#)) and shipped to the store for pickup.

SPORTS PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

All students who expect to try out for a school sports team are required to complete a health history questionnaire and a physical examination. Documentation must be completed on a state approved form that can be obtained from the school nurse at any time during the school year. Examination dates are scheduled periodically throughout the school year and are conducted at least one month prior to the date of team tryouts.

SECURITY

Surveillance cameras have been strategically placed in various parts of the school for security purposes. Lockers, parking lots and other designated areas within the building are always subject to search if conditions warrant. Bathrooms and locker rooms may feature sensors designed to detect the presence of smoke. Students that are identified in a location when a sensor alert is received, may be subject to search, on the grounds of reasonable suspicion, under the authority granted within New Jersey State Statutes (18A:6-1, 18A:25-2, 18A:35-4a, 18A:37-1, 18A:37-2, 18A:37-4).

SMOKING

Per BOE [Policy 5533](#) Smoking or vaping, etc. is prohibited in any school building or on school grounds. Violators will be subject to a fine. N.J.S.A.26:3D-55

STATE TESTING

All students identified by the New Jersey Department of Education as needing to sit for a state exam are required to take the exams. PCTVS does not recognize and will not accept “opt out” forms, letters, emails, or requests of any nature. Students who do not take state required exams will be identified on state reports as “test refusals”. Students who do not take state required exams may be placing their graduation eligibility at risk.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

It is the goal of Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools for each student to enhance his/her high school experience by participating in clubs and organizations. These activities present opportunities for involvement in both competitive and non-competitive programs, some geared towards career goals. Additionally, some of our organizations have memberships on the local, state, and national levels. Participation in a student organization is a privilege and not a right – advisors and administrators reserve the capability to withhold participation in a student organization, activity, or event if a student demonstrates poor attendance, poor academic scores, or poor self-control.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Since the misuse of drugs/alcohol by any student seriously impedes learning and threatens the welfare of the entire school community, PCTVS offers intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation services. Parents and students who seek assistance or would like additional information about substance abuse-related support should contact the Student Personnel Services Department or the Student Assistance Coordinators directly.

STUDENT ID POLICY

Unless otherwise specifically instructed, students are required to wear their personal student ID badges clipped to their yellow, District-Issued lanyards at all times. The ID displays the student's picture, ID number, grade level, cafeteria assignment, and transportation information. Student identification checks are made by security personnel, teachers, counselors, administrators, and other staff daily.

Student identification badges must be worn around the neck using only the yellow District-Issued lanyard.

Students are prohibited from wearing, displaying, utilizing, or possessing student identification badges other than the district-issued ID badge for the current academic year. Students are prohibited from possessing multiple identification badges from prior years. Students who fail to bring their identification badges to school must obtain a temporary ID sticker that will be worn visibly. Students who are issued five (5) or more temporary ID badges in a single trimester will receive consequences with sanctions that increase per occurrence.

The student ID badge replacement cost is \$5.00. Lanyard replacement cost is \$2.00. Students are required to return their school-issued student ID badges at the end of each school year. New badges will be issued at the beginning of each school year.

Failure to return the school issued student ID badge will result in a student obligation.

Any student found using another student's identification credentials will receive disciplinary consequences.

Consequences for student ID badge violations include, but are not limited to, After School Detention, In-School Suspension, and Out-of-School Suspension.

STUDENT UNIFORMS

To raise the level of expectations and maintain a safe, orderly educational environment, PCTVS requires a uniform for all students.

PCTVS' Standard Student School Uniform Attire consists of:

PCTVS uniform Royal Blue or White (long or short sleeve) polo shirts are required to be worn each school day (apart from "Spirit Days").

PCTVS Polo Shirts must be purchased from the FlynnO'Hara Uniform Company. The polo shirts must be outfitted with the approved logo for each school.

Non-polo PCTVS shirts, jerseys, or other shop-specific polo shirts may only be worn on designated "Spirit Days".

PCTVS uniform code requires that all students wear khaki pants, shorts, or skirts. All school uniform pants, shorts, and skirts must be purchased at FlynnO'Hara Uniform Company.

The following pants styles are prohibited:

- Cargo pants

- Skinny or tapered style pants or shorts

- Pants with pockets sewn on the outside

- Khaki colored jeans

- Color variations

- Sagging

- Pants with elastic or drawstrings at the waist and/or ankles

- Pants with stitching, special designs, and/or labels

Cargo shorts, cargo pants, skinny jeans, and jeans are not permitted to be worn, unless it is a "Spirit Day".

Cut off style shorts.

Other legging styles such as fish net, lace, patterned, striped, etc. may not be worn.

Rolling of pants legs, cutting of pants, and other fashion statement alterations.

PCTVS permits students to wear approved PCTVS sweaters (pullovers, cardigans, V-necks), vests, fleece wear, sweatshirts, or hoodies displaying an approved PCTVS logo.

— These items can be obtained from FlynnO'Hara Uniform Company or from the PCTVS School Store.

— Acceptable colors for such items are Blue, Black, White, and Gray.

— Please note that a PCTVS uniform polo shirt must always be worn under such items.

PCTVS does not require uniform footwear though some CTE programs may require specific apparel.

"Spirit Day" Attire

— District approved tops that clearly promote only PCTVS programs, PCTVS events, PCTVS classes, PCTVS organizations, or PCTVS teams

— Students must wear a PCTVS top to participate in Spirit Day.

— Students choosing not to participate in "Spirit Day" must adhere to the Student Uniform guidelines.

The following clothing items are always prohibited,

Leggings/Yoga-style pants

Hats and all other types of headwear including bandanas, sweatbands, wave caps, etc. except for headwear worn for religious reasons.

Logos, insignias, labels, and symbols other than the school logo are prohibited from being worn on all school uniform clothing items.

Slippers, sandals, flip flops, or any shoes with loose or untied laces or straps that may pose a safety hazard.

This includes Croc® sandals, Ugg® slippers, and similar styles

Oversized or flamboyant belt buckles.

Winter coats, jackets, non-PCTVS apparel, etc. are not to be worn during class or lunch time. These items should be stored in lockers during the day when possible or placed on the back of the desk or cafeteria chair.

Chains, pouches, hats, etc., hanging from belts or belt loops.

Other garments worn over the PCTVS uniform polo shirt other than those identified above as “additional acceptable uniform attire.”

Sleeveless shirts or tank tops

Blankets and/or flags, etc.

There will be limited exceptions to the school uniform policy. Where possible, students will wear their CTE course specific / special clothing items over their school uniforms while in their respective programs (Lab Coats, Smocks, Aprons, Etc.) or students will change in and out of special clothing when necessary. ROTC students can wear their full ROTC uniforms on designated days. ROTC students are not allowed to dress in sweats, special polo shirts, etc. when not participating with NJROTC.

PCTVS STUDENT UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

2026/2027

PCTVS students and parents/guardians agree to the following student uniform expectations:

Uniform polo shirts, pants, skirts, and shorts must be bought from Flynn O'Hara Uniforms.

Uniform Pants Requirements: No stitched-on pockets, no leggings, no jeggings, no elastic waist or leg bottoms, no drawstrings, no straight legs, no jeans material, no cargo pants, no cutting or rolling at the leg bottoms, etc.

Pants must adhere to approved colors.

Shorts, and skorts must be worn at knee level.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) program attire:

- Wear only administration-approved clothing.
- For practical and hands-on educational activities, students are permitted to wear garments approved by their teacher within the classroom. This includes items such as lab coats, smocks, and aprons, which can be worn over their uniforms as necessary.

No non-PCTVS sweatshirts, hoodies, sweaters, fleeces, jackets, or other outerwear in school

Physical Education attire: T-shirt or sweatshirt with shorts or sweatpants and proper athletic footwear.

NJROTC uniform may be worn on designated days.

Approved colors for PCTVS sweaters, vests, fleeces, sweatshirts, hoodies, and jackets are Blue, Black, White, and Gray only.

Spirit Day attire: Purchased or provided PCTVS "TECH WEAR", CTE, class-specific, or PCTVS program-related tops

Shorts and skorts must be worn at knee level.

Footwear: Sandals, clogs, flip-flops, and similar styles lacking proper support (including Uggs and Crocs) are prohibited.

Disciplinary actions for uniform policy violations may include detention, in-school suspension, and out-of-school suspension.

Refer to the parent-student handbook and the Office of Student Success if you have any questions.

STUDENT INFORMATION DIRECTORY/FERPA

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, requires that public schools provide notice to parents of the types of student information that it releases publicly. This type of information, commonly referred to as “directory information,” includes such items as the name of the student, address, and telephone number and is not considered harmful nor an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow our schools to include this type of information in certain school publications. Examples include snow closing call lists, yearbook, music concert programs, sports programs, honor roll lists, and graduation programs. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings and publish yearbooks. In addition, federal law requires high schools to provide military recruiters, upon request, access to names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school juniors and seniors listed in the student directory. The law also requires high schools to release information to colleges or other higher learning institutions, upon request, listed in the student directory. The district may also provide directory data to the local board of health for tracking the transmission of possible communicable diseases. If you do not wish the Public Schools to include your child’s name in the High School’s student directory, please notify the principal in writing by September 30th. If we do not receive written notification by this date, your child’s name will be listed in the student directory.

STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, New Jersey Statutes and Administrative Code, and the Board of Education require the school district to notify parents/guardians each year of their rights under the law. Parents/guardians have certain rights regarding their child's education records and those rights are transferred to the student or former student who has reached the age of 18. According to the board of education policy and administrative guide, a complete set of state-mandated records shall be kept for each student and include permitted information that contributes to the education, development, and general well-being of the student. Guidelines also safeguard the private rights of students as individual citizens and limit access to the records. N.J.A.C. requires local boards of education to accord educational, occupational, and military recruiters' access to student directory information. Parents may request in writing to the chief school administrator that their child's name be omitted from the student information directory; adult students may make that request on their own behalf.

The board recognizes the rights of parents/guardians or adult students to examine, challenge, and, if necessary, to correct data and official records of the student as provided by N.J.S.A. 18A: 36-19 and N.J.A.C. 6:3-2.6. Parents/Guardians or adult students may request that a school correct the records believed to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school refuses to change, delete, or add to the records, the parent/guardian or adult student must notify the superintendent of schools in writing and a review meeting will be held. If necessary, an appeal to the board of education or the commissioner of education may be made. A record of the appeal and the outcome shall be made part of the student's record. Upon request of the parents/guardian or adult student, a record shall be reproduced, unless copyrighted, and the school district be reimbursed for the cost of reproduction according to the administrative guidelines. Upon graduation or permanent departure, a student from the school system, the parent(s) or adult student is entitled to a copy of the student's record upon written request.

In accordance with state regulations, the following mandated student records are maintained:

Personal data that identifies each student enrolled in the school district. This data shall include the student's name, address, date of birth, name of parent(s), citizenship, and sex of the student. The district board of education is prohibited from recording the religious or political affiliation of the student and/or parent unless requested to do so in writing by the parent and/or student. The district is also prohibited from labeling the student illegitimate.

Record of daily attendance.

Descriptions of student progress according to the system of student evaluation used in the district. Grade level or other program assignments shall also be recorded.

History and status of physical health compiled in accordance with State regulations, including results of any physical examinations given by qualified district employees.

Records pursuant to rules and regulations regarding the education of classified or special education students.

All other records required by the State Board of Education.

The school district permits the following records to be maintained:

Observations and ratings by professional staff members

Test scores and samples of student work

Rank in class and academic honors

Co-curricular activities and achievements

Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns

Authenticated supplemental information provided by parents

STUDENT SAFETY

To ensure your child's safety, the School District Nurses may disclose to School District employees (i.e., faculty, staff, coaches, volunteers) on a need-to-know basis, medical information from your child's health record (i.e., medical conditions, allergies, medications). In addition, school personnel will rely on any information you have provided for school-sponsored events and field trips.

If your child has sustained an injury and requires crutches, cane, walker, etc., a doctor's order must accompany the child upon his/her return. This order must state that the child has been taught how to safely ambulate the stairs using these devices. A doctor's order must also accompany your child if he/she needs to be transported via wheelchair during the school day and/or needs access to the school's elevator.

STUDENT SEARCHES AND PRIVACY

The Passaic County Technical-Vocational School District respects students' privacy rights while maintaining a safe, secure, and orderly learning environment. Students may be subject to a search when school officials have reasonable grounds to believe that the search will reveal evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, school rules, or conduct that threatens the health, safety, security, or welfare of students, staff, or the school community. Searches may include a student's person, personal possessions, locker, vehicle on school property, or other areas subject to school authority.

Student searches shall be authorized and conducted by school administrators and/or appropriate staff members acting under the direction of the Principal or designee.

Searches shall be reasonable in scope and conducted in a manner that respects the dignity and privacy of the student while allowing school officials to fulfill their responsibility to maintain a safe educational environment.

Items determined to be contraband, evidence of a violation of law or school rules, or items that may pose a threat to safety may be confiscated and handled in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulations, and applicable law.

Under no circumstances shall any school employee conduct a strip search or body cavity search of a student.

For additional information regarding student searches, seizures, and student privacy rights, please refer to [Board Policy 5770](#) and the corresponding Regulation 5770 (Student Right of Privacy/Searches and Seizures).

SUMMER SCHOOL

A student with a final grade of “F” in a required academic or elective course is expected to take that course in a credit-recovery program. Credit recovery programs will not be applicable for CTE courses, unless authorized by the superintendent. Students who wish to advance their academic standing by enrolling in an approved summer school program course must obtain permission from their counselor.

SUSPENSIONS

In any case where suspension is being considered, the student will be provided with due process (an opportunity to explain the circumstances and his/her actions, which are under investigation). The parent shall be notified of the suspension by telephone, email, and/or regular mail. Students serving out-of-school suspension are not allowed on school property during the suspension term. Before the student is re-admitted to school, a conference with the parent will be required.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

The PASS (Positive Alternative to Student Suspension) Program serves as the District's in-school suspension program. The goal of the PASS Program is to provide a structured educational environment within the school setting that promotes positive student behavior, accountability, reflection, and academic success.

The PASS Program may be assigned for violations of school rules, Board policies, or the Student Code of Conduct that warrant removal from a student's regular class schedule but do not require out-of-school suspension. Students assigned to the PASS Program are removed from their regular classes and participate in supervised academic and behavioral interventions designed to support personal growth and encourage positive decision-making. While assigned to the PASS Program, students remain responsible for completing all classwork, assignments, projects, assessments, and other academic requirements. Students will not receive a zero solely because of their PASS assignment and shall be provided the opportunity to complete coursework and assessments assigned during their placement. Teachers are responsible for providing assignments and instructional materials for students assigned to the PASS Program to ensure continuity of learning and academic progress.

In addition to academic work, students may participate in reflection activities, restorative practices, behavioral coaching, social-emotional learning opportunities, and other interventions designed to help them develop the skills necessary for success in school and beyond.

The PASS Program is intended to be both corrective and supportive, providing students with opportunities to learn from their actions while remaining engaged in the educational program and school community.

Student responsibilities when assigned to the PASS program:

- To report to the designated location on time.
- To bring a Chromebook and items needed to complete assignments.
- To demonstrate proper conduct and abide by all rules/regulations.
- To return completed assignments by the end of the assigned time

Parents of students with disabilities may be required to meet with the Child Study Team (Case Manager) to develop a behavior intervention plan and behavior contract. Failure to attend or comply with the rules of the PASS program will result in Out of School Suspension (OSS).

Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS)

Out-of-School Suspension will be assigned for major infractions and for continued misconduct. A conference will be conducted with the student prior to the suspension. A student assigned Out-of-School Suspension is not permitted to come to school for any reason during the length of the suspension and may not take part in any school activities, during or after school, until reinstated into school. This includes after-school sports events and/or school-related functions.

A parent conference is required for all re-admits from OSS prior to student returning to school. Students returning from OSS will not be admitted to any class without a “Re-Admit from OSS” pass from an Assistant Principal to the Student Success Office. Students who come to the school during an OSS assignment may be charged with illegal trespassing.

SUSPENSION APPEALS

Students placed on Short-Term Suspensions (defined as 9 days or fewer) are not able to have a suspension term “held off” until an appeal is heard. However, Long-term Suspensions (defined as Out-Of-School Suspension for 10 days or more) may be appealed in the following order:

Action Taken By	Appeal To
Grade-Level Assistant Principal	Building Principal
Building Principal	Director of School Services
Director of School Services	Superintendent / Board of Education

TARDY (LATE) TO CLASS OR CTE COURSE

Students are not to be tardy to any class or shop. Students who arrive to their scheduled class or shop after the passing bell rings, signaling the start of the period, without a valid pass will be considered tardy. The Attendance Office and the Student Success Office will enforce the tardy/cut policy for these incidents. Please note the following:

Three (3) lates to any class will equal 1 cut.

Twelve (12) lates to any full-year class will equal a loss of credit in the class or shop

A student arriving to school after 8:10 a.m. is considered tardy and must report directly to the Attendance Office for a late pass.

Students reporting to school/class tardy 20 minutes or more will be charged with a cut. A student who obtains four (4) cuts to a full year course will not receive credit for that particular course.

Students driving to school and arriving tardy will have their parking privileges suspended on the 3rd tardy.

Late students will not be permitted to enter their period one class/shop without one of the following:

A valid pass from an Administrator.

A late bus pass from the Attendance Office.

An "Admit Pass" from the Attendance Office.

A hall-sweep Admit Pass from the Student Success Discipline Office.

Passes from teachers, coaches, aides, clerks, etc., will not be accepted.

TEXTBOOKS/CALCULATORS

Students are responsible for the care and protection of assigned textbooks and calculators. Damage beyond normal wear or loss of a book or calculator will require the student to reimburse the school for such damage or loss. Reimbursement for textbooks and other items should be made immediately after notice has been issued by the school. Failure to pay fines or obligations upon notice of such will result in the school withholding a diploma.

TRANSFERS/WITHDRAWALS FROM SCHOOL

Students who are transferring to another school or withdrawing from school must be accompanied by their parent/guardian to the Guidance Office to sign the appropriate forms. If necessary, the parent/guardian may submit a letter to the counselor detailing the reasons for leaving. Transcripts or grades will be forwarded only when the student has fulfilled all responsibilities and obligations (i.e., returned textbooks, laptop, ID badge, school issued equipment/materials and has paid all outstanding fines or fees.)

TRIMESTERS

Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools are committed to providing an educational experience that is exceptional, non-traditional, and focused on college and career readiness for all students. In keeping with our progressive mission, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools instituted a trimester grading cycle.

With a trimester grading cycle, each trimester will be approximately 60 days in length and will be weighed accordingly:

Semester	Weighting
Fall Term	25% of final grade
Winter Term	30% of final grade
Spring Term	35% of final grade
Final Exam	10% of final grade

This term weighting system provides struggling students with an opportunity to demonstrate progress in their courses while maintaining significance of grades and assessments. Although students will receive fewer report cards in the trimester grading schedule (three instead of the typical four), progress reports will continue to be issued midway through each term. Each grading term will be identified as R1 (Fall Term), R2 (Winter Term), or R3 (Spring Term) in PowerSchool.

TRUANCY

“Truancy” is a student’s absence from all or a part of the school day without the knowledge of the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s). A student will also be considered truant if he/she:

- Leaves school without a pass,
- Leaves school without permission when school is still in session,
- Leaves class because of illness and does not report to the school nurse as directed, or
- Is present in school but is absent from class without approval. Such truancy from class is a “class cut.”

Students found to be truant from school will be charged with “cuts” for any classes missed.

Additional Truancies: More serious consequences, including recommendation for expulsion or referral to the child study team for diagnosis, may be required.

UNAUTHORIZED AREAS

Students are not permitted in the following areas for any reason(s):

Auditorium / Lecture Hall (without teacher supervision)

Faculty Lounge

Faculty Cafeteria

Faculty Restrooms

Faculty Copier/Prep Rooms

Maintenance/Custodial areas

Shipping/Receiving areas

Mechanical rooms/areas

Locker rooms while PE classes are in session

Any cafeteria prior to or after lunch periods are concluded

Any bus that the student is not assigned

Any unsolicited presence in a classroom, instructional area or location not indicated on a student's schedule

Students found in these areas will be subject to After-School Detention, In-School Suspension, or Out-of-School Suspension.

Additionally, students are expected to walk in hallways and on sidewalks and paved surfaces. Students, faculty, and staff are asked to stay off the grass and dirt surfaces. There should be no running in hallways, on walkways, or paved surfaces on campus unless as part of an approved PE class or athletic program.

MOBILE PHONES, SMART DEVICES, AND INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES

Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices

Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools is committed to maintaining a focused, distraction-free learning environment that maximizes student engagement, academic achievement, school safety, and positive social interaction. In accordance with [Board Policy 5516](#) and [Regulation 5516](#), students are prohibited from using personal internet-enabled devices during the school day.

For purposes of this policy, an internet-enabled device includes any personal device capable of connecting to the internet or accessing online content, including but not limited to smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, smart glasses, and similar technologies. District-issued devices and district-managed educational platforms authorized for instructional use are not subject to this restriction when used as directed by school personnel.

Bell-to-Bell Expectations

PCTVS maintains a bell-to-bell expectation regarding personal internet-enabled devices. Bell-to-bell refers to the period beginning when the school day starts and continuing until the dismissal bell, including passing periods, lunch periods, and all other times during the academic day.

Students who bring an internet-enabled device to school must:

- Turn the device off or place it in a non-active mode before the start of the school day.

- Keep the device secured in a backpack, locker, or other approved storage location throughout the school day.

- Refrain from accessing, displaying, charging, checking, or using the device during classes, lunch, passing time, assemblies, or any other portion of the academic day.

- Comply immediately with any directive from school personnel regarding the possession or storage of an internet-enabled device.

VANDALISM AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools takes pride in maintaining safe, attractive, and well-equipped learning environments that support student success. School buildings, grounds, furnishings, instructional materials, technology, equipment, and other district resources are provided for the benefit of all students and are funded through public resources. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for school property and to contribute to the preservation of district facilities.

Any student who intentionally, recklessly, or negligently damages, defaces, destroys, misuses, or removes school property, or the property of another person, may be subject to disciplinary action, restitution, and other consequences consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable law. Acts of vandalism include, but are not limited to:

- Graffiti or unauthorized markings on school property;

- Damage to buildings, classrooms, furniture, equipment, technology, vehicles, or grounds;

- Tampering with safety, security, or emergency equipment;

- Destruction or misuse of instructional materials and supplies; and

- Any other act that results in the loss, damage, or deterioration of property.

Students found responsible for vandalism may be required to make restitution for the cost of repair, replacement, cleaning, or restoration of damaged property. Restitution may be imposed in addition to disciplinary consequences and restorative interventions designed to promote accountability and responsible decision-making.

Parents/guardians should be aware that, pursuant to applicable New Jersey law, they may be held financially responsible for damage caused by their child to public property. Incidents involving significant property damage may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate authorities when warranted.

PCTVS encourages all members of the school community to take pride in their school environment and to immediately report acts of vandalism or property damage to a staff member or administrator. Protecting school property helps ensure a safe, welcoming, and productive educational environment for all.

VISITORS

PCTVS students are not permitted to have personal guests during school hours. Unannounced visits or meetings will not be entertained. All verified visitors must have an appointment with a teacher, administrator, or employee to gain access to the campus buildings. All verified visitors must wear the provided green lanyard for the duration of the visit and abide by all district guidelines. The lanyard must be returned to the security officers or guard house prior to departing campus.

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Possession, transmission, handling, or use of a weapon on school property is prohibited. The definition of a “Weapon” includes:

Firearms, which include but are not limited to, any handgun, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, automatic or semi-automatic rifle, or any gun, device, or instrument in the nature of a weapon from which may be fired or ejected any solid projectile ball, slug, pellet, missile, or bullet, or any gas, vapor, or other noxious things, by means of a cartridge or shell or by the action of an explosive or the igniting of flammable or explosive substances. It also includes air guns, spring guns, pistols, or other weapons similar nature in which the propelling force is a spring, elastic band, carbon dioxide, compressed or other gas or vapor, air or compressed air, or is ignited by compressed air, and ejecting a bullet or missile smaller than three-eighths of an inch in diameter, with sufficient force to injure a person. Firearms for the purposes of this regulation mean those items enumerated in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1f and 18 U.S.C. 921.

Components that can be readily assembled into a weapon.

Gravity knives, which means any knife that has a blade that is released from the handle or sheath thereof by the force of gravity or the application of centrifugal force.

Switchblade knives, which means any knife or similar device that has a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of the knife.

Daggers, dirks, pen knives, box cutters, stilettos, and other dangerous knives.

Ballistic knives, which means any device capable of lethal use that can propel a knife blade.

Billy clubs, blackjacks, bludgeons, metal knuckles, slingshots, cesti or similar leather bands studded with metal filings or razor blades imbedded in wood.

Stun guns, which means any weapon or other device that emits an electrical charge or current intended to disable a person temporarily or permanently.

Any device that projects, releases, or emits tear gas or any other substance intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or permanent injury through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air.

Imitation firearms, which means an object or device capable of being mistaken for a firearm.

A student convicted or found to be delinquent for possessing a firearm on any school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function or a student committing a crime with a firearm shall be immediately removed from the school’s regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year in accordance with Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act and [Policy No. 5611](#).

WORK BASED LEARNING

This program is available to students in the twelfth grade and a select number of eleventh graders. Students are offered carefully supervised employment experience in their CTE career major during the school day. Students participating in School-to-Careers education attend school each day for their academic classes. The time during the school day ordinarily devoted to the career program is spent in the working environment, under the guidance and direction of certified instructors. Participation in this program gives students an opportunity to explore the realities of employment and to develop expertise in the career they are studying.

WORKING PAPERS

Any student under 18 years of age who wishes to accept employment during vacations or on a part-time basis during the school year must procure working papers from the State of New Jersey. Applications for working papers are available online. For further information, please visit the NJ Working Papers Process Handout.

DISTRICT TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Chief School Administrator	(973) 389-4203
PCTI Principal / STEM Principal	(973) 389-4259 / (973) 389-4227
Adult/Continuing Education	(973) 389-4101
Athletics	(973) 389-4106
Attendance PCTI / Attendance STEM	(973) 389-4148 / (973) 389-4166
Office of Student Success	(973) 389-4221
Student Personnel Services	(973) 389-4232
Nurse's Office PCTI / Nurse's Office STEM	(973) 389-4225/4145 / (973) 389-2235
PCTVS Parent Liaison	(973) 389-4275
Special Needs	(973) 389-4197
Student Activities	(973) 389-4103
Work Based Learning	(973) 389-2054



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