

**Skowhegan Area High School**  
**2025-2026**  
**Student Handbook**



## Table of Contents

Mission Statement	4
District Guiding Beliefs	4
Portrait of a Graduate	5
Absences/ Attendance	5
Academic Cheating	6
Academic Letter	6
Add/Drop	6
Administrative Detention Rules	6
Admission of Resident Students	7
Adult Education Plato Courses for Students	7
Advanced Placement (AP)	7
Advisory	8
Alternative Education	8
Assembly Conduct	8
Audit	8
Bathroom Expectations	8
Bell Schedule	8
Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR)	8
Bus Conduct	9
Cancellation of Courses by Guidance	9
Cancellation of School	9
Cell Phones and Electronic Devices	9
Class/Lunch Schedules	10
Class Rank	10
Classroom/Building Conduct Expectations	10
Closed Campus	10
Co-Curricular Activities Consequences for Violation of Substance Abuse Policy	10
Co-Curricular Clubs and Activities	11
Code of Conduct	11
College Courses/Special Programs During Senior Year	11
Computer Use	11
Connect, Support, Intervene (CSI)—Intervention Block	11
Cooperative Education—SCTC	11
Course Selection	12
Course Withdrawal/Academic Level Change Form	12
Custody Issues	12
Dance and Social Functions	12
Deliveries/Gifts to SAHS Students/Staff	12
Detention	13
Disciplinary Action	13
Dismissal from School During the Academic Day	13
Displays of Affection	13
Dress and Personal Grooming	13
Dual Enrollment	14
Early Graduation	14
Educational Research: Student Submission to Surveys, Analyses, Evaluations	14
Emergency Cards/Forms	15
Emergency Procedures/Evacuations	15
Evacuation/Fire Drills	14
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)	15
Field Trip Behavior and Protocol	15
Finals and Mid-Year Exams	15
Floats/Trailers	15
Fundraising	16
Grade Closing Dates	16
Grading and credit make-up work	16
Grading Scale	16
Graduation Requirements	16
Guidance Department	17
Habits of Work (HOW)	17
Harassment and Sexual Harassment	17

Harassment Response/Procedures	17
Hazing	18
Homebound Instruction	18
Home School	18
Honor Roll and HOW Honor Roll	18
Hours of the School Day	18
Illness/Injury at School	18
Independent Study	18
Leaving the Building	19
Lobby Doors	19
Lockdown	19
Lockers	19
Lunchroom Expectations and Procedures	19
McKinney-Vento Homeless Educational Rights	19
Media Center	19
Medication at School	20
Military Recruiter/College Representative Student Access	20
National Honor Society (NHS)	20
Nondiscrimination Policy	21
Parent/Teacher Conferences	21
Passes	21
Physical Education Expectations	21
Restraint and Seclusion	21
Post-Secondary Enrollment Options	21
Power School—Parent/Guardian Access	21
Prohibited Conduct	21
Prohibited Conduct Disrupting Education Process or Endangering Safety	22
Promotion	22
Publications by Students	22
Rally Expectations	22
Relocation/Evacuation Procedures	23
Remediation	23
School Resource Officer (SRO)	23
Search and Seizure and Interrogation of Students	24
Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act	24
Senior Privileges	24
Skippping class	24
Smoking/Tobacco Use	24
Special Education	24
Speech and Drama Academic Eligibility	25
Student Designated Areas and Times	25
Student Substance Prevention Education	25
Student of the Month	25
Student Organizations	25
Student Records	25
Student Rights and Responsibilities	26
Student Violation of Chemical Abuse/Dependency Policy	26
Student Withdrawal from SAHS	27
Study Hall Expectations	27
Summer School/Winter School	27
Summer Learning Opportunities	27
Suspension Procedures/Offenses/Actions	28
Offenses/Disciplinary Actions	28
Tardy to School and Class	29
Telephone Use	29
Textbooks—Lost or Damaged	29
Vehicles—Parking/Driving by Students on School Grounds	29
Visitors to the School	29
Web Site/Electronic Mail System	29
Weighted Grading	29
Notice to Parents	29
<b>Skowhegan Area High School Philosophy Athletic Code and Contract</b>	<b>30</b>
Athletic Program Offerings	

## District Mission Statement

**MSAD 54 Mission Statement:** All members of the MSAD 54 community will create a caring and safe environment which encourages every student to strive to achieve high academic standards, develop character, be a life-long learner, and be a responsible contributing member of society.

**MSAD 54 Vision for our School Community:** All individuals in our schools feel safe, welcome and respected for who they are.

### MSAD 54 Guiding Beliefs

- Students learn in **different ways** and in **different time frames**.
- Students learn best in a trauma informed environment that is welcoming, orderly, accepting, and safe.
- Students learn best in a supportive school community where every student feels connected and part of their school.
- Students **want to be successful** in their learning and **have unique interests that heighten their motivation for learning**.
- Student **learning styles differ**, and learners demonstrate their intelligence in many different ways.
- **Habits of work are essential** and should be taught, fostered, and acknowledged, as well as assessed separately from academic progress and achievement.
- Learning is a **shared responsibility** and requires a commitment among the student, teacher, parent and community.
- Learning is enhanced when **teachers collaborate within and across disciplines**.
- Learning is enhanced when **connected to real world contexts and challenges**.
- Learning is enhanced with **frequent feedback specific to a clearly articulated learning goal**.
- Learning is enhanced when students **are encouraged to take risks, understanding that mistakes are inherent in the learning process**.
- Learning is enhanced **with timely interventions and multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency**.

### Skowhegan Area High School and Bloomfield Academy

The Skowhegan Area High School community values rigorous and relevant academic standards, fosters personal integrity and growth, and promotes self-reliance and social responsibility. We respect and honor the individual talents and differences that strengthen our local and global community. Students will graduate with the foundation necessary to further their learning and become productive citizens.

#### Academic Expectations

Graduates of SAHS will become lifelong learners by developing the following skills:

Gathering Information  
Using Technology

Listening  
Writing

Reading  
Speaking

Solving Problems

#### Core Values

Central to all MSAD 54 policies and Skowhegan Area High School procedures and rules are the following core values:

Compassion  
Honesty

Courage  
Respect

Fairness  
Responsibility

Through adherence to these core values, SAHS endeavors to create a community climate where students are welcomed and involved, where cooperative partnership develops between the school and parents, where all adults model ethical behavior, where teachers are expected to teach and enforce ethical and responsible behavior, where behavior is an integral part of the curriculum, where good behavior is actively promoted and recognized, and where the discipline process is impartial, consistent and educational.

#### Literacy Vision

All Skowhegan Area High School students will graduate fully literate. Adolescents who are fully literate know and use **reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking strategies** to learn across all content areas, they can demonstrate and communicate that learning to others, and they can transfer their learning to new situations.

#### Social and Civic Expectations

Graduates of SAHS will become responsible and engaged citizens by acquiring the following skills or qualities:

- Demonstrating ethical and responsible behavior
- Displaying respect and tolerance of all
- Becoming an effective collaborator
- Contributing positively to the local and global community
- Developing civic responsibility



#### **Attendance:**

The Skowhegan Area High School educational community believes that attendance in the classroom is essential to the education of our students. An absent student does not benefit from nor contribute to class activities and discussion. Therefore, students should make every effort to be in school. The school has a responsibility to report attendance to the state's Department of Education in accordance with DOE mandate and Maine state law.

We request that the parent/guardian responsible for the child either:

- Call the school to notify the office that your child will not be in attendance or will be tardy that day.
- Send the student with a signed note describing why the student was absent or tardy on the day the student returns to school.

**Excused Absence (AE):** An excused absence is an absence that has been deemed excusable by falling into one of the categories listed below.

Maine law designates six reasons why a school may excuse a student's absence. Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the school of the reason for the student's absence. However, because Maine School Law is specific, parent/guardian permission for an absence does not assure that it will be an excused absence.

- Personal illness
- An appointment with a health professional that cannot be made outside the regular school day
- Observance of a recognized religious holiday when the observance is required during the regular school day
- A family emergency (verification may be requested)
- A planned absence for personal or educational purposes that have been approved by the school. Approval must be secured in advance. Forms are available in the main office.
- Educational disruption

Absences not noted above may be reviewed by the administration.

**Unexcused Absence (AU):** An unexcused absence is an absence that has not been deemed excusable for one of the reasons listed above.

Unexcused Absences can become excused if a parent/guardian provides an excusable reason for the absence. The designated (AU) will be changed to (AE) should an excusable reason be provided.

### **Other School-Related Absences:**

**Out of School Suspension (S):** A suspension that is to be served outside of school. Marked as an excused absence.

**In-School Suspension (I):** A suspension that is served in-school in a monitored room and be marked as present.

**Field Trip (F):** Field trips are an excused absence for school-related purposes such as college visits, class trips for educational purposes.

**Dismissal (D):** When a student is removed by a parent/guardian from a class or classes after the school day has started.

**Planned Absences:** The parent/guardian is responsible for contacting the school notifying them of the upcoming absence. The student is responsible for completing a planned absence form and having each of their teachers sign the form. Prior to the absence the student will collect work that can be done while absent and set due dates for returning that work with the teacher. To receive credit for work missed during an absence it needs to be completed by the agreed-upon deadlines set by the teacher.

### **Academic Cheating:**

- **Cheating** is inexcusable. The offense may result in a grade of zero for the work involved and written notification sent to the parents explaining the incident. Continued cheating may result in no credit being awarded for the course.
- **Plagiarism** is passing off as one's own work that of another. Students must be very careful researching a project that they do not copy the work of another and turn it in for credit. If there is any question in your mind, consult your teacher. Plagiarism is cheating. **Note: The usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated material handed in as students' own work is a form of plagiarism and will be handled as cheating.**

### **Academic Letter for the Class of 2026, 2027, and 2028:**

Students who have earned honor roll status for each of the first three quarters in a given school year will earn their Academic Letter. Each year, after receiving their letter, a student will qualify for a pin by meeting the same standard. Students who earn a letter during their first year and a pin for their second and third years will earn a medallion during their fourth year.

### **Academic Letter for the Class of 2029 and Beyond:**

Any student earning honors or better also earns points toward a Skowhegan Area High School **Academic Letter**, awarded every spring in a special ceremony. 12 points are required to earn an Academic Letter: All A's = 3 points; High Honors = 2 points; Honors = 1 point. All points must be earned at Skowhegan Area High School to qualify for a SAHS Academic Letter. After a student earns an academic letter, a pin will be awarded for subsequent academic letters earned.

### **Add/Drop:**

If possible, any needed add/drop course should be handled before the beginning of a school year. Guidance counselors are available a week after the school year ends and a week before the school year begins to address specific scheduling needs.

Although students are expected to remain in a course once a course begins, it may be possible for a student to add or drop a class after the start of a semester. Adding or dropping must happen within the first two weeks of the start of a class unless unusual circumstances arise. Student add/drop may be allowed after thorough consideration of the rationale for the requested change and the student, a parent/guardian, the guidance counselor, and the teacher have all signed the required procedural paperwork. Completion of this paperwork is the responsibility of the student. Until approval for the change occurs students are expected to remain in and attend the currently scheduled class.

### **Administrative Detention Rules:**

Administrative Detention is assigned by the building administrator and is an extension of the student's regular school day as a result of a school infraction. Regular school expectations still apply while in detention. Unless specifically requested by a faculty member or an individualized educational plan (IEP), school computers are not available during administrative detention.

- All school rules apply
- Students may not eat or drink while serving detention
- Students must arrive on time to receive full credit for serving the detention
- Students may not leave the room without permission
- Students are responsible for their own transportation after detention
- Uncooperative students or disruptive behavior will result in removal of the student with a possible suspension until the detention is served appropriately
- Cell phones are not allowed in administrative detention

**Admission of Resident Students:**

School Administrative District #54 shall admit as students those children of legal school age who live with parents or legal guardians residing within the municipalities of Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Smithfield, and Skowhegan. Adequate proof of residency will be required and verified.

Guardianship shall be substantiated by a copy of a court order appointing the resident as guardian of the student. If the appointment of guardianship has not been made when the student enters school, the appointment must be completed within 45 days. No student shall be accepted for enrollment on the basis of guardianship established by a power of attorney. State wards shall be considered residents of the district for purposes of school enrollment. Students who have attained the age of 18 or who are emancipated under Maine Statutes shall be considered residents of the district for school purposes.

Students whose parents have purchased housing within the district may begin the semester with permission of the Superintendent. Students whose parents are moving from the district may complete a semester with the permission of the Superintendent.

In the case where this policy presents an extreme hardship, the affected individuals may appeal to the Board of Directors for a waiver on a case-by-case basis submitting a written request for waiver to the Chairperson.

**Adult Education Plato Courses for Students:**

SAHS students enrolled in an Adult Education PLATO course will be scheduled into an assigned period and area of the SAHS day in which to work on their coursework. The student's guidance counselor and the adult education director will arrange scheduling.

SAHS students taking Adult Education courses, including PLATO, must complete all course work by the end of the high school semester in which they started the course work. Final grade and credit, if earned, will be awarded at that time. Exceptions to this assignment will be made only in extenuating circumstances and with the expressed, written permission of both the Adult Education Director and the student's high school guidance counselor.

**Advanced Placement (AP):**Policy

Philosophy: The Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors programs offer students exposure to college-level materials and accelerated learning opportunities. These courses are designed to challenge highly motivated, committed students. AP and Honors courses require a commitment on the part of the student to complete assignments outside the classroom, both during the summer and the school year. AP also provides students an opportunity to demonstrate their learning through performance on an AP exam. Some colleges/universities may award credit to a student earning a designated score (determined by the individual post-secondary institution) on an AP exam.

Enrollment: Enrollment in AP and Honors courses offered in a classroom setting at SAHS will be determined through the teacher recommendation process. A teacher will complete an evaluation/recommendation form on which the teacher rates the student's learning characteristics, including enthusiasm for the subject; aptitude; intellectual curiosity; appropriate foundational skills; and ability/habits of work essential for success in a rigorous learning environment.

AP Exams: Students enrolled in AP courses are expected to take the respective AP exams. In the event a student experiences documented medical issues or extenuating personal circumstances, the building administrators or designee may reconsider this expectation and make a determination.

Practice

Enrollment: Students in AP/Honors courses offered in a classroom setting at SAHS will enroll "in house." Only if a significant scheduling conflict prevents a student from enrolling "in house" will the student be allowed to enroll in an equivalent course via a virtual or other alternate platform.

Initial enrollment in AP/Honors courses will be based on teacher recommendations. If a student or parent/guardian would like to discuss the reasons for the placement recommendation, a meeting among relevant parties (i.e., student, parent/guardian, recommending teacher, AP/Honors teacher, guidance counselor, content area curriculum leader) will take place. If the meeting does not result in consensus concerning the student's placement, the student or parent/guardian may appeal the determination to the building administrator, who will make the final determination after conferring with relevant parties.

AP Exam Fees:

RSU 54 pays the full cost of each AP exam. Because the College Board charges the district an additional fee for each unused exam, a student who withdraws from an AP course after the exam has been ordered or who has an unexcused absence from an AP exam will be required to pay the additional fee. Documented medical issues or extenuating personal circumstances would be considered in this process.

**Advisory:**

The purpose of Skowhegan Area High School's advisory program is to ensure that every student has a meaningful relationship with an adult and a supportive community of peers. These elements of connection provide the potential to improve academic achievement and enhance the overall high school experience. Our advisory program fosters an environment where everyone feels safe, welcome, and respected in our school. Advisors provide academic mentorship, goal setting assistance, guidance with a post high school plan, and offer social-emotional support. This program provides a personalized experience focused on the developmental needs of each grade level as students' progress toward graduation.

**Roles and responsibilities of the advisor**

- Foster a welcoming environment
- Advocate for advisees
- Encourage advisees to participate in the SAHS community
- Support advisees to achieve their academic potential
- Facilitate discussion of relevant topics
- Guide advisees through problem solving
- Promote self-advocacy

**Roles and responsibilities of the advisee**

- Participate in advisory activities
- Contribute to a positive and safe school climate
- Develop, pursue, and achieve academic and personal goals
- Communicate with advisors as needed

**Alternative Education:**

The Marti Stevens Learning Center (MSLC) provides alternative education programming to appropriately placed Skowhegan Area High School students. MSLC will provide an academic, social, and vocational experience with an emphasis on project-based learning. Students interested in attending MSLC should see their guidance counselor for more information.

SAHS students enrolled at (MSLC) must adhere to the following expectations:

- Bus pick-up and drop-off for MSLC students will be at MSLC only
- Unless by prior approval by both MSLC and SAHS building administrators, MSLC students are not to load onto or get off buses at SAHS.
- MSLC students needing to visit SAHS for any reason (media center, guidance, class, labs, etc.) must report directly to the school's main office upon entering and leaving the building if not accompanied by a staff member.

**Assembly Conduct:**

Assemblies and rallies are an extension of Skowhegan Area High School's overall educational mission and attendance is required at these functions by all students. Positive recognition of student and faculty accomplishments in addition to sharing important information are major purposes of assemblies. Students are expected to display attentive, respectful behavior that coincides with the type of activity being conducted. Disruptive behavior will result in disciplinary action. Cell phones, earbuds, and other electronic devices, food and drink are prohibited during assemblies. Locker rooms will be closed during assemblies, students may use the lobby restrooms.

**Audit:**

A course audit is a privilege offered to students who need to strengthen skills and understanding of a subject area. Students who audit a class are expected to attend all classes, complete all assignments, and take all required assessments. Course credit is not earned for an audit. An audit form must be submitted (available in Guidance).

**Bathroom Expectations:**

1. The bathroom is not a social area. (Be quick and do your business!)
2. Cell phones should not be used in the bathroom
3. Be considerate: keep the bathrooms clean, flush, and wash your hands
4. Only 1 person to a stall

**Bell Schedule:**

The SAHS bell schedule operates on a Day 1, Day 2 alternating set calendar day schedule. Each day contains 4 72-minute blocks and 5 lunch sections. Additionally, Advisory and the Connect, Support, Intervene (CSI) blocks will be part of the students' daily schedule.

**Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR):**

The Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) program has been implemented to support ninth grade students successfully transition to Skowhegan Area High School. The BARR program utilizes a team-based approach to build relationships between students and staff, provide targeted and specific academic support based on real-time performance data, engage parents and the community, and build the development of skills that support success.



**Bus Conduct:**

School buses and bus stops are considered extensions of MSAD #54 schools with all school rules in effect. Notice of bus rules are distributed to parents and students at the start of each year. Riding the school bus is a privilege. It can be revoked for failure to adhere to general rules of courtesy, cooperation, and respect for property and/or safety issues. The bus driver has authority over the bus and may issue warnings and/or dismissal warnings while administrators may revoke bus privileges or assign consequences.

**Cancellation of Courses by Guidance:**

Courses may not be offered if they are under-enrolled or if financial constraints cause reduction in programming.

**Cancellation of School:**

Announcements for school cancellations are on the following TV/Radio Stations:

**TV** – Channels 2 (WLBZ), 5 and 13 (WGME), 6 (WCSH), and 8 (WMTW)

**Radio** – WTOS – 105.1 FM (Skowhegan), WKTJ (Farmington), WABK (Gardiner), WQCB (Brewer), WKIT/WZON (Bangor), 92 MOOSE Sidney, and WKSQ (Ellsworth)

**Bright Arrow** - District automated alerts via email and text.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:**

Students will be allowed to use privately owned computers, laptops, electronic devices and cell phones at school provided that the students comply with the SAHS Student Computer, Internet and Cyber Safety Policy and the accompanying rules.

Use of students' own cell phones and devices must be consistent with the school expectations for school conduct and the various district-wide policies. **Cyberbullying** is defined as the use of electronic communications to bully a person. Cyberbullying will be handled as outlined by district bullying policies.

Compliance is mandatory. Students who violate the policies and rules may, after being given an opportunity to respond to an alleged violation, have their laptop, electronic device or cell phone privileges limited or revoked. The building administrator shall have the final authority to decide whether a student's laptop, electronic device or cell phone privileges will be altered, based on the circumstances of the particular case.

Violations of any of these expectations may result in disciplinary action, referral to law enforcement and/or legal action, and privileges being revoked. In the interest of student safety, on-line behavior and on-device behavior, must remain respectful.

We encourage parents not to call or text their child during the school day. If you need to get a hold of your child, please call the office.

**Cell use:**

- May be used prior to 8:15, during lunch and after 2:15
- May be used during passing time between classes with ringers off.
- Cell phone usage during academic blocks in the hallways or restrooms is not permitted.
- May be used at lunch time
- When phone use is permitted, music may not be audible at any time; use of **one** ear bud is allowed
- May be used by seniors in the lobby with lobby study hall privileges
- Per policy JFCK cell phones must be turned off during class time, including study halls, unless authorized by a staff member for school purposes
- May not be used in the office while students are waiting to talk with a school administrator
- Are not allowed in ISS—phones will be collected while a student is in ISS and will be returned to the student at 2:15
- No incoming or outgoing voice calls or texts are permitted at any time during classes or study halls. If students need to call or text home, please come to the office to use the school phone or obtain permission to use personal cell phone
- **The use of cameras, including camera phones, is strictly prohibited at any time in the school and on school transportation.** Pictures and/or videos may be taken for school purposes, such as class pictures, athletics, or yearbooks. In other instances, students must obtain administrative or teacher permission before photographing or making videos of any individual.
- Students privately-owned electronic devices may be subject to search if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is violating Board policies, procedures, or school rules. (JFCK, JFCK-R)

If these rules are violated, the teacher will immediately confiscate the device and turn the phone into the office.

- **1st offense:** warning, return phone to student after school
- **2nd offense:** warning, return phone to parent after school
- **3rd plus offense:** administrative detention, return phone to parent after school

**Note:** Failure to surrender an electronic device will be considered failure to follow a directive may result in a disciplinary action. Multiple offenses may incur additional consequences at the discretion of the administration.

## **Class/Lunch Schedules:**

### **Monday - Friday Schedule**

8:15-9:27	Block 1	Lunch A: 11:25-11:45
9:31-10:43	Block 2	Lunch B: 11:50-12:10
10:47-11:23	Advisory Block	Lunch C: 12:15-12:35
11:27-12:59	Block 3	Lunch D: 12:39-12:59
1:03-2:15	Block 4	

### **1-Hour Delay with Advisory**

9:15- 10:12	Block 1	Lunch A: 11:52-12:12
10:16-11:13	Block 2	Lunch B: 12:13-12:33
11:17-11:52	Advisory Block	Lunch C: 12:34-12:54
11:56-1:14	Block 3	Lunch D: 12:55-1:14
1:18-2:15	Block 4	

### **2-Hour Delay with no Advisory**

10:15-11:05	Block 1	Lunch A: 12:00-12:20
11:10-12:00	Block 2	Lunch B: 12:21-12:41
12:05-1:23	Block 3	Lunch C: 12:42-1:02
1:27-2:15	Block 4	Lunch D: 1:03-1:23

### **Class/Lunch Early Release Day Schedule**

8:15-9:00	Block 1	Lunch A: 9:51-10:07
9:03-9:48	Block 2	Lunch B: 10:07-10:23
9:51-10:55	Block 3	Lunch C: 10:23-10:39
10:58-11:45	Block 4	Lunch D: 10:39-10:55

**Buses leave at 11:45**

### **Student of the Month Schedule - no Advisory**

8:15-8:45	Assembly	
8:48-10:03	Block 1	Lunch A: 11:24-11:44
10:06-11:21	Block 2	Lunch B: 11:48-12:08
11:24-12:57	Block 3	Lunch C: 12:12-12:32
1:00-2:15	Block 4	Lunch D: 12:37-12:57

### **80 Minute Testing Schedule**

8:15-9:35	Block 1	Lunch A: 11:05--11:25
9:40-11:00	Block 2	Lunch B: 11:33--11:53
11:05-12:50	Block 3	Lunch C: 12:00--12:20
12:55-2:15	Block 4	Lunch D: 12:30--12:50

## **Class Rank:**

Class rank is determined by a student's cumulative grade point average. Cumulative grade point average is calculated four times during the school year at the end of each quarter. Initial class rank will be determined once a student has attended Skowhegan Area High School four consecutive quarters.

## **Classroom/Building Conduct Expectations:**

- Students are expected to display mutual respect for people and property at all times.
- Students are expected to report on time for advisory, all classes and study halls.
- Students may not loiter in the halls or restrooms.
- Students may not leave the building during the school day for any reason without permission from an administrator.

## **Closed Campus:**

Skowhegan Area High School is a closed campus. Once students arrive on school property, they may not leave the property/building unless by prior approval from a school administrator. Leaving campus without parent/guardian permission will result in consequences.

## **Co-Curricular Activities Consequences for Violation of Substance Abuse Policy:**

Any student holding a leadership position in a co-curricular or extra-curricular activity and any student holding an elected office will forfeit that position if that student violates the MSAD 54 Substance Abuse Policy. Students involved in the Math Team, Business League, Speech Team will not be allowed to participate in 20% of the competitive activities while Drama, Jazz Ensemble, and Show Choir will be ineligible for 20% of the season measured from the initial date of tryouts to the culminating event if the Substance Abuse Policy is violated.

*Administration will decide appropriate penalties for any activity not listed above.*

**Co-Curricular Clubs and Activities:**

Skowhegan Area High School offers a wide variety of clubs and non-athletic activities for students. Often activities develop within a school year to address specific needs or causes. The Skowhegan Area High School band involves many students in a wide variety of musical activities throughout the year. The band performs at rallies, football and basketball games, and school and public concerts. The following is a list of clubs and activities available to Skowhegan Area High School students.

Art Club	Civil Rights	National Honor Society	Theatre
Band	E-Sports	Olympia's Leaders	Your Mind Matters
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	D&D Club	Outing Club	Olympia's Leaders
Board Game Club	Drama	Robotics	Poetry Club
Business League	ECO Team	Spanish Club	
Chess Club	Lever (Yearbook)	Speech Team	
Chorus	Math Team	Student Council	

**Code of Conduct:**

Maine State Law requires and the MSAD #54 Board of Directors has established expectations regarding ethical and responsible student behavior. Considerable effort has gone into identifying core values, expectations and policies that define specific areas of concern. Harassment, hazing, violence and weapons, sale or use of drugs are considered particularly serious because of their potential to disrupt the educational experiences of numbers of students. Policies addressing these are included in this handbook.

**College Courses/Special Programs:**

Students may enroll in college and earn high school graduation credits as well as college credits during their senior year. Approval of the guidance counselor and building administrator must be secured if the subjects are to be used for diploma requirements. Information is usually available by early spring of each year. For more information, contact the guidance office.

**Computer Use:**

Before using school computers or the Skowhegan Area High School Internet, students and parents must have signed and returned the Maine School Administrative District #54 Student Computer and Internet Use Form. This policy and permission form is distributed at the beginning of the school year. Failure to abide by the computer use guidelines may result in loss of computer use privileges and/or disciplinary action. Policy IJNDB

**Connect, Support, Intervene (CSI)-Intervention Block:**Purpose

To provide a proactive opportunity for students to access teachers during the school day. This will allow for a dedicated time to broaden learning and support increased student success. This intervention block will take place every Wednesday and Thursday for 36 minutes. Students from the same grade level will be matched with the same adult for their four years of high school as a home base for CSI.

Activities

May include, but are not limited to:

- Making up missed work
- Remediation/Intervention
- Re-teaching opportunities
- Students requesting support from teachers
- Peer tutoring
- Collaboration between students and/or teachers
- Enrichment and acceleration activities

Expectations for Students

- Request intervention as necessary.
- If possible, check tagging prior to the intervention block.
- Students are expected to participate in the support structure. Refusal to do so will be handled as it would in a class.
- Students are expected to attend all CSI blocks – skipping CSI will result in disciplinary action.

**Cooperative Education--SCTC:**Minimum Course Enrollment Expectations and Work Release

Participation in Somerset Career & Technical Center's Cooperative Education program allows students who are employed to work during school hours. All Skowhegan Area High School students are expected to be scheduled in a minimum of five periods of classes; the Cooperative Education program represents one of those five periods and leaves up to three periods to be work release time. A student who believes that their employment, career goals and educational plan warrant more than three periods of work release may make a request to the SCTC Cooperative Education instructor and SAHS administration for consideration.

**Course Selection:**

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of credits earned and to sign up for remaining graduation requirements.

- At a formal class meeting, each student will receive a description of course offerings.
- Students will participate in the SAHS course selection process following input from teachers and guidance counselors.
- Teachers will make appropriate level recommendations for their students' required academic classes.
- The counselors will review the course selections. The appropriateness of each student's course selections will be determined based on graduation requirements, student ability and their educational /career plans.
- At the end of the school year, some changes may be necessary because of low or failing grades. It is the responsibility of the students to contact their counselor to make changes. Counselors are available a week after school ends and a week before a new year begins to address needed changes.

**Course Withdrawal/Academic Level Change Form:**

Withdrawing from a course after the add/drop period is permitted only after a discussion that includes the student, a parent, the teacher and the guidance counselor. If a determination to drop the class is made, the teacher and a parent must sign the Course Withdrawal/Academic Level Change form. A class dropped after the add/drop period will be reflected as a W on the official transcript. Withdrawing from a class is not permitted if the withdrawal will result in a violation of the school board's minimum enrollment policy.

Level Change in English, science, math and social studies is permitted after discussion with the student, a parent, teacher and guidance counselor when there is evidence the student is misplaced. The student, parent, or school personnel may initiate a level change. If a level change is determined necessary, a parent must sign the Course Withdrawal/Academic Level Change form before the level change is processed.

Students withdrawing or changing levels must remain in and attend their currently scheduled classes until the form has been completed and the related schedule changes have been officially made in PowerSchool. Once signed by the teacher and a parent, this form must be returned to the student's guidance counselor. Form completion is the responsibility of the student.

**Custody Issues:**

A custodial parent/guardian who wishes the school to comply with provisions of a court order to restrict access to a child is responsible for providing a certified copy of such order to the school.

**Dance and Social Functions:**

Expectations for student conduct at school social functions are as follows:

- All guests must currently be enrolled in high school and subject to administrative approval. **Exception: Prom**—Guests must be under the age of 21 and must receive administrative approval. Appropriate picture ID may be required at the door.
- **Dance guest forms are available in the main office.** When a student brings a guest, the student is responsible for that guest. It is the intention of the dance/guest procedure that guests remain with their SAHS/MSLC host student for the entirety of the dance, including arrival and departure. Only one guest per host student.
- **Guests will not be allowed into the dance without a completed guest form and administrative approval.** All school rules apply.
- **SAHS and MSLC students must be in attendance the Friday before the dance – including Prom. Excused absences and absences due to school activities are permitted.**
- Inappropriate dancing, grinding, sexually explicit moves, smoke machines, glow sticks, confetti, noise makers, latex balloons, outside beverages are not permitted.
- Misbehaving students will be asked to leave, and parent notified.
- Once admitted to the dance/social function, student will not be readmitted if the student leaves.
- Once a student leaves, student must immediately leave school grounds and the general school area.
- SAHS dress code will be enforced. Students will be asked to leave if non-compliant.
- Students in violation of the Substance Abuse Policy will be turned over to the officer on duty and face school consequences.
- Students must make arrangements to be promptly picked by 10 PM (11 PM for Prom).
- Students removed from a dance will be prohibited from attending any further dances and/or the Prom for one calendar year from the infraction date.
- Unless by special administrative approval, dances will be from 7-10 PM.
- No admittance after 8:00 PM without prior administrative approval (8:30 PM for Prom)
- Students will be required to sign out when leaving the Prom
- Students who have been suspended from school are not permitted to attend after school events, including dances, should their suspension be in effect.

**Deliveries/Gifts to SAHS Students/Staff:**

Students and staff are only allowed to accept delivery of small gifts, small floral arrangements and Mylar balloons at school. Deliveries will be held in the school office until the end of the academic day. Latex balloons are not allowed in the school, as latex is known to cause severe allergic reactions in some people. Food delivery services like, but not limited to, Grub Hub and Door Dash are not permitted at any time, as they cause disruptions in both the school office and the classroom.

**Detention:**

Skowhegan Area High School recognizes two types of detention:

- Teacher detention—assigned by classroom teachers with parent/guardian notification
- Administrative detention—assigned by building administration with parent/guardian notification

Teachers will issue their own classroom detentions for classroom related infractions, including, but not limited to, unacceptable homework/classroom effort and behavior issues, and they will follow up with a phone call home to the parent/guardian. Teachers may consult with building administration to determine the level of detention assigned.

- All SAHS detentions are scheduled from 2:20 to 3:00 PM.
- Students and supervising teacher will meet in the Main Office. They will move to the cafeteria or classroom for this hour.
- **Administrative detentions** are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays with a twenty-four (24) hour notice given.
- **Teacher detentions** may be assigned for any day if a twenty-four (24) hour notice is given.
- With twenty-four (24) hour notice, students are expected to stay for assigned detentions regardless of after schoolwork, athletic events, practices, or other extracurricular activities.
- The only legitimate excuses for appeals to reschedule detentions are: severe illness (verification required), professional health appointments that cannot be made outside the regular school day, observance of recognized religious holidays when the observance is required during the school day, emergency family situations (verification required), and personal or educational leaves which the administrator has approved.
- If a student fails to remain for administrative detention the student may be suspended.

**Disciplinary Action:**

Building administration may suspend and/or recommend expulsion of students who violate Board policy based upon the facts of each case and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. Conduct, which violates Board policy is deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school. Such conduct may also be grounds for expulsion under other provisions of law that specifically prohibit the use and possession of weapons, infractions of violence, and possession, furnishing and trafficking of scheduled drugs. Students who are found to have brought a firearm to school, as defined by federal law, shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year, unless the superintendent, on a case-by-case basis, modifies this requirement. All firearm violations shall be referred to law enforcement authorities as required by law. Other violations of Board policy shall be referred to law enforcement authorities at the discretion of the superintendent. Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws/regulations (Policy: JICH, JICIA, JKE).

**Dismissal from School During the Academic Day:**Appointments

Students who need to be dismissed for an appointment should present a parent/guardian note to the office before school on the morning of the dismissal. Students must sign out of the school in the main office prior to leaving the building. Students returning to school from a doctor's appointment shall present the office with a note from the doctor's office verifying the appointment, date, and time.

Illnesses

Students who are ill and need to be dismissed should report to the nurse's office. The school cannot dismiss any student without permission of the parent/guardian or a parent-designated adult.

**Displays of Affection:**

Displays of affection are offensive to students and staff. Please show respect for yourself and others by refraining from hugging, kissing, or petting. Continued violations may result in disciplinary actions.

**Dress code:**

Students are encouraged to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in dress and grooming. Dressing appropriately is important to maintain a safe, healthy, and non-discriminatory environment for promoting positive academic and social development; therefore, the following restrictions will be enforced:

- Shirts and footwear must always be worn
- Clothing with vulgar or profane lettering or drawings, either explicit or implied is prohibited
- Clothing that advertises drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is prohibited
- Clothing depicting images of weapons or violence is prohibited
- Clothing with insulting words or images, (e.g., racial or ethnic slurs) either explicit or implied is prohibited
- Clothing or other items indicative of gangs are prohibited
- Clothing that is either dangerous or destructive of school property (e.g. spiked collars and wristbands, cleats, fish hooks, or chains) is prohibited
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside the school building
- Undergarments should not be visible
- One's private areas must always be covered
- Hats may be worn in all general areas in the building (halls, café, gym, and auditorium).
- Staff members will have the discretion to allow or not allow hats to be worn, in their classroom.

- Out of respect, students are expected to remove their hat during the pledge and the National Anthem.
- Students may be asked to remove their hat at special functions, during assessments, and during some classroom activities.
- Hoods do not apply to this rule and are not permitted to be worn in the building.
- Exceptions are headgear worn for religious reasons and other circumstances approved by administration.

Administrators reserve the right to prohibit items not specifically named above if such items disrupt the educational environment. Students who violate the dress code will be given the opportunity to rectify the situation by changing into appropriate clothing, those who do not comply may be sent home.

Building administrators have the authority to waive parts of this policy for school-wide special activities sponsored by school sanctioned groups or for religious/medical purposes.

**Dual Enrollment:** SAHS offers various learning opportunities in partnership with Maine colleges and universities. Students can earn both high school and college credit by following the guidelines established by SAHS and the cooperating college or university. See the Guidance Department for more information.

### **Early College Enrollment Options:**

Secondary students from RSU 54/MSAD 54 may earn credits toward graduation by taking courses from 2-year and 4-year post-secondary institutions during the regular school year. Students may take up to two courses per semester.

### Eligibility

Students must meet the following criteria:

- Meet the admissions standards for the post-secondary school
- Meet course prerequisites
- Maintain at least a B average in his/her courses overall prior to applying
- Students must complete an external credit form for the college course to be posted on a student's SAHS transcript.

### Credits will be determined as follows:

- The course must meet for one semester or its equivalent
- The student must earn a passing grade in that course and must submit transcript to the guidance department
- Credits awarded may not exceed one SAHS credit for each three-credit semester college course

Attendance Policy - Attendance must satisfy the post-secondary instructor's requirements.

### **Early Graduation:**

A student who has completed their second year of high school may decide to complete their diploma requirements in three years. Skowhegan Area High School's philosophy is that a four-year high school experience, and the maturity gained in that time, best prepares a student for post-secondary success. Skowhegan Area High School also recognizes that for varying reasons, a student may choose to graduate in three years. An Early Graduation Application must be completed before classes begin junior year. See your guidance counselor if interested.

### **Educational Research: Student Submission to Surveys, Analyses, Evaluations:**

In this policy, "surveys, analyses, or evaluations" refer to methods of gathering data for research purposes.

No student shall be required as part of any program wholly or partially funded by the U.S. Department of Education to submit to any survey, analyses, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- A. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
- B. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
- C. Sex behavior or attitudes.
- D. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- E. Critical appraisals of the other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
- F. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- G. Religious practices affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parents; or
- H. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program without the prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian, or of the student, if he/she is 18 years of age or older.)

All instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary material which will be used in connection with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation shall be available upon request for inspection by the student's parent/guardian. For the purpose of this policy, "instructional material" does not include academic tests or assessments.

A parent may inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to a student.

The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for implementing any procedures necessary to protect the privacy of participating students and to provide parents with access to surveys within a reasonable time before administration or distribution.

**Emergency Cards/Forms:**

The information requested on the Skowhegan Area High School emergency card is **critically important**. Sudden illness or injury requires immediate attention. Every student must have a current emergency card on file in the office. These are distributed the first day of school in the fall or, in the case of transfer students, upon registration. Administrative detentions may be assigned for non-returned emergency cards.

**Emergency Procedures/Evacuations:**

MSAD #54 has established procedures in response to a variety of emergencies or circumstances requiring evacuation.

**Evacuation/Fire Drills:**

Two drills occur the few weeks of school to familiarize students with an orderly, quick building evacuation and to assure the alarm system is operating properly. Students and teachers exit through the closest doors to designated sites. Students must regroup with their classroom teacher at a designated site at the time of the evacuation once outside the building. Plans for assisting the disabled are in place.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

1. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

2. Parents of students or eligible students have the right to refuse to let the school department designate any or all of the types of information about the student as directory information by notifying the school department in writing by October 1st for the current school year or within 30 days after enrollment, whichever is later, with respect to information about the student for that and subsequent school years. Any such notice should be sent to:

Superintendent of Schools, MSAD #54  
196 West Front Street  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Absent such notice, the school department may disclose directory information about students.

**Field Trip Behavior and Protocol:**

All field trips must be cleared with the building administrator before any plans are made with the students. A list of field trip students should be run by the school nurse PRIOR to the event taking place. It is the responsibility of the teacher in charge to work with the building administration and the school nurse in making plans. Inform the building administration of the intended trip at least 2 weeks in advance. Check the Board Policy for Field Trips (IJOA). Field trips are an extension of the classroom. Students are expected to act accordingly.

**Finals/Mid-Year Exams:**

Finals occur twice a year at Skowhegan Area High School, once at the end of S1 and once at the end of S2. All classes give finals and students are not exempt from finals unless they have a 95 average as an end of course grade. Year long courses will give midterm exams at the end of S1. Board policy does not exempt students from midterm exams.

Exam expectations are as follows:

- All teachers must give mid-year/final exams during the designated exam schedule.
- All exams will take place during the scheduled exam periods unless an exception is provided in advance by building administration.
- Students will only be allowed to make up missed exams as arranged with their teachers.
- Prior to a student taking a final exam at the end of the course, the student needs to return assigned textbooks to the teacher.
- In the event of school cancellations, the schedule will be adjusted to accommodate all examinations.
- Students are to remain in their exam rooms for the entire exam period.

**Floats/Trailers:**

To address liability, trucking and legal concerns, each class may create a float, but students are **not permitted to ride on the floats**. The floats must be **snowmobile trailer size**, decorated for school spirit, with the respective class walking in front of the pulled trailer, carrying a banner identifying themselves. No advertisements or political views are permitted anywhere on the floats.

**Fundraising:**

Fundraising activities by any group or organization at SAHS must adhere to district policy guidelines (JJE). Employees or students may not conduct fundraising without prior approval being granted by the building administration and the superintendent. Traditional fundraisers that have previously been approved by the superintendent must be approved at the building level.

The sponsor of a student club or organization must submit a written fundraising request to the building administration at least two weeks before the activity is scheduled to begin. Any fundraising for school trips that include an overnight stay or leave the state must obtain approval from the School Board.

The building administrator and athletic director will maintain and coordinate calendars to avoid excessive overlapping of campaigns that could prove burdensome to students and the community. The collection and distribution of all funds raised must be carried out in accordance with the procedures for high school student activity funds.

**Grade Closing Dates:**

There are four reporting periods plus progress reports which are issued mid-quarter. The reporting periods for the 2023-24 school years are as follows:

First Quarter Grades close October 31, 2025  
 Second Quarter Grades close January 23, 2026  
 Third Quarter Grades close March 27, 2026  
 Fourth Quarter Grades close last day of school

**Grading and credit for make-up work:**

When absent from school, the student is responsible for obtaining their assignments, coursework, and any missed instruction from each teacher as soon as possible. Failing to follow through with make-up plans will adversely affect both learning and course grades. Teachers will provide reasonable timelines to make up work for any absence. All student work passed in within the set timeline will be graded and entered into PowerSchool without penalty.

**Grading Scale:**

The basis for the academic achievement mark is the teacher's evaluation of the quality of a student's performance in a subject. A student must achieve a rank of at least 70 (D-) in order to receive credit for that subject.

A+	99, 100	C+	84, 83
A	95-98	C	78-82,
A-	93, 94	C-	76, 77
B+	91, 92	D+	74, 75
B	87-90	D	71-73,
B-	85, 86	D-	70

**Graduation Requirement: (IKF)**

SAHS awards credits for students who complete an approved learning experience. Learning experiences are built on curriculum standards and include Skowhegan Area High School courses, SCTC courses, independent studies, or other approved alternative pathways. A credit is not based solely upon the notion of seat time; rather, it is based on the demonstration of effective progress toward mastery of curriculum standards in a predetermined learning experience. Incorporated within each learning experience are the

Guiding Principles:

- Clear and effective communicator
- Self-directed and lifelong learner
- Creative and practical problem solver
- Responsible and involved citizen
- Integrative and informed thinker

Students at Skowhegan Area High School must earn a minimum number of 22 credits toward graduation. The following specific credit requirements are in effect:

English - 4 credits	Fine Arts -1 credit
Math - 3 credits	PE - 1 credit and Health - .5 credit
Science - 3 credits	Financial Literacy - .5 and Career and College Prep - .5 credit
Social Studies - 4 credits	Additional Credits - 4.5 credit

**Special Education Students:** A student with an identified disability, who achieves effective progress toward mastery of curriculum standards for graduation, as specified by the goals and objectives of the child's individualized education plan, is eligible for a high school diploma.

**College Completion:** A SAHS student who satisfactorily completes the freshman year in an accredited degree- granting institution of higher education may be eligible to receive a diploma from Skowhegan Area High School.

**Alternative Pathways:** Students have the opportunity of meeting requirements through multiple pathways. These experiences can happen both within and outside of school.



Options may include, but not limited to, the following:

- Academic courses offered by the school
- Dual enrollment or early college courses
- Career and Technical Education Programming
- Online or blended learning options
- Alternative programming/Adult Education
- Apprenticeships, internships, field work, or exchange experiences
- Independent studies or long-term projects

Graduation: A student must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma to participate in graduation exercises.

#### **Guidance Department:**

The Skowhegan Area High School guidance department has three guidance counselors, an on-site part time Youth and Family Services counselor, and a guidance secretary. Each guidance counselor is responsible for a class and each counselor works with that class from freshman year through graduation. Guidance counselor assignments are based on alphabet and broken down as shown below:

Mr. Riley: A-F

Mr. Hylan: G-N.

Mrs. MacFarland: O-Z

Counselors perform a variety of roles for their students. Each counselor assists students with their program of study development, career awareness education, college exploration, scholarship and financial aid awareness education, emotional and /or crisis situations, and the research of military options. Guidance counselors also run the 504 meetings and attend student IEP meetings. The guidance office offers services to students seeking assistance with problems or concerns of a personal nature. In addition, we have a social worker available to assist students as needed. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's guidance counselor when academic, social, physical, or emotional health or other concerns arise.

#### **Habits of Work (HOW):**

Every teacher will be recording Habits of Work on each of their students using the school-wide rubric. Teachers will be reflecting on the following statements, which will be assessed regularly and reported on Report Cards:

- I can be responsible.
- I can cooperate and be a positive presence.
- I can use every opportunity to reach my personal best.

#### **Harassment and Sexual Harassment:**

Harassment of anyone because of race, color, gender, sexuality, ancestry or national origin, or disability is prohibited. Such conduct is a violation of Board policy and may constitute illegal discrimination under state and federal laws.

- **Harassment:** includes but is not limited to verbal abuse based on race, color, gender, sexuality, religion, ancestry or national origin, or disability. Harassment that rises to the level of physical assault, battery and/or abuse is also addressed in the Board policy JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety.
- **Sexual Harassment:** includes, but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or pressure to engage in sexual activity, physical contact of a sexual nature, gestures, comments, or other physical, written, or verbal conduct that is gender-based that interferes with a student's education. School employees, fellow students, volunteers, and visitors to the school, and other persons with whom students may interact in order to pursue school activities are required to refrain from such conduct (Policy ACAA).

Harassment/sexual harassment of students by school employees is considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. Harassment/sexual harassment of students by other students is considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

The Superintendent or the employee designated as the Affirmative Action Officer will investigate complaints of harassment in accordance with Student Harassment Complaint Procedure. School employees, students, and parents shall be informed of this policy/procedure through handbooks and/or other means selected by the school administration.

#### **Harassment Response/Procedures:**

Students should be advised of the importance of informing the harasser that his/her behavior is unwelcome, offensive, in poor taste, or highly inappropriate. However, if a student feels uncomfortable with confronting the harasser, the student is encouraged to seek assistance from a counselor, teacher, school administrator, or civil rights team member at the earliest opportunity.

Students who have been harassed will be informed of their legal options. Students alleged to have been harassing students will be informed of the allegations. They could be subject to legal action and court orders. The primary goals of the school's administrative response to student harassment incidents are to maintain an appropriate school climate and to restore acceptable social interaction between the involved students.

Substantiated harassment is a serious matter that warrants disciplinary response. The severity of the disciplinary response will be based on the nature and extent of the substantiated harassment and the willingness of the involved students to cooperate in restoring appropriate social interaction. Responses will vary from assigned detentions and required counseling to suspension or expulsion. Students must realize that harassment is ***AGAINST THE LAW***.

**Hazing:**

Maine statute defines injurious hazing as "any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student enrolled in a public school". It is the policy of the MSAD #54 Board of Directors that injurious hazing activities of any type, either on or off school property, by any student, staff member, group, or organization affiliated with the schools, are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times (Policy ACAD). No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school department shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate injurious hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in injurious hazing activities. Persons not associated with the MSAD #54 school district who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to ejection from school property.

Students, administrators, or staff violators of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate measures.

In the case of an organization affiliated with the MSAD #54 school district, which authorizes hazing, penalties may include revocation of permission for that organization to operate on school property or receive any other benefit of affiliation with the schools. These penalties shall be in addition to any civil or criminal penalties to which the violator or organization may be subject.

The Superintendent shall assume responsibility for administering this policy. In the event that an individual or organization disagrees with an action, or lack of action, on the part of the Superintendent as s/he carries out the provisions of this policy, that individual or organization may appeal to the school board. The ruling of the school board, with respect to the provisions of this policy, shall be final.

**Homebound Instruction:**

Provision may be made for homebound or hospitalized instruction for reasons such as illness, accident, or other circumstances. Contact the school with any concern. Parents or guardians may be required to present a statement from their doctor stating that such instruction is recommended.

**Home School:**

Please consult the MSAD 54 home page and click the policy link under administration for information related to home school students. Detailed information about the Maine Department of Education steps to establish a home school program and home school student participation in MSAD 54 programming is listed (Policy IHBG and IHBGA).

**Honor Rolls:**

Honor roll is calculated after each ranking period. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 courses or its equivalent. Pass/Fail courses do not contribute to honor status. Any student receiving all A's is placed on the **All A's** honor roll. Any student receiving A's and B's, or all B's with an average of 90 is placed on **High Honors**. Any student receiving all A's, B's or one C, with no grade lower than 80 is placed on **Honors**. Honor roll is established at the end of each quarter. If remediation occurs after the quarter ends the grade/GPA may change, but honor roll status will remain the same.

**Habits of Work Honor Roll:** HOW Honor roll is calculated after each ranking period. To be eligible, a student must earn 3's or 4's in all courses and must not have a HOW score lower than a 2.7 in any one course.

**Hours of the School Day:**

Skowhegan Area High School doors open each day at 7:30 AM. Students should not arrive at school before 7:30 AM. Students needing to enter the building prior to that for a pre-arranged teacher meeting may do so under direct teacher supervision. MSAD #54 buses will unload students at the back doors of the high school each morning.

Once on school grounds, students are considered to be "at school" and all school related expectations apply. Students arriving between 7:30-7:40 AM must proceed to the cafeteria. Students arriving between 7:30-8:00 must remain in the lobby or go to the cafeteria. Students may enter the academic wings at 8:00 AM.

Following dismissal at the end of the academic day, students without a school related after school activity should plan to leave the school grounds by 2:40 PM. At 2:40, students must exit the building or go to their athletic or extra-curricular activity. The academic wings are off limits after 2:40 PM without staff supervision.

**Illness/Injury at School:**

Should a student become ill or injured at school, the student emergency card will be referenced. Our nurse and office staff will make every attempt to contact parents or the designated contact person. In addition, several staff members are trained in first aid procedures. If school personnel are unable to contact parents or designated relatives or neighbors and the illness or injury appears serious, the local ambulance service will be contacted.

**Independent Study:**

On occasion, independent study courses may be arranged for in-depth study not offered in the curriculum or other isolated circumstances. The student and supervising teacher must submit an independent study proposal (available in Guidance).

**Leaving the Building:**

Any student leaving the school building during the school day **for any reason** must first report to the main office. Only parents or legal guardians may dismiss students from school. The emergency form completed each fall should designate several people who can release or transport the student after obtaining parent permission. If the building administrator has reason to question the authenticity of any written or verbal communication regarding the release of a student, the parents/guardians shall be contacted for confirmation. **The building administrator has the authority to deny the release of students to unauthorized or unknown persons.**

**Lobby Doors:**

Doors unlock at 7:30 AM. Students may not enter the building prior to 7:30 without being under the direct supervision of a coach or teacher. Students must report to the cafeteria.

**Lockdown:**

Skowhegan Area High School has developed specific procedures in the event of any unauthorized person in the building and the suspected presence of a weapon in the building. All procedures have been developed, addressed, and reviewed with the staff. We will practice “Lockdown” drills throughout the school year.

**Lockers:**

At the beginning of the year, students may request a locker assignment through the guidance department. Students are urged to keep their lockers locked to avoid theft. Only school issued locks may be used. Outside decorations on lockers are not encouraged but are allowed for the temporary promotion of school spirit or celebrations. These temporary displays must be taken down promptly at the conclusion of school-sponsored activities/competitions and after each individual sports season. These temporary displays must be in good taste and must not damage or deface the lockers.

***Lockers are school property and are subject to search at any time.*** Random searches, including canine searches, may be conducted as a result of “reasonable suspicion” at any time. Any illegal item discovered will be turned over to law enforcement authorities. Students are responsible for their locker contents and condition. Students must keep the locker assigned to them at the beginning of the school year. Any repairs or vandalism will be billed to the student and parents. Students will be subject to school discipline if illegal items are found, or vandalism occurs.

**Lunchroom Expectations and Procedures:**

- Once in the lunch area, students are expected to remain there, except by permission of lunch duty teachers.
- Seniors only may eat their lunch in the school lobby—please use cardboard trays.
- Students may listen to music using one earbud and use their cell phones while in the cafeteria during lunches.
- Students may only sit 8 to a table.
- Students should not leave the café without permission from the adults on duty.
- Students must keep the tables and floors clean for the next lunch.
- Students should go directly to the lunch area after being dismissed by the teacher.
- Students should properly discard dirty trays and sort the refuse correctly.

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Educational Rights:**

If you and/or your family live in any of the following situations: in a shelter, in a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation, in a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station or doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship, you and/or your school age children may qualify for certain rights and protection under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

If you believe you may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available.

<b><u>Local Liaison(s)</u></b>	Dan Hylan	Skowhegan Area High School	474-5511
	Renee Stevens	Special Services Dept.	474-7424
	Erica Thompson	Special Services Dept.	474-7424

<b><u>State Coordinator:</u></b>	Signe Lynch		
	Interim McKinney-Vento State Coordinator		
	Maine Department of Education		207-441-5934
	Signe.Lynch@Maine.gov		
	The National Center for Homeless Education		1-800-308-2145
	homeless@serve.org	www.serve.org/nche	

**Media Center:**

The Media Center is the research and resource hub of the high school containing volumes of printed material, audio and video curriculum supplements, and many current and past periodicals in both print and digital formats. The Media Center has an on-line catalog.

During regular school hours, research or reading may be done in the Media Center provided that the student is coming from a study hall, and/or with permission of the student’s teacher. Books, videos, laptops, and other materials may be checked out and returned at any time during the Media Center’s open hours. Specific rules and expectations will be provided to you when visiting the Media Center.

**Medication at School:**

Medications will be given at school only when it is absolutely necessary. We encourage medications to be given at home. For example, if a medication is to be given three times per day, please give before school, directly after school, and at bedtime. When it becomes necessary to take medication during the school hours, the following routine shall be followed:

- There shall be written orders from the physician naming the drug, dosage, time to be given.
- The parents/guardians shall sign a permission form requesting that the school comply with the physician's orders.
- Medication shall be in a proper container and labeled by the pharmacy.
- The school nurse shall inform appropriate school personnel of the potential side effects of the medication.
- At no time should a student have medication in his/her possession in school.
- All medication needs to be delivered to the nurse's office or to the main office.
- A recent law now allows students in public schools to carry and self-administer the specific emergency medications of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injector. Epinephrine auto-injectors are used as an immediate emergency response to a potentially severe allergic reaction like allergies to insect bites or to peanuts.

Students will be allowed to carry and self-administer asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto injectors under the following conditions:

- There is prior written approval from the student's health care provider indicating that the student has the knowledge and the skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler or an epinephrine auto-injector
- There is prior written approval (for minor students) from the student's parent or guardian
- The student demonstrates to the school nurse, the appropriate technique to ensure proper and effective use of an asthma inhaler or an epinephrine auto-injector

**Military Recruiter/College Representative Student Access:**

Skowhegan Area High School and Somerset Career & Technical Center seek to support students in post-secondary planning and recognize the importance of a collaborative relationship between the school and college admissions representatives & military recruiters. SAHS and SCTC will support opportunities for students to directly explore post-secondary options in person with college admissions representatives & military recruiters within the following guidelines:

1. Access to students at SAHS/SCTC during school hours:
  - Two informational sessions per year may be scheduled through the guidance office and will take place in the guidance office or other designated area. Group sessions will be limited to no more than one hour. Interested students will be released from study hall or from class with teacher permission.
  - Meetings with individual students must be scheduled at the request of students, take place in the guidance office and occur during study hall.
  - Requests for any other activity or student contact must be approved by SAHS/SCTC administration.
2. Access to student names and contact information:
  - In accordance with federal requirements, SAHS will provide directory information of students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon request. Parents and students may opt out of providing this information by completing the "Notice to Parents of Skowhegan Area High School Students on Release of Information to Military Recruiters and Colleges" form.
  - Directory information for SCTC students should be requested from their home schools: Carrabec High School, Madison Area Memorial High School, Maine Central Institute, Skowhegan Area High School, Upper Valley Kennebec Valley Senior High School.
3. Access to Student Records:
  - Transcripts will be released by the guidance office to college admissions representatives and military recruiters only with a signed, written release.

**National Honor Society (NHS):**

Membership in the SAHS chapter is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is based on student application and is decided by a faculty council during the fall semester and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Membership

Once selected by the faculty council, a student is awarded membership in the local chapter at a special induction ceremony. Following the official induction ceremony, selected students become members of the NHS and assume certain obligations. The chapter conducts service projects for the school or community and promotes the development of individual service projects for members. Selection procedure used is covered under Article IX in the National Honor Society Constitution and the section on selection in the National Honor Society Handbook.

Selection Criteria

The NHS National Council establishes the national standards for all NHS chapters. Local chapters create their own by-laws, which are to be consistent with and comply with the NHS national Constitution. Skowhegan Area High School students in grades 11 and 12 are eligible for consideration for membership in the NHS. NHS is more than just honor roll. The NHS chapter establishes rules for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These four criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built.

- **Scholarship:** Students who have a cumulative grade point average of 88, as presently set by faculty council, meet the scholarship requirement for membership. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership and character.
- **Service:** This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.
- **Leadership:** Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activity while working with or for others.
- **Character:** The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern and respect for others and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle.

#### Selection Procedures

A list of eligible students is posted, and those students are invited to submit a profile to the chapter advisor(s) outlining their activities related to service, leadership, and character. A five-member faculty council appointed by the principal considers each student on an individual basis in accordance with the NHS criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Additional supporting information from teachers who work with the candidates is also solicited and considered. After deliberation, the faculty council votes on each individual student candidate. Students are selected when, in the opinion of a majority (3-2) of the faculty council, their level of performance and accomplishment in the criteria areas is outstanding. The faculty council meets only for the purpose of selection, disciplinary action, or dismissal of NHS members.

#### **Nondiscrimination Policy:**

The Board of Directors of MSAD #54 is committed to pursuing a policy of nondiscrimination in the educational and employment programs which it operates and will honor all appropriate laws relating to discrimination. There shall be no discriminating in either educational programs/activities or employment practices such as recruitment, hiring, promotion, transfer, composition and other terms, conditions or privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexuality, age, marital status, or disability under the provisions of the Maine Human Rights Act, Titles VI and IX of the 1972 Educational Amendment, Section 504.

#### **Parent/Teacher Conferences:**

Parent conferences will be held on two nights during the school year. SAHS will schedule one PTC evening in the fall and another in the spring. If parents cannot attend conferences, they should feel free to contact teachers or their child's guidance counselor to make conference arrangements.

#### **Passes:**

In order to promote an orderly and a safe school climate, students who leave a class must have a signed pass from the teacher. Students who are in unauthorized areas of the school are subject to discipline up to and including suspension. Students wishing to visit the Guidance Office must obtain a pass from the Guidance Secretary. Unless it is an emergency, students should not be in the Guidance Office from a class. Students should be dismissed from study hall only if they have a pass from Guidance or one of their academic teachers.

#### **Physical Education Expectations:**

- All students are required to wear appropriate gym clothes in line with established physical education expectations established by the PE teachers.
- Gym passes will not be issued to excuse students from classes.

#### **Physical Restraint and Seclusion:**

The MSAD #54 School Board has adopted this policy and the accompanying procedures to implement the standards for use of physical restraint and seclusion with students, as required by state law and regulations, and to support a safe school environment. Physical restraint and seclusion, as defined by this policy, may only be used as an emergency intervention when the behavior of a student presents a risk of injury or harm to the student or others. For more information, please reference the full policy (JKAA and JKAA-R) at <http://www.msad54.org>.

#### **PowerSchool—Parent/Guardian Access:**

Skowhegan Area High School uses a program called PowerSchool to give online access for grades, lunch information, attendance, and school contacts. You can receive your username and password for PowerSchool through your Guidance Counselor.

#### **Prohibited Conduct:**

Students are prohibited from engaging in the following conduct on school property, while in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or at any time or place that such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school. Engaging in prohibited conduct that includes but not limited to the following may result in disciplinary action:

- Any other conduct that may be harmful to persons or property
- By-passing district filters to access unauthorized social media sites, inappropriate and/or offensive sites, gaming sites, and other sites that fall outside the district's acceptable use policy
- Cyberbullying of any kind through electronic communication/devices
- Lewd, indecent, or obscene acts or expressions of any kind

- Possession and/or use of articles commonly used or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce, or harass another person--examples of such articles include, but are not limited to, mace/pepper spray, firearms, BB guns, pellet guns, any other kind of gun, ammunition, explosives, crossbows, box cutters, brass knuckles, switchblades, knives, Leatherman, clubs, Kung-Fu stars, and nunchucks
- School pranks that cause disruption, damage and/or injury
- Stealing or attempting to steal school or personal property
- Use of any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce, or harass another person--examples of such articles include, but are not limited to, bats, picks, pencils, compasses, objects capable of ignition, matches, lighters, files, tools of any sort or replicas of weapons, including toys, laser pointers, spiked necklaces, or bands and heavy chains
- Verbal or written statements/threats, including those made on or through a computer and cellphones, which threaten, intimidate, or harass others, which tend to incite violence and/or disrupt the school program
- Violations of the school's drug/alcohol and tobacco policies to include possession, use and/or sale of drugs/alcohol and/or tobacco related paraphernalia, e-cigarettes, hookahs, vaporizers, medical marijuana, look-alike drugs or devices and prescription drugs
- Violations of state or federal law
- Violent or threatening behavior, including but not limited to fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against property or any students, and/or staff, verbal or written threats, threats of bodily harm
- Willful and malicious damage to school or personal property

#### **Prohibited Conduct Disrupting Education Process or Endangering Safety:**

The MSAD #54 School Board believes that students and staff are entitled to learn and work in a school environment free of violence threats and disruptive behavior. These prohibitions apply to any student who is on school property, who attends any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school. Students may be suspended for actions away from school if in the determination of the administrator, that misconduct would adversely impact the discipline and welfare of the school community. The school staff is required to immediately report incidents of prohibited conduct by students to the building administrator for investigation and appropriate action.

#### **Promotion:**

In order to make satisfactory progress toward a diploma, it is essential that a student earn the following:

5 credits by the end of the freshman year - 10 credits by the end of the sophomore year - 15 credits by the end of the junior year

#### **Publications by Students:**

Because the Board recognizes creative student expression as an educational benefit of the school experience, it encourages freedom of comment, both oral and written, in a school setting with a degree of order in which proper learning can take place.

Some student publications, such as annual yearbooks and school newspapers, may be developed as part of the curriculum to benefit primarily those who compile, edit, and publish them. Faculty advisors will be assigned to guide students engaged in these activities. Student editors have initial responsibility in determining content. However, the faculty advisor may override the student editor's decision, but shall give substantial and due regard for the judgment of the student editors and for the educational value of the exercise of that judgment. Censorship shall be limited to those aspects of publications that conflict with the basic educational mission of the school that may be inappropriate for young audiences or that may be reasonably judged by the public to bear the approval of the school. Students may be required to submit publications for approval prior to distribution. When approval is required, school administrators must make available to students the standards, which will be used in determining the grant or denial of permission. The Superintendent is authorized to develop, review, and appeal procedures for students who feel that their material was improperly or unfairly censored and to make those procedures known to students, parents, and faculty.

Distribution of any non-school-sponsored materials or literature on school property shall receive prior approval of the building administrator, who shall review and judge the material using the same standards that pertain to other student publications (Policy JICE).

#### **Rally Expectations:**

For the health and safety of our students and faculty members, the following rules including, but not limited to, will be enforced at the rallies:

- Air horns and other noise makers, confetti, water pistols, silly string, and latex balloons, will not be permitted in the gymnasium during our rallies as there are many who have sensitivities to decibel and noise intensity and are at risk for anaphylactic shock due to latex allergies.
- Students may not use offensive chants or language.
- Students must remain on the bleachers and in their assigned areas.
- No food or drink in the gym during these activities.
- Phones and headphones are not permitted during school rallies or assemblies.
- Locker rooms will be closed during assemblies, students may use the lobby restrooms.

**Relocation/Evacuation Procedures:**

Orderly evacuation of the building by everyone. Students may be allowed to take their backpacks. All students and school personnel will be directed to the three pre-assigned Relocation Sites. Transportation will be available for physically disabled students or staff. For the remainder of the academic day, students are to remain with their designated teacher at the time of the evacuation. Lunch will be provided at the new location. **Students may not order out for food. Any food deliveries will be sent back. Students may not use cell phones without administrative permission.** In the afternoon, students will return home on their regularly assigned buses at 2:15 PM. **Parents should not pick up their student(s) until 2:15 PM.** Student and staff evacuation and safety are priorities.

- Every attempt will be made to complete the school day at alternate sites.
- Except for a previously arranged or emergency student dismissal, parents/guardians should not try to dismiss children during evacuation and relocation procedures.
- Re-entry to Skowhegan Area High School for students and staff will not be allowed until the following day and only after a search and clearance of the building by authorized police and school personnel has been completed.
- Vehicles may not be accessed until authorized by the police or administration.

**Remediation Protocol: 2025-2026**

SAHS Remediation is supported by the MSAD 54 Guiding Beliefs as it recognizes that students learn in different ways and at different time frames. In addition, it supports that learning is a shared partnership between the student and the teacher.

Definition: Remediation is a process determined by the teacher to allow new learning or improvement of skills to occur, and upon completion of remediation work, a summative reassessment will be offered.

All SAHS courses will offer remediation. If a course is offered as a dual enrollment option, teachers will follow the processes outlined by the partner college or university.

Students may not earn the opportunity to reassess if they are caught cheating, plagiarizing, or if they do not complete identified required formative preparation activities (activities/assignments specified by the teacher prior to the original summative assessment). These activities might include summative reviews, study guides, or identified formative assignments.

All teachers will publish their remediation practices as well as summative and formative percentage breakdowns in their course syllabus. All teachers will also review these practices with students during the first week of school.

1. All SAHS teachers must offer at least two summative assessments per quarter.
2. Courses that are taught by more than one teacher and are at the same academic level must offer the same remediation process.
3. Remediation should be initiated by a student.
4. Given that a student has earned a remediation opportunity, at least one attempt to retake a summative assignment will be given. Teachers may choose to allow additional attempts.
5. Project-based assessments and essays must be completed within the timeframe established by the classroom teacher to be eligible for remediation.
6. Intent to remediate must be stated within 5 school days of the posted grade. Once a plan is established, students will complete their remediation within a minimum 10 school days.
7. The first summative assessment of a quarter that a student chooses to remediate will be given a replacement grade. For all other remediated summative assessments of the quarter, teachers may choose to either offer replacement grades or to average grades. If the original summative grade is higher than the replacement or averaged grade, the original summative assessment score will remain in the gradebook.

**School Resource Officer (SRO):**

The Skowhegan Area High School Resource Officer is a representative of the Skowhegan Police Department who is assigned to serve as a liaison between the school and the police department. The school resource officer will perform a variety of functions at the school. Examples of these activities include, but are not limited nor restricted to:

- Assists school administrators with discipline within school policy guidelines
- Assists school administrators with Individual Evaluation Program (IEP) meetings, truancy, and home visits
- Attends and participates in high school and middle school functions as determined by the Chief of Police and building administration
- Completes all necessary paperwork as determined by the Chief of Police
- Conducts criminal investigations, when necessary, at school
- Develops and maintains student/officer relationships
- Directs traffic, when necessary, on school property
- Follows up on arrests and summonses with the Juvenile Intake Officer or the District Attorney's Office on school related cases
- Guest lectures in various classes on law enforcement or legal issues
- Makes arrests and apprehensions, when necessary, on school property
- Patrols school property on foot or with a police vehicle promoting traffic safety through compliance
- Performs security checks of school property
- Provides information to the public when requested
- Responds to complaints and calls for service at school
- Visits classrooms and, in general, keeps a highly visible presence

### **Search and Seizure and Investigation of Students:**

The Board of Directors of MSAD #54 recognizes its responsibility to ensure that discipline is maintained and that a safe, orderly environment conducive to learning is preserved. Therefore, school officials may conduct reasonable searches of students when, in their judgment, there are reasonable grounds to believe the search will show that the student is violating the law, school regulations or school board policies. To that end, SAHS bathrooms are equipped with Vape Detectors and given reasonableness, SAHS administration may elect to utilize a metal detector wand as part of a student search. Failure to comply with a reasonable search will result in disciplinary actions.

Students are permitted to park on school property as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains the authority to make routine patrols of parking lots and inspections of the exteriors of automobiles on school property. The interior of a student's car may be inspected whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside.

When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or hours of extracurricular activities, every effort will be made to notify parents and obtain their presence.

### **Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act:**

Although similar in ways to special education identification protocol, Section 504 guidelines are somewhat broader and do not have to focus closely on educational performance or the need for special education. A person is disabled under 504 if the person has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, including learning, walking, talking, working, and other such functions. Whether a student has a physical or mental impairment will usually be determined through an evaluation process.

Skowhegan Area High School has a referral process that includes team meetings, the availability of evaluations, programming determinations arising from those team meetings and notification of parents of their rights under the law. Parent or student concerns regarding Section 504 eligibility should be directed to the Skowhegan Area High School administration in the main office.

### **Senior Privileges:**

Senior privileges allow pre-approved seniors in good academic standing to leave the school premises after their last academic class and/or arrive late to school prior to their first academic class in lieu of being in a lobby study hall. **At no other time is a senior allowed to leave the building without administrative approval.** Privileges also extend to the use of electronic devices while in the lobby during study hall. Seniors with senior privileges are allowed to go to the Media Center, guidance office, and lobby, but all academic areas require a pass.

#### Eligibility

1. Earn a 76 or greater in every scheduled class in the preceding quarter
2. Be in good standing regarding attendance, behavior, and discipline
3. Eligibility will be checked for all seniors each quarter; students may earn or lose privileges each quarter.

### **Skipping/Unexcused Absences from Class:**

During the school day, if a student does not report to any assigned class or study hall as scheduled without prior authorization or extenuating circumstance, the absence will be designated unexcused, and an administrative detention will be assigned for each missed class.

### **Smoking/Tobacco Use:**

In accordance with state law, smoking is prohibited on school grounds. For school purposes, tobacco chewing falls into the same category. Students possessing/using tobacco products, medical marijuana, or smoking paraphernalia, lighters, matches, rolling papers, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, etc., will be suspended from school.

### **Special Education:**

Federal law requires that all students have a right to a "free and appropriate public education" regardless of handicapping conditions. Toward this, Skowhegan Area High School has specific procedures for children who may have special needs that require modifications of special instruction to benefit from the school's curriculum. Parents' or students' concerns or questions regarding special education may be directed to their guidance counselor, one of their teachers, a school administrator, high school special education department or the district special education director.

Referrals for special education services can come from school staff, parents, other students, a screening process, or medical or other outside entities. All referrals must go through the school and the Individual Evaluation Plan (IEP). When a child is referred for special education services, the parents will be contacted about an IEP meeting scheduled at the parents' convenience. At that meeting, the reason for the referral will be discussed and the evaluation process reviewed.

Students who have one or more of the following permanent needs qualify for special education when the needs adversely affect this student's educational performance: Learning disability, emotional disability, speech and language impairment, mental retardation, autism, hearing impairment, deafness, deafness-blindness, blindness or visual impairment, orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury, multiple disabilities and/or chronic or acute health problems that adversely impair classroom performance, and other health impaired.



**Speech and Drama Academic Eligibility:**

To be eligible for participation in an after-school production of a play, either as a performer or as a technician, a student must be passing four subjects. Eligibility will be determined at the time of auditions by a progress report signed by all the student's teachers. If a student is determined eligible at the time of auditions, that student will remain eligible until the end of that particular production. Eligibility for participation on the speech team will be decided before each individual meet. A student who has been identified as having academic problems, determined by the most recent report card or mid-quarter progress report, must have a progress report signed by all teachers before each meet that indicates that the student is passing all subjects. Therefore, a student might be ineligible for one meet, but with academic progress, be eligible for the next meet one or two weeks later.

**Student Designated Areas and Times:**

- 7:30-7:40 Cafeteria only
- 7:40-8:00 Cafeteria or lobby - main hallway in front of office is to remain clear of students during this time.
- 8:00-8:10 Free to walk around academic areas
- 2:15-2:40 Lobby or bus loading area
- 2:40 Students must exit the building promptly
  - Must be under the direct supervision of a coach or teacher in identified area
  - Academic wings are off limits after 2:40 unless supervised by staff

**Student Substance Prevention Education:**

Student substance prevention programs are designed to target at-risk youth. Youth are considered at-risk if they are experimenting with or otherwise using alcohol or other drugs but are not assessed and deemed appropriate for treatment intervention. Young people may be referred to an educational program by a parent, teacher, administrator, or probation officer. The aim of substance prevention programs is to empower youth to make healthy decisions and reduce the risk for problems in the future. The program focuses on two measurable behavioral prevention goals: reduce risk of alcohol and drug problems throughout their lifetime and reduce high-risk choices.

**Student of the Month:**

At Skowhegan Area High School, the faculty and staff elect a student each month to receive the honor of Student of the Month.

The Student of the Month demonstrates consistent high performance or significant improvement in the following areas:

1. **Academic performance:** These students value their education and demonstrate a willingness to be challenged academically. They give an earnest effort in all areas and perform at their personal best.
2. **Integrity:** These students have shown ethical behavior in all areas, not just in academics. They are respectful of both peers and adults, and they accept responsibility for their actions.
3. **Involvement:** These students are active members in the school community through various school activities. They are also involved in their community in positive ways.
4. **Positive attitude:** These students remain positive even in challenging situations and contribute positively to the classroom and school atmosphere.
5. **Resiliency:** These students are not defeated by mistakes or setbacks, but instead use them as an opportunity to learn and to grow.

This award will be given to students whose behavior and attendance are exemplary and who are in good academic standing.

**Student Organizations:**

MSAD #54 board policy states that student organizations generally will be encouraged when they meet the simple criterion of contributing to learning rather than detracting from it. Such organizations will operate within the framework of the law, board policy, administrative rules, and the parameters of the learning program. When such organizations are truly contributive, their establishment and operation will be facilitated in reasonable ways by district staff and through use of district resources (JJA).

**Requirements**

- To have the approval of the school board
- To have at least one faculty advisor
- To account for all financial activity through the school office accounting system
- To be consistent in the mission with all district policies, all state and federal laws and the Skowhegan Area High School Statement of Purpose

This policy applies to on-campus organizations only. It is not intended to restrict the organization of students into groups, which function apart from the school.

**Student Records:**

Maine School Administrative District #54 adheres to all aspects of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This Act affords parents and students over the age of 18 certain rights with respect to student educational records. To access the details of FERPA, go to: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>. Any general questions about records or about FERPA should be directed to the Superintendent's Office (JRA).

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:**

Students have certain legal rights under federal/state constitutions and statutes as interpreted in pertinent court decisions. In connection with these rights are responsibilities that must be assumed by students.

**Rights (Policy JI)**

- Civil rights, including the right to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination
- The right to attend free public schools in accordance with provisions of Maine statutes and policies of the Board
- The right to due process with respect to suspension, expulsion, or administrative decisions that the student believes has injured his/her rights
- The right to free inquiry and expression and to voice grievances
- The right to privacy regarding the content of student records as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- The right to dress as she/he pleases within reasonable guidelines related to health, safety, and potential disruption
- The right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures

**Responsibilities**

- Responsibility not to discriminate against others
- Responsibility to attend school as required by law
- Responsibility to observe school rules and regulations essential for permitting others to learn at school
- Responsibility to observe reasonable rules regarding these rights and to express themselves in a manner that does not materially or substantially disrupt the operation of the school or conflict with the school's basic educational mission
- Responsibility to comply with school rules and policies
- It is the Board's belief that, as part of the educational process, all students should be made aware of their legal rights and also of the legal authority of the Board to make or delegate authority to its staff to make rules and regulations regarding the orderly operation of the schools. As such, this policy shall be included in school handbooks or otherwise communicated to students and parents at the beginning of each school year. The Board expects all staff to abide by this policy in order to most effectively achieve mutual respect of rights and acceptance of responsibilities. This policy is designed for educational and informational purposes and is not intended to create, expand, or restrict any student rights or responsibilities.

**Student Violation of Chemical Abuse/Dependency Policy:**

The school procedures that follow are intended as guidelines. Administration reserves the discretion to impose consequences for any violation of this policy up to and including a recommendation for expulsion. The offenses and subsequent disciplinary procedures described in this policy shall be cumulative throughout the student's years in the RSU 54/MSAD 54 School District (Policy JICH).

**Possession, Use, Sharing:**

After receiving a written or oral report involving possible student possession, use or sharing of a prohibited substance, the administrator shall take the following steps:

**First Offense:**

- Verify and/or confiscate substance, reasonable searches may be required
- Notification of parents/guardians, police, and central office administration
- Meet with student to discuss participation in an approved diversion program
- Suspension of the student for up to 10 days--reduced if student agrees to complete an approved diversion program

**Any Subsequent Offenses:**

- Verify and/or confiscate substance, reasonable searches may be required
- Notification of parents/guardians, police, and central office administration
- Meet with student to discuss participation in an approved diversion program
- Suspension of the student for up to 10 days, with appearance before the Superintendent to discuss the student's educational future and possible expulsion

**Furnishing, Selling or Providing a Prohibited Substance:**

After receiving a written or oral report involving possible student furnishing, selling or providing of a prohibited substance, the administrator shall take the following steps:

**First Offense or Subsequent Offense:**

- Verify and/or confiscate substance, reasonable searches may be required
- Notification of parents/guardians, police, and central office administration
- Suspension of student from school pending administrative review--an expulsion hearing is possible if furnishing, selling, manufacturing, or transfer of the prohibited substance has occurred on school property, in school vehicles, under school supervision, or at any activity sponsored by the RSU 54/MSAD 54 School District

**Student Withdrawal from SAHS:**

When a student is intending to withdraw or transfer from Skowhegan Area High School, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Student and/or parent will notify guidance and meet with the appropriate counselor to acquire the withdrawal/transfer form
2. Parent must sign a withdrawal/transfer form--if parent is not available for signature, the counselor will contact the parent for confirmation
3. Student will see an administrator for a signature.
4. Students must hand in books, technology, and any school property
5. Student will return one copy of the withdrawal/transfer form to guidance office and keep one copy to take to the receiving school
6. If additional records are requested, the student may have copies of necessary information to take to the receiving school.
7. If health records are requested at the time of withdrawal, the student/parent will be referred to the school nurse.
8. Official school records will be sent to the receiving school when an official request is received from that school.

**Study Hall Expectations:**

Students must attend their assigned study halls as they would any other course in their schedule. Students are expected to follow all school rules and expectations for student behavior during study halls. Students are randomly assigned to study hall sections and will not be reassigned based on student or teacher preference. Specifically, students will:

- Arrive on time
- Follow sign-out / sign-in procedures
- Follow teacher expectations - phones and games/videos on laptops are not permitted during study halls
- Passes to go to other academic locations are required and need to be issued by the teacher of destination.
- Student requested passes to media center or shop classes will not be issued unless the student is currently passing all classes.

**Summer School / Winter School:**

SAHS provides credit recovery opportunities for students who have failed a course. To be eligible for credit recovery, students must meet the minimum final grade requirement. Two credit recovery opportunities are offered for students.

Summer School meets during the summer and offers students instruction and practice in what they need to satisfactorily meet course requirements. Students must have been enrolled in all 4 quarters (year course) or 2 quarters (semester course).

Winter School provides the same opportunities but meets directly after school, usually beginning after February break. At the end of each semester, parents of students needing remediation will be notified and specific information about course offerings, times, location, cost, and transportation will be provided.

Summer and Winter School grades for credit recovery will be either pass (P) or fail (F).

**Summer Learning Opportunities:**

All summer learning opportunities, that earn credit, must be approved by the student's guidance counselor.

**Suspension Procedures / Offenses / Actions:**

School suspension is administered for serious school offenses. Students will be informed of the offenses and provided the opportunity for due process. Length of suspension will be determined by the building administration and will reflect the offense committed. Parents or guardians will be called and/or notified in writing of the action taken. Parents or administrators may request additional conferences. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with individual teachers to make up work and tests missed during suspension. While suspended, students are ineligible to attend any MSAD #54 school functions or be on school grounds. With permission from the building administrator, students may be able to access district building for educational purposes. The administration reserves the right to determine that part or all of a suspension may be served in-house. Some examples of serious offenses include, but are not limited to:

**Offense**

Chronic behavior/repeat offenses

Detention violation

Exiting the building/leaving school grounds

Failure to follow staff directives

Fighting—includes pushing, shoving, punching, physical contact

Forgery of any kind

Knife or related – possession

Lighter/matches – possession

Participating or making threats  
Including bomb threats

Pranks—actions that cause disruption, damage and/or injury

Theft—charges filed with local authorities

Use of cameras or cell phone camera to take photos or video without teacher/administrator permission is prohibited. This includes on school transportation. (JFCK)

Use or possession of prohibited substances, paraphernalia, hookahs, e-cigarettes/vapes.

Vandalism—charges filed with local authorities

Vulgarity or verbal/physical abuse to staff member

**Disciplinary Action**

May include suspension, support plan, and expulsion hearing.

1 day suspension

1 day suspension

Up to 5 days suspension

Up to 10 days suspension

1 day suspension

Up to 5 days suspension Lying Up to 3 days suspension

Up to 2 days suspension

Suspension up to 10-  
days with possible  
expulsion / prosecution  
under federal lawUp to 10 days suspension,  
restitution, may include  
criminal charges

Up to 5 days suspension

Up to 2 days suspension

10-day suspension or potential reduced suspension  
time with required substance prevention class

Repeated offenses may lead to expulsion

Up to 10 days suspension

Up to 10 days suspension with possible expulsion

**Tardy to School Excused (TE):** A student who arrives late to school and has provided the office with an excusable reason for their tardy through a parent/guardian note or phone call will be denoted as TE. [See excusable reasons under 'Excused Absence (AE)' section]

**Tardy to School Unexcused (TU):** A student who arrives late to school and has not provided the office with an excusable reason for their tardy through a parent/guardian note or phone call will be denoted as TU. Unexcused tardies of four or more per semester may lead to consequences assigned by school administration.

**Note:** Unexcused Tardies can become excused if a parent/guardian provides an excusable reason for the Tardy. Should an excusable reason be provided, outstanding teacher and administrative detention(s) will be canceled and any designated (TU) will be changed to (TE). [See excusable reasons under 'Excused Absence (AE)' section]

**Tardy to Class (TU):** A student may also be marked TU if they are late to a class during the school day. Being tardy to class may result in the above consequences.

#### **Telephone Use:**

School phone lines are designated for official use only. Students needing to contact a parent during the day should report to the main office and ask to use the designated phone. **We encourage parents not to call or text their child during the school day. If you need to get a hold of your child, please call the office.**

Students contacting home related to unexpected dismissal, illness, or emergencies should come to the office and have the school secretary make the necessary nurse referral, contacts, or notifications on the office phone. In an emergency, students will be contacted immediately. Otherwise, students will be called to the office at the end of their class period.

#### **Textbooks--Lost or Damaged:**

Textbooks should be covered throughout the school year. Students are responsible for the care of books loaned to them by the district. All assigned textbooks are to be returned in good condition at the end of the course. Excessive damage done to textbooks and any lost books must be paid for in the office. Payment shall be established based on the age of the book, the original cost or replacement cost, and the difference in return condition compared to issue condition.

#### **Vehicles--Parking/Driving by Students on School Grounds:**

As part of the agreement to bring a car onto school grounds, students agree to display prudent driving practices at all times. Speeding, racing, squealing tires, skidding, excessive noise, parking in staff parking lots or non-parking areas, failure to cooperate with parking lot duty teachers are all examples of imprudent driving practices. Students must park in the identified student parking area.

The SAHS **Student Parking lot opens at 7:40 AM**. Students should arrive, park and proceed to the school building. No loitering is allowed in vehicles or in the parking lot. Violators of these expectations will lose their driving and parking privileges on school property for a period of time to be determined by the school administration.

Cars may not be left overnight unless the student is involved in an overnight school related activity. In this case, cars need to be parked in the student parking lot near the gym and **NOT** in the staff parking lot. **Students may NOT park in the staff parking lot during school hours. Parking on school grounds is a privilege not a right.**

#### **Visitors to the School:**

Visitors must report to the office, secure approval, and name tag, and sign the visitor record upon arriving and departing from the school building. A visitor's pass may be issued and will need to be worn by all guests. Students are not to have visitors other than parents or guardians in school. Students planning to attend Skowhegan Area High School are allowed to attend classes only if their guidance counselor has made arrangements for such a visit. Former students may only visit staff **after** school hours or by appointment with a specific staff member. Everyone must wear a visitor's pass.

#### **Web Site/Electronic Mail System:**

Skowhegan Area High School maintains a very comprehensive web page. At our web address visitors can access information about schools' programs and curriculum, district policies, student activities, student recognition, and department activities. There are also links to many valuable educational sites. Additionally, teacher email is accessible through quick look up in PowerSchool.

#### **Weighted Grading:**

Weighted grading will be applied to all SAHS Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. The weighting factor is a 5% addition to the earned grade. Quarterly report card grades will indicate the actual grade earned. However, the GPA of each student involved in an honors and/or AP class will reflect the 5% weighted grades.

#### **Notice to Parents:**

Any parent may request professional qualifications of a teacher in the school with a written request to the building administrator.

**The principal and/or superintendent have the right to change the terms of this handbook at any time without notice.**

## **SKOWHEGAN AREA HIGH SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY, ATHLETIC CODE AND CONTRACT**

### **Philosophy:**

The Skowhegan Area High School Athletic Department views interscholastic athletics as a vital component of the educational process. Athletics will be a positive learning experience for our student-athletes if they recognize that they will only achieve their highest personal and athletic potential by embracing a lifestyle dedicated to personal excellence, determination, integrity and self-discipline. Selection to a team is both an honor and a privilege, so all athletes are expected to be responsible and respectful role models in our school. As team members, leaders, and very visible representatives of Skowhegan Area High School, athletes have the obligation to conduct and represent themselves in an exemplary manner. All athletes must know and realize that the decisions they make and the consequences, which result, are part of learning responsibility, self-discipline and respect. Dishonesty, unsportsmanlike behavior, substance use, or conduct unbecoming of a student-athlete cannot and will not be tolerated from any Skowhegan Area High School athlete. This written policy will be administered firmly, fairly, consistently and strictly.

### **SECTION 1 – SPECIAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

#### **A. Members of a team recognize that they have the following responsibilities:**

1. They are official representatives of Skowhegan Area High School and the local community.
2. They represent their families, friends, teammates, coaches and the entire RSU/MSAD #54 district.
3. They are expected to be leaders in promoting good school citizenship and good sportsmanship.
4. Their actions in and out of school build student respect and contribute to school spirit. This responsibility expressly states that proper respect will be given to the administration, teachers, coaches, officials, fellow athletes and the student body. Evidence to the contrary will result in disciplinary action.

#### **The following steps will be taken in disciplinary referrals:**

1. Students and other parties involved will be interviewed by the Athletic Director.
2. AD will conference with the Principal.
3. Parents, athlete(s), & any other involved parties who may be interviewed will be notified of suspected athletic code infractions.
4. After consulting with all necessary parties and gathering all relevant facts and information, the Athletic Director will notify the athlete and parents of the final decision.
6. Decisions may be appealed to the principal.

#### **B. ATTENDANCE:**

In order to participate in a contest or a practice, athletes must be in attendance at school for the entire day (or the last day preceding the contest or practice if it is scheduled on a non-school day). Being in attendance is defined as being present and appropriately participating in all assigned classes and study halls. A doctor's/dentist appointment, funeral, family emergency, or other emergency situations would be exempt from this provision if okayed by the Athletic Director and/or proper documentation is provided to the school. Athletes who are habitually tardy during the season may be subject to further disciplinary action.

#### **C. PRACTICE ATTENDANCE:**

Athletes must notify the coach prior to practice if lateness or absence is anticipated for a practice session.

Academic assistance from a teacher is an acceptable reason for being late to practice. Athletes who miss practice the day before a contest shall not compete in the contest unless excused/okayd by the coach. Coaches may excuse athletes from practice with specific requests.

#### **D. EQUIPMENT:**

Athletes will be issued the best possible equipment. Each athlete will assume responsibility for this equipment and will be billed for any lost, not returned or damaged items. Equipment issued shall be worn only when participating in any athletic contest, practice, or when authorized by a coach. No equipment shall be taken without the consent of the coach or Athletic Director. Athletes who owe money or equipment from a previous sport may not receive uniforms or equipment for a new sport until the equipment is paid for or returned.

#### **E. CHANGING SPORTS:**

An athlete may be allowed to change from one sport to another during the same sports season by mutual consent of the coaches involved. The Athletic Director will administer special cases.

#### **F. TRANSPORTATION:**

All athletes are required to travel to and from all away contests or practices with the team in the school provided transportation. The following is a list of exceptions to this provision:

1. Permission to return home with **parents** after an away contest may be granted provided that the parent(s) present a note to the coach or signs the athlete out after the contest.
2. Permission to return home with **adults other than the student's parents** may be granted if a note from the athlete's parents is pre-approved by the athletic director, given to the coach, and provided that the adult(s) responsible for taking the athlete speaks to the coach after the contest.
3. Further exceptions may be made in emergency cases with the approval of both the parents and school administration.

#### **G. DRESS:**

For all school sponsored trips, athletes should wear appropriate clothing as designated by the coach.

#### **H. LANGUAGE:**

Vulgar language used by student-athletes will not be tolerated and is just cause for disciplinary action.

#### **I. SCHOOL SUSPENSION:**

Athletes suspended from school (OSS or ISS) will not be allowed to practice or participate in contests while on suspension and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the athletic department.

#### **J. CONDUCT:**

Since we expect good role modeling by our athletes, any conduct unbecoming of a student-athlete, including any illegal activity, may be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **K. TIMELINE:**

These rules will be in effect from the day of the sport's first team meeting until after the awards banquet. This policy will continue to be in effect between seasons for athletes participating in two or more consecutive sports.

#### **L. ADDITIONAL RULES:**

All team members will abide by any additional training rules and regulations established by the coach. **Each athlete will be given a written copy of any additional team rules.**

### **SECTION 2 – SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The RSU/MSAD 54 School District recognizes the value of athletic participation as a positive alternative to substance use. It is, therefore, the policy of the district that students participating on all athletic teams sign and abide by rules, which prohibit violations of the District's substance abuse policy at any time or place during the season. The season is defined as that period of time from the first team meeting/practice to the end of season banquet.

- A. Students may not possess, use, be under the influence of, buy, or furnish to others the following substances: alcohol, tobacco (all forms), e-cigarettes, hookahs, vaporizers, medical marijuana, illegal drugs, look-a-like drugs or devices and/or prescription drugs.**
- B. Violations during the athlete's high school career shall result in the following consequences:**

#### **First Offense**

1. Meeting with the assigned administrator(s) and student to verify incident.
2. Inform parent or guardian of the incident.
3. Suspend student from athletics/co-curricular activities for 20% of the season.
  - **For athletes**, the 20% suspension will be defined as 20% of MPA countable games. Students will not be allowed to participate in pre-season scrimmages or other non-countable games during the suspension. Athletes will be required to practice and travel with the team during the suspension but shall not be in uniform. This suspension will begin immediately after the ineligibility is determined.
  - **For co-curricular participants**, the 20% suspension will be defined/interpreted by administration based on the time that the co-curricular activity meets. During this time, the student will attend meetings/activities but will not be able to participate/perform.

4. The student is required to participate in a school approved and school provided diversion program. Failure to comply with the required diversion program will result in further suspension from all athletics and co-curricular activities until successful completion.
5. The season ending banquet will be considered a countable event for serving the 20% suspension.
6. If all conditions are satisfactorily met, the student may return to his/her athletic and/or co-curricular participation on the day following the suspension.
7. If the suspension occurs at the end of the season, the student will need to fulfill the above requirements before being allowed to participate in another athletic and/or co-curricular contest - The balance of the countable contest suspension will be applied to the next season and/or activity.

#### **Second Offense (This is cumulative throughout the high school career)**

1. Meeting with the assigned administrator(s) and student to verify incident.
2. Inform parent or guardian of the incident.
3. Suspend student from athletics/co-curricular activities for 50% of the season.
  - **For athletes**, the 50% suspension will be defined as 50% of MPA countable games. Students will not be allowed to participate in pre-season scrimmages or other non-countable games during the suspension. Athletes will be required to practice and travel with the team during this suspension but shall be out of uniform. This suspension will begin immediately after the ineligibility is determined.
  - **For co-curricular participants**, the 50% suspension will be defined/interpreted by administration based on the time that the co-curricular activity meets. During this time, the student will attend meetings/activities but will not be able to participate/perform.
4. It will be the responsibility of the student and his or her legal guardian/guardians to obtain an evaluation from a licensed substance abuse counselor. Based in part on the counselor's evaluation, the school will determine whether or not the student will be able to return to his/her athletic or co-curricular participation following the suspension. The student will be suspended from all athletic and/or co-curricular activities for one calendar year from date of the offense unless the student and a legal guardian agree to an evaluation from a licensed substance abuse counselor.
5. The season ending banquet will be considered a countable event for serving the 50% suspension.
6. If the suspension occurs at the end of the season, the student will need to fulfill the above requirements before being allowed to participate in contests during another athletic and/or co-curricular season. The balance of countable contest suspension will be applied to the next season and/or activity).
7. **If a second offense occurs in the same school year, that student will be suspended from athletics for one calendar year. Proof of evaluation/treatment must be provided in order to be considered to return to athletic and/or co-curricular participation.**

#### **Third Offense (This is cumulative throughout the high school career)**

1. Meeting with assigned administrator/s to verify the incident.
2. Inform parent or guardian of the incident.
3. Suspension of student from athletics and co-curricular activities for one calendar year from date of offense.
4. It will be the responsibility of the student and his or her legal guardian/guardians to obtain an evaluation from a licensed substance abuse counselor. Based in part on the counselor's evaluation, the school will determine whether or not the student will be able to return to his/her athletic or co-curricular participation after serving the year-long suspension.

### **Section 3 – GENERAL RULES**

#### **A. PHYSICAL:**

Students who are candidates for interscholastic sports teams must provide proof of a 'current' physical examination done by a licensed physician prior to the tryout or first practice for the sport. When athletes obtain physicals from their physician, a dated statement of health clearing the athlete for participation **must** be forwarded to the nurse or AD at the school to be included in the health record. **All physicals are good for three years, unless a physician specifies a shorter time period.** All new students to the district will be expected to provide a 'current' proof of physical clearing them before they will be allowed to participate in sports at the high school.

#### **B. INJURY AND ILLNESS:**

1. Each athlete needs to report all injuries to their coach and/or trainer ASAP. Athletes should always try to see the trainer about an injury and let him recommend a physician visit, if he feels it is necessary. Whenever possible, the trainer will work to get athletes back from an injury without the need to see a physician.
2. An athlete with an illness or injury requiring care by a medical facility needs to bring a copy of the signed physician's findings note to the coach, AD or nurse ASAP. In this instance, the athlete will need to present a signed clearance from the physician to the coach, AD or nurse before they can return to participation.



3. By signing this form, **parents** are acknowledging that an RFGH athletic trainer or certified coach may provide direct emergency care and initial treatment to the student-athlete should they become injured during practice, a game, or school sanctioned sporting event.

#### **C. INSURANCE:**

Students who are candidates for high school sports teams **must** provide proof of medical insurance prior to the tryouts or first practice for that sport. RSU 54/MSAD 54 does not carry comprehensive student accident insurance. If you cannot provide proof of medical insurance for your prospective athlete(s), then please contact the high school to request information on specific sport insurance plans or school year insurance plans that you can purchase.

#### **D. CONCUSSIONS:**

Annually and/or prior to the beginning of each sports season, student-athletes and parents of students will be provided with information about the following:

1. The risk of concussion or head injuries and the dangers associated with continuing to participate when a concussion or other head injury is suspected.
2. The signs and symptoms of a concussion and other head injuries.
3. The RSU/MSAD #54 concussion protocol for 1) removal from the activity when a student has a concussion or head injury, 2) evaluation, 3) return to participation in the activity ("return to play").

#### **E. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Students are eligible for eight consecutive semesters after enrolling in high school as freshmen.
2. Students become ineligible on their twentieth birthday or upon graduation from high school.
3. Students must be regularly enrolled in a minimum of five course credits, they must be passing a minimum of five course credits, and they must be passing all essential course credits required for graduation at the end of the applicable quarter (quarter grade) in order to be eligible for competition during the following quarter (graduation requirements are 17.5 essential credits – see SAHS student handbook for specific courses). Pass/fail courses do not count towards fulfilling this requirement.

**FALL:** \*4th quarter grades from the previous school year determine athlete eligibility for the start of the fall season (incoming freshmen are **all eligible** to start their freshmen fall).

\*1st quarter grades determine athlete eligibility for the remainder of the fall season

**WINTER:** \*1st quarter grades determine athlete eligibility for the start of the winter season.

\*2nd quarter grades determine athlete eligibility for the end of the winter season after these grades have been issued.

**SPRING:** \*2nd quarter grades determine athlete eligibility for pre-season and regular season games prior to 3rd quarter grades being final.

\*3rd quarter grades determine athlete eligibility for the remainder of the spring season.

#### **F. ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE ATHLETES:**

Academically ineligible athletes will be required to practice and travel with the team during their suspension but shall not be in uniform for all scrimmages, other noncountable contests and 20% of regular season contests after the ineligibility is determined. The following is a breakdown of 20% of contests for all SAHS sports based on a typical regular season schedule.

**FALL SPORTS:** Football – 2 games; Soccer – 3 games; Field Hockey – 3 games; Cross-Country – 2 meets; Golf – 2 matches; Cheering – 2 games

**WINTER SPORTS:** Cheering (winter) – 1 competition & TBA basketball games; Basketball – 4 games; Alpine Skiing – 3 meets; Indoor Track – 2 meets; Wrestling – 3 meets; Bowling – 2 Meets; Unified Basketball – 2 games

**SPRING SPORTS:** Softball – 4 games; Baseball – 4 games; Tennis – 3 matches; Track – 2 meets.

#### **G. TO REGAIN ELIGIBILITY THE STUDENT-ATHLETE MUST:**

1. Have their academic progress monitored weekly by the athletic director.
2. Be passing a minimum of 5 course credits and be passing all courses required for graduation.
3. Meet with the AD at the end of the ineligibility period to be informed of their eligibility status.

#### **H. CONTINUOUSLY INELIGIBLE ATHLETES:**

1. Athletes who are ineligible at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> time period are ineligible for another 20% of contests.
2. Athletes who are not eligible at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> time period will be dismissed from the team.

- I. **MPA Bona Fide Rule:** This MPA rule prevents members of a school team from missing high school team practice or competition to compete or practice elsewhere. **Two waivers per student-athlete per sport season may be granted by the principal on a case-by-case basis for extraordinary circumstances.** For example, if a student-athlete were invited to participate in a prestigious weekend event or in a nationally recognized tournament over a school vacation then a waiver may be granted. However, if a student-athlete requests to miss practice every Friday because he/she is receiving specialized coaching from an outside team/coach, then a waiver would not be granted. Violations of this rule after the allowable waivers have been used and/or when waivers are not granted will be penalized as follows:

#### **Penalty for violation of the MPA Bona Fide Rule:**

1. **First Violation** - Report violation to MPA and the athlete is suspended for one game/contest.
2. **Second Violation** - Report violation to MPA & the athlete is removed from team for the remainder of season.

#### **J. Social Media:**

Social media can be a useful tool to communicate with teammates, fans, friends, coaches and more. Social media can also be dangerous if you are not extremely careful. Every picture, link, quote, tweet, status or post that you put online is forever part of your digital footprint.

You really never know when your digital footprint will come back to hurt or help your reputation during the recruiting process, a job interview or other important areas in your life. Recognizing all of this, athletes need to follow the following guidelines as it pertains to their online profile:

1. Athletes must take responsibility for their online profile, including their posts and any photos, videos or other recordings posted by others in which they appear.
2. Athletes will not degrade their opponents using social media before, during or after the game.
3. Athletes will only post positive things about teammates, coaches, opponents and officials on social media.
4. Athletes will use social media to promote their abilities, team, community and social values.
5. Athletes will consider "Is this the me I want people to see?" before posting anything online.
6. Athletes will ignore any comments made about them on social media and will not retaliate.
7. Athletes who see a teammate post something potentially negative online will have a conversation with that teammate. If the athlete doesn't feel comfortable talking to the teammate about this, they agree to talk to a captain or a coach.
8. Athletes need to recognize and understand that they represent their sport(s), school, team, family and community at all times as a member of a high school sports team, so they need to do this in the most positive, respectful and responsible manner possible.

#### **Penalties for violations of the social media policy (cumulative during high school career):**

1. **First Violation** – Meeting with the student, coach and AD to discuss and learn from the violation.
2. **Second Violation** – Suspension from athletics for up to 20% of regular season contests.
3. **Third Violation** – Suspension from athletics for up to 50% of regular season contests.
4. **Fourth Violation** – Suspension from athletics for up to 1 calendar year.
5. Athletes who are penalized for social media violations will be required to practice and travel with the team during their suspension but shall not be in uniform for all scrimmages, other noncountable contests and the number of regular season contests specified by the violation and the applicable consequence listed above.

#### **Athletic Program Offerings:**

##### **Fall:**

Varsity/JV/Frosh Football  
Varsity/JV Field Hockey  
Varsity/JV Boys' Soccer  
Varsity/JV Girls' Soccer  
Varsity/JV Coed Golf  
Varsity Boys' X- Country  
Varsity Girls' X- Country  
Varsity Cheering

##### **Winter:**

Varsity/JV/Frosh Girls' Basketball  
Varsity/JV/Frosh Boys' Basketball  
Varsity Wrestling  
Varsity Ice Hockey  
Varsity Boys' Indoor Track  
Varsity Girls' Indoor Track  
Varsity Girls' Alpine Skiing  
Varsity Boys' Alpine Skiing  
Boys'/Girls' Bowling  
Unified Basketball

##### **Spring:**

Varsity/JV Baseball  
Varsity/JV Softball  
Varsity Boys' Track  
Varsity Girls' Track  
Varsity Boys' Tennis  
Varsity Girls' Tennis