



# Pikes Peak<sup>®</sup>

ONLINE SCHOOL

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**POWERED BY K<sup>12</sup>**

Authorized by  
Colorado Digital BOCES (EDUCATION REENVISIONED)

## **Student & Parent Handbook**

**2023-2024**

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Policies and procedures listed in this handbook may be changed without prior notice at the discretion of Pikes Peak Online School, hereinafter referred to as Pikes Peak Online School in this handbook. Any alterations to this document will be communicated to affected parties by mail and/or e-mail.

EDUCATION REENVISIONED retains full governance authority to oversee Pikes Peak Online School's operation of the school.

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## Introduction

Pikes Peak Online School is a public school in the state of Colorado and is managed by (K12), which also provides the curriculum and online delivery system. This Parent/Student Handbook is intended to inform Pikes Peak Online School parents and students of relevant policies and procedures and to identify specific responsibilities pertaining to families enrolling in PPOS. Pikes Peak Online School firmly agrees with state statute 22-33-104 5(a) “the general assembly hereby declares that two of the most important factors in ensuring a child’s educational development are parental involvement and parental responsibility. The general assembly further declares that every child under such parent’s care and supervision receives adequate education and training.” For all questions regarding policy & procedures, technology, or curriculum, your experienced advisor or homeroom teacher is your first point of contact.

## Mission

Achieving student success through relationships, accountability, and individualized learning.

## Vision

Pikes Peak Online will be a leading 21st century public school in Colorado and will improve student learning outcomes, as evidenced by student academic proficiency, student academic growth, post-secondary readiness, and the demonstration of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and self-direction.

## Onboarding Policy

- Students start on Mondays after the initial school start date (unless there is a holiday).
- Students have one week to complete orientation requirements; not completing orientation within the first week will result in a second week of wraparound support.
- After the completion of the second week with wraparound support, students missing required orientation items will have their enrollment canceled.

## Home Visits and Well Child Checks

At the discretion of the Pikes Peak Online School, a home visit may be conducted at any time. Possible reasons a home visit/well child check may occur are non-communication in any form within 7 days, safety concerns, imminent threat to themselves or others, to build relationships and continued support for the student and learning coach and provide possible community resources. A well child check may be conducted by the sheriff/police if staff are unavailable.

## Pikes Peak Online School – Acknowledgement of Expectations

### **Parent/Students Responsibilities**

The student's success is truly dependent upon the level of legal guardian/learning coach involvement. Pikes Peak Online School is truly a partnership between teachers, legal guardians/learning coaches and students.

I Understand Statements are a binding contract, failure to meet the expectations of the contract will result in administrative action and possible withdrawal.

### **Please note by enrolling your child in Pikes Peak Online you agree to the following statements:**

I understand that I/my student have and accept the responsibility to read, understand, abide by and electronically sign off on Pikes Peak Online School's school policies as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook.

I understand that I/my student are required to login to the k12 Online School/Learning Management System platforms on the first day classes are scheduled. If I/my student do not login within 72 hours, my student's account may be closed and I/my student) may be withdrawn from Pikes Peak Online.

I understand that I/my student should only login to the k12 Online School/Learning Management System platforms using their student account and never under the learning coach account when accessing their curriculum.

I understand that I/my student have and accept the responsibility to become familiar with the K12 curriculum, Pikes Peak Online School policies, curriculum platforms and to supervise my student in their daily school duties.

- I understand that as a parent/learning coach, daily support and guidance of work and progress in the k12 Online School/Learning Management System platforms as noted below. Supervising and assisting students in grades 9-12 may vary but could take one to two hours a day.

I/my student understand that "flexibility" in Pikes Peak Online School does not mean unstructured and indefinite time. If any issues arise and I/my students have any problems meeting the due dates or following the pacing guide, I/my student will contact the champion or subject teacher via email or phone immediately.

- Students must follow a curriculum pacing guide to adhere to, beginning, middle and end of year assessments, work samples, student quick checks and Class Connect sessions online due dates and times, as well as assignment due dates.

I/my student understand I/my student are expected to follow the guidance and support of a Pikes Peak Online School's certified teacher to implement the k12 Online School/Learning Management System platforms

I/my student understand that I/my student must maintain consistent communication with Pikes Peak Online School teachers, advisors, counselors and other school staff and must return email or phone

correspondence from them within the next school day unless an unforeseen family emergency should occur.

I understand that my student must have a computer, high-speed internet access, a working microphone and camera, while schooling on k12 Online School/Learning Management System platforms for the duration of my child's enrollment at Pikes Peak Online. Absences caused by technology are considered unexcused. It is my responsibility to ensure that my student schools daily and that we have a backup plan should the primary form of technology (school provided or otherwise) is unavailable.

I understand that I/my student must participate in the state mandatory login date at the beginning of October in order for Pikes Peak Online School attain needed state school funds. Students who do not log in on the designated date could face withdrawal from Pikes Peak Online.

I/my student understand that I/my student's participation in all mandatory state tests will help the school to better assist and meet the individual needs of myself/my student.

- I understand that I, as the parent/learning coach, am required to make arrangements for my student's transportation to and from all required, in-person state testing sessions and other school-mandated functions and I can contact my student's homeroom teacher if different arrangements need to be made.

I/my student understand that participation in district level assessments are mandatory and no opt out will be provided. Students who do not participate may be withdrawn from Pikes Peak Online.

I/my student understand that dual enrollment is not allowed in Colorado; I/my student cannot be dually enrolled in any other full-time or part-time public school while enrolled at Pikes Peak Online School.

I/my student understand(s) and affirm that my/our family and student is(are) legal residents of the State of Colorado, will maintain Colorado legal residency for the current school year and must reside in Colorado at the beginning of the Pikes Peak Online school year.

- Contact information, including phone, email, and address of residence, will be kept current and up to date with Pikes Peak Online School staff in an ongoing basis.

I/my student understand any information which is falsified during mine/my student's enrollment application and onboarding process for Pikes Peak Online School grounds for dismissal from Pikes Peak Online.

I understand that k12 Customer Support and Technical Support is available 24/7 at 1-866-K12-CARE.



### **Important Colorado State Education Requirements**

I/my student understand that by enrolling in a full time, public, online school, I/my student must adhere to the strict guidelines of Colorado state law for public school participation. (Title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes: Education Article 33: School Attendance Law of 1963 Section 104 - See more at: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool\\_attendancelaw](http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool_attendancelaw)

#### **22-33-104. Compulsory school attendance**

(1) (a) **Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section**, every child who has attained the age of six years on or before August 1 of each year and is under the age of seventeen years, except as provided by this section, shall attend public school for at least the following number of hours during each school year:

(I) One thousand fifty-six hours if a secondary school pupil;

(II) Nine hundred sixty-eight hours if an elementary school pupil in a grade other than kindergarten;

### **Enrollment Information**

<http://PPOS.k12.com/how-enroll.html>

Pikes Peak Online School is a full-time, online public school serving students in grades K-12. Pikes Peak Online School is available to students who qualify for public school funding and meet admission criteria. Pikes Peak Online School does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access. Approval for enrollment is dependent on the student meeting Pikes Peak Online admissions criteria. Pikes Peak Online School may reject an application for the following reasons:

- School does not have appropriate programs or is not equipped with the necessary facilities to meet the special needs of the student.
- The student does not meet the established criteria for participation in the school or program including age requirements, course prerequisites, alternate education qualifiers, and required level of performance.
- The student has been expelled or is in the process of being expelled from another school.
- The student has engaged in behavior in another school district during the preceding twelve months that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or school personnel.
- The student has graduated from the 12th grade or already received any document evidencing completion of the equivalent of a secondary curriculum.
- The student does not meet immunization requirements mandated by state law.

If enrollment is denied, or the student withdraws from Pikes Peak Online School, further placement considerations must be based on a new and separate application for admission to Pikes Peak Online School

### **Residency Requirement**

As a public school, Pikes Peak Online School is committed to being open for enrollment to all students who reside in Colorado, given enough capacity, as required by Colorado Open Enrollment laws. Colorado State Statute CRS 22-3.7.105(5) notes "Each student participating in an on-line program shall be a

resident of this state. . .” Students who are out of the state for more than 30 consecutive calendar days during the school year, unless a part of a military family, are not eligible to remain enrolled without administrative approval and will be immediately withdrawn. Other requirements and information about enrollment are on our website, [www.K12.com/PPOS](http://www.K12.com/PPOS). Students must be in the state of Colorado during our testing windows.

Families must provide a written Affidavit of Residency using the form provided by Pikes Peak Online School that is executed by student’s parent/guardian or the student if 18 years of age or older.

### Required Documents for Enrollment

- Affidavit of Colorado Residency
- Proof of Immunizations & Health Documentation
- Report Card/Unofficial Transcript
- Home Language Survey
- Birth Certificate

### Full Time Status and Dual Enrollment

Full time students must take a minimum of 5 courses for high school to be considered full time students. Pikes Peak Online School does not allow for dual enrollment with other public schools. Students who are dually enrolled with another school in addition to attending Pikes Peak Online School will be given the choice to withdraw from one of the institutions.

### Student Records & FERPA

The EDUCATION REENVISIONED School District, in compliance with Federal Laws 93-308 and 93-568, presents these facts for the information of parent(s) and/or guardian(s) and students. Student records are open for review and inspection by parents/guardians or students 18 years of age or older. Students 16 years of age or older or who are emancipated have the right to give informed consent regarding their records, with some exceptions. Information regarding students 14 years of age or older with HIV/AIDS or a STD may be released by the student only. Appointments may be made at the school office for viewing cumulative records.

### Records Request Guide for Custody

The school presumes that both parents share legal custody and share the right to make educational decisions regarding their student. However, when a dispute arises, the parent who enrolled the student is considered by the school to have physical and legal custody of the student until a signed legal court document describing the custodial arrangement is provided to the school. The district will also presume that there are no restrictions regarding a parent’s right to be kept informed of his/her student’s school progress and participate in school activities. A parent will only be prevented from participating in his/her student’s education if a signed court order (e.g. divorce decree, custody order, or etc.) specifically restricts the parent’s access to the student. If restrictions are in place, the parent with legal custody must submit a signed copy of the court order describing the rights restricted.

Additionally, unless there is a legal document that specifies otherwise, both natural parents have the right to:

- View the student’s educational records;
- Receive school progress reports;
- Participate in parent and teacher conferences together or separately

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

FERPA permits parents and/or guardians or students to do the following:

Inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Under state public disclosure law, the District must acknowledge the request in writing with five (5) working days, and unless the documents are presented at that time, an estimate will be provided as to when they will be available within the 45-day response period. Parent(s) and/or guardian(s) or eligible student should submit to the administration a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school office will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected; Request amendment of the student's education records that the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's rights to privacy. They should write the school administration, clearly identify the part of the record to be amended as well as specify why the information in question is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's rights to privacy. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student, the District will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student of the decision and advise them of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing;

Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special test (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility;

File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education under Section 99.64 concerning alleged failures by Pikes Peak Online School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers

FERPA follows:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education 600 Independence AVE SW Washington, DC 20202-4605

Students of majority age (over 18) will have parental rights regarding issues related to their educational program.

## Directory Information and Opt Out Information

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires Pikes Peak Online School, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Pikes Peak Online School may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the Pikes Peak Online School to the contrary in accordance with Pikes Peak Online School procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Pikes Peak Online School to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

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

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. [**Note: These laws are Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. § 7908) and 10 U.S.C. § 503(c).**]

If you do not want Pikes Peak Online School to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the Pikes Peak Online School in writing by October 2. Pikes Peak Online School has designated the following information as directory information:

- **Student's name**
- **Address**
- **Telephone listing**
- **Electronic mail address**
- **Photograph**
- **Date and place of birth**
- **Major field of study**
- **Dates of attendance**
- **Grade level**
- **Participation in officially recognized activities and sports**
- **Weight and height of members of athletic teams**
- **Degrees, honors, and awards received**
- **The most recent educational agency or institution attended**
- **Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records**

**except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user**

- **A student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.**

### Sex Offender Registry

Colorado Statute (**C.R.S. 22-1-124**) requires that each public school provides information to parents and community members identifying where and how they may obtain information collected by law enforcement agencies related to registered sex offenders. The Sex Offender Management Board has prepared a "School Resource Guide to Sex Offender Registrations." This document can be found in .pdf from the Colorado Department of Education Website at:

<https://docs.google.com/a/state.co.us/file/d/0B67htTDuFr48VWJ6ZmZZRXdGcGM/edit?pli=1>

The school is also providing the following internet search links to various law enforcement agencies operating in the state. For jurisdictions without internet search capability and for jurisdictions not listed in the web page below the appropriate local law enforcement agency should be contacted for more information.

**District Search Links:** <http://www.sotar.us/>

**Colorado Link:** <http://sor.state.co.us>

Sex Offender Registration Unit

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Coverage: Multiple categories see website for details.

690 Kipling St., Suite 4000

Denver, CO 80215

### Model Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents of elementary and secondary students certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include, but are not limited to, the right to:

- *Consent* before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)–

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

•*Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –*

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law or the Individuals with Disabilities Act; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling or otherwise distributing the information to others. (This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.)

•*Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –*

1. Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum if the instructional material will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any survey funded in whole or in part by a program of ED.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Pikes Peak Online School will develop and adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Pikes Peak Online School will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Pikes Peak Online School will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Pikes Peak Online School will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this direct notification requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

### Immunization Requirements

Each student entering a Colorado school for the first time is required to present a certificate of immunization from a licensed physician, an authorized representative of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), or local health department stating that the student has received immunizations against communicable diseases as specified by Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S. 25-4-902). Please note there are a number of exceptions to these provisions that are contained in the statute. Student immunization information may be accessed through the Colorado Immunization System in accordance with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and district protocols. For additional information, please visit the CDPHE website.

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/>

### Grading Structure at Pikes Peak Online

Pikes Peak Online is an alternate education campus that provides students the opportunity for students to graduate high school and begin their pathway to the future goals through a virtual platform. Instruction is delivered both live and through our online courses.

### Block System

Pikes Peak Online breaks each semester into four blocks in which all assignments need to be completed. At the end of the block, all assignments from that block will be closed. Submission beyond the block window will require an appeals meeting with the student's Champion team teacher.

### Grading Scale

Semester course =.5 credits

- 80% - 100% = A
- 70% - 79% = B
- Below 70% = No Credit (NC)

### Explanation of Appeals

If a student has not completed the required work during a block, has behavioral or attendance issues, they must participate in the appeals process with their Champion Teacher to determine a plan of action to restore their status as a student. A student must participate in the appeals process if they want to complete work and improve their grade once a block is closed.

### Students Who Made It!

Students, who earned an A or B of in all of their classes will not need to participate appeals.

### Students Participating in Appeals

Students who did not complete enough course work during the block to maintain an A or B in a course

will need to schedule an appeals.

## Live Instruction

Live classes are Monday – Thursday and attendance is mandatory unless arrangements are made with Champion Teacher. Students are required to be on camera and engaged in all live sessions. Teachers may assign points to participation.

Fridays are non-school days but several activities may be scheduled for students to take advantage of.

- Appeals meetings
- Help sessions
- Field trips
- Blended Meet-Ups

## Attendance

Use this link for Pikes Peak Online School Attendance Policy: <https://www.smore.com/3znbw>

### Calculating and Reporting Attendance and Truancy in Online Schools

Pursuant to §22-30.7-105(2)(a), “a student who is participating in an online program shall be subject to compulsory school attendance . . . and shall be deemed to comply with the compulsory attendance requirements through participation in the online program.”

In Colorado pursuant to §22-33-107(3)(a) C.R.S., a child who is “habitually truant” is between the ages of six and seventeen and has “four unexcused absences from public school in any one month or ten unexcused absences from public school during any school year.” Based on the statutory definition of habitual truancy, it is possible that a student can become “habitually truant” within the period of one week. Students that are in the work experience course will need to still log in daily to avoid truancy.

One criterion of a student’s success in school is regular and punctual attendance. Frequent absences may lead to poor academic work, lack of social development, and possible academic failure. Regular attendance is of utmost importance for school interest, social adjustment, and scholastic achievement. No single factor may interfere with a student’s progress more quickly than frequent tardiness or absence.

According to state law, it is the obligation of every parent or guardian to ensure that every child under his or her care and supervision receives adequate education and training and, if of compulsory attendance age, attends school. Continuity in the learning process and social adaptation is seriously disrupted by excessive absences. In most situations, the work missed cannot be made up adequately. Students who have good attendance generally achieve higher grades, enjoy school more, and are more employable after leaving school.

For at least these reasons, the Board of Education believes that a student must satisfy two basic requirements in order to earn full class credit:

Satisfy all academic requirements, and

Exhibit good attendance habits as stated in this policy.

Absences may be classified as either excused or unexcused. In accordance with the law, the district may impose appropriate penalties that relate directly to classes missed while unexcused. The administration shall develop regulations to implement appropriate penalties. Students and parents or guardians may



appeal any penalties imposed as set forth in the regulation.

## Classifications of Absences

### Excused absences

Excused absences are defined as:

- Absences because of temporary illness or injury
- A student who is absent for an extended period due to physical, mental, or emotional disability
- A student who is pursuing a work-study program under the supervision of the school
- A student who is attending any school-sponsored activity
- Absences by those who are in the custody of court or law enforcement authorities
- Absences determined by school administration to be excusable, such as doctor's appointments or appointments with outside agencies
- Absences due to religious holidays or observance

Parents or guardians must notify the appropriate attendance office within one week of (excluding weekends) when their child will not be in school. When the absences have been deemed excused by school administration, students are expected to make up work. All major projects are due on the day specified.

Absences because of doctor's appointments, outside agency appointments, or juvenile court appearances may be considered excused with appropriate documentation of the appointment. The absences may be considered unexcused until the appropriate documentation has been provided to the school's administration. At that time, the school's administration may deem the absences to be excused. If appropriate documentation of the appointment is not provided to the school, the absence may remain as unexcused.

All students will be allowed no more than 10 days of excused absences per school year. Once students have exceeded the approved number of excused absences, and there are more absences, written documentation from a practitioner or agency may be required in order for the absences to not only be considered excused, but to also address the reasons for the excessive absences. The absences may therefore be considered unexcused until the appropriate documentation is provided to the school's administration.

### Prearranged Absences

Family vacations during school time are strongly discouraged, as they are counted towards total student absences which may exceed the specified limit and may become unexcused absences. Vacations should be planned for dates when school is not in session. Parents are encouraged to follow the district approved calendar for scheduled breaks. A written request for a prearranged absence should be made at least a period of time equal to the length of time the student will miss school and presented to the school's administration. For example, a one day absence would require a one day notice. All assignments are due prior to the period of absence unless otherwise specified by a teacher. Excused or prearranged absences in excess of district designated number of allowable absences may become unexcused and truancy may apply.

### School-sponsored Activities

Absences incurred when students miss class because of participation in school field trips, musical performances, student conferences, or other school-related activities will be considered excused, but we do request that students log into school so that attendance is marked. Administrators or teachers may refuse a student the right to participate if academic, behavioral and attendance expectations are not being met.

### Class Connects

Attendance is mandatory for Class Connect sessions marked required. Learning Coaches will receive a phone call on the day following the Class Connect absence. A working microphone and camera are required at all times.

### Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is defined as an absence that is not covered by one of the foregoing excused absence exceptions. Each unexcused absence shall be entered on the student's record. The parents or guardians of the student receiving an unexcused absence will be notified by the district by email and auto dialer on the day of the absence. When a student accumulates 4 days or more of unexcused absences, the student will be placed on a Truancy Intervention Plan (TIP). The TIP will include 2 weeks of daily check in with the Truancy Officer. If the student is unsuccessful on the TIP, a Transition Meeting will be scheduled with the Truancy Office and the family to find better school placement. A Well Check will be called if there is no family response within 48 hours.

In accordance with state law, students with excessive absences may be designated as "habitually truant" and shall be reported to the Colorado Department of Education. When a student demonstrates excessive unexcused absences, the student, parents and school working together are to determine the cause of the absences. The school may use site-based teams to address academic and behavioral concerns, use an attendance contract with the student and parent or guardian; make referrals to outside agencies if deemed appropriate to remediate the causal factors for the unexcused absences. In accordance with the law, the district may impose academic penalties which relate directly to classes missed while unexcused. The administration shall develop regulations to implement appropriate penalties. Students with unexcused absences are expected to make up work.

Any student who has been absent from class for 10 or more consecutive days of unexcused absences in any one school year, out-of-district placement, excused long term illness and death shall be considered a "dropout" and shall be reported to the Colorado Department of Education by the district. However, if the student returns back to school by re-enrolling, is in attendance at the end of the school year, enrolled in another school with appropriate proof of enrollment including an approved home school program, online school program, or appropriate proof of enrollment in another school district, such student is not considered a dropout and shall not be reported as such.

Student and parents or guardians may petition the Board of Education for exceptions to this policy or the accompanying regulations provided that no exception shall be sustained if the student fails to abide by all requirements imposed by the board as conditions for granting such exception.

### Truancy

If a student is absent without a submitted parental excused absence form with appropriate documentation, the student shall be considered truant. In Colorado pursuant to §22-33-107(3)(a) C.R.S.,

a child who is “habitually truant” is between the ages of six and seventeen and has “four unexcused absences from public school in any one month or ten unexcused absences from public school during any school year.” Based on the statutory definition of habitual truancy, it is possible that a student can become “habitually truant” within the period of one week.

## Penalties

In accordance with law, the district may impose appropriate penalties that relate directly to classes missed while truant. The administration shall develop regulations to implement appropriate penalties for truancy.

In the circumstance where there is a discipline concern that will result in action taken by the school, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion, with a student that qualifies for special education, the special education case manager will hold a manifestation of determination meeting with the appropriate IEP team members in attendance.

When there is an attendance concern with a student that qualifies for special education, the IEP team will meet to determine if the services in place are appropriate for FAPE and if the student’s disability is a barrier. If the team determines that the services are appropriate and the disability is not a barrier, the team will conclude the meeting with a PWN and follow the school truancy process.

## High School Attendance

As public school students enrolled online at Pikes Peak Online School, secondary students must:

1. Complete lessons weekly in every course
  - English 4x/week
  - Math 4x/week
  - History 4x/week
  - Science 4x/week
  - Electives 4x/week

2. Attend required (REQ) weekly class connects

Attendance is calculated based on progress through the curriculum and hours spent in the online learning platform. Students in secondary grades must have 1080 hours of attendance annually per Colorado Compulsory school attendance laws.

## Support Structure

### Champion Teachers

Relationships are part of our mission at Pikes Peak. Research shows that students who feel safe and supported by adults at school are better able to learn. Therefore, each student at Pikes Peak are assigned a Champion Teacher and be a part of a Champion Team. Champion teams meet Mondays and Thursdays in a required Class Connect.

### Advisors

Each Champion Team is a part of a larger League Advisors provide targeted and intensive support to students who are struggling or who required an appeals the previous block. Face to face support will

also be offered by advisors. Monthly drop in opportunities will be advertised to students and can also be arranged by appointments. These meetings will be held at local coffee shops or libraries.

### Counselors

Counselors will also be assigned to each league and support students in ensuring that they are on track for graduation and their postsecondary path.

### Social Workers

Leagues also have social workers available for students who need or want additional social and emotional support. Like advisors, they offer targeted and intensive support as needed.

## Student Conduct

### Social Contract

Through our Capturing Kids Hearts initiative, Pikes Peak Online School teachers use Social Contracts to create emotional and social safety in the classroom for improved performance. In order for a virtual classroom session to be educationally effective for students, all students should abide by a standard set of rules as established in the class social contract. Students who violate the social contract will be warned by the instructor to correct their behavior. If the student does not comply with the instructor's instructions, he/she will be refocused. If a student continues to violate the social contract, the student may be referred to administration.

### Using Face to Face Platforms

Pikes Peak Online School and the parents of the students participating in the activities, services, and programs agree that this policy outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement through the use of online platforms such as, but not limited to, NearPod, NewRow, and Zoom. These Face to Face platforms will build and develop a partnership between the school and families that will help children achieve the State's high standards. The Home Learning Environment as provided for in this policy includes a visual portion of the site where the student is located that can be seen by others interacting with the student through the webcam and any audible sounds that can be heard by any others interacting with the student. The Home Learning Environment shall be free of any signs, flags, symbols, words, pictures, or any visual item that may be considered obscene, discriminatory, profane, and/or vulgar. To the maximum extent possible, the Home Learning Environment shall not have anything else within view than the student. The Home Learning Environment shall also be free of any audible sounds, noises, music, profanity, obscenity, vulgarity or any audible item that may be impact the learning environment. To the maximum extent possible, the Home Learning Environment shall not have any audible sounds that can be heard by any other person interacting with the student except for the voice of the student.

### Parent/Learning Coach Responsibilities:

- Monitor behaviors of my student and the Home Learning Environment to ensure it is always appropriate for all learners.
- Ensure my student is able to log into Class Connect sessions.
- Check Home Learning Environment before turning on camera to ensure compliance with the definition provided in this policy and provide reasonable monitoring during the time that the webcam is being used.

- Create a Controlled Home Learning Environment as defined in this policy and before activating camera and during the operation of the camera, will ensure the background environment is sterile and appropriate for schooling.

#### Recommended Backgrounds:

- Student sitting in front of a wall/blank space so no one can wonder into viewing area
- Students may choose to sit in front of window with the curtain drawn to allow for a neutral backdrop

#### Sounds:

- Background sounds must be at a minimum—TV, Radio, Human voices cannot be a distraction to the others in class connect sessions.

#### Student Responsibilities:

- Checks home learning environment before turning on camera.
- Reviews the tools for online platform to use webcam and microphone/headset.
- Attends and participates in all required live class connects.
- Remembers to use appropriate language and behaviors during Face to Face classes.

#### Dress Code

Students are expected to wear appropriate attire that does not distract from the learning environment at school sponsored activities. The dress code policy also applies to students on camera. Students are expected to practice good cleanliness and tidiness; encourages the appropriate use of hygiene products before our students come to school. ANY clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, jewelry, accessories or body adornments that are disruptive, potentially disruptive to the educational environment, or represent gang affiliations as determined by the administration are not permitted.

#### Personal Respect

Pikes Peak Online School administrators, instructors, parents, and students know that personal respect is the foundation of learning. Language, comments, or images from any stakeholders that show a lack of respect for individuals or groups will lead directly to disciplinary action.

#### Inappropriate Behavior

- Insults or attacks of any kind against another person
- Harassment and/or use of threats
- Creating, posting and/or distributing material that is obscene or defamatory or which is intended to annoy, harass or intimidate another person. This includes distributing “spam” mail, chain e-mail, viruses, or other intentionally destructive content.
- Engaging in any activity or behavior (online or face to face) that interferes with the safety, welfare, morals, or education of them self, other students, parents, learning coaches or staff.
- Disruptive behavior which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee’s office, office area or any other area of the school grounds.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent or student regardless of whether or not the behavior constitutes a criminal offence.

- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher or administrator, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child.
- Contacting someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs while attending a school event.
- Making threats or possessing weapons while attending a school event.

The following behaviors are defined as violent and aggressive:

- Possession, threat with, or use of a dangerous weapon as described in the Board's weapons policy.
- Physical assault. The act of striking or touching a person or a person's property with a part of the body or with any object with the intent of causing hurt or harm.
- Verbal abuse. Includes, but is not limited to, swearing, screaming, obscene gestures, or threats directed, orally (including by telephone), in writing, or electronically (e.g. email, messaging, social media, etc.), at an individual, his or her family, or a group.
- Intimidation. An act intended to frighten or coerce someone into submission or obedience.
- Extortion. The use of verbal, physical, or electronic (e.g. email, messaging, social media, etc.) coercion in order to obtain financial or material gain from others.
- Gang activity and secret student societies.
- Sexual harassment or other forms of harassment as described in the Board's sexual harassment policy and nondiscrimination policy.
- Stalking. The persistent following, contacting, watching, or any other such threatening actions that compromise the peace of mind or the personal safety of an individual.
- Defiance. A serious act or instance of defying or opposing legitimate authority.
- Discriminatory slurs. Insulting, disparaging, or derogatory comments made directly or by innuendo regarding a person's race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, gender identity, disability or need for special education services.
- Vandalism. Damaging or defacing property owned by or in the rightful possession of another.
- Tobacco Violations. Use or possession of a tobacco product on school grounds or at a school activity or sanctioned event. "Tobacco product" shall mean cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco and: (a) any other product that contains nicotine or tobacco or is derived from tobacco and is intended to be ingested or inhaled by or applied to the skin of an individual, including but not limited to e-liquid, vape juice, vaping oil and similar products; or (b) any device that can be used to deliver nicotine to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an electronic Poudre School District Student Rights & Code of Conduct Page 8 cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, vape pen or other device used to inhale a vaporized liquid.
- Weapon Violations. Possessing a dangerous weapon on school grounds, at a school activity or sanctioned event without the authorization of the school or the school district.
- Terrorism. A threat to commit violence communicated with the intent to terrorize, or with reckless disregard for the risk of creating such terror or to cause serious public inconvenience,

such as the evacuation of a building.

- Should any of the above behavior occur within the school setting, the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even ban the offending adult from interacting with the school personnel.

## Harassment

No one should be subjected to harassment at school for any reason. All stakeholders will deal with all persons in ways which convey respect and dignity. Harassment in the form of name-calling, taunting, gestures, intimidation, conduct, jokes, pictures, slurs or ridicules are prohibited. Such conduct referencing or directed at an individual or group that demeans that person/group on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, creed, age, disability or other extraneous factors is prohibited and shall be grounds for disciplinary action. [Nondiscrimination and Bullying \(including cyberbullying\)](#)

"Bullying" means any written or verbal expression, or physical or electronic act or gesture, or pattern thereof, that is intended to coerce, intimidate, or cause any physical, mental, or emotional harm to any student. "Bullying" is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance; or against whom federal and state laws prohibit discrimination upon any of the bases described in section 22-32-109 (1)(11)(I)

Pikes Peak Online School has a zero tolerance policy towards intimidation, harassment, bullying and/or fighting. A student who engages in any act of bullying is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made. These behaviors cannot be tolerated, and the natural consequence is to be barred from interactions with others.

For the first offense of harassment, bullying, or intimidation, parent(s)/guardians will be contacted via a warning letter and/or phone call. Subsequent offenses will lead to suspensions of attending school activities.

The School will promptly and thoroughly investigate reports of harassment and bullying, whether of a physical or of a nonphysical form. If it is determined that either has occurred, the School will act appropriately within the discipline codes of the district and will take reasonable action to end bullying. Students are able to report anonymously to Pikes Peak Online School staff member to avoid retaliation.

## Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment includes all unwanted, uninvited, and non-reciprocal sexual attention as well as the creation of an intimidating, hostile or offensive school or work environment. This can include:

- Sexually suggestive looks or gestures
- Sexual jokes, pictures or teasing
- Pressure for dates or sex
- Sexually demeaning comments
- Deliberate touching, cornering or pinching
- Attempts to kiss or fondle

- Threats, demands or suggestions that favors will be granted in exchange for sex or tolerance of sexual advances

## Academic Integrity Code

Pikes Peak Online School has high expectations with regards to academic integrity. The academic integrity code has been set up as a way of ensuring that students are following these expectations to the highest degree. The following practices are violations of this academic integrity code:

Cheating in any manner. Examples of this could be:

- Submitting any work that was not done by your own hand
- Allowing other students to submit your work as their own
- Using AI such as ChatGPT or Google Bard to complete work for you
- Using any unapproved aids on assignments, quizzes, or in tests (including the internet)
- Submitting the same work for more than one course or assignment without prior written approval from the instructor(s)
- Fabricating data: This includes falsifying or manipulating data to achieve desired result, reporting results for experiments not done, or falsifying citations in research reports
- Destroying, tampering, or altering another student's work to impede academic progress
- Creating fraudulent information
- Plagiarizing in any manner, which includes copying or presenting words, ideas, images, or someone else's intellectual property as your own without proper citation of sources (electronic, internet, or print). Some examples are:
  - Utilizing internet chat groups to ask questions and using the responses as your own
  - Utilizing sources excessively even when documented or relying on similar order of sentences while altering a few words or word order
  - Using copyrighted material without appropriate citation or copying software or media files (such as music, movies, etc.) without permission
- False Progress: completing or marking off an unreasonable number of lessons in one day

Note: If there are academic integrity concerns, any student may be required to assess face to face or online in the presence of school staff.

## Plagiarism Policy

### 1st Offense

The student earns an automatic 0 % on the assignment. The teacher will call all listed numbers in the online school twice within a 48-hour period and email the student and mentor to attempt communication. If contact is not made, the student and mentor must reply within 5 school days. If they do not, the 0 is permanent in the grade book. If contact is made, the final grade on the assignment is up to the discretion of the teacher. Documents explaining plagiarism and PPOS's policy will be sent via email to support the student.

### 2nd Offense

The student earns an automatic 0 % on the assignment. The teacher will call all listed numbers in the online school twice within a 48-hour period and email the student and mentor to attempt communication. If contact is not made, the student and mentor must reply within 5 school days. If they do not, the student account is locked until contact has been established. The student will be placed on an academic behavioral plan which requires a student signature. Signature does not acknowledge



agreement with the plan, but rather attendance at the meeting.

### 3rd Offense

The student must conference with administration. The student automatically fails the course they plagiarized in for the third time. (This is cumulative over the school year and spans across all content areas. If a student plagiarized first in English, then in science, and for the third time in history, the student would fail the history course.)

### 4th Offense

The student is automatically withdrawn from Pikes Peak Online School with an NC in all courses.

Note: Many courses require written work in which you will need to cite sources. Any direct quotations from your textbook or online material, including google translate, must be cited. For textbook citations, (Author, Page Number); for online material citations, (UnitX, LessonY, Page Number). Any quotations from outside sources require full citations, including author, title, publisher, date of publication, and page number. If a student is citing information found on a website, they must provide the complete Web page or site title, URL, author if known, page number if applicable, and publication place and date of the site, if available.

## Computer Usage

A specific set of procedures, conditions and legal restrictions guide the use of school-owned computers. Parents should review appropriate usage of computers with their students before using school computers. Parents are the responsible adults for their student's computer usage.

## Inappropriate Use of the Computer and Technology

Dependent upon the misuse of the school computer or technology, the Principal will determine the disciplinary consequences, including loss of privileges, or expulsion.

## Technology

Pikes Peak Online School has done due diligence to protect students' personal information and to guard against cyber predators by installing anti-virus software and security settings on each K12 computer. Students are responsible for installing updates and patches for anti-virus software.

## Email

Each student will be issued an internal Office365 email account. Students and parents are expected to access and review their email account on a daily basis. Pikes Peak Online School reserves the right to monitor the contents of email sent and received through the school OLS and LMS.

## Suspension and Expulsion

Pikes Peak Online School will follow the Colorado State statues 22-33-105 and 22-33-106 when considering a student for suspension and/or expulsion.

According to the Colorado Revised Statutes 22-23-106(1)(a-g) and 3(e) and 22-12- 105(3), the following shall be grounds for suspension or expulsion from a public school:

1. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority, including lack of participation in mandatory assessments.

2. Willful destruction or defacing of school property.
3. Behavior on or off school property which is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or of school personnel, including behavior which creates a threat of physical harm to the child or other children.
4. Declaration as a habitually disruptive student.
  - a. For the purposes of this paragraph, "habitually disruptive student" means a child who has caused a material and substantial disruption three (3) times during the course of the school year on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school activities or events. Any student who is enrolled in a public school may be subject to being declared a habitually disruptive student.
  - b. The student and the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian shall have been notified in writing of each disruption counted toward declaring the student as habitually disruptive and the student and parent, legal guardian or legal custodian shall have been notified in writing and by telephone or other means at the home or the place of employment of the parent or legal guardian of the definition of "habitually disruptive student".
5. The use, possession or sale of a drug or controlled substance as defined in C.R.S. 12-22-303.
6. The commission of an act which if committed by an adult would be robbery pursuant to Part 3, Article 4, Title 18, C.R.S. or assault pursuant to Part 2, Article 3, Title 18, C.R.S. other than the commission of an act that would be third degree assault under C.R.S. 18-3-201 if committed by an adult.
7. The carrying, bringing, using, or possessing a dangerous weapon without the authorization of the school or district.

NOTE: In accordance with federal law, expulsion shall be mandatory and for no less than one full calendar year for a student who is determined to have brought to or possessed a firearm at school. The Chief Education Officer may modify the length of this federal requirement for expulsion on a case-by-case basis. Such modification shall be in writing.

As used in this paragraph, "dangerous weapon" means:

- a. A firearm, whether loaded or unloaded
  - b. Any pellet or BB gun or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air.
  - c. A fixed blade knife with a blade that measures longer than three inches in length or a spring loaded knife or a pocket knife with a blade longer than three and one-half inches.
  - d. Any object, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury.
8. Repeated interference with a school's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
  9. Carrying, using, actively displaying, or threatening with the use of a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm in a school building or in or on school property without the authorization of the school or school district.
  10. Making a false accusation of criminal activity against a district employee to law enforcement or to the district.
  11. Misuse of an electronic device such as a smartphone and/or computer on school grounds or on school buses, at school sponsored activities, and/or on field trips in a manner which constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function or that is profane, indecent, or obscene or constitutes an invasion of privacy.

According to C.R.S. 22-33-106(2), subject to the district's responsibilities under (the Exceptional

Children’s Education Act and applicable federal law, (see policy JK-2, Discipline of Students with Disabilities), the following shall be grounds for expulsion from or denial of admission to a public school or diversion to an appropriate alternate program:

1. Physical or mental disability such that the child cannot reasonably benefit from the programs available.
2. Physical or mental disability or disease causing the attendance of the child suffering there from to be detrimental to the welfare of other students.

### Curricula Lock-Suspension

Student’s curriculum can be locked for failure to comply with required school and state assessments and for no contact. Upon completion of the assessment requirements, please notify your champion teacher for your curriculum to be unlocked.

### Probationary Status

Students with poor discipline and/or excessive absences at their previous school or during the year at Pikes Peak Online School may be placed into the into targeted or intensive support on a case-by-case basis by the Pikes Peak Online School administration. Students wishing to re-enroll in Pikes Peak Online School after having been withdrawn due to non-compliance of any type must seek and obtain approval for re-enrollment by the Pikes Peak Online administration.

### Monitoring

Pikes Peak Online School reserves the right to review any material transmitted using Pikes Peak Online instructional computing resources or posted to a Pikes Peak Online instructional computing resource to determine the appropriateness of such material. Pikes Peak Online School may review this material at any time, with or without notice to students. E-mail transmitted via Pikes Peak Online School computing resources is not private and may be monitored.

Students who possess alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances, or drug-containing paraphernalia in violation of Board policy will be handled in the following manner:

- A staff member who comes in contact with evidence and/or contraband must notify the principal or designee immediately.
- A staff member who has reasonable cause to believe that a student possesses or is involved in any distribution or exchange of alcohol, any controlled substance or drug-containing or drug-related paraphernalia in violation of Board policy will request that the student accompany him or her to the principal or designee. If the student refuses, the staff member will notify the principal or designee immediately.
- The principal or designee will place any evidence in an envelope or alternative container as necessary which will be sealed, dated, and initialed by the individual who originally obtained the materials and by the principal or designee. The evidence then will be secured.
- The principal or designee will call appropriate law enforcement officials in each instance of possession or sale of controlled substances by a student. A mutual decision will be made as to retention of the contraband by the school or testing by the authorities.
- If information warrants, the student’s parent/guardian will be requested to attend a conference at school. The conference may include sharing the data collected, explaining consequences of involvement with drugs/alcohol, developing a plan of action, and offering the parent or guardian general information and resources related to substance abuse.

## Civil Rights

<http://PPOS.k12.com/title-ix-non-discrimination.html>

Pikes Peak Online school is committed to providing an environment that is free from all forms of sex discrimination, which includes gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual violence, as regulated by Title VII and Title IX, and to insuring the accessibility of appropriate grievance procedures for addressing all complaints regarding all forms of sex discrimination and sexual harassment. Pikes Peak Online reserves the authority to independently deal with sex discrimination and sexual harassment whenever becoming aware of their existence, regardless of whether a complaint has been lodged in accordance with the grievance procedure set forth below.

### INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Definition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (for Students):

- Sex discrimination occurs when a person, because of his or her sex, is denied participation in or the benefits of any education program or activity that receives federal financial assistance.
- Sexual harassment is conduct that: 1) is sexual in nature; 2) is unwelcome; and 3) denies or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from a school's educational program or activity. Sexual harassment can be verbal, nonverbal or physical.
- Definition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (for Employees):
- Sex discrimination occurs when a person who is qualified for a position at issue is subjected to an adverse employment action because of his or her sex.
- Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: 1) submission to such conduct is made a term or condition of employment; 2) submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or 3) the conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Any individual, who believes he/she may have experienced any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or who believes that he/she has observed such actions taking place, may receive information and assistance regarding the School's policies and reporting procedures from any of the following:

Title IX Coordinator:

Christa Seger

[CSeger@k12.com](mailto:CSeger@k12.com)

8601 Turnpike Dr. Suite 100

Westminster, CO 80031

Title IX Grievance Procedures & Form

<http://PPOS.k12.com/title-ix-grievance.html>

## Course Support

### Child Find

Pikes Peak Online School follows Colorado State Guidelines for Child Find. Assessment screening tools and a body of evidence are used to identify students that are performing below their same grade-level peers. The MTSS (see 2.7.1) model is implemented. Contact the Director of Special Services, Stacy Altman ([saltman@k12.com](mailto:saltman@k12.com)), with any questions or concerns.

## Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Pikes Peak Online School follows a multi-tiered system of support to intervene with targeted educational growth needs of students. Teachers at Pikes Peak Online use a data-driven instructional model to identify and meet varying student needs within their classroom. Teachers will communicate and collaborate with the learning coach and/or student regarding the targeted intervention identified to meet the student's need. MTSS intervention sessions are required for identified students unless the parent signs away the right to school-recommended intervention. Students who receive three Missed Services letters will be referred to Academic Probation.

Academic Probation involves a required meeting with an administrator to develop a two-week Student Success Plan. Failure to attend the meeting will result in the deactivation of the student's account.

## Health and Family Life/Sex Education

Pikes Peak Online School believes a comprehensive health education program is an integral part of each student's education. The health education program should emphasize the functioning and proper care of the human body and encourage the development of lifelong, positive health habits. In addition, it should inform students about potential physical and mental health hazards they are likely to encounter in various life situations and help them make sound, intelligent decisions when they are confronted with choices that could affect their health or that of others. Exemption will be granted from a specific portion of the health education curriculum on the grounds that the material taught is contrary to the religious beliefs and teachings or closely held personal beliefs of the student or of the student's parent/guardian. If the request for the exemption is from a specific portion of the health education curriculum that concerns human sexuality (OTH010, Social and Sexual Health, Unit 7), no reason must be given by the parent/guardian when requesting the exemption.

In the event that a family expresses concern over the human sexuality unit in the school's health course, the teacher will provide alternate material for this student during this unit. The family will communicate directly with the teacher in this case for the alternate assignment. The teacher will excuse the human sexuality material (without penalty) and replace it for the student with alternate content. The alternate content will be approved by school administration prior to delivery to the family.

## Objectionable Materials Policy

There may be times a Learning Coach finds certain lessons, books or materials objectionable for various reasons. If a Learning Coach finds objectionable material, he/she should contact his/her teacher via email. Teachers will work with Learning Coaches to find alternative lessons to meet the lesson objectives. The assessment for the lesson must be completed to show that the objectives have been met. Learning Coaches should also contact K12 directly using the feedback option of the OLS. The feedback button is on the right-hand corner of the online school.

## Promotion and Retention Policy

### Grade Level Promotion Guidelines

The K12 Colorado Academies starts with the expectation that most of our students who regularly attend school will be promoted to the next grade level by the end of the school year. Grade-level promotion is not based on solely on percentages; numbers of lessons completed, or test scores. Rather, grade-level promotion is based on a more comprehensive body of evidence that includes satisfactory progress in skill development, acceptable attendance, prior school experience, and achievement on lesson assessments and teacher assessment of student ability. As would be the case in a traditional classroom, students at K12 Colorado will exhibit a significant range of achievement in a certain grade and most

students in this range will move to the next grade.

### Retention Policy

High School students at Pikes Peak Online will move with their cohort and will graduate upon completion of the high school graduation requirements.

### Gifted Program/Advanced Learner

Pikes Peak Online School will set up a meeting for all students that qualify for the gifted and talented program to create an Advanced Learning Plan. At that time the team will determine appropriate goals and programming that best meets the student's needs. Please contact your homeroom teacher for more information.

### State Assessment and Testing Requirements

Pikes Peak Online School follows state law concerning assessments: "Each student participating in an online program shall be subject to the statewide assessments." Pikes Peak Online School is a public school and is subject to state statute. We strongly believe in the benefit of summative state assessments and encourage every student to participate in the assessment program as one part of the multiple measures indicated in state law. "Every student enrolled in a public school is required to take the assessments in the grade level in which the student is enrolled."

District assessments are mandatory, and students may not opt out. District assessments include:

- Star360 in reading and math (beginning, middle, and end of the year are required.)
- writing samples (beginning, middle and end of the year)
- most federal and state assessments (TS Gold, READ Act, and ACCESS) are mandatory

If you have concerns about testing, please contact your school administrator.

Policy for Assessment Communication:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Attempt- email with due date
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Attempt (past due date)- email and auto dialer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Attempt (past due date)- student suspension (account locked) until assessment is complete, up to 10 school days

Failure to complete end of year assessments may result in ineligibility to enroll for the next school year and may affect graduation.

CMAS/SAT/PSAT testing is the only assessment which students may opt out of participating in. During the Spring window, information about testing, participation, and opt-out options will be made available to parents through their classroom teachers. Any opt-outs will follow district guidelines.

### Grading

Learning Coaches may view grades throughout the school year in the online school. Report cards will be issued at the end of the 1st and 2nd semesters. Report cards will be mailed within two weeks of the end of semester.

Grading Policy:

Graded activities will be assigned points or by using a weighted system at the teachers' discretion. Final grades will reflect the actual points, or weight, earned compared with the total points, or weight,

possible out of 100.

Final semester grades are awarded as follows:

- 80+ points = A
- 70-79 points = B
- Below 70 points = NC

## Honor Roll

The Honor Roll is a great tool to recognize students for their hard work, as well as incentive to continue working diligently. Honor roll status will be determined at the end of each semester. Students will receive recognition within two weeks of the end of the semester.

Honor Roll Definitions:

### Honor Roll with Distinction

Students who earn "A" in ALL courses  
GPA 4.0 or above.

### High Honor Roll

Students who earn all A's and B's in their courses  
3.50 + GPA and no grade below "B"

### Honor Roll

Students with a "B" average in all courses  
3.0-3.49 GPA and no NC grades

## Grade Concerns

### Grade Appeals Process

If for some reason a parent or student has a valid dispute about a final grade given in a class, this dispute for change must begin within three months from the end of the semester when final grades were posted. The parent should contact the Principal with any grade disputes.

## Late Work

Teachers will accept work that is late for up to full credit when reasoning is sufficient, and communication is timely from the student (before or during the week the assignment is due). However, all assignments are locked at the end of each block and will only be reopened after the completion of an appeals meeting.

Late policy:

- Teacher Graded Assignments
  - Must be completed during the designated block unless an exception is made during Appeals Meeting
  - Late Work Reduction after 2 weeks, 80% of earned grade
  - Corrections are accepted- credit at teacher discretion, consistent at grade level
- Computer Scored- accepted until the last day of the student semester
  - Quiz- 3 attempts
  - Test- 1 attempt, retake options available
- Blank documents earn 0 points
- Overdue assignments will receive temporary 0 (or equivalent) the day after they are due.

## Assignment Deadlines

- Assignments are locked at the end of each block. An appeals meeting with a Champion teacher is required for late submissions, which can be up to one week after the closing of the subsequent block.

## Voluntary Withdrawal

Voluntary withdrawal from the school may be initiated by the parent/legal guardian by informing Administration and/or the Advisor of the intention to withdraw. A parental notice of student intent to withdraw form must be completed. A parent must also notify the homeroom teacher of where they will be attending school upon the withdrawal. Please allow up to 1 week for a withdrawal to be processed through our systems.

## Involuntary Withdrawal

Please see attendance/truancy policy, Academic Probation, Mandatory Assessments and Academic Engagement Policy. Upon either withdrawal, families will receive return shipping information directly from k12 reclamations to return materials.

## Reenrollment Process for Involuntary Withdrawal

After involuntary withdrawal, the student will not be reenrolled for the current school year. The student can reapply for the next school year and administration will make a decision regarding enrollment.

## Activity and Course Fees

Pikes Peak Online School is a publicly-funded, tuition-free, online school. Courses and related materials are provided for full-time students who are residents of Colorado at no charge.

\*Other fees may be applicable for field trips and extra-curricular clubs/activities.

## Work Permit

Under the Colorado Youth Employment Opportunity Act (CYEOA) no minor under the age of 16 is permitted employment on school days, during school hours, unless he or she has a school release permit. Such a permit can be issued only by a school administrator where the minor is enrolled.

<https://cdle.colorado.gov/youth-law>

## School Activities and Clubs

### Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities

Students enrolled in an online program, may participate on an equal basis in any extracurricular or interscholastic activity offered by a public school, assuming the on-line program doesn't already offer such extracurricular or interscholastic activity.

A school may charge any student participating in an activity a participation fee as a prerequisite to participation. The fee amount is determined in accordance with current state law.

Key Statutes for Reference: 22-30.7.108(1), 22-33-104.6 (4), 22-32-116.5.

## Student Clubs

Pikes Peak Online School offers a variety of both local school and national clubs. All student organizations are required to open membership to all interested and/or eligible students. Secret



societies shall not receive recognition in any manner under this policy. The administration is responsible for determining that the purpose of a student organization is related to the curriculum.

Each curriculum club shall have a faculty or staff member appointed as the advisor. The advisor must attend every meeting of the student organization.

All clubs shall comply with applicable school policies and procedures.

List of National Club Offerings:

<http://www.k12.com/k12-student-clubs.html>

## Field Trips/Blended/Community Events/Face-to-Face Opportunities

### Field Trips

Field trips are optional learning opportunities for students. Students are encouraged to attend, but course grades will not be negatively affected by a student's inability to participate. Backpacks are prohibited.

As an optional learning opportunity, students and their families are responsible for any costs associated with the activity or experience, as well as transportation to and from the event. Additionally, all students and learning coaches will need to complete a field trip permission slip per each field trip.

### Blended

Pikes Peak Online School students will be invited to Blended Learning opportunities throughout the year. Students are responsible for transportation to and from this event and expected to behave in alignment with code of conduct expectations.

### Informal Events

Students and families are encouraged to hold and participate in informal Pikes Peak Online School events. Students/Families interested in sponsoring an informal Pikes Peak Online School event must obtain approval from the Pikes Peak Online Head of School. If approval is not obtained, the event is not a Pikes Peak Online School event.

Informal Pikes Peak Online School events must be chaperoned by responsible adults. Students must follow the Code of Conduct. Students/Families are responsible for transportation to/from event.

### Dances

Pikes Peak Online School dances may be held at central locations in the state, and will be chaperoned by administrators, parents, and instructional staff. Students are expected to abide by the school code of conduct. Backpacks are prohibited. Transportation to and from the event is the responsibility of the student and/or family.

Pikes Peak Online School students inviting non- Pikes Peak Online School students must notify the school; the non- Pikes Peak Online School student may be asked to provide an ID upon attending the event. All non-Pikes Peak Online School guests must be under the age of 21.

### Transportation

Pikes Peak Online School students/families are responsible for transportation to/from formal and informal events. Students under the age of 18 should not be the driver if any non-related students will

be in the vehicle.

## Material and Online Systems

### School Property, Materials and Technology

Pikes Peak Online School provides materials, books, and other curricular supplies. Pikes Peak Online School also provides computers and printers to families according to financial need. These materials are school property and must be kept in good condition. Facilities that are used for Pikes Peak Online School outings are considered school property, and the same expectations apply to the Pikes Peak Online School outing facilities. Parents are responsible for the repair or replacement of all lost, stolen, or damaged school property. A list of property that must be returned is provided to parents. All property and equipment must be returned in good, working condition upon withdrawal from the program. All printed materials are copyrighted, and unauthorized copying of those materials is a copyright infringement.

Materials cannot be sold or transferred and are to be used solely by the student in his or her studies while enrolled in the school. Parents are to comply with this policy and all the terms and conditions of the Use of Instructional Property Agreement. Please see the complete Agreement for Use of Instructional Property.

### Distribution of Textbooks & Materials

Most courses have instructional material integrated into the course. In some cases, textbooks or other materials are sent to the student.

For more information please refer to the following link:

<https://www.help.k12.com/s/topic/0TOU0000000jwVOAQ/materials?tabset-26361=2>

### Return of Textbooks & Materials

Please refer to the following link for information to return.

<https://www.help.k12.com/s/topic/0TOU0000000jwVOAQ/materials?tabset-26361=2>

Students can initiate reclamation by calling Customer Support at (866) 512-2273.

### School Issued Laptops

In certain cases, based on financial need, Pikes Peak Online School may loan a computer to an enrolling family. The income guidelines used to make this determination are the same ones set forth by the federal government for determining eligibility in the National School Lunch Program for free or reduced-price lunches. Details on income eligibility guidelines are available on the USDA website:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/iegs.htm>.

Please contact your advisor if you believe you may qualify for this program if you did not receive one at time of enrollment.

Student initiates reclamation by calling Customer Support at (866) 512-2273.

### Web filtering on Issued Computers

All K12 student computers have McAfee web filtering installed complying with the Children's Internet Protect Act (CIPA). This program cannot be turned off.

### Stolen or Damaged Laptop Process/ Insurance Coverage

Students must report a stolen or damaged laptop to the school immediately. Students and/or parents are responsible for all damaged or stolen laptops and police report must be filed before another school computer will be issued.

School insurance will not cover stolen, lost or fire-damaged equipment. We highly recommend adding the laptop to the household's homeowner's/renter's insurance policy. Without the insurance protection against stolen, lost or fire-damaged equipment, the student and their family are financially responsible for replacement costs for any equipment damaged by fire, lost or stolen. All technology packages must be insured up to \$2,000.

### Technology Usage/Internet Use Agreement

Whether receiving a loaner computer or using your own computer all Pikes Peak Online School students, if under the age of 18, their parent(s) or guardian(s) must accept the responsibility of using the school systems in a responsible and appropriate manner. By receiving this handbook, you agree to the terms and conditions within this policy. If you have concerns or additional questions, please contact [ColoOps@k12.com](mailto:ColoOps@k12.com).

### Internet Service Provider (ISP) Reimbursement Policy

Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch and additionally meet the following requirements, district assessment requirements and document submittal requirements, and deadlines in the link below will be reimbursed for ISP:

Please email Colorado Operations at [coloops@k12.com](mailto:coloops@k12.com) for additional information.

### School Online Account and Set Up Information

Please refer to the below link for additional information:

<https://www.help.k12.com/s/topic/0TOU0000000jweOAA/videos?tabset-26361=2>

### Additional Resources for School Online Accounts:

<https://www.help.k12.com/s/>

### Data Privacy

K12 Inc. seeks to maximize every child's potential by transforming the educational experience, and making it accessible, engaging and individualized.

This Privacy Policy lets you know how we collect, use, share and protect information that we may gather from K12.com and K12's other web sites, the K12 Online School ("OLS"), and the websites we manage for schools (collectively, "Sites"). This policy also applies to information that we may collect from you outside of our Sites, such as over the phone, by fax, through conventional mail, or by other means. By using any of the Sites, you agree to accept the terms of this Privacy Policy that are in effect at the time of use, including any provisions pertaining to changes to the Privacy Policy. You can click on the links below to be taken directly to sections of the policy that interest you the most.

<http://PPOS.k12.com/privacy-policy.html>

## Support and Special Programs

### Student Matrix for Support

Pikes Peak Online School Special Program Flow Chart						
The chart below is a reference to the process of each special services are as well as the contact person for each area. The first column in each area is when a student enrolls with a place. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> column indicates when there are indicators for a student and the referral process. Note: Plans are only created for students that qualify. If they do not qualify, the process would terminate prior to creating the plan.						
Gifted	English Language Learners	Health	Special Education	504	Homeless and Foster Care	
Sami Bly	Christa Seger	Christa Seger	Christa Seger	Rachel Robinson	Jennie Babcock	
SBly@k12.com	CSeeger@k12.com	CSeeger@k12.com	CSeeger@k12.com	RRobinson@k12.com	JBabcock@k12.com	

### Special Education and 504 Plans

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified school personnel, parents/guardians, and other relevant service providers hold an evaluation determination meeting to come to agreement on whether the student meets eligibility for one of the disability categories under IDEA (Click <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-main> for information related to eligibility criteria associated with the disability categories defined under IDEA). If the student is eligible and requires specially designed instruction, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be coordinated; during which the IEP team will review and finalize the proposed details of an appropriate educational program to meet the student's documented needs.

For students confirmed to present with special education needs, once the IEP team agrees on the IEP and the student's educational placement, a Prior Written Notice (PWN) will be sent to the parent/guardian for signature. This must be signed and returned to Pikes Peak Online. Pikes Peak Online School can only proceed with implementing the student's IEP (or 504 Plan) upon receipt of the signed PWN. Some students are found to present with one or more disability, but do not meet the eligibility criteria outlined under IDEA (special education); however their disability may still require Pikes Peak Online School to develop a 504 Service Agreement (504 Plan) to outline the special provisions a student may require for adaptations and/or accommodations in school-based instruction, facilities, and/or activities.

Students may be eligible to certain accommodations or services if they have a mental or physical disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program and otherwise qualify under the applicable laws. Pikes Peak Online School will ensure that qualified students with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in the school program and activities to the maximum extent appropriate for each individual student. In compliance with applicable state and federal laws, Pikes Peak Online School will provide students with disabilities the necessary educational services and supports they require to access and benefit from their educational program. This is to be done without discrimination or out of pocket cost to the student or family for the essential supplementary aids, services or accommodations determined to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities and to the extent required by the laws. Click [HERE](http://www.cde.state.co.us/spedlaw/rules) (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/spedlaw/rules> or <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefisgrant/federalattachsection504ada5040>) for more information related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Parents/Guardians have the right to revoke consent for services after initial placement. Please note, a revocation of consent removes the student from ALL special services and supports outlined on the IEP or 504 Plan.

### Homeless Students

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 is the federal law that provides persons experiencing homelessness certain rights so services cannot be denied due to the circumstance. For example, if a student is experiencing homelessness, he/she cannot be denied admission if enrollment documents are missing; or, travel assistance or alternate arrangements may be provided for testing purposes, because the homelessness hinders the student's ability to travel to the site. The purpose is to create a level playing field where students are concerned. Students cannot be singled out based on their residency status, and cannot be denied school activity inclusion based on their geographic situation. If a student is absent due to homelessness, the school is required to assist the family in getting the student adequate access to schooling. Travel assistance may be granted for event attendance if all students are offered the same assistance. Preferential treatment, regardless of intention, is not permissible under M-V law. If a family tells Staff of their situation and they choose NOT to identify using our M-V form, we are not permitted to extend services or to excuse absences due to homelessness. This law also reserves federal funds for shelter programs to assist where applicable. Children in foster care situations will be given the same opportunity as all students. The school liaison will work with all necessary agencies and guardians to ensure student has access to school. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about McKinney-Vento.

#### **Notice of Determination and Appeal**

The school liaison shall send written notice to the student final determination and of the right to appeal, and provide a copy to the legal guardian

#### **Dispute Resolution**

When a dispute arises between the student's custodial parent/guardian and K12 Colorado Schools, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school selected by the parent/guardian or student until the dispute is resolved. The parent/guardian (or student, if applicable) may appeal an enrollment determination made to the homeless student liaison within 10 business days after receiving the written determination and notice of right-to-appeal. The liaison shall issue a written decision on the dispute within 5 business days of the receipt of the appeal and sent their written decision and notice of right-to-appeal to the Board of Education to the parent/guardian (or student, if applicable).

#### **Identification of Homeless Liaison**

Jennie Babcock - Family Resource Coordinator  
JBabcock@k12.com  
720-442-0990

### Foster Care Students

It is K12 Colorado Schools intent to promote educational stability for students in foster care in accordance with state and federal law. The school shall coordinate with other districts and with local child welfare agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to students in foster care as needed.

#### **Identification of Foster Care Coordinator**

Jennie Marr - Family Resource Coordinator  
[jmarr@k12.com](mailto:jmarr@k12.com)

## Complaint Process

In accordance with Federal and State OCR (Office for Civil Rights) Guidelines, any student who believes that PPOS, or any of the school's staff, instructors, and/or administrators have inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972 (sex/gender), and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (disability) may make a complaint which shall be referred to as a formal grievance. However, whenever possible and practical, an informal solution to the complaint is encouraged and should be attempted with the school Executive Director or Principal.

If an informal acceptable solution cannot be attained, the student shall reduce the complaint to writing and formal Title IX and Section 504 grievance procedures shall commence. The complainant may file her/his complaint directly with the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education, and/or use the internal grievance process set forth as follows:

An alleged formal discrimination grievance complaint should first be made to the Head of School and/or Principal within ten (10) school days from the date of the incident.

<https://ppos.k12.com/title-ix-non-discrimination-notice.html>

## Parent Complaint Process

Parent satisfaction is an important goal. This process has been designed to ensure that all student/family grievances are considered expeditiously and fairly:

- The teacher is the first point of contact for an expression of complaint, informal or formally written. If the teacher is the subject of the complaint, the issue should be settled through parent/teacher communication.
- If the subject of the complaint is another school employee and cannot be settled at the teacher level, the parent or legal guardian should escalate the concern to the principal in writing. The principal will respond to the parent's written note of concern within 48 hours of receipt.
- If the issue or complaint is not resolved within 10 working days, the parent may escalate an issue or complaint to the Head of School. The Head of School will respond within 48 hours of initial parent or principal notification of the complaint and investigate.
- If the matter cannot be settled satisfactorily, it may be brought before Colorado Digital BOCES. The board President must be notified of the matter by the Head of School and/or the parent prior to the meeting.

## Crisis Plan

The Colorado k12 schools acknowledge the necessity of preparing a crisis management plan in the event that despite prevention efforts, a crisis should occur. Any disruptive event that threatens safety and security shall be considered a crisis. Crisis situations that could impact the District may or may not occur on school property and include but are not limited to suicide, death, acts of violence, trauma, natural disaster, and accident. Please refer to the below document for our comprehensive crisis plan:

[Crisis Plan Document](#)

## Medical Needs or Access to Medications

Pikes Peak Online School follows D49 Board policy regarding access to medications: school staff will not administer prescriptive or non-prescriptive medications to students.

<https://www.d49.org/cms/lib/CO01900838/Centricity/Domain/26/JLCD%20Administering%20Medicines%20to%20Students.pdf>

## Health and Safety

Pikes Peak Online School follows D49 Board policy regarding Health and Safety as well as the school specific Crisis Plan.

<https://www.d49.org/Page/476>

## Translated Materials

Translate into another language by clicking here and inserting the text (Traducir a otro idioma, haga clic aquí e insertar el texto): <http://translate.google.com/#>

## Student Help Matrix

<https://www.smore.com/037ar>

## Appendix

### Contact Policy

It is the expectation that all communication is returned within 24 hours (weekends excluded). If a family does not respond to a teacher's attempt to contact through phone call and email, administration may set up a meeting with the teacher and the learning coach to support and encourage communication. If communication is still not established, curriculum may be locked which may result in truancy and possible withdrawal.

We at Pikes Peak Online School believe communication is key in supporting student learning, therefore, students will receive a minimum of one monthly call from a Pikes Peak Online School teacher. It is the expectation that students return teacher phone calls within 24 hours (weekends excluded). Failure to return phone calls can result in a curriculum lock.

### Academic Engagement Policy

Pikes Peak Online School is a flexible online school, but as a public school we require our students to be actively schooling 7-8 hours per day (including class connect sessions) on average to complete all lessons and assessments accurately.

As public school students enrolled online at PPOS, students must:

1. Complete lessons weekly in every course progressing roughly 3% per week in each content area.
2. Attend REQ classes weekly

### Concurrent Enrollment Option

“Concurrent enrollment” means a student is simultaneously enrolled in Pikes Peak Online School and in a public institution of higher education. This includes career and technical courses.

The State of Colorado provides several options for high school students who meet high school standards to begin college early. The purpose of these options includes promoting content standards, providing academic challenges, and providing access to academic courses that may not be available at a local high school to meet high school graduation requirements. Students who demonstrate academic preparedness and have at least a 2.0 GPA can be eligible for concurrent enrollment programs. A student intending to enroll in a post-secondary program should work with his/her College Advisor and Guidance Counselor to complete all required documents. It is the student's responsibility to submit the appropriate documentation before the semester deadline. It is also the student's responsibility to understand how courses fulfill graduation requirements for courses taken at the college.

### **Eligibility**

Students are eligible to apply to a public institution of higher education for enrollment through the concurrent enrollment program if he or she:

- Is deemed by the student and parent/guardian on the advice of the administration to be in need of course work at a higher academic level than that available at school.
- Is deemed by school personnel to show a high degree of maturity, responsibility, especially regarding potential for completing post-secondary courses.
- Ensures the post-secondary course(s) selected align with the student's Individual and Career Academic Plan (ICAP).
- Has given advance written notice to the school specifying the courses in which the student intends to enroll. This needs to be in the form of a cooperative agreement from the college.

When a student enrolls in courses at a public institution of higher education for high school credit, the school and the participating institution will enter into a written cooperative agreement which will include, but not be limited to, the requirement that the school will pay the tuition up to the in-state community college tuition rate. The agreement will include statements that any courses taken by students under this program will also qualify as credit toward earning a degree or certificate at the institution of higher education. Each student must also complete the Pikes Peak Online School Concurrent Enrollment Agreement that is separate from the cooperative agreement that comes from the college. This agreement will be sent from the college advisor and may be completed entirely online. This agreement must only be filled out one time.

The school will not pay for transportation or any other fees including books or other materials. The school will not pay for summer school courses at the institution of higher education.

Except as noted below, the school will be responsible for paying the base-tuition to the public institution associated with post-secondary courses taken by the student.

For a college course to be added to an official Pikes Peak Online School transcript, a grade report must be sent from the college to the Pikes Peak Online School high school register mid-year and an **official college transcript must be submitted at the end of each school year.**

In general, the requirements for transferring course credit from a college/university include providing official documentation from the college or university including the course title, the number of credits, and the student's final grade. In most cases, a one-semester college-level course equals 1 high school credit.

### **What makes a college class equal to 1 high school unit?**

A 3-credit hour college course can be counted as 1 high school credit. (ENG 101 = 3 college credits = 1



high school unit, Spanish 101 = 4 college credits = 1.25 high school units).

A full-time student must be enrolled in a total of 6 classes with a minimum of 1 course at PIKES PEAK Pikes Peak Online School while being concurrently enrolled. The student must meet the eligibility to enroll in all post-secondary courses and receive approval for his/her academic plan of study.

### Concurrent Enrollment Application

Students (9-12) interested in applying for Concurrent Enrollment must meet eligibility criteria as outlined in the Pikes Peak Online School Concurrent Enrollment (CE) Guidelines and submit the following application materials to Jen Samora - Pikes Peak Online School College Counselor- [JSamora@k12.com](mailto:JSamora@k12.com):

- Statement of Interest – Found in Pikes Peak Online School Contract
  - Outline student’s interest in the Concurrent Enrollment program, explain how he/she will benefit from this opportunity if approved, and how this opportunity would fit into student’s post-secondary goals.
- Proof of College Opportunity Fund registration (COF)- Proof of completion must be submitted separately to our College Counselor, [JSamora@k12.com](mailto:JSamora@k12.com). Apply at: <https://cof.college-assist.org/>
- Course description, syllabus and scope/sequence, and number of college credit hours per course (maximum of 4 CE courses, 3 credits or more per semester). This is a separate online form that will need to be submitted each semester.
- An outside course approval form- This comes from the college and must be submitted separately to our College Counselor, [JSamora@k12.com](mailto:JSamora@k12.com).
- An agreement between the school and higher education institution is necessary for a student to enroll in courses. Pikes Peak Online School will make every effort to create relationships with higher education institutions if one has not yet been created. This form will be separate from the online application. Please contact Jen Samora - College Counselor, [JSamora@k12.com](mailto:JSamora@k12.com), to obtain this form if you do not receive one from the college.

### High School Additional Course Fees

Activity and course fees for concurrent enrollment courses may be issued. Please contact the high school counselor for specific courses and fee amounts

\*Summer School courses require a fee.

### Grade Level and Graduation Cohort Guidelines

Pikes Peak Online School calculates grade level based on the student’s cohort graduation requirement year. This means that a student who started 9th grade in 2023-2024 will have a graduation requirement year of 2027.

In Colorado, the year a student entered 9th grade determines the graduation cohort. The graduation rules are based on this graduation cohort regardless of the year the student graduates from high school.

- Use the table below to determine Graduate Cohort.

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Year	Current Grade	Graduation Cohort
2023-2024	9 <sup>th</sup>	2027
2022-2023	10 <sup>th</sup>	2026
2021-2022	11 <sup>th</sup>	2025
2020-2021	12 <sup>th</sup>	2024

<b>2019-2020</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	2023
<b>2018-2019</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	2022
<b>2017-2018</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	2021

### Valedictorian/Salutatorian

The Valedictorian is the highest-ranking member of a graduating class, and the Salutatorian is the second highest. Rank is determined by the highest GPA at the end of the 2nd semester for the graduating students. In the case of a tie, Co-Valedictorians will be named. Only students earning a minimum of 6 credits at Pikes Peak Online School high school are eligible for Valedictorian/Salutatorian.

### Work Experience/Service Learning Courses

Students who wish to participate in work experience must register for the associated courses and complete the requirements of the course. Course requirements include; logging time spent on the activity, providing documentation of instruction or training, and meeting the minimum contact/supervisory conditions established in the course syllabus. Mentors may not be family members. Students will be required to submit pay stubs for work experience and documentation of hours for service learning.

### Academic Engagement Policy

Pikes Peak Online School High School advisors focus on student achievement by monitoring attendance and engagement daily. In conjunction with daily absence phone calls, students missing 3+ days of LMS logins will receive a weekly or daily call from an advisor. Students identified as needing additional support will be referred to the school's support system.

### High School Graduation Requirements



Education  
Reenvisioned BOCE:

### Orientation Policy

Online learning is different than traditional forms of schooling and it is essential that students have a full onboarding experience in order for them to be successful in the online setting. Therefore, Pikes Peak Online School provides a robust onboarding program, called the Week of Welcome, for all students each year.

- All students will participate in an orientation week upon enrollment
- Students are expected to attend all orientation live sessions and complete all orientation assignments, including, but not limited to district assessments.
- Students not completing all orientation tasks will be subject to a curriculum lock and possible withdrawal

### Pathways

Students at Pikes Peak Online are expected to attend all required classes each day school is in session. Students for whom a traditional school schedule is not possible will be placed on Pathway 2 and

attendance and participation will be tracked in alternate, individualized ways. Qualifiers for Pathway 2 include, but are not limited to, day time work schedules, child care needs or mental health needs. Students will need to work with their advisors during the week of welcome to be identified for this alternate pathway. Students interested in the Pathway 2 option will need to meet with their advisor and complete the Pathway 2 contract.

## GED

Pikes Peak Online School is proud to offer an internal GED Preparatory Program for students who qualify. For further information students can speak to a counselor or an advisor.

## Credit Recovery

The credit recovery program is designed to allow students with previous instruction an opportunity regain credit at an accelerated pace.

Because of this flexible and efficient approach, students can often stay on top of their current classes as well as catch up as needed. Or, they can take credit recovery courses during special summer sessions.

- Students can demonstrate mastery on assignments and tests
- Content is always available for students to refer back to
- Pre-recorded audio and pre-teaching of vocabulary is available in many units
- Engaging interactive content and tutorials address hard-to-learn concepts
- Helpful assessments provide ample practice before students take exams
- Individualized support from certified teachers

### Guidelines

- Credit Recovery classes **MUST** be done before end of semester or an NC will be awarded
- Grade from a credit recovery class will go on student's transcript
- Withdrawal from a credit recovery course is not allowed once it has been added to schedule