



# **2021-2022**

# **Family Guidebook**

**Free To Think. Inspired To Lead.**

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to iLEAD Lancaster Charter School! You are part of a ground-breaking, innovative program designed to meet your child's individual needs and to foster in them a love of learning and the desire to be the leaders of the future.

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School may be different from some of your child's previous educational experiences. First, your child will participate in an interdisciplinary academic learning environment where they will make connections among various areas of study including language arts, history, science, the arts and technology. This setting will allow them to move at their own pace through inquiry-based learning strategies. Your child will also learn experientially through many field trips visiting local parks, beaches, organizations, businesses, and museums. Participation in these experiences will help your child apply their classroom learning. Finally, your child's growth will be measured along a continuum and in a variety of ways that demonstrate learning. In essence, your child will be empowered to take ownership of their learning experience.

Your experience as a parent at iLEAD Lancaster Charter School may also be different from what you have experienced at your previous schools. To make the transition a smooth one for your learner(s) and yourself, we encourage families to keep updated and informed about school events and parent programs. We encourage and depend upon our parents to be actively engaged both in and outside of their learner's classroom. You will work harder here as a parent, but your rewards will be tenfold. If you feel that you need support in any given area, please don't hesitate to ask for a meeting with your child's classroom facilitator, or another adult on campus that can advocate for you or your child. We work as a team in this environment and the only effective way to do that is to communicate and ask questions. The Family Guidebook is designed to share iLEAD Lancaster Charter School's philosophy, expectations for learners and families, and other school information.

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# SECTION 1:

# iLEAD SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL OVERVIEW

## OUR MISSION AND VALUES

### iLEAD Schools Mission Statement

**Free to Think. Inspired to Lead.**

### iLEAD Schools Values

#### iLEAD Means...

##### **I**nternational

Learning foreign languages and cultures makes our learners compassionate, open-minded world citizens.

##### **L**eadership

Practicing for a lifetime of listening, collaborating, inspiring and leading.

##### **E**ntrepreneurial Development

Encouraging learners to work in teams, take risks and learn from failure, nurtures the ability to innovate and ignites their entrepreneurial spirit.

##### **A**rts

Creating & exploring the world through the artistic experience enhances all subject areas for our learners.

##### **D**esign Thinking

Participating in project-based learning leads to more meaningful experiences and a deeper understanding for our learners.

*At iLEAD Schools we are not teaching static facts to students, we are facilitating a dynamic process with our learners. We believe that education is not the filling of a vessel, but rather, the lighting of a flame.*

## OUR METHODOLOGY

### Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Over the past 100 years, the world we live in has radically changed. If we as a society are going to keep up, the way we educate our children must also change. Project-based Learning (PBL) is a teaching methodology that actively engages learners by challenging them to deeply investigate a personally interesting and complex

question, problem or challenge. Then from this deep investigation, create and publically present something unique and original and authentic in response.

Project-Based Learnings' time has come. The experience of thousands of teachers across all grade levels and subject areas, backed by research, confirms that PBL is an effective and enjoyable way to learn – and develop deeper learning competencies required for success in college, career, and civic life. Why are so many educators across the United States and around the world interested in this teaching method? The answer is a combination of timeless reasons and recent developments.

Through the PBL methodology, our learners develop the skills, aptitudes, and attitudes necessary to discover their own path and lead the way into the future. The development of rigorous, authentic projects helps learners bridge the gap between simply remembering instructions and becoming independent lifelong learners.

**PBL makes school more engaging for learners.** Today's learners, more than ever, often find school to be boring and meaningless. In PBL, learners are active, not passive; a project engages their hearts and minds, and provides real-world relevance for learning.

**PBL improves learning.** After completing a project, learners understand content more deeply, remember what they learn and retain it longer than is often the case with traditional instruction. Because of this, learners who gain content knowledge with PBL are better able to apply what they know and can do to new situations.

**PBL builds success skills for college, career, and life.** In the 21st century workplace and in college, success requires more than basic knowledge and skills. In a project, learners learn how to take initiative and responsibility, build their confidence, solve problems, work in teams, communicate ideas, and manage themselves more effectively.

**PBL helps address standards.** The Common Core and other present-day standards emphasize real-world application of knowledge and skills, and the development of success skills such as critical thinking/problem solving, collaboration, communication in a variety of media, and speaking and presentation skills. PBL is an effective way to meet these goals.

**PBL provides opportunities for learners to use technology.** Learners are familiar with and enjoy using a variety of tech tools that are a perfect fit with PBL. With technology, facilitators and learners can not only find resources and information and create products, but also collaborate more effectively, and connect with experts, partners, and audiences around the world.

**PBL makes teaching more enjoyable and rewarding.** Projects allow teachers to work more closely with active, engaged learners doing high-quality, meaningful work, and in many cases to rediscover the joy of learning alongside their learners.

**PBL connects learners and schools with communities and the real world.** Projects provide learners with empowering opportunities to make a difference, by solving real problems and addressing real issues. Learners learn how to interact with adults and organizations, are exposed to workplaces and adult jobs, and can develop career interests. Parents and community members can be involved in projects.

## **Not just knowing but also DOING**

*PBL allows learners to apply their learning in real-world scenarios.*

## **High levels of engagement**

*PBL gives learners a voice in their own education, activating their interest, which allows for greater and deeper learning!*

## **True learning**

*PBL allows us to teach, observe, and measure growth of marketable 21st Century skills such as communication, critical thinking, and collaboration.*

## **Focusing on your learner, not the curriculum, brings learning to life**

*PBL develops self-empowered learners who can analyze the world they live in, design a better tomorrow, and go create it!*

**\*What is PBL? and PBL Outcomes from [Buck Institute](#)**

## **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**

It takes more than book-smarts to be an effective leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Today's leaders must possess the ability to successfully manage themselves and others. In the digital world we live in, these vital skills are becoming more and more scarce. If schools are not teaching them, we are not preparing our learners. **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)** teaches learners to manage their emotions, resolve conflict, and make responsible and well thought out decisions.

Implementation and evaluation (assessment) of SEL has become an integral part of our approaches to teaching and learning through Project-Based Learning. Based on practices such as the [7 Habits of Highly Effective People/Kids/Teens®](#) (Stephen/Sean Covey) and [Character Lab®](#) aspects (Learner Outcomes), we measure and report SEL progress as part of every project, ILP (Individualized Learning Plan) goals, and Reports of Progress. We have also developed SEL and Academic Rigor rubrics that add a well-balanced approach to mindfulness and reflective practice for facilitators, learners, parents, and administrators.

Other elements for SEL implementation, practice and assessment include: Leader Led Conferences (LLCs); Presentations of Learning (POLs); Passion Projects; Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs); Advisory Program; Learner Driven Ambassador Groups and Class Greeters.

## **CURRICULUM**

The research-based instructional approach of Project Based Learning at iLEAD Lancaster Charter School is differentiated to engage learners through hands-on, serious, authentic experiences across subject areas. This methodology allows facilitators to address learners' individual differences, variations in learning styles, intelligence and abilities. Rather than rely on any one series of books, textbooks or guides, we employ multiple materials, resources and strategies to best meet the needs of individual learners.

Curriculum is implemented with the following best practices in education:

**Global Understanding:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners are faced with the challenge of engaging in an increasingly interdependent world where knowledge is constantly developing and evolving. Rigorous curriculum covering

global connectivity will give learners a sense of belonging in our ever changing world and prepare them to thrive in the global marketplace upon graduation and post-college. Exploring diverse cultures will give learners a positive attitude toward learning and greater understanding of the world around them.

**Engaging Curriculum:** Our curriculum delivers the California content standards through relevant learning experiences that engage learners' interests as they discover underlying concepts and develop a deep understanding of subject matter. Learners are active participants in meaningful exploration, engage in hands-on activities and experiences that build on their prior knowledge. Projects are used as a teaching tool to focus on higher order thinking and real world skills. We will encourage learners to apply their understanding in projects that gradually introduce more complexity, more learner-driven choice of topics and products. The goal is to foster self-motivation and self-directedness, as each learner discovers their unique strengths.

**Multi-age Groupings:** Research supports environments with two or more grades that allow learners the flexibility to progress at their own pace along a continuum of achievement. As such, select grade levels at iLEAD Charter School are multi-age environments.

**Facilitator Continuity (Looping):** Multi-year relationships between facilitator and learner provide for deeper knowledge to guide instructional decisions and familiarity with the social-emotional health of a learner (Anderson and Pavan, 1993).

**Advisory/Morning Meetings:** Research shows that when learners feel connected to their school, they do better academically. One of the ways we achieve this with Middle and Diploma Programme learners is through our advisory program. In small group settings, we explore the causes and effects of cultural, personal, and community events. Our primary learners participate in daily morning and/or 'family' (classroom) meetings that provide an opportunity to witness and display social problem solving skills and interactions. These meetings provide learners with the forum to develop social and emotional skills needed to thrive in a collaborative environment.

**California State Academic Standards:** California along with most other States developed and adopted common academic standards in core curriculum areas. They are rigorous, internationally benchmarked, and research- and evidence-based.

Each state, and each district in California decides how they will teach and what resources they will use. More information can be found at [www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/) or [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). California's computer-based student testing system ties the standards for English language arts, mathematics, and science called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The assessments include the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Assessments, California Science Tests (CAST), California Alternate Assessments (CAA), and Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS) for Reading/Language Arts. Parents can exempt their child(ren) from CAASPP testing by submitting a letter in writing annually. More information about the CAASPP can be found at [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/). [EC 60119, 60604.5, 60615]

**California Healthy Youth Act:** The California Healthy Youth Act requires school districts to provide pupils with integrated, comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased sexual health and HIV prevention education at least once in middle school and once in high school. It is intended to ensure that pupils in grades 7-12 are provided with the knowledge and skills necessary to: 1) protect their sexual and reproductive health from HIV, other sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancy; 2) develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family; and 3) have healthy, positive, and safe relationships and behaviors. It also promotes understanding of sexuality as a normal part of human development.

Parents or legal guardians have the right to:

1. Inspect the written and audiovisual educational materials used in the comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education.
2. Request in writing that their child not receive comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education
3. Request a copy of Education Codes 51930 through 51939, the California Healthy Youth Act
4. Be informed whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education will be taught by district personnel or outside consultants
5. Receive notice by mail or another commonly used method of notification fewer than 14 days before the instruction is delivered if arrangements for the instruction are made after the beginning of the school year
6. When the district chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education, be informed of:
  - a. The date of the instruction
  - b. The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker

**English Learners Identification Notice:** State law requires that parents of English learners are to be notified annually if they are identified as one of the following: Long-term English Learner or English learner at risk of becoming a Long-term English Learner. The school coordinator for English Language Development will be sending these notices at the beginning of each school year.

## **INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLANS (ILPs) and LEARNER LED CONFERENCES (LLCs)**

Each year, learners along with their facilitator(s) create an ILP to guide instruction. Each learner, along with their family and facilitator, work together to monitor the ILP and make adjustments, as needed. The primary goal of the ILP is to ensure that each child will be treated as an individual and therefore will be working toward attainable goals appropriate to their individual development.

Throughout the year, learners will review learning outcomes and set individual goals. They will learn to evaluate their progress toward those goals, starting at a basic level when they are younger and improving their ability to self-assess over time. Throughout the year, learners will meet with their facilitator and their parent(s) to look critically at what they have accomplished both in formal settings as well as at home with their families. At the end of the spring semester our learners will present their progress in the Learner Led Conference (LLC) Presentations.



Portfolio-based LLCs will help ensure that learners are accountable to themselves, their families, their teachers, and the school community as a whole. Additionally, the experience creates a powerful incentive for learners to develop their skills, through the communication of high expectations, public display of meaningful work, and opportunities to showcase talents in modalities that best suit learners' distinct learning styles.

## **SECTION 2:**

# **GENERAL OPERATIONS**

### **OFFICE HOURS 7:30am to 4:30pm**

Front Desk Phone Number: (661) 722-4287

### **SCHEDULE**

See the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website at [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org) for the most up to date hours, including break and lunch schedule.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR**

See the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website at [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org) for the current year's Instructional Calendar. If minimum or pupil-free staff development days are scheduled after the start of the school year, the school will notify parents and guardians of affected pupils as early as possible.

### **STAFF**

See the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website at [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org) for staff listings and biographies.

### **POLICIES**

Our school is governed by a set of Policies and Procedures that are updated regularly. If you are interested we encourage you to make an appointment to review the policies and procedures by contacting [registrar@ileadlancaster.org](mailto:registrar@ileadlancaster.org)

## SECTION 3:

# DAILY OPERATIONS

### DROP OFF AND VALET PROCEDURES

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School offers a convenient valet drop off system. This is the safest and most efficient way to drop off your learner(s). We strongly encourage all families, regardless of the learner's grade level, to use the valet system.

In order to keep the learners and families safe before and after school, we ask that you follow these parking lot procedures when driving your child to the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School campus;

- Drive slowly and watch for families and children walking through the parking lot;
- Do not use your cell phone while driving in parking lot;
- Give your attention to driving and exiting safely;
- Primary Grade children should be accompanied through the parking lot by a parent or older sibling.

Please help us keep the valet line safe and efficient by following these guidelines:

- Have your child seated so that they can exit quickly.
- Be prepared- have your child ready to exit with a backpack/school work/ lunch in hand.
- Please pull forward and wait for a valet attendant before exiting the vehicle.
- Make sure your child has exited safely and all volunteers are at a safe distance away from your vehicle before you drive away from the valet drop off area.
- If you need to get something out of your trunk, please park in the parking lot.

For a map and more information please visit our website: [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org)

### ATTENDANCE

We try to make every minute of school engaging for the learners, and our expectation is that all learners will be at school on time and for the entire course of the school day. Learners arriving late could miss important beginning of the day information that is relevant to their education.

#### Absence

If your child is going to be absent, please use the *Report an Absence* tab on our website at [ileadlancaster.org](http://ileadlancaster.org) or call the office at 661-722-4287 on the morning of the first day of the absence. You may leave a voicemail message when the office is closed.

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School urges parents to make sure their children attend school regularly and to schedule medical and other appointments after school or during school holidays. iLEAD Lancaster Charter School also asks that travel or other absences be avoided during the time school is in session. The higher the school's daily attendance rate, the more a learner will learn and the greater the amount of funding that the school will receive from the state for classroom instruction, and academic programs. The school calendar is designed to minimize problems for families which plan vacations around traditional holiday periods, and thereby minimize learner absences.

Following an absence, a learner is required to bring a written excuse from home when returning to school. Illnesses, and doctor and dental appointments are considered excused absences. Absences without a written excuse are recorded as unexcused.

## **Excused Absences**

Learners, with the written consent of their parents or guardians, may be excused from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral or religious instruction.

No learner shall have their grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence or absences, if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.

(a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil (learner) shall be excused from school when the absence is:

(1) Due to their illness.

(2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.

(3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services rendered.

(4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of their immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.

(5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.

(6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the learner is the custodial parent.

(7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of their religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the learner's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

(8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.

(9) For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family, who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in EC 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the superintendent of the school district.

(10) For the purpose of attending the learner's naturalization ceremony to become a United States Citizen.

(b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefore. The teacher of the class from which a learner is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the learner missed during the absence.

(c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.

(d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.

(e) "Immediate family," as used in this section, means the parent or guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the household of the learner.

## **Tardiness**

We ask that you contact the school if you know your child is going to be tardy. Consistent tardiness will result in learners missing valuable time with their classmates and will require them to make up missed activities.

## **Tuancy**

Learners are expected to be in school every school day. Any learner who is absent from school without a valid excuse (46010, 46010.3, 48205 Ed. Code) is considered truant. Missing a class period without a valid excuse is also considered truancy. Truancy is a serious offense and may lead to serious consequences.

## **Illness**

Any child who becomes ill while at school will be taken to the Health Office and parent(s) will be called to pick up the sick child. Please note that your child needs to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

If your child needs to take prescription medication on a temporary or permanent basis while at school, an authorization to administer medication must be on file at the school. This form is available on the web-site: [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org)

## **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE:**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School offers before and after school care facilitated through Champions, a division of the KinderCare Corporation. For a complete list of days, times, and fee schedules, please visit [DiscoverChampions.com](http://DiscoverChampions.com), email our Champions Site Director at [ch001134@klcorp.com](mailto:ch001134@klcorp.com), or call 1-800-246-2154.

## **SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School offers a school lunch program. iLEAD Lancaster Charter School offers healthy meals every school day because children need healthy meals to learn. Free or reduced-price meals are available at school for learners whose parents or legal guardians qualify, based on annual household income, and complete the required application form. Learners participating in the program will not be identified, and the information on the application will be kept confidential. Applications may be submitted at any time during school hours. For more information on the program and meal charge policy, please see the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website at [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org).

### **Free and Reduced-price Meals**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School offers healthy meals every school day because children need healthy meals to learn. Free or reduced-price lunches are available at school for learners whose parents or legal guardians qualify, based on annual household income, and complete the required application form. Pupils participating in the program will not be identified, and the information on the application will be kept confidential. Applications may be submitted at any time during school hours.

One form that is especially important for schools to receive from families is called the **Multipurpose Family Income Form**. This form needs to be filled out for every learner and submitted each year by **October 31**. It can be submitted in a variety of ways. You can fill it out via a fillable PDF ([attached](#)) and email it to registrar@ileadlancaster.org, fill out a paper form ([attached in English](#), [attached in Spanish](#)) and drop it off at the meal distribution site Monday-Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM, or — in our newest, completely digital way — you can complete it via the My Mealttime online platform. This new option ensures the confidentiality of your form and can be done from home. Please see the attached instructions ([here](#) and [here](#)) on how to access this option. Please email all forms (by October 1) and any questions to registrar@ileadlancaster.org.

## **ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES**

iLEAD Lancaster CharterSchool offers several clubs and enrichment classes. For a list of current ongoing extra-curricular offerings, please see the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School Community Calendar at: [Community Calendar](#)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School does not provide transportation. Families need to arrange their own transportation to and from campus/studio. Field Studies participation includes transportation details and are arranged on a per field study basis. Please see individual Field Study documentation for further information.

Prior to departure on a school activity trip, all learners riding on a school bus or school activity bus shall receive safety instruction that includes, but is not limited to, location of emergency exits, and location and use of emergency equipment. Instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit.

## **LOTTERY GUIDELINES**

As a charter school, iLEAD Lancaster Charter School is a school of choice, and may have more students interested in attending the school than there are spaces available. If the number of students who wish to attend the school exceeds the openings available, entrance shall be determined by single random public drawing in accordance with Education Code §47605(d)(2) and all federal requirements.

## SECTION 4:

# LEARNER CONDUCT

## EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOOL BEHAVIOR

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School strives to present our learners with opportunities that exceed those available at most traditional schools. Our learners also accept a sense of responsibility that in many ways exceeds that which is expected at a traditional school. We expect each child to do their best, both academically and behaviorally. If there's a problem, we personally speak with the learner, discuss the options for making good decisions, set appropriate consequences, and strive to help the learner internalize the importance of taking responsibility for their own learning and behavior. As a framework for this, we have expected learning results.

At iLEAD Lancaster Charter School we utilize **Love and Logic®** to embrace each learner's uniqueness while modeling and expecting appropriate behavior. Our iLEAD Lancaster Charter School expectations for school behavior are:

- I will do nothing to harm myself or others
- I am responsible for my behavior
- We are each other's keepers
- I take pride in myself and in my work
- I will leave it better than I found it.

At the beginning of the school year, and at intervals throughout the year, we discuss these goals and principles with the learners, come to a common understanding of what they mean and why they are important, and then help our learners to incorporate them into their daily lives.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the Love and Logic® courses offered at iLEAD Lancaster Charter School throughout the year.

### *CONSEQUENCES*

In addition to Love and Logic, our school focuses on Restorative Practices. This is an approach to resolving conflict and is used for preventative measures. Restorative Practices refer to a range of approaches including talking circles and peer mediation and utilizes strategies to rebuild relationships.

There are age appropriate consequences for not adhering to the behavior guidelines. Along with the Restorative Practice approach, family and staff will work together to make decisions that are in the best interest of the child. The following are examples of consequences that allow flexibility for individuals and varying situations.

- **Warning and reminder:** This may take place in or out of the classroom.
- **Reflection time:** This allows children to cool off and the situation to diffuse before it becomes a larger issue. A reflection time may take place in the office or outside of a classroom.

- **A respectful, related consequence:** This step allows the flexibility for a child or adult created consequence. For instance, if a child wrote on a table, the consequence may be to clean the tables.
- **A disciplinary referral to the office:** This consequence reflects the seriousness of the situation. At this time, the learner will meet with an administrator, describe what happened, what she or he could have done differently, and what could be changed at the school that could prevent this from happening again.
- **Suspension/parental supervision :** The child would not be allowed to attend school. This would include extra-curricular activities during the suspended time period.
- **Emergency Removal:** See *Emergency Removal* section on the next page.

## *SUSPENSION/EXPULSION PROCEDURES*

Rules of suspension and expulsion must follow due process mandates. They are stated below.

### Suspension

- The school administrator or administrative designee can suspend a child.
- No suspension shall exceed five (5) school days.
- The administrator must directly contact the parent/guardian regarding the learner suspension and reasons why.
- The learner must be given the right to appear at a conference before the Administrator. At the conference, the learner shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against them, and shall be given the opportunity to present their version and evidence in their defense.
- A written notice of suspension must be sent or given within one school day to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the learner. The notice must contain the reasons for the suspension and the right of the learner to appeal the suspension.
- A parent/guardian has the right to appeal the suspension, which must be submitted, in writing, to the Administrator within fourteen (14) calendar days of the written notice of suspension. The Administrator shall immediately forward this written appeal to the appeals officer assigned by iLEAD Education as the Board of Director's designee.

Note: A learner under a suspension shall have the right to make up all academic work missed. From the day he/she/they returns to school, the number of days given to accomplish this make-up work shall equal the number of suspension days.

### Expulsion

- Only the School Director can recommend expulsion. EDN 48900
- The School Director may grant an extension of time. If granted, the Administrator must notify all parties, in writing, of the new time and place for the meeting.
- The written notice is to include reasons for the recommended expulsion.
- The learner and parent must have an opportunity to appear, on request, before the school Administrator to challenge the recommendation for expulsion, or to otherwise explain the learner's actions that led to the intended expulsion.
- The parent/guardian may be given the opportunity to withdraw the learner before a decision to expel takes place. It should be noted, however, that when such learner is withdrawn, the expulsion process must continue to be followed to its conclusion

- Only the governing board may make the decision to expel a learner. Following that decision:
- The letter of expulsion is sent.
- Within one (1) school day, the Administrator shall notify the Registrar, in writing of the decision to expel.
- The parent/guardian has the right to appeal the expulsion, which must be submitted, in writing, to the school Administrator within fourteen (14) calendar days of the written letter of expulsion. The Administrator shall immediately forward this written appeal to the appeals officer assigned by iLEAD Education as the Board of Director's designee.

### *EMERGENCY REMOVAL*

The school Administrator may perform an emergency removal of a learner from curricular or extracurricular activities or from the grounds if a learner's presence poses a threat and/or danger to any person or property, or if the learner's presence poses an on-going disruption to the educational process. This removal may be done without immediate notice or hearing.

If the removal leads to a suspension any learner so removed shall be given written notice and provided with a hearing within three (3) school days after removal as defined in the Suspension section of this Handbook. If it is probable that the learner is going to be recommended for expulsion, the expulsion process shall be conducted in accordance within the Expulsion section of this Handbook.

### *STUDENT SEARCH*

The school director or administrative designee may search the person of a learner, the learner's locker, backpack or purse if there is a reasonable suspicion to believe the learner may have a concealed weapon, narcotics, stolen property, or contraband. [U.S. Supreme Court Case: New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985) 469 U.S. 325]

### *ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS (E-CIGARETTES)*

The School District prohibits the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) such as e-cigarettes, hookah pens, cigarillos, and other vapor-emitting devices, with or without nicotine content, that mimic the use of tobacco products on all district property and in district vehicles at all times. ENDS are often made to look like cigarettes, cigars and pipes, but can also be made to look like everyday items such as pens, asthma inhalers and beverage containers. These devices are not limited to vaporizing nicotine; they can be used to vaporize other drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and heroin.


Learners using, in possession of, or offering, arranging or negotiating to sell ENDS can be subject to disciplinary action, particularly because ENDS are considered drug paraphernalia, as defined by 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

### *RELEASE OF LEARNER TO PEACE OFFICER*

If an iLEAD Lancaster Charter School official releases your learner from school to a peace officer for the purpose of removing their from the school premises, the school official shall take immediate steps to notify you or a responsible relative of your learner, except when a learner has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse. In those cases, the peace officer will notify the parent or guardian. [EC 48906; PC 11165.6]

### *PARENT RESPONSIBILITY*





Parents or guardians are liable for all the damages caused by the willful misconduct of their minor children, which result in death or injury to other learners, school personnel, or school property. Parents are also liable for any school property loaned to the learner and willfully not returned.

If your child commits an obscene act or engages in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupts school activities or otherwise willfully defies the authority of school personnel, and is suspended for such misconduct, you may be required to attend a portion of a school day in your child's classroom. [EC48900.1]

## **SECTION 5:**

# **TECHNOLOGY**

## **ELECTRONICS**

Cell phones, tablets, and other electronic items are often used for instructional practices. We are guiding our learners in appropriate use of technology, helping them to make appropriate choices concerning these items. We realize that many parents give their children cell phones for safety and convenience. We ask that learners limit use of the phones during the school day to academic purposes only. Families may contact their child in an emergency situation by calling the school office and learners may use cell phones or school phones to contact families in an emergency. Learners should respect their facilitator's requests regarding appropriate time to use technology. Should technology disrupt the learning environment or if used inappropriately, parent/guardian will be notified and cell phones or other devices will be stored in a safe place and returned to the learner at the end of the school day. Continuous misuse of technology will result in consequences.

## **INTERNET USAGE**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School's computers have access to the Internet. The school works diligently to protect our learners from inappropriate content. The iLEAD Lancaster Charter School staff work closely in training our learners as to the appropriate use of the Internet. Before using the Internet, parents and learners should read the following "Network Use Guidelines." All parents and learners must also sign a Student & Parent/Guardian Network Responsibility Contract.

## **NETWORK USE GUIDELINES**

Please read the following carefully. This will give you information about the privileges and responsibilities of using the Internet as part of your educational experience. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual people.

Learners will have access to:

1. Electronic mail (e-mail) communication with people all over the world.
2. Information and news from a variety of sources and research institutions.
3. Public domain and shareware software of all types.
4. Discussion groups on a wide variety of topics.
5. Many university libraries, the Library of Congress, and more!
6. Educational Software

Giving our learners the skills to thrive in the 21st Century means giving them access to technology. With computers as part of every classroom curriculum, iLEAD Lancaster Charter Schools uses very strong guidelines for Web usage and Internet security. We comply with the level of security that the Children's Internet Protection Act requires. While we have filters at the network level for inappropriate Websites, there are still instances when those Websites can come through. Please be assured that iLEAD Lancaster Charter School remains committed to restricting the use of such Websites.

Our school is taking reasonable precautions to restrict access to “harmful matter” and to materials that do not support approved educational objectives. However, on a public network it is impossible to control all materials. “Harmful matter” means matter that, taken as a whole by the average person applying contemporary statewide standards, describes in a patently offensive way material which lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors (Penal Code, section 3 13).

The facilitators/staff will choose resources on the Internet that are appropriate for classroom instruction and/or research for the needs, maturity, and ability of their learners. iLEAD Lancaster Charter School takes no responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information from Internet sources. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the user’s risk.

The purpose of schools having access to the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of the internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of iLEAD Lancaster Charter Schools.

Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the distribution of:

1. Any information which violates or infringes upon the rights of any other person.
2. Any defamatory, inappropriate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or illegal material.
3. Advertisements, solicitations, commercial ventures, or political lobbying.
4. Any information which encourages the use of controlled substances or the use of the system for the purpose of inciting crime.
5. Any material which violates copyright laws.
6. Any vandalism, unauthorized access, “hacking,” or tampering with hardware or software, including introducing “viruses” or pirated software, is strictly prohibited.
7. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of these privileges.

## **NETIQUETTE (Network Étiquette)**

The use of the Internet requires that you abide by accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Be polite. Do not send abusive messages to anyone.
2. Use appropriate language. In all messages, do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Anything pertaining to illegal activities is strictly forbidden.
3. Maintain privacy. Do not reveal the personal address or phone numbers of yourself or other persons. Before publishing a learner’s picture, first name, or work on the Internet, the school must have on file a parent release authorizing publication.

4. Respect copyrights. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be the property of the author and should not be reused without their permission.
5. Do not disrupt the network. Do not use the network in a way that would disrupt the use of the network by others.
6. Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem, you must notify iLEAD Lancaster Charter School staff.
7. Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

## **SUPERVISION AND MONITORING**

School and network administrators and their authorized employees monitor the use of information technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline or security of any learner or other person, or to protect property. They may also use this information in disciplinary actions, and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement.

## **CYBERBULLYING**

iLEAD Schools provides learners with instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes communication, social skills, and assertiveness skills and educates learners about appropriate online behavior and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and cyberbullying. School staff shall receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies. Parents/guardians, learners, and community members also may be provided with similar information.

Any learner who engages in cyberbullying on school premises, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with school policy. If the learner is using a social networking site or service that has terms of use that prohibit posting of harmful material, the School Director or designee may also file a complaint with the Internet site or service to have the material removed.

## SECTION 6:

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### **ATTIRE**

We do lots of walking, running, sitting on the carpet, art, etc. Therefore, our parents and learners have found that loose-fitting, comfortable clothing and closed-toed sneakers or comfortable walking shoes work best at our school. Distracting clothing is discouraged and although we do not wish to limit our learners' freedoms by imposing guidelines we will contact the parents to inform them about the inappropriate choice of clothing when necessary.

### **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

It is always our intent to resolve concerns in the simplest manner for all. If a parent has a classroom concern, it is expected that they will try to resolve the concern with the classroom facilitator. If the concern is not resolved, please bring your concern to the school administration. Every effort will be made to find a fair resolution through a personal conference or a meeting between the parties involved.

## **EMERGENCY AND HEALTH PROCEDURES**

### **Emergency Medical Authorization**

Each parent is asked to complete the Emergency Medical Authorization portion of the Enrollment/Information Form and Emergency Contact Information. These forms will include the necessary information the school must have should an emergency arise. It is extremely important that the authorization and Emergency Contact Information be fully completed.

### *LEARNER MEDICATIONS ASSISTANCE*

If your learner requires emergency or other medications (such as an inhaler, epi-pen, or oral medication), it must be prescribed by a doctor and will be kept in a locked compartment in the front office. A parent or guardian must complete a Request for Assistance Concerning Learner Medications form prior to the learner attending classes at iLEAD Lancaster Charter School. This form is available in the front office or on the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website at: [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org)

### **Emergency Treatment for Anaphylaxis**

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that can occur after encountering an allergic trigger, such as food, medicine, an insect bite, latex or exercise. Symptoms include narrowing of the airways, rashes or hives, nausea or vomiting, a weak pulse and dizziness. It is estimated that approximately 25% of the anaphylactic reactions occur during school hours to learners who had not previously been diagnosed with a food or other allergy. Without immediate administration of epinephrine followed by calling emergency medical services, death can occur. Being able to recognize and treat it quickly can save lives. Recent changes to EC 49414 now require schools to provide epinephrine auto-injectors to school nurses and trained personnel and authorizes them to use epinephrine auto-injectors for any learner who may be experiencing anaphylaxis, regardless of known history.

## **Entrance Health Screening**

State law requires that the parent or legal guardian of each pupil provide the school within 90 days after entrance to first grade documentary proof that the pupil has received a health screening examination by a doctor within the prior 18 months. Pupils may be excluded up to 5 days from school for failing to comply or not providing a waiver. Free health screening is available for eligible learners through the Child Health Disabilities Prevention Program.

## **Oral Health Assessment**

A dental assessment done by a dental professional is required for all kindergarteners and first graders attending public school for the first time. Dental assessments must be completed in the 12 months prior to entry or by May 31st of the pupil's first school year.

## **Immunizations**

Learners must be immunized against certain communicable diseases. Learners are prohibited from attending school unless immunization requirements are met for age and grade. The school shall cooperate with local health officials in measures necessary for the prevention and control of communicable diseases in school age children. The school may use any funds, property, or personnel and may permit any person licensed as a physician or registered nurse to administer an immunizing agent to any learner whose parents have consented in writing. Beginning January 1, 2016, parents of learners in any school will no longer be allowed to submit a personal beliefs exemption to a currently required vaccine. A personal beliefs exemption on file at school prior to January 1, 2016 will continue to be valid until the learner enters the next grade span at kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten) or 7th grade.

Learners are not required to have immunizations if they attend a home-based private school or an independent study program and do not receive classroom-based instruction. However, parents must continue to provide immunizations records for these learners to their schools. The immunization requirements do not prohibit learners from accessing special education and related services required by their individualized education programs.

A learner not fully immunized may be temporarily excluded from a school or other institution when that child has been exposed to a specified disease and whose documentary proof of immunization status does not show proof of immunization against one of the communicable diseases described above.

## **Physical Examination**

A parent or guardian may file annually with the school director a written statement, signed by the parent or legal guardian, withholding consent to a physical examination of the pupil. However, whenever there is good reason to believe that the pupil is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the pupil shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return until school authorities are satisfied that the contagious or infectious disease no longer exists.

## **Sudden Cardiac Arrest**

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly. When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA is not a heart attack; it is a malfunction in the heart's electrical system, causing the victim to collapse. The malfunction is caused by a congenital or genetic

defect in the heart's structure. SCA is more likely to occur during exercise or sports activity, so athletes are at greater risk. These symptoms can be unclear and confusing in athletes. Often, people confuse these warning signs with physical exhaustion. If not properly treated within minutes, SCA is fatal in 92 percent of cases. In a school district, charter school, or private school that elects to conduct athletic activities, the athletic director, coach, athletic trainer, or authorized person must remove from participation a pupil who passes out or faints, or who is known to have passed out or fainted, while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity. A pupil who exhibits any of the other symptoms of SCA during an athletic activity may be removed from participation if the athletic trainer or authorized person reasonably believes that the symptoms are cardiac related. A pupil who is removed from play may not return to that activity until he or she is evaluated by, and receives written clearance from, a physician or surgeon. On a yearly basis, an acknowledgement of receipt and review of information regarding SCA must be signed and returned by the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian before a pupil participates in specific types of athletic activities which generally does not apply to those conducted during the regular school day or as part of a physical education course.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

### **Drills**

Emergency drills, such as earthquake and fire drills are conducted during the school year. Drills are serious practice so that everyone will be prepared should an emergency occur. Procedures are reviewed with all staff who teach them to learners.

If an emergency occurs during regular school hours, learners will be directed by their facilitator to follow emergency procedures for the specific event. If an emergency occurs when the learners are not on-site, learners will be directed to the supervising aid, parent volunteer or other school staff member. These supervisors will call iLEAD Lancaster Charter School to provide an update and next steps.

### **Actual Emergency**

If an emergency extends beyond the end of the school day, learners will not be released until it has been determined that it is safe to do so. In the case of an emergency, parents or an emergency contact are expected to sign learners out, regardless of grade.

If damage is extensive, we ask that you park your car away from the valet areas and walk to the designated location to pick up your child. It is important to keep any lanes open for emergency vehicles only.

When you arrive at the school, an emergency response team (made up of public servants, staff and volunteers) will direct you to the appropriate check out area to sign out your child. If the school building is not considered safe, learners will be congregated in the parking lot away from all buildings. A phone message will be sent to your primary phone number with directions on where to pick up your child. Please do not leave the school.

### **School Safety Plan**

A Comprehensive School Site Safety Plan has been adopted at iLEAD Lancaster Charter School. This plan is available upon request from the school office.

## PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW FACILITATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Parents may request the following regarding their child's facilitator(s):

- Licensure and certification information
- Emergency or provisional teaching certificate
- Educational background
- Qualifications of Instructional Aides (if applicable)

## STUDENT RECORDS

A cumulative record, whether recorded by handwriting, print, or other means, must be maintained on the history of a pupil's development and educational progress. The School will protect the privacy of such records. Parents/guardians have the right to 1) inspect and review the pupil's educational record maintained by the school, 2) request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading, and 3) have some control over the disclosure of information from educational records. School officials with legitimate educational interests may access pupil records without parental consent as long as the official needs to review the records in order to fulfill their professional responsibility. Upon request from officials of another school district in which a pupil seeks or intends to enroll, the school shall disclose educational records without parental consent.

Parents' request to access their pupil's educational records must be submitted in a written form to and the school will have five (5) business days from the day of receipt of the request to provide access to the records. Copies of pupil records are available to parents for a fee of per page.

Any challenge to school records must be submitted in writing to the School Director, Nykole Kent, care of iLEAD Lancaster Charter School. A parent challenging school records must show that the records are 1) inaccurate, 2) an unsubstantiated personal conclusion or inference, 3) a conclusion or inference outside the observer's area of competence, 4) not based on the personal observation of a named person with the time and place of the observation noted, 5) misleading, or 6) in violation of the privacy or other rights of the pupil.

**FERPA:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records.

For more information on FERPA, visit the U.S. Department of Education's website at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

**Directory Information:** "Directory Information" includes one or more of the following items: learner's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, date of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent public or private school attended by the learner. Directory information may be disclosed without prior consent from the parent or legal guardian unless the parent or legal guardian declines upon registration denying access to their learners' directory information.



**Learner Records Obtained from Social Media:** The school may gather information in the forms of video, photograph, blog, texts, and emails, to maintain school and learner safety. All social media information gathered will be destroyed within one year after the learner turns 18 years or older one year after the learner is no longer enrolled, whichever comes first.

## **SERVICES TO DISABLED LEARNERS**

If you have reason to believe your learner has a disability requiring special services or accommodations, tell or write to the school. Your learner will be evaluated to determine whether they are eligible for free special or modified instruction or services. The school has policies guiding procedures for identification and referral. Learners identified with special needs will receive a Free Appropriate Public Education in the least restrictive environment. Whether virtual or in-person, special education services can only be rendered to learners who are physically in the state of California. No services will be rendered for Special Education outside of the state of California. [EC 48853, 56020 et seq., 56040, 56301; 5 CCR 4622; 20 USC 1412, (10)(A)(ii), 1412(a)(6)(A); 34 CFR 300.121]

### **Instruction for Learners with Temporary Disabilities**

A learner with a temporary disability which makes attendance in the regular day classes or the alternative educational program in which the learner is enrolled impossible or inadvisable may receive individualized instruction provided through distance learning. Please email [Registrar@ileadlancaster.org](mailto:Registrar@ileadlancaster.org) for further information.

A learner with a temporary disability, who is in a hospital or other residential health facility, excluding a state hospital, may be deemed to have complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the school district in which the hospital is located.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school district in which the hospital or other residential health facility is located of the presence of a learner with a temporary disability. Upon receipt of the notification, the district will within five working days determine whether the learner will be able to receive individualized instruction pursuant to EC 48206.3 and, if so, provide the instruction within five working days or less.

A learner with a temporary disability may remain enrolled in the district of residence or charter school and may attend regular classes when not confined to the hospital setting, the total days of instruction may not exceed the maximum of five days with both school settings and attendance may not be duplicated. If necessary, the district of residence may provide instruction in the home for the days not receiving instruction in the hospital setting, depending upon the temporary doctor orders. The supervisor of attendance shall ensure that absences from the regular school program are excused until the learner is able to return to the regular school program.

An honorary high school diploma which is clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation may be awarded to a learner who is terminally ill, from the resident governing school board, a county office of education or a charter school.

## **LEARNER FEES**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School is a tuition-free public school and does not have any mandated fees.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter Schools is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment. Any learner who engages in sexual harassment of anyone in or from the school may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. The school strongly encourages any learner who feels that they are being or has been sexually harassed on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity by another learner or adult to immediately contact their facilitator, the director, or any school employee. Any employee who receives a report or observes an incident of sexual harassment shall notify the director. Once notified the director or designee shall take the steps to investigate and address the allegation.

Any employee who permits, engages in, or fails to report sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. For a copy of the school's sexual harassment policy or to report incidences of sexual harassment, please contact the school office at: (661) 722-4287.

## **NON DISCRIMINATION**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter Schools is committed to providing a safe school environment where all individuals in education are afforded equal access and opportunities. The school's academic and other educational support programs, services and activities shall be free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any individual based on the person's actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Specifically, state law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in enrollment, counseling, and the availability of physical education, athletic activities, and sports. Transgender learners shall be permitted to participate in gender-segregated school programs and activities (e.g., athletic teams, sports competitions, and field studies) and to use facilities consistent with their gender identity. The School assures that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in School programs. Complaints of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying are investigated through the Uniform Complaint Process. Such complaints must be filed no later than six months after knowledge of the alleged discrimination was first obtained. For a complaint form or additional information, contact the school office at (661) 722-4287.

## **SAFE PLACE TO LEARN ACT**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter Schools is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code and EC 220, and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. All school personnel who witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Any student who engages in acts of discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, or bullying related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school of the school district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. To report an incident and/or to receive a copy of the school's

antidiscrimination, anti-harassment, anti-intimidation, and anti-bullying policies, please contact the school office at (661) 722-4287.

## **FOSTER YOUTH**

Foster and homeless youth are allowed educational rights, such as: immediate enrollment, remain in school of origin, enrollment in local comprehensive school, partial credits, graduation with state minimum requirements with possible fifth year/exemption from local graduation requirements, and access to academic resources, services and extracurricular activities. A local educational agency must provide a remedy to the affected pupil following the Uniform Complaint Procedures.

## **LCFF and LCAP**

The school LCAP is available for viewing on our website and is updated annually.

## **SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD**

The school SARC is available for viewing on <http://sarconline.org> and is updated annually.

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL/TOBACCO PREVENTION**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School functions as a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free workplace.

## **PESTICIDE USE**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter Schools may utilize outside companies to control pests. If, in any given situation, non-chemical methods of pest management are ineffective and it is deemed necessary to use a pesticide during the school year, the area of application will be placarded in advance, as required by law. Parents or guardians who wish to be personally notified of any pesticide applied at an iLEAD location, please contact the office.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY**

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a major cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. In order to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on learners and families, the Director(s) or designee have developed preventive strategies, intervention and postvention procedures. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all learners by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.

In order to initiate access to available pupil mental health services, you may contact the following mental health provider: Shaana Scott at 661-722-4287. Our school will notify parents at least twice per year. This is one time through our Annual Notifications, we will also notify you again a second time each school year, by the following means: Back to School August-September and Learner Led Conferences April-June.

## **FIELD STUDIES**

Throughout the school year, learners will take many trips, often planned through facilitator and parent collaboration. These trips are a part of iLEAD Lancaster Charter School's project-based curriculum and may include walking trips, trips by private or school vehicles, and buses. Participation is a vital part of the learning process and is strongly encouraged.

A walking field trip permission slip is completed as part of the enrollment packet. Signing the form indicates you have granted your child permission to participate in iLEAD Lancaster Charter School's ongoing walking field trip program throughout the school year. Facilitators will not send home trip slips for each individual walking field trip.

Field Trip Permission Slips will be required for all non-walking field trips. Learners must have a permission slip on file in order to participate in a field trip.

Approved volunteers\* are encouraged to accompany your child's class on a field trip, please let the facilitator know in advance. We appreciate all volunteers for trips. \*See Family Expectations for information on the volunteer process.

## **MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES**

### **Harm or Destruction of Animals**

Any learner with a moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying an animal, or any part thereof, must inform their facilitator of the objection. Objections must be substantiated by a note from the learner's parent or guardian.

A learner who chooses to refrain from participation in an education project involving the harmful or destructive use of an animal may receive an alternative education project, if the facilitator believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible. The facilitator may work with the learner to develop and agree upon an alternative education project so that the pupil may obtain the knowledge, information, or experience required by the course of study in question.

### **Surveys**

Our school will not use tests, questionnaires, surveys or examinations containing any questions about the pupil's personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, and religion, unless the parent or guardian is notified in writing that the test, questionnaire, survey, or examination is to be administered and the parent or guardian consents in writing.

### **Civility on School Grounds**

Any person who willfully disturbs any public school or any public school meeting is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

It is unlawful for any person, except a parent/guardian acting toward their minor child, to intentionally or to attempt to injure, intimidate, interfere by force, threat of force, physical obstruction, or nonviolent physical obstruction with any person attempting to enter or exit any public or private school grounds.

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School is committed to protecting all learners in its care. All employees are considered mandated reporters, required by law to report cases of child abuse and neglect whenever there is reasonable suspicion abuse or neglect has occurred. School employees may not investigate to confirm a suspicion.

All complaints must be filed through a formal report, over the telephone, in person, or in writing, with an appropriate local law enforcement agency (*i.e.*, Police or Sheriff's Department, County Probation Department, or County Welfare Department/County Child Protective Services). Both the name of the person filing the complaint and the report itself are confidential and cannot be disclosed except to authorized agencies.

## **Custody Issues**

Custody disputes must be handled by the courts. The school has no legal jurisdiction to refuse a biological parent access to their child and/or school records. The only exception is when signed restraining orders or proper divorce papers, specifically stating visitation limitations, are on file in the school office. Any learner release situation which leaves the learner's welfare in question will be handled at the discretion of the site administrator or designee. Should any such situation become a disruption to the school, law enforcement will be contacted and an officer requested to intervene. Parents are asked to make every attempt not to involve school sites in custody matters. The school will make every attempt to reach the custodial parent when a parent or any other person not listed on the emergency card attempts to pick up a child.

## **Electronic Listening or Recording Device**

The use by any person, including a learner of any electronic listening or recording device in any classroom without the prior consent of the facilitator and the school director is prohibited as it disrupts and impairs the teaching process and discipline in the schools. Any person, other than the learner willfully in violation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any learner in violation shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## **Gun-Free School Zone Act**

California prohibits any person from possessing a firearm on, or within 1,000 feet from, the grounds of a public or private school, unless it is with the written permission of the School Director. This does not apply to law enforcement officers, any active or honorably retired peace officers, members of the military forces of California or the United States, or armored vehicle guards engaged in the performance of, or acting in the scope of, their duties. A person may also be in possession of a firearm on school grounds if the firearm is unloaded and in a locked container or within the locked trunk of a motor vehicle. A violation of this law is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both imprisonment and fine.

## **Title IX**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is one of several federal and state anti-discrimination laws that ensure equality in educational programs and activities that receive federal funding. Specifically, Title IX protects male and female learners and employees, as well as transgender learners and learners who do not conform to sex stereotypes, against discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment. California law also prohibits discrimination based on gender, gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Under

Title IX, pupils may not be discriminated against based on their parental, family, or marital status, and pregnant and parenting learners may not be excluded from participating in any educational program, including extracurricular activities, for which they qualify. For more information about Title IX, or how to file a complaint of noncompliance with Title IX, contact: Nykole Kent, School Director, 254 East Ave K 4 Lancaster CA 93535, nykole.kent@ileadlancaster.org, 661-722-4287.

## **SECTION 7: COMMUNICATION**

### **COMMUNICATION METHODS**

#### *WEBSITE*

The best way to keep updated with current events and activities at iLEAD Lancaster Charter School is via the website: [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org)

#### *MONDAY MESSAGE*

Each Monday, school information and reminders are sent home via the Monday Message. You can sign up using a link on the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website homepage [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org)

#### *FACEBOOK*

You can follow our journey at <https://www.facebook.com/ilead.lancaster/>

#### *CLASS NEWSLETTERS/WEBSITE*

Most facilitators/grade level teams have an informational website. Your learner's facilitator will provide this website information at Meet the Facilitator Night.

#### *PHONE/TEXT*

You will receive periodic phone calls and/or texts through Parent Square, our automated calling system. These phone calls will contain important information and reminders. In the event of inclement weather or an emergency, we will also utilize this system. Please make sure that we have your current phone number in our system at all times.

To update your information, email: [Registrar@ileadlancaster.org](mailto:Registrar@ileadlancaster.org)

## SECTION 8:

# FAMILIES AND iLEAD LANCASTER CHARTER SCHOOL WORKING TOGETHER

## FAMILY PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School seeks to make education a community passion. To this end, parent participation is essential to the success of the education process. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the operation of the school as an integral part of the staffing and support team and with the charter staff in the development and successful completion of the individual learning plan for your child.

It is because of families like you that we are able to offer such a unique program for our children here at iLEAD Lancaster Charter School.

Volunteering and participation are always optional. We do strongly encourage participation in order to foster the home-school connection and work tirelessly to create a culture where families feel welcome to come onto campus often, but of course, we understand that is not an option for every family. If possible, families are asked to participate 40 hours per year, which works out to 1 hour per week or 4 hours per month. These hours can be earned through a variety of opportunities intentionally designed to accommodate a range of schedules and ability to participate, including classroom volunteering, operational / facilities assistance, relevant professional expertise, administrative tasks or by attending Parent University workshops and seminars.

See the Volunteering page for a list of volunteer needs, and watch the Monday Message for current volunteer needs at: [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org) and via posts through Parent Square.

Families having difficulties meeting the participation commitment should contact Registrar@ileadlancaster.org.

Hours completed off campus or by learner volunteers can be emailed to Registrar@ileadlancaster.org.

### *EXAMPLES OF FAMILY VOLUNTEER WORK*

- In-class support as an educator aide
- Adult workshops – parents teaching other parents
- Outside research in support of specific school projects
- Driving on field trips (must register as driver)
- Organizing a community service project for learners
- Supervising at the school – lunch periods, recess, before school
- Operation support – maintenance of the campus
- Hosting an activity in your home or business

NOTE: All volunteers working with children must have a current TB test on file which are valid for 4 years, as well as a LiveScan criminal background check. LiveScan screenings are valid for the full duration of stay at the school. LiveScan can be obtained at various LiveScan locations and could take up to 2 weeks to clear. Please



see the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website at [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org) for a list of locations as well as the necessary LiveScan paperwork.

### *RECORDING VOLUNTEER HOURS*

All volunteers should record their volunteer hours into the Check In system located in the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School lobby. Hours completed off-campus can be forwarded to [Registrar@ileadlancaster.org](mailto:Registrar@ileadlancaster.org).

### *TRADITIONS*

At iLEAD Lancaster Charter School we have several traditions in place. These are the traditions which we consider our cornerstone events:

- Fall Festival (Fall)
- Multicultural Feast (Fall)
- Winter Production (Winter)
- Spring School Community Event (ex.Full STEAM Ahead, Art Festival, BackYard Bash)

You will be notified of the exact dates for these events, as well as other learning displays and community building events in the Monday Message or via the Events Calendar on the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org).

### *ANNUAL FAMILY GIVING*

Annual Family Giving is a tradition at many charter schools in California. As a charter school, iLEAD Lancaster Charter School receives significantly less per child funding from the state than a traditional school would get. In addition to reduced funding, iLEAD Lancaster Charter School directly pays the lease for our buildings.

The iLEAD Lancaster Charter School Annual Family Giving Campaign donations directly benefit every learner by providing hands-on curricula, state-of-the-art technology, field trips, college visits, art materials, professional development, and the day-to-day operating expenses that are not funded by the state of California.

The Annual Family Giving Campaign is an important part of strengthening your child's school as well as demonstrating our collective commitment to iLEAD Lancaster Charter School. While family giving is voluntary, our school expenses are mandatory, and no financial gift is too small.

## **SECTION 9: GOVERNANCE**

### **HISTORY**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School's Governing Board is composed of community leaders passionate about providing innovative educational opportunities within the Antelope Valley. Each of these Board members came



to iLEAD Lancaster Charter School with the vision and ability to create and maintain a successful school. For a list of current board members, please visit the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website.

## **SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School is governed by a California public benefit corporation with IRS 501c3 tax-exempt status. The school is subject to the Bylaws of the corporation. While iLEAD Lancaster Charter School's charter authorizing agency is the Lancaster School District, we are self governed, manage our own operations and maintain our own board of directors.

The listing of the current iLEAD Lancaster Charter School Board of Directors can be found on the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School website: [www.ileadlancaster.org](http://www.ileadlancaster.org).

Decisions made by the Board will be on a majority basis. The Board will oversee iLEAD Lancaster Charter School's policies and operations, and will receive regular reports on the school's academic, financial, and operational progress.

Governing board meetings are open to the public and generally regularly on the campus of iLEAD Lancaster Charter School. Meeting notifications are posted on campus prior to the next scheduled Board meeting. Recorded minutes from past meetings are available upon request from the School Administrative office.

*iLEAD Schools is an innovative public charter school organization that works closely with our learners, families and communities to develop leaders for the 21st century. We do so through a rigorous, project-based curriculum, which gives a great deal of voice and choice to our learners. We feel that our schools are on the forefront of project-based learning which is giving our children the skills to thrive, not only in the future, but to be active members of their community today. We thank you for joining us on this journey.*