



**Student/Parent Handbook**  
**2023-2024**

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Look us up on the web:  
<http://studentchoicehighschool.com>

District Office

8253 W Thunderbird Rd #105  
Peoria, AZ 85381  
Office: (602)334-4104  
Fax: (623) 299-9898

LOCATIONS

Glendale

6666 W. Peoria Ave Suite 113  
Glendale, AZ 85302  
Phone: (623) 299-9851  
Fax: (623) 219-4865  
School Hours: 7:30AM - 3:30PM Monday-Friday

South Phoenix

Kroc Center  
1375 E. Broadway Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040  
Phone: (602)412-1524  
Fax: (602) 875-5178  
School Hours: 7:30AM - 3:30PM Monday-Friday

Maricopa

20800 N. John Wayne Pkwy Suite 107  
Maricopa, AZ 85139  
Phone: (520) 413-0261  
Fax: (480) 565-1206  
School Hours: 7:15AM - 3:45PM Monday-Friday

Maryvale

YMCA Family Branch  
3825 N. 67th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85033  
Phone:(602) 362-2995  
Fax: (602) 875-5179  
School Hours: 7:30AM - 3:30PM Monday-Friday

Peoria

8194 W. Deer Valley Rd. Suite B108  
Peoria, AZ 85382  
Phone: (623) 242-2722  
Fax: (623) 566-1634  
School Hours: 7:15AM - 3:45PM Monday-Friday

### San Luis

1914 Cesar Chavez Blvd. Suite 1  
San Luis, AZ 85349  
Phone: (928) 227-4696  
Fax: (928) 295-3693  
School Hours: 7:30AM - 3:30PM Monday-Friday

### Surprise

15693 N. Reems Rd. Suite 117  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
Phone: (623) 242-0689  
Fax: (480) 865-2201  
School Hours: 7:15AM - 3:45PM Monday-Friday

### Tempe

1833 N. Scottsdale Rd.  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
Phone: (480) 947-9511  
Fax: (480) 947-9624  
School Hours: 7:30AM - 3:30PM Monday-Friday

### Yuma

1730 S. 4th Ave.  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
Phone: (928) 358-1834  
Fax: (928) 358-1955  
School Hours: 7:15AM - 3:45PM Monday-Friday

## Executive Team

**Scott Lopez**  
Chief Executive Officer

**P. Scott Meehan**  
Executive Vice-President Business Development

**Shawna Lopez**  
Chief Operations Officer

## Charter Mission Statement

The mission of the Student Choice High School with a curriculum and instructional program that meets the educational needs of at-risk students on an individual basis, is to utilize public funds to provide and promote meaningful learning experiences. In a caring manner, we will remove the "risk" and prepare our students to be effective, responsible, self-reliant citizens who strive to lead a successful life beyond a high school diploma.

## School Mission Statement

Our mission is to **Motivate, Educate, Graduate, and Activate** our students!

## Vision Statement

Student Choice High School's vision is to be  
**Leading at the Edge of Transformational Education**

## Core Values

At Student Choice High School

We believe in.....

Data driven decisions that are results oriented.

Advocating for ALL students and making their needs a priority.

Honesty, integrity, loyalty, and hard work.

Every person has a value and a voice.

Innovation, bravery and risk taking.

Collaboration and compassion.

## ACCREDITATION

Student Choice High School is fully accredited by Cognia.

Cognia is the largest community of education professionals in the world. They are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of Pre-K-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. While their expertise is grounded in more than a hundred years of work in school accreditation, Cognia is far from a typical accrediting agency. Their goal isn't to certify that schools are good enough. Rather, their commitment is to help schools improve.

Combining the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change, they serve as a trusted partner to 34,000 schools and school systems—employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 other nations. Cognia was created through a 2006 merger of the Pre-K-12 divisions of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)—and expanded through the addition of the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) in 2012.



Student Choice High School is fully accredited by Middle States Association of Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

The Middle States Association is a worldwide leader in accreditation and school improvement. For over 125 years, Middle States has been helping school leaders establish and reach their goals, develop strategic plans, promote staff development and advance student achievement.

When it comes to evaluating school systems, the Middle States Association looks at the whole school. Improving outcomes requires a comprehensive approach. When assessing whether a school should be accredited 12 key areas make up the Standards of Accreditation: Mission, Governance and Leadership, School Improvement Planning, Finances, Facilities, School Organization and Staff, Health and Safety, Educational Program, Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning, Student Services, Student Life and Activities, and Information Resources.



## ACADEMIC PLANNING

### Guidance

The school will provide a program that focuses on what all students should know to be College and Career ready. Students will receive lessons that will help them make decisions based on these three domain areas: academic, career, and personal/social. The emphasis is on academic success for all students, so they can achieve success in school and develop into contributing members of society.

### Arizona Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) for Students in Grades 9-12

Schools shall complete for every student in grades 9-12 an Arizona Education and Career Action Plan (“ECAP”) prior to graduation. Schools shall develop an Education and Career Action Plan in consultation with the student, the student’s parent or guardian and the School Guidance Counselor or Administrator. School Guidance Counselors or Administrators shall monitor, review and update each Education and Career Action Plan individually with the student annually through a Student Success Plan. (*ADE ECAP Attributes*)

### Mentorship

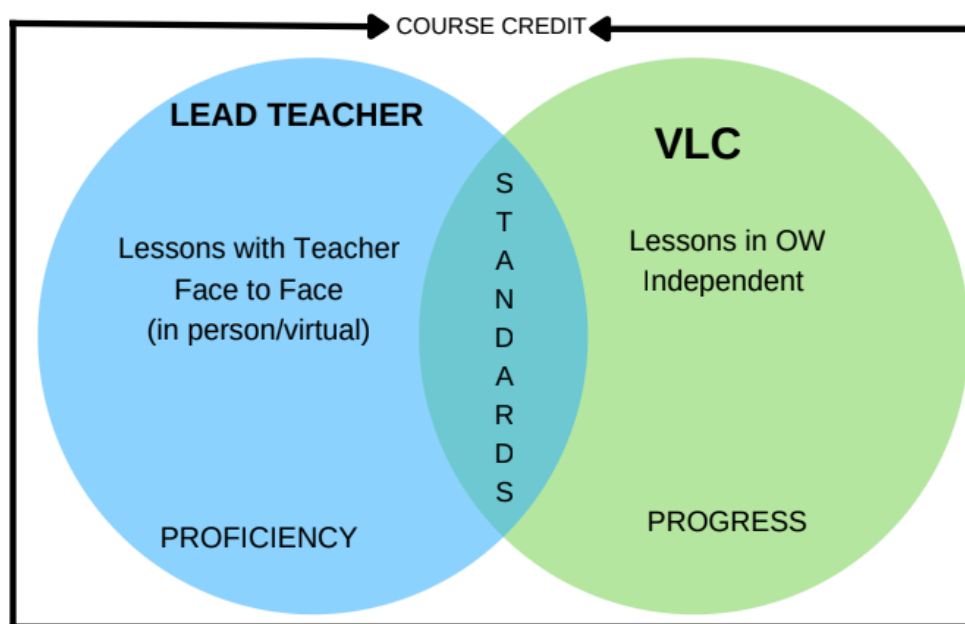
As the Arizona Department of Education states, being a part of the Dropout and Recovery program students will be assigned a mentor and will have a written learning plan developed. The mentor will consistently review the learning plan with students and revise when applicable. The student will commit to consistent communication and being engaged with their mentor aligned with their written learning plan. (*A.R.S. 15-901.06*)

### Curriculum

Student Choice High School utilizes approved online curriculum. Parents have the right to review learning materials and activities in advance.

### Blended Learning

All Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors will be enrolled in a blended learning course. To ensure proficiency of the standards being taught, students will complete lessons in the online curriculum as well as attend and participate in face-to-face lessons with the teacher. Students will be required to complete both to receive course credit. Please see the diagram below.



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### Student Choice High School Graduation Requirements

Credit Requirements align to Arizona State Minimum (A.R.S. § 15-701.01)

\* Indicates REQUIRED courses per the State Board of Education

English	4 credits	*(English 1, English 2, English 3, English 4)
Math	4 credits	*(to include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)
Science	3 credits	*(to include 1 Life Science such as Biology)
Social Studies	3 credits	*(American History, World History, Government, Economics)
CTE/Fine Arts	1 credit	
Electives	7 credits	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 credits**</b>	

**\*\*Students seeking entrance to a University should reference their required competency/course requirements to ensure requirements are met for admissions.**

Students who meet the graduation requirements will have an opportunity to participate in a graduation ceremony. The ceremony may require students to wear a cap and gown to participate. Students who are eligible to be enrolled or who are a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe will not be prohibited from wearing traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at the graduation ceremony. (HB2705)

### Grading Scale

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%=79%
D	60%-69%
F	0%-59%
P	Pass
INC	Incomplete

Teachers may round student grades to the next percentage point. (i.e. 79.5% may be rounded to 80%)

### Grading And Course Completion Guidelines

- Course grade determination
  - o 50% Computer software lessons
  - o 30% Projects/Face to Face lessons
  - o 15% Quizzes
  - o 5% Unit Tests
- All grades must represent learning (student academic achievement).
- There will be documentation of student progress toward mastery.
- Courses are scheduled for 12-week terms. Courses not completed within the term will be given an Incomplete (INC) as their final grade. Students must retake the course and receive a passing grade to earn credit for the course.
- Beginning with the first "grade in progress" report, and continuing until the end of the course, each student's current grade will be available by directly requesting the grade from the teacher, or through electronic means.



The following courses will be given a grade of Pass/Fail and are not calculated into Student's GPA: Civics, Holocaust, Personal Finance, Service Learning, Work Study, CPR training, and Steps to Success.

\*Students in Cohort 2023, 2024, and 2025 must pass the Civics Exam with 60% or higher

\*Students in Cohort 2026 and later, must pass the Civics Exam with a 70% or higher.

\*Holocaust must be passed with a 65% or higher.

\*Personal Finance must be passed with a 65% or higher.

## ASSESSMENTS

SCHS requires two types of assessments to measure student academic progress and proficiency: Formative and Summative. Formative assessments include Placement tests, Pre-tests, and Benchmark tests all used to determine a student's **progress** towards mastery of the Arizona State Career and College Readiness Standards and Course Competency. Examples of summative assessments include the ACT Aspire, ACT, AzSCI, AZELLA, Civics Exam, and Post-Tests which are used to measure the student's **proficiency** of the Arizona State Career and College Readiness Standards (AZCCRS's) and Course Competency. These tests are required for course completion and to obtain a Graduation Diploma. All **state** mandated assessments **MUST** be taken **at the school** to ensure valid and reliable results.

## CRx Mode

Pre-Test(s) of any course in CRx mode allows students to flex the course lessons and quizzes based on demonstration of proficiency during the course Pre-Test. Lessons within the course may be reassigned by the teacher to ensure proficiency. Students are eligible for CRx or credit recovery if they meet one of the following criteria:

- If a Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior has previously taken and failed a Science or History course as indicated on Transcript. (Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors **will not** be given CRx (Credit Recovery) for English or Math courses.)
- A **Senior** who has taken and failed a course as indicated on his/her transcript.

## Civics Test Requirement for Graduation

The American Civics Act (House Bill 2064) requires all students to pass a civics test in order to graduate from high school. The test consists of 100 questions identical to the United States Immigration and Naturalization Test. Once students pass, it will be notated on their official transcript.

\*Students in Cohort 2023, 2024, and 2025 must pass the Civics Exam with 60% or higher

\*Students in Cohort 2026 and later, must pass the Civics Exam with a 70% or higher.

## CPR Requirement for Graduation

(House Bill 1137) requires all students to receive training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation through the use of psychomotor skills in an age-appropriate manner during high school.

## IDEA – SPECIAL EDUCATION

As defined by federal law, special education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability [IDEA 97 300.26(a)]. Arizona Revised Statutes defines a "child with a disability" as a child who is at least three but less than twenty-two years of age, who has been evaluated and found to have a disability and who, because of the disability, requires specially designed instruction and related services in order to access the curriculum, and related services [ARS 15-761(2)].

## Child Find

Child find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA '04) that requires Public Education Agencies (PEA) to locate, identify, and evaluate



all children with disabilities, aged birth through 21, located within their boundaries of responsibility who are in need of early intervention or special education services.

### **45-Day Screening Process:**

Arizona State Board of Education rules (found in the Arizona Administrative Code) require that "identification (screening for possible disabilities) shall be completed within 45 calendar days after entry of each student and any student enrolling without appropriate records of screening, evaluation, and progress in school, or after notification to the [school] by parents of concerns regarding developmental or educational progress by their child aged 3 years through 21 years." [A.A.C. R7-2-401(D)(5)]

"If a concern about a student is identified through screening procedures or through review of records, the public education agency shall notify the parents of the student of the concern within 10 school days and inform them of the public education agency procedures to follow-up on the student's needs." [A.A.C. R7-2-401(D)(8)]

Requests for information can be made to the following individual at our district office:

Samantha Thompson  
Administrator for Leadership and Accountability  
sthompson@schsaz.com  
8253 W Thunderbird Rd #105  
Peoria, AZ 85381  
Office: (602) 334-4104

### **SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and, if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. Purpose: The purpose of Section 504 is to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to nondisabled students. An eligible student under Section 504 is a student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. Section 504 is not an aspect of special education.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY (For Traditional Students Only)**

#### **Excessive Absences**

A parent conference may be required to develop a plan for success. Students are expected to continue to attend class and complete assigned work. Attendance and grades will be considered when reassigning lessons, courses, loss of credit and/or up to law enforcement contact.

#### **Excused Absences**

Absences that the parents/guardians excuse by phone, note, or in person due to illness, doctor appointment, bereavement, and family emergencies. Physician's documentation of illness may be required. Absences due to mental or behavioral health is an excused absence. Authorized school activities are not absences.

#### **Unexcused Absences**

Absences not excused by parents/guardians OR absences that an administrator has confirmed as unexcused OR absences that are for other reasons which do not qualify as an excused absence. If an appeal conference is requested, student, parent, teacher, and administration shall confer to determine future action.

#### **State Truancy Law**

Arizona State Law (15-802.A, 15-803.E) requires every person who has custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall make sure the child attends school for the full-time school is in session

unless unable to attend due to illness or another legitimate reason.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Students are obligated to attend classes for which they are scheduled. Students are to:

- Be prompt to all classes.
- Check out with the front office prior to leaving campus. Students must have prior permission to leave campus. Absences from students leaving without permission from administration will remain unverified.
- Report to class first and obtain permission from the teacher to leave class for any reason.
- Report directly and immediately to the front office upon arriving late to school. Students are not to loiter in cars or around campus.
- Have all absences excused by parent/guardian no later than one day upon returning to school.
- Ninety percent (90%) attendance does not imply that a class will be automatically passed. Students must attain a passing grade to receive credit.

### **Parent/Guardian Responsibilities**

It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to ensure that students attend school regularly and inform the school of any absence. By law, students under the age of 16 are required to attend school.

Parents/guardians shall be responsible for:

- Assuring that students under the age of 16 enroll in school and attend regularly.
- Excusing student absences by:
  - Contacting the front office prior to an absence
  - Calling on the day of the absence.
  - Sending a note.

### **School Responsibilities**

It is the school's responsibility to:

- Take attendance daily
- Maintain accurate attendance records
- Make a reasonable effort to inform students and parents/guardians of the attendance policy and procedures (electronic phone calls/text, mail/email, handbook, student meetings)
- Make a reasonable effort to communicate with parents regarding excessive absences, (electronic phone calls/text, direct calls, mail and report card, e-mail)
- Meet with parents upon request
- Communicate with parents after each student's absence
- Notify student and parent of loss of credit
- Provide attendance summaries to parents upon request
- Explain the attendance policy and procedures at the beginning of school

### **Teacher Responsibilities**

- Contact parent when absences interfere with academic performance
- Consult with student regarding possible loss of credit, and provide make-up work for students with verified absences
- Teachers will determine whether students will receive credit based upon academic performance and attendance

## **TARDY POLICY (For Traditional Students Only)**

### **Definition**

A tardy student is defined as any student who is not inside the classroom when the class begins.

### **Tardy Procedures:**

Tardy students will be marked tardy in the attendance system, and assigned a plan of action based on the occurrence. The student will then be sent to class after signing in at the front office. Site administration will work with all stakeholders to eliminate and reduce tardiness.

## **CAMPUS PROCEDURES & EXPECTATIONS**

Student Choice High School maintains a closed campus during school hours. High school students may not leave campus unless they have their parent, legal guardian or authorized emergency contact person sign them out of school in the attendance office. All students are to remain only in designated areas during school hours.

Students must abide by campus expectations for on site campus attendance and required blended learning expectations. Which can include but not limited to required face to face and/or virtual learning with staff.

### **Personal Items**

The school is not responsible for money or personal items which are lost or stolen. Students are advised to bring only enough money to school to cover necessary expenses. Cell phone use is not permitted during class time due to the nature of coursework being online and to limit disruptions to the educational environment.

### **Medications**

Any medication, prescription or over-the-counter is not given or administered to students by Student Choice Staff. All medications must be administered to students, at home, by their parents or guardians.

### **Driving And Parking Regulations**

In order to ensure safe and orderly use of the school parking lot, the following procedures will be observed:

- Students who drive are strongly encouraged to carpool as the parking lot has a limited number of space
- Pedestrians have the right of way at all times on campus
- Students are to park only in the areas designated for student parking
- Students are not to park in the designated visitor areas
- Loitering in the parking lot during the school day is not permitted
- The parking lot is a facility provided by the school. Students use it at their own risk. The school is not responsible for theft or damage. Students are encouraged to lock their cars at all times.
- Driving in a manner that is deemed unsafe or hazardous by the staff is grounds for immediate revocation of all campus driving/parking privileges

### **Rollerblades, Roller Shoes, Skateboards, Scooters And Bicycles**

Bicycles, rollerblades, roller shoes, skateboards, and scooters may be used in getting to school; however, they must be checked at the front office upon arrival. Bicycles must be parked in the designated area. SCHS is not responsible for stolen items.

### **Visitors, Classroom Tours or Observations**

No student may have a guest on campus during the school day without prior approval from administration.

Parents may request a visit, tour, or observe their child's classroom (campus visit), subject to the following parameters:

- All campus visit requests must be received by the school at least 24 hours in advance of the proposed visit, provided that the school, in its sole discretion, may waive the 24-hour advance notice requirement on a case-by-case basis.
- Campus visit requests will be promptly reviewed by school administration, with input from the classroom teacher.
- Campus visit requests will be approved unless they threaten to interfere with the physical, intellectual, social, or emotional health and/or safety of students and staff.

During any approved campus visit, parents will be subject to all policies applicable to campus visitors generally, including safety requirements for providing identification, signing in and out of the campus, and if applicable, being accompanied by school staff.

All approved campus visits will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time for the school and the visitors, and may be limited to a specific time frame, at the school's discretion. All visitor behavior is expected to comply with all campus procedures and in an appropriate manner that is respectful to the environment.

### **Service Animal**

In compliance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all unrestricted areas of Student Choice High School's facilities, and may attend any class, meeting or other event. Exceptions may apply in certain areas.

For purposes of this policy, "service animal" has been defined by the ADA as "any animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals to an impending seizure or protecting individuals during one, and alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders, or pulling a wheelchair and fetching dropped items." Absent prior authorization, Student Choice High School prohibits individuals from bringing onto the premises a pet that does not meet the ADA's definition of service animal.

All service animals must be approved and registered with Human Resources.

### **Student Relationships**

Behavior which lacks appropriate restraint may necessitate a parent-school conference or another more serious form of discipline. Public display of affection is inappropriate on school grounds.

### **Loitering And Trespassing On Other School Campuses**

Students are not to be on any other school campus unless attending a scheduled class. Any personal visit must be cleared by reporting to the administrative office to request permission. No loitering or trespassing will be tolerated. Violators will be reported to police and suspension may occur (A.R.S. 13-2905).

Students need to leave campus at the end of the academic day. The only students allowed on campus after school hours are those students who have appointments to meet with teachers or staff. All students staying after school need to be supervised by a staff member. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

Student Choice High School does not practice discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, age, or religious view point or expression. This policy is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (pertaining to race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (pertaining to sex-equity), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA-Americans with Disabilities Act (pertaining to handicap), Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (pertaining to age), and covers admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, the district's programs and activities, including vocational education. Students, parents or guardians, employees, or members of the community who have any concerns about these regulations or who wish to file individual grievances should contact the following district staff person:

Samantha Thompson  
Administrator for Leadership and Accountability  
8253 W. Thunderbird Road Suite 105  
Peoria, AZ 85381  
(602) 362-2992

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT (SPANISH VERSION)**

Student Choice High School no practica la discriminación en base a la raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, discapacidad o edad. Esta política está en cumplimiento con el Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964 Título VI (pertinente a raza, color, nacionalidad) El título IX de la Enmienda Educativa de 1972 (pertinente a igualdad de los sexos) Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973 (pertinente a discapacidad), el Acta de Discriminación por Edad de 1975 (pertinente a la edad) y cubre admisión, acceso, trato y empleo

en las actividades y programas de distrito incluyendo educación vocacional. Los estudiantes, padres de familia o guardianes, empleados y miembros de la comunidad que tengan preguntas acerca de estas regulaciones, o desean presentar una queja individual deben contactar a la siguiente persona encargada en el distrito:

Samantha Thompson  
Administrator for Leadership and Accountability  
8253 W. Thunderbird Road Suite 105  
Peoria, AZ 85381  
(602) 362-2992

## SCHOOL DRESS

Arizona Law and District policy provides for a safe, positive school campus that is conducive to learning. *Appropriate dress is critical to this effort.* Clothing shall not be transparent/sheer, distracting, or disruptive to the school environment.

The following are specific guidelines to assist you and your student in making good decisions about what to wear to school:

- Footwear is required on campus by state law, which prohibits bare feet in any public place.
- No night wear including pajamas and slippers.
- Tops must be modest and unrevealing as to not show: midriff, cleavage, bare backs, the sides of the body or bra straps. Tops must be sufficient in length to fully cover the waistband of the bottoms. Undergarments such as sleeveless undershirts, tank tops, muscle shirts, halter tops, strapless tops, and spaghetti straps are inappropriate.
- Pants, shorts and/or skirts must be reserved and appropriate length so as to not reveal undergarments or skin through large holes, ragged or cut off garments. Shorts and skirts must be long enough to cover buttocks even when seated.
- To promote positive school culture students are *prohibited* from wearing any clothing or accessories that have or endorse profanity, drugs/alcohol/tobacco, sexual or violent connotations or are gang related.
- Other items that are prohibited, but *not limited* to that which is approved at the discretion of administration, to maintain a safe, positive and learning culture at school.

The administration and staff will enforce this dress code consistently and fairly. A student's clothing and/or accessories that are deemed to be unsuitable or inappropriate may be asked by the administration to make necessary corrections in personal appearance. Students may receive consequences for violation of any part of the dress code. ***School dress is expected at school and all school functions.***

## STUDENT RECORDS

Access to educational records is governed by federal law (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). Parents of minor students and students 18 years of age or older, have the following rights in connection with educational records: (Students who are over the age of 18 must sign a release of records in order for parents to have access to that student information).

- To inspect and review the student's educational records
- To request amendment of the student's educational records to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading or in violation of student rights, including the right to a hearing, if necessary.
- To consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational record, except that information deemed "directory information" may be disclosed without consent unless the parent/eligible student directs in writing that this information not be made public without prior consent. Disclosure may also be made without consent in certain circumstances allowed by FERPA
- To file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education
- Non-custodial and divorced parents have equal right relating to student records unless the school has been provided a court order to the contrary



## **DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

The Title IX No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and Section 9528, and District Policy JR states that high school principals are required to give out information to universities, colleges and U.S. Armed Services recruiters when such release is clearly in the student's best interests. This information includes names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents may request in writing that such information not be released for their child without prior written parental consent. Any such notice must be given to the school principal.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **Off Campus Events**

Occasionally, off campus events will be offered to students through a permission process. These off campus events, sponsored by Student Choice High School, will have the same student conduct expectations as on campus expected behavior and work ethic.

### **Academic Integrity**

It is the practice of Student Choice High School to facilitate honesty and integrity among the student body. Students must work to be successful in the classroom with each student's success based upon his/her own merit. To this end, academic misconduct of any kind is unacceptable. Examples which violate academic integrity are:

- Cheating – giving, using, or attempting to see unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise including unauthorized communication of information.
- Fabrication and Falsification – unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- Plagiarism – presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source). This includes the use of internet sources. The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the ideas or information is common knowledge.
- Facilitating Academic Misconduct – giving or attempting to help another commit an act of academic misconduct.
- Tampering with Materials, Grades, or Records – interfering with, altering, or attempting to alter school records, grades or other documents without authorization from an appropriate school official for the purpose of changing, falsifying, or removing the original information found in such records.
- Copyright Laws – all applicable copyright laws will be in effect as related to both computer software and printed books and materials.

### **Abuse Of Staff**

In order to maintain a safe, orderly school environment, the authority of school staff members acting in their official capacity must be respected. For this reason, any form of verbal or physical abuse of staff will be treated as a serious offense warranting suspension or expulsion. If concern about a staff member's exercise of authority cannot be satisfied in direct, appropriate discussion with the individual, that concern should be brought to the attention of the administration.

### **Teacher/Staff Authority**

Teachers and staff have the responsibility and authority to correct the behavior of any student, especially if it is of such nature as to bring discredit to the individual, the school or the student body. Disrespect directed at staff will not be tolerated.

### **Student Discipline Rules**

Rules for student conduct are established by law, by District, and by the Student Discipline Code Matrix. Within the Code, a chart showing minimum and maximum consequences, up to suspension and expulsion, is provided as a communications tool for all who share in the educational process. At times, consequences not set forth in the Code may be developed if the proposed alternatives are viewed by the school official and parent as useful and appropriate. Several problem areas represented on the chart are discussed in greater detail because they have unusual importance in maintaining a positive school climate. Corporal Punishment is prohibited.

### **Due Process Rights**

Students referred for discipline are guaranteed the following due process rights: (1) the right to be informed of accusations against them, (2) the opportunity to admit or deny accusations, (3) the right to hear evidence on which accusations are based, (4) an opportunity to present an alternative factual position, and (5) the right to appeal a disciplinary decision in accordance with district policy.

### **Search and Seizure**

The Student Choice High School's number one concern is maintaining a safe, positive learning environment for our students and staff. There are occasions when the student receives information that this may be jeopardized in some fashion and a search must be conducted. School officials need only reasonable suspicion to initiate a search. Reasonable Suspicion is based on information received from students or teachers that is considered reliable. It may also be prompted by the behavior or effect of the student. Consequently, certified school officials may search if reasonable suspicion is established as the primary basis for the search. Searches may include, and are not limited to the student's person, desks, locker, backpacks, automobiles, purses, cell phones, wallets, etc. Strip searches are prohibited.

### **Arizona Drug & Alcohol Law**

Alcohol or drug violations on or within 300 feet of school property, at school events, or at any time the student is subject to the district's "good neighbor" policy will result in disciplinary action by school officials, notification of parents, and possible involvement of police. This also applies with Prop 207 and the Drug Free School Zone is still intact. Marijuana is not allowed on school grounds, public places, open spaces, or student possession or use of.

### **Use & Possession Of Tobacco/Vapor Products On School Campuses**

#### **ARS §36-601.01 Tobacco Possession Prohibition**

Possession of tobacco products of any kind on K-12 public, charter or private school grounds, building, parking lots, playing fields and vehicles and at off-campus school sponsored events is a petty criminal offense. 'Tobacco products' includes smoking tobacco (e.g. cigarettes of any kind, cigars), smokeless tobacco, (e.g. snuff, twist) and cigarette papers. All electronic smoking devices and/or accessories are prohibited.

#### **ARS §13-3622 B Vapor Products**

ARS §13-3622 B states it is illegal for a minor to buy, have in their possession or knowingly accept/receive from any person, tobacco product, a vapor product or any instrument or paraphernalia that is solely designed for the smoking or ingestion of tobacco or shisha, including a hookah or water pipe. "Shisha" includes any mixture of tobacco leaf and honey, molasses or dried fruit or any other sweetener. "Tobacco product" means any of the following: A. Cigars, B. Cigarettes, C. Cigarette papers of any kind, D. Smoking tobacco of any kind, and E. Chewing tobacco of any kind. "Vapor product" means a noncombustible tobacco-derived product containing nicotine that employs a mechanical heating element, battery or circuit, regardless of shape or size that can be used to heat a liquid nicotine solution contained in cartridges.

### **Student Violence/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying**

Student Choice High School believes it is the right of every student to be educated in a positive, safe, caring, and respectful learning environment. SCHS believes a school environment inclusive of these traits maximizes student achievement, fosters student personal growth, and helps students build a sense of community that promotes positive participation as members of society.

### **Fighting Vs. Rough Or Inappropriate Play**

Fighting, defined as physical contact with another person intended to cause harm, is never appropriate on a school campus. This is distinguished from the type of play - especially that of younger students - in which participants may exceed the bounds of good judgment without intending to injure one another. Response to inappropriate play must be measured by the age of students and type of endangerment that results.



### Gang Association Or Activity

For disciplinary purposes, a gang is defined as a group of three or more who (1) have a name, (2) claim a territory, (3) have rivals/enemies, (4) interact together to the exclusion of others, and/or (5) exhibit antisocial behavior - often associated with crime or a threat to the community. Gang behavior that initiates, advocates, or promotes activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds, or which disrupts the educational environment is strictly forbidden. Any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang clothing, symbols, or paraphernalia; exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership; causing and/or participating in activities which intimidate or adversely affect the educational pursuits of another student or the orderly operation of the school shall be subject to discipline.

### The "Good Neighbor" Policy: Student Conduct Within The School Community

School rules and other reasonable expectations for student behavior are extended to include student conduct while going to and from school and while off campus during the normal school day. This includes the responsibility to observe traffic and pedestrian laws and the responsibility to act as a good neighbor, respecting the safety, welfare, and property of others during lunch hour and release periods. Failure to act as a good neighbor within the school community may result in disciplinary action.

### Sexual Harassment/Misconduct

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's education, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment. Sexual harassment or sexual abuse will result in disciplinary action and possible police notification.

### Possession Of Weapons, Knives, Loaded/Unloaded Firearms, Explosive Devices, Or Other Dangerous Instruments

Student Choice High School prohibits any person from possessing, storing, or using weapons, knives, firearms, explosive devices, and/or other dangerous instruments on school premises, including any school building, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, vehicle or any other property that the SCHS owns, uses, or operates.

## DISCIPLINE MATRIX

**Student Choice High School believes that students can learn positive behavior. Therefore, while a discipline matrix is listed below, all students will receive a coaching approach by SCHS staff to process their behavior for future refinement.**

Aggression	Consequence/Range
Verbal Provocation Minor Aggressive Act Recklessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Parent Notification</li><li>● Plan of Action</li><li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li><li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li></ul>
Disorderly Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Parent Notification</li><li>● Plan of Action</li><li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li><li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li></ul>
Endangerment*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li><li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li></ul>
Fighting*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li><li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li></ul>

Assault*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Aggravated Assault**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Drug Paraphernalia Substance Represented as Illicit Drug Substance or Device (To include: lighter, vape cartridge, wax pens, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Alcohol Violation* Drug Violation Inhalants* Prescription Drugs(Inappropriate Use)** Over-the-Counter Drugs (Inappropriate Use)* Illicit Drugs** Tobacco Violation* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use on school property</li> <li>- Possession on school property</li> </ul> Represented as Tobacco Use (vaporizer device & liquids)	Sale/Distribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul> Use/Possession Alcohol and Drug: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul> Share Alcohol or Drugs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Of a Structure or Property* Of an Occupied Structure**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>Attendance Policy Violation</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Leaving School Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Unexcused Absence Truancy	<b>Absences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Receive a Truancy Warning Letter</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Receive Official Truancy Letter + Administrative Conference</li> <li>● Lesson/course reassignment and/or loss of credit</li> <li>● Contact Law Enforcement</li> <li>● Student Withdrawal</li> </ul>
<b>Harassment, Threat and Intimidation</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Bullying* Harassment Nonsexual*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> </ul>

Hazing* Threat or Intimidation*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>Cheating, Forgery or Plagiarism</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Cheating or Plagiarism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Plan of Action</li> <li>Reassignment of lesson and/or course</li> <li>Loss of points and/or credit</li> </ul>
Forgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Plan of Action</li> <li>Reassignment of lesson and/or course</li> <li>Loss of points and/or credit</li> </ul>
<b>School Policies, Other Violations</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Defiance Disrespect Authority Non-Compliance Disruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Plan of Action</li> <li>Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Dress Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Plan of Action</li> <li>Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Gambling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Plan of Action</li> <li>Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Racial Slurs Negative Group Affiliation Profanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Plan of Action</li> <li>Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Public Display of Affection (PDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Plan of Action</li> <li>Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>School Threat</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Bomb Threat** Chemical Threat ** Biological Threat**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Fire Alarm Misuse**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Other School Threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Plan of Action</li> <li>Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>

<b>Sexual Offenses</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Indecent Exposure Pornography Pornographic Paraphernalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Public Sexual Indecency*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Sexual Assault**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Sexual Harassment*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Sexual Harassment with Contact*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>Technology, Improper Use</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Computer: On entertainment site or on-educational website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Equipment Abuse/Mishandling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Network Infraction/Alerting of Network Use of Proxy Gagle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>Theft: School or Non School Property</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Burglary Breaking and Entering*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Extortion Petty Theft: Under \$100 Robbery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
Trespassing**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>Vandalism or Criminal Damage</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
Graffiti/Tagging Personal Property* School Property*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Notification</li> <li>● Plan of Action</li> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>
<b>Weapons and Dangerous Items</b>	<b>Consequence/Range</b>
<u>Dangerous Items</u> :*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off campus 1-5 days +</li> <li>● Off campus 9 days + District Due Process</li> </ul>

<p>Airsoft Gun, BB Gun, Pellet Gun, Knife with blade 3.5 inches or Less, Laser Pointer, Mace, Stun Gun, Simulated Knife, Box Cutter</p> <p><u>Firearms:**</u> Handgun, Pistol, Shotgun, Rifle, Starter Gun, Other Destructive Items (Including Bombs)</p> <p><u>Other Weapons:**</u> Billy Club, Brass Knuckles, Knife with blade 4 inches or Bigger, Nunchakus</p>	
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**\* Required Report to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and Parent Notification if violation by a minor**

**\*\* Mandated Report to Local Law Enforcement and also (ADE)**

**ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

Technology is defined under this policy as including, but not limited to, audio and video equipment, computer hardware and software, email, fax and copy machines, telecommunications devices, and the network and infrastructure that support end devices.

**Purpose:** SCHS provides access to technology for the purpose of supporting the educational goals of the district.. Access to technology is designed to create engaging teaching and learning environments, and to provide staff with 21st Century educational tools. Access to technology is a privilege, not a right and can be restricted or revoked at any time.

**Privacy:** Students have no expectation of confidentiality or privacy with respect to any usage of a computer, regardless of whether that use is for district-related or personal purposes, other than as specifically provided by law. The school district may, without prior notice or consent, log, supervise, access, view, monitor, and record use of a student computer at any time for any reason related to the operation of the school district. By using a school-issued computer, students agree to such access, monitoring, and recording of their use.

**Responsibilities:** To the extent possible, and in compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), SCHS filters and monitors Internet access on all devices capable of accessing SCHS resources. No technology measure can block 100% of the undesirable content; therefore, it is also the responsibility of all staff to:

- Guide students in the selection and evaluation of educational materials.
- Help students develop information literacy skills including conformity to copyright laws and the concept of intellectual property.
- Help students develop safe practices while learning in an online world.
- Students will maintain the privacy of their account information and shall not allow others to access their accounts unless otherwise required for educational purposes or otherwise required by law.
- Students shall comply with all copyright laws and guidelines with respect to copying material in digital format and intellectual property.
- Students shall not use technology for political lobbying, partisan political activity, or to advance specific political ideas or agendas unless specifically authorized by the SCHS.
- Students shall not install unauthorized software or connect unauthorized hardware to SCHS systems.
- Students should not use school email to create any social media accounts.
- Student shall not attempt to subvert the firewall established by SCHS In addition to the unacceptable uses listed above, the following policy statements apply regarding

personally-owned devices:

- SCHS will not be held liable for any damage that may occur as a result of the use of technology.
- SCHS will not be held responsible for any physical damage, loss, or theft of any personal device.
- SCHS is not obligated to supply electrical power access for any personal device.

### General Guidelines

- Students will have access to all available forms of electronic media and communication which is in support of education and research and in support of the educational goals and objectives of the SCHS. Students are responsible for their ethical and educational use of the technology resources of the SCHS.
- Access to SCHS technology resources is a privilege and not a right. Each employee, student and/or parent is required to follow the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Transmission of any material that is in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following: confidential information, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, and computer viruses.
- Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of a computer, or the files of another user, without the consent of the individual, building administrator, or technology administrator, will be considered an act of vandalism and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with applicable District policies.

### Privacy And Safety

- Do not go into chat rooms or send chain letters. If applicable, teachers may create discussion groups for communication among students for educational purposes.
- Do not use a school email address to create any social media accounts.
- Do not open, use, or change files that do not belong to you. Do not reveal your full name, phone number, home address, social security number, credit card numbers, password or those of other people. ● Remember that storage is not guaranteed to be private or confidential as all computer equipment is the property of the SCHS.
- If you inadvertently access a website that contains obscene, pornographic or otherwise offensive material, exit the site and notify staff immediately.

### Legal Property

- Comply with trademark and copyright laws and all license agreements.
- Ignorance of the law is not immunity. If you are unsure, ask a teacher or parent.
- Plagiarism is a violation of the student policy. Give credit to all sources used, whether quoted or summarized. This includes all forms of media on the Internet, such as graphics, movies, music, and text. (Reference Academic Integrity)
- Use or possession of hacking software is strictly prohibited and violators will be subject to discipline.
- Do not transmit language or material that may be considered profane, obscene, racist, abusive, or offensive to others.
- Do not send mass emails, chain letters, or spam.
- Email and communications sent and/or received should be related to educational needs.
- Email and communications are subject to inspection by school administration at any time.

### VERIFICATION OF TEACHER EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Student Choice High School strives to employ certified teachers who are appropriately certified in their content area. Additionally, all staff hold IVP Fingerprint Clearance Cards ensuring a robust background check. Our student's education and safety are paramount to us. Families have the right to ask for verification of the teacher's experience and education. This information is kept at each school site for review. Please contact your school principal to arrange for review of this information.

### HOTLINE FOR SUPPORT

Behavioral-Emotional Crisis Hotline 1-800-631-1314 or (602)222-9444  
TXT 4 HELP program by texting the word SAFE and your current location to 69866 for immediate help.

# Student Choice High School Student Handbook Awareness Statement 2023-2024

Enrollment at Student Choice High School requires that each student becomes familiar with ALL information contained in the student handbook. Student Choice High School has provided each student and his/her parent a link or copy of the Student Handbook and school personnel/officials have discussed school policy and procedures.

***My signature acknowledges that I have received the link to or a copy of the Student Choice High School Handbook. I have reviewed and agree to abide by the contents of the Handbook. (This form is required by each student and should be kept on file by the Administration of each campus).***

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*For minor students, parent signature is required.

Print Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

On occasion, representatives from and/or employees of Student Choice High School wish to photograph, videotape, and/or interview individuals in connection with school programs, projects, or events. In order to release photographs, video footage, and/or comments, and/or post on district website/publications, we need written permission. To give consent, please complete below.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission

\*For minor students, parent signature is required.

Student/Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

As a student enrolled in Student Choice High School, I understand the expectations set forth by my campus and mentor as follows:

- Demonstrate academic progress in coursework based on the Academic Plan on the Student Success Plan
- Actively seek support towards personal and post-graduation goals.
- Be on campus for testing (ACT, AzSCI, ACT Aspire, AZELLA)
- Adhere to attendance expectations agreed upon per site
- Engage with a mentor on a regular basis based on an agreed time within the Student Success Plan.
- Engage with academic instructor on a regular basis

\*For minor students, parent signature is required.

Student/Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Choice High School is committed to supporting the needs of our students and families. Should you need this handbook translated to your native language, please contact our district office:

SCHS District Office  
8253 W Thunderbird Rd #105  
Peoria, AZ 85381  
Office: (602) 334-4104

*District/Principals Shared Drive: Student Handbook Updated 2/5/24*