

# NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS, INC.

## POLICY 556

### LOITERING POLICY FOR NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

#### POLICY MANAGEMENT

*Adopted: 12/2024*

*Mandatory: Yes*

*Frequency: Every 3 years*

*Distribution: Website*

#### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to assist the school's staff and administration to ensure that students, staff, and visitors are able to access all areas of the school safely and purposefully without the unnecessary distractions and congestion that commonly accompany the practice of loitering.

#### **II. General Statement of Policy**

The practice of loitering by any group or combination of visitors, staff, or students is prohibited on the school's property or within the school building at all times, whether school is in session or otherwise. The school exists for a purpose. Only those with official business, meaning those who have a legitimate reason to be on the property or in the school building, are authorized to be on school grounds or in the school building at any time. Authorized individuals are expected to be at the specific location they are scheduled to be in, or en route to the specific location their intended business is expected to take place. Loitering or "hanging around" with no purpose or urgency is not permitted in any location of the school, including but not limited to: entryways, hallways, restrooms, stairwells, vestibules, foyers, the gymnasium, the cafeteria, the main office, classrooms, offices, or any other spaces located within the school, either stipulated or not.

#### **III. Definitions**

**Loitering** means to remain in or hang around an area for no legitimate purpose. Loitering is prohibited at all times on the campus or within the school building.

**Passing Time** is defined as the time allotted/permitted for students to transition from one scheduled time/location to another. Students are expected to move purposefully and efficiently from one area to the next, including to and/or from a class to another, from a class to the resource room, from a class to lunch, from a class to the main office or health office, from a

class to the restroom and back, from a class to the drinking fountain, or from a class to an exit as in the conclusion of the school day.

**Legitimate Reason** is defined as: being a student enrolled in the school; being a student; parent or guardian who is seeking an enrollment and who has business with the principal of the school; a person who has a meeting with the principal or other staff member of the school; a person who is providing a requested or contracted service to the school such as a workman; delivery person; service provider; or other person who is providing a service to the school or those who have a legitimate reason to be on the property or within the school building. All points of entry to the school are locked all of the time. Anyone requesting admission to the school's building typically schedules a meeting for a specific reason and time to meet. Only those who have official business, meaning a legitimate reason, either scheduled or spontaneous, may be permitted within the school's building.

Visitors may include family members of enrolled students, family members of staff, people who may be inquiring about the school's programs or admissions, individuals who may be seeking information about employment, including candidates for employment.

## **Procedures**

Only individuals who have a legitimate reason to be on the school's property or within the school building are permitted to do so. All visitors are required to report directly to the main office of the school to sign in and gain authorization to be on the property or within the school building. Once inside the building, any and all visitors and service providers must sign in and are to access only to those locations where they have business to conduct; exceptions may be made to access a restroom or drinking fountain if requested. Visitors and service providers are required to notify the office when their business, or reason for being on campus or within the building has been concluded. Visitors are required to exit the building and leave the property once their business has been concluded and are required to sign out and record the time of their exit.

Individuals who are on the property or within the school building without permission and/or authorization upon discovery will be asked and required to leave the property immediately. Failure to leave the premises promptly will result in law enforcement being notified and summoned for assistance.

## **Consequences for Loitering**

Individuals or groups of students who are determined to be loitering will be initially prompted to move along to their currently or subsequently scheduled location immediately. Failure or refusal to do so will result in the school's administration to get involved. At the administration's discretion, the students may receive a warning, detention, removal of hallway privileges, an escort to and from classes, an escort to the restroom and cafeteria, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, parent notification, referral to law enforcement, and expulsion.

Individuals or groups of students will not be afforded multiple warnings. A single warning and explanation of this policy is considered to be sufficient to expect that continued instances of loitering shall be treated as insubordination.