

Summary of Handbook Revisions
2025 - 2026

MAIN SECTION		
Page(s)	Section	Description of Revision
all	all	Change all dates to 25/26
all	all	MCAS language
7	Cancellation of Schools	Official District Social Media Sites (www.facebook.com/PlymouthPublicSchoolsMA; Twitter @PlymouthSch and Instagram @plymouthpublicschools)-(REMOVE)
9	Registration / Address Verification Documents	<p><i>(ADD) Column B:▪ (if not used for A):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Copy of Deed OR record of the most recent mortgage payment.</i> ▪ <i>Copy of Lease AND record of most recent rent payment.</i> ▪ <i>A legal affidavit from landlord affirming tenancy AND record of most recent rent payment.</i> <p><i>* Section 8 Agreement</i></p>
11	Excused Absences (HOLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● an illness or injury that prevents the student from attending school. The illness or injury must be verified by a signed physician’s note (parents/guardians have up to 5 days to send in a physician’s note) <i>after being seen by a physician (ADD)</i>
13	Food Services (REPLACE)	<p><i>Plymouth Public Schools offers a daily breakfast and lunch for all students in grades K-12. Please refer to the website listed below for the most up to date Food Service programs, nutritional information, and daily menus.</i></p> <p>https://www.plymouth.k12.ma.us/page/food-services</p>
18	Release of Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plymouth Public Schools will not release a child on the basis of a telephone call or any form of electronic communication. (REMOVE)

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19	Lockdown/Hold Passing-Stay in Place	<p>During a lockdown or “hold-passing/stay-in-place”, students are expected to remain with their teacher/class and listen for instructions. For a lockdown situation, a police officer will release the class and allow students to resume their normal activities (Remove). For a “stay in place” situation, an announcement will be made to allow students to resume normal activities.</p> <p><i>(ADD): PPS employs ALICE strategies for all situations. Lockdown drills are not always announced in advance.</i></p>
25	School Privileges:	<p>By violating level-based rules, the Code of Conduct, or by engaging in illegal or illicit activities outside of school, a student <i>(ADD) may be prohibited from attending extracurricular school activities or field trips, as well as activities that occur outside of the school day, including but not limited to athletic events, dances, community building events, and performances as a result of school based discipline. may lose these privileges.</i> The principal has the authority to limit or deny a student’s participation in special functions and activities.</p>
26	Rules: (Food Delivery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery methods such as DoorDash of outside food are disruptive to the educational environment and are prohibited <i>during the school day. Outside deliveries, (including parental deliveries), will be held until the end of the school day. (ADD)</i> <p>DoorDash/Coffee Delivery Outside Delivery including parents held until the end of the school day.</p>
37	Student Internet Safety and Technology AUP	<p><i>(ADD) SEE APPENDIX H FOR COMPLETE AUP POLICY</i></p>
58	Sex Education	<p>Please read and return the sign-off page entitled “Commonwealth of Massachusetts: An Act Relative to Sex Education” to your building principal.(REMOVE)</p>

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ELEMENTARY/PK SCHOOL APPENDIX A		
Page(s)	Section	Description of Revision
67	<i>Electronic Devices</i>	<i>(ADD) Cell phones, smart devices/watches must remain in the student's backpack/bag/locker during the school day. The school district is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged devices.</i>
MIDDLE SCHOOL APPENDIX B		
Page(s)	Section	Description of Revision
72		Grade 8 Enrichment - change course title from Research to <u>Digital Literacy</u> (ADD)
73	Student Failures	It is the practice at all Plymouth Public High Schools and Middle Schools to employ a minimum grade policy for all students. Accordingly, Middle School (ADD) students will receive a minimum grade of 45% during the 1st and 3rd term of a full-year course, and the first term of a semesterised course (exceptions to terms not referenced above may be made at the principal's discretion). <i>(ADD) 50% for all 4 terms of a full year course, and both terms of a semesterised course.</i>
73	Minimum Grade Scale	(Student earned versus documented) The following grade will be recorded on the report card and factored into the student's cumulative numerical average for all 4 semesters the semester and/or year according to the policy noted above: 0-45 = 45% (REMOVE) 0-50 = 50% (ADD) 45 or above = actual grade earned by the student (REMOVE)

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		50 or above = actual grade earned by the student (ADD)
74	Cheating/Plagiarism	<i>See Appendix G, Student Internet Safety and Technology Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), for additional information regarding Artificial Intelligence. (ADD)</i>
75	Promotion Policy Review SC Policy	Students failing two or more of their academic subjects may want to attend summer tutoring. (REMOVE)
78	<i>Energy Drinks</i>	<i>(ADD) Energy drinks that contain stimulant compounds, including caffeine, are not allowed during the school day and will be confiscated.</i>
HIGH SCHOOL APPENDIX C		
		GRADUATION CERTIFICATE OF ATTAINMENT 18-22
84, 85	CCTE, Graduation	MCAS requirement (update)
86	Competency Determination	<i>(ADD) Class of 2026 - from Program of Studies: "State law requires students to satisfy the requirement of a Competency Determination (CD) in order to graduate from high school. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requires students to earn a CD in order to graduate by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district."</i>
89	MCAS (REMOVE)	Students must pass the MCAS English language arts, mathematics, and science to receive a diploma. Choices of electives may be limited because of this requirement.

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89	Educational Proficiency Plan (REMOVE)	<p>An educational proficiency plan may be required for students who have not met competency determination as described in the program of studies. An EPP includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a review of your child's strengths and areas to improve, based on MCAS results, coursework, grades, and teacher input • the courses your child will take and complete in grades 11 and 12 • a description of the assessments that the school will regularly administer to determine and document progress toward proficiency
94	Cheating/Plagiarism	See Appendix H, Student Internet Safety and Technology Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), for additional information regarding Artificial Intelligence. (ADD)
94	Subject Specific Honor Societies	(ADD) Please note that the high schools have other honor societies beyond National Honor Society (i.e. World Language, Tri-M, etc.). These honor societies follow their own approved charter guidelines which are monitored by the advisors to these societies.
99	Athletic Teams	(ADD) Volleyball
PRESCHOOL APPENDIX D		
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111	snacks	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nutrition and Health Guidelines for Snacks</i></p> <p>We encourage parents to send children with healthy and nutritious snack foods. <i>Due to allergies all classrooms are nut free (ADD)</i>. Some suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Cheese · low sugar cereal · pretzels · fruits · saltines · granola · breadsticks · peanut butter (REMOVE) · fruit juice · carrot sticks.
112 /113	Tuition	Add the new on-line option
113 / 114	Parent Drop-off and Parking / MAP	(REMOVE)
TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE APPENDIX E		
Page(s)	Section	Description of Revision
STUDENT INTERNET SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE (AUP) APPENDIX H		
Page(s)	Section	Description of Revision
37		Move AUP to New Appendix H

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37	Scope of Acceptable Use Policy	This policy and all Plymouth Public Schools technology policies, guidelines, and rules refer to all computing and electronic devices (including but not limited to: computers, mobile web-enabled devices , <i>smart devices</i> , (ADD) Chromebooks, iPads, MP3 players, portable memory storage devices, calculators with interfacing capability, cell phones, digital cameras, etc.) peripheral devices (including but not limited to devices for printing, storing, duplicating and receiving information), technology infrastructure, and/or software.
37	Scope of Acceptable Use Policy	This policy and the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement also apply to any online service provided directly or indirectly by the Plymouth Public Schools for student and/or staff use, including but not limited to: Google Apps for Education accounts, Email, Calendar, and Aspen . <i>Google Workspace for Education and Aspen. (ADD)</i>
37	District Responsibilities	The Coordinator of Educational Technology and Instructional Media (CETIM) and the Technology Systems Engineer or their designee(s) will oversee access to the network and will establish processes for the following: individual and/or class accounts, authorization for software installation; backup and archiving of databases; virus protection ; <i>Endpoint Security; (ADD)</i> and compliance with filtering laws and regulations.
37	District Responsibilities	When using the internet for class activities , teachers will make every attempt to preview and select <i>assigned (ADD)</i> material appropriate to the students and relevant to the course objectives. Teachers will provide guidelines and resources to assist their students in developing the necessary critical thinking skills to access online information <i>per the Technology AUP (ADD)</i>
38	Access to the System (Tech - remove full paragraph ??)	<p>Parents/Guardians may specifically request that their children not be provided such access (REMOVE) by checking the appropriate box on the signature page of the AUP Agreement and returning it to their child's school. Upon receipt of that form, Plymouth Public Schools will make its best effort to restrict internet access.</p> <p><i>(ADD) Internet use is limited to digital curriculum resources adopted by the district for use with course work.</i></p> <p>delete Parents and Guardians may request that their children not be provided such access...check policy...parent signature? <i>Internet use is required for most</i></p>

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		coursework...limited to access for digital curriculum. Resources adopted by the district are required...
39	Unacceptable Use	(REMOVE) *using e-mail without instructional staff permission/supervision (ADD) <i>*Utilizing a VPN</i> <i>*Flipper Zero</i>
(NEW)	(NEW) Smart Glasses	<i>The use of smart glasses (including but not limited to devices such as Google Glass, Ray-Ban Meta, Snapchat Spectacles, and similar wearable technology with recording, display, or connectivity capabilities) is prohibited. This policy has been implemented to protect student and staff privacy, prevent unauthorized recording or photography, minimize classroom distractions, reduce cybersecurity risks, and maintain equitable access to educational technology. Students found in possession of smart glasses will be required to store them in a designated secure location for the duration of the school day. Exceptions may be considered for students with documented medical or accessibility needs following proper review by school administration.</i>
40	Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement <i>(also in MS section)</i>	(ADD) <i>Artificial intelligence or “AI” is intelligence demonstrated by computers, as opposed to human intelligence. “Intelligence” encompasses the ability to learn, reason, generalize, and infer meaning. AI is not a substitute for schoolwork that requires original thought. Students may not claim AI-generated content as their own work. Using AI to take tests, complete assignments, create projects, write papers, or complete any other schoolwork without instruction or permission from a teacher or administrator is strictly prohibited. The use of AI for these purposes constitutes cheating or plagiarism.</i> <i>In certain situations, AI may be used as a learning tool or a study aid. Students who wish to use AI for legitimate educational purposes must have permission from a teacher or an administrator. Students may not use AI, including AI image or voice generator technology, to</i>

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		<p><i>violate school rules or school district policies. In order to ensure academic integrity, tests, assignments, projects, papers, and other schoolwork may be checked by AI content detectors and/or plagiarism recognition software.</i></p> <p><i><u>Image Alteration</u> – Students cannot intentionally alter any likeness of any member of the school community (students or staff) using any form of image alteration programs (such as, but not limited to, DeepFake/FaceSwap/ReFace, etc.) in an effort to discredit, harass, bully or intimidate that individual. If applicable, the Harassment/Sexual Harassment and/or Bullying policy may come into effect, and the offense will be reported to the Plymouth Police Department if warranted.</i></p>
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<p>41 <i>(NEW)</i></p>	<p>Student Google Apps for Education Acknowledgement <i>(NEW/UPDATE)</i> Student Google Workspace for Education</p>	<p><i>The Plymouth Public Schools has chosen Google Workspace for Education as an integrated communication and collaboration solution. It is available 24/7 from any Internet-connected device. This suite of applications allows students to create, edit, collaborate, peer review, store, and share files between students and teachers. Google Workspace for Education accounts are utilized for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Email capability is enabled for students in Grade 6 through Grade 12. District-created student accounts are subject to the Acceptable Use Policy. These accounts will be used at school and home for school-related projects and accounts. The effective and proper use of email communication and the use of web-based collaborative tools by students in part of the Department of Education and Secondary Education Instructional Technology Frameworks. All users should treat electronically stored information in their accounts as confidential and private. Users of student email are prohibited from accessing files and information other than their own. Access to and use of student email is considered a privilege. The district maintains the right to immediately withdraw the access and use of email when there is a reason to believe that a violation of District policies or the law has occurred. Students are assigned a Google Apps for Education account by the Technology Department.</i></p> <p><i>Plymouth Schools controls various settings based on educational best practices which vary by grade. At the elementary level, for example, students have no access to email, the YouTube filter is set to be most restrictive and sharing is limited within our organization. If you would like to read more about Google for Education accounts and their industry-leading safeguards, please visit https://edu.google.com/why-google/privacy-security</i></p>
<p>42</p>	<p>Google Apps</p>	<p>A student can opt out of participating in the Google Apps program. <i>(REMOVE)</i></p>
<p><i>(NEW)</i></p>	<p><i>(NEW)</i> Digital Data Privacy</p>	<p><i>Plymouth Public Schools is a member of the Massachusetts Student Privacy Alliance (MSPA). The Alliance is a collaboration of MA school districts that share common concerns around student privacy. Member districts utilize shared data privacy contracts</i></p>

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		<i>with vendors to ensure common expectations and adherence to state and federal privacy laws. Please visit https://www.plymouth.k12.ma.us/page/technology for a list of our Approved Digital Tools.</i>
(NEW)	(NEW) Third Party Educational Applications	<i>Our district utilizes several valuable educational applications that enhance student learning experiences but may not have signed our standard data privacy agreement. These applications have been thoroughly vetted by our staff and approved for educational use based on their significant instructional value and may be required for some elective classes. These applications include but may not be limited to YouTube Creator Studio (HS Film/Media classes), Adobe Creative Cloud (MS and HS electives), Google Earth, Google Maps, Google Arts and Culture, CS First, Scratch, Google Translate, and Khan Academy. Additional applications may be presented for the technology department to review periodically throughout the year. Please contact the Technology Department if you do not wish for your student to access one of the above named applications.</i>

SIGNATURE & SUMMARY PAGES

Page(s)	Section	Description of Revision
132	Appendix G	MCAS/ACCESS Testing Schedule Update to reflect 25-26
139	AUP	<i>I DO NOT WISH FOR MY CHILD TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET(REMOVE)</i>