Vista Charter School Safe School Plan & Student Code of Conduct

I. Mission Statement

The mission of Vista Charter School is to provide a learning environment that is safe, conducive to the learning process, and free from unnecessary disruption. We are committed to fostering a culture of respect, responsibility, and safety for all students, staff, and visitors.

II. Safe School Plan Components

1. Conduct and Discipline Code

Vista Charter School enforces this code uniformly, fairly, and consistently. The code applies to student conduct on school grounds, in school vehicles, and at school-sanctioned activities.

- **Proportionate Interventions:** Discipline will be applied using a tiered approach, prioritizing prevention, intervention, and restorative justice practices to minimize student exposure to the criminal justice system.
- **Prohibited Behaviors:**
    - **Bullying:** Any written, oral, or electronic act intended to coerce, intimidate, or cause harm. Bullying is strictly prohibited against any student for any reason.
    - **Dangerous Weapons:** Possession of a firearm, blade, or any item used as a weapon is prohibited (C.R.S. 22-33-102).
    - **Substances:** Use or possession of tobacco, nicotine, alcohol, or controlled substances is prohibited.
- **Dress Code:** Students must wear apparel that is not disruptive to the classroom or safety. Specifics are detailed in the Student Handbook.
- **Searches:** School officials may conduct searches of student lockers or personal property when there is reasonable suspicion of a violation of law or school policy.

2. Safety and Security Framework

Vista Charter School utilizes the **Standard Response Protocol (SRP)** to ensure a uniform response to emergencies.

- **Standard Actions:**
    - **Hold:** Stay in your room or area.
    - **Secure:** Get inside, lock outside doors.
    - **Lockdown:** Locks, lights, out of sight.
    - **Evacuate:** To a specified location.
    - **Shelter:** For hazard using safety strategy.
- **Threat Assessment:** We follow the **Colorado Threat Assessment Management Protocol** to identify and support students who may pose a risk to themselves or others.

3. Crisis Management and Reporting

- **Safe2Tell:** Students and parents are encouraged to report any safety concerns anonymously via Safe2Tell Colorado (1-877-542-7233).
- **Safe School Reporting:** The school will report annually to the Department of Education the number of conduct violations, including bullying and weapon-related incidents, as required by C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(b).

III. Detailed Student Discipline Procedures

1. Disruptive Students & Removal from Class

- **First/Second Removal:** A teacher may remove a student from class for behavior that disrupts the learning environment. A behavior plan must be developed after the second removal.
- **Third Removal:** Upon the third removal from a specific class in one term, the teacher may remove the student for the remainder of the term.
- **Due Process:** Parents/guardians will be contacted as soon as possible for a student-teacher conference following any removal.

2. Suspension and Expulsion (C.R.S. 22-33-105 & 106)

- **Expulsion Hearings:** Conducted by a trained hearing officer. Students are entitled to due process, including the right to representation and the presentation of evidence.
- **Habitually Disruptive Students:** Defined as a student who has caused a material and substantial disruption on school grounds three times during the school year.

3. Special Education (IDEA/504) Protections

Students with disabilities are entitled to additional protections. A **Manifestation Determination Review (MDR)** must be held if a student faces a change of placement (removals totaling 10+ days in a school year) to determine if the behavior was a manifestation of their disability.

IV. Physical Intervention and Restraint

Vista Charter School prohibits the use of corporal punishment. Physical intervention or restraint is only permitted in emergency situations where a student's behavior poses an imminent risk of serious physical harm to themselves or others, in accordance with **C.R.S. 26-20-101**.

V. Community Consultation

This plan was developed and will be reviewed annually in consultation with:

- The Vista Charter School Accountability Committee (SAC).
- Montrose County Law Enforcement (SROs).
- School mental health professionals and victims' advocacy organizations.

Review and Approval:

- **School Leader:** _____ Date: _____
- **Board President:** _____ Date: _____

Approved 5/26/2026