

2025-2026

Student & Family HANDBOOK

KIPP:MIAMI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS







Dear families,

On behalf of KIPP Miami, we welcome you to our public charter schools. Our team and family are energized and eager to teach your child and continue to build together the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and in life. We will provide a world-class education that challenges yet fosters success in a supportive environment.

This Family Handbook outlines the major policies and procedures that guide student life within our schools. I strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with its contents and the contents of our Code of Conduct. These two documents provide the guidelines for how our students and schools are expected to conduct themselves. As a family member, you are a vital partner in your child's education, and we welcome you to be part of our school team and family. For more information regarding specific resources and activities at your child's school, please contact the school's main office directly.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Charlie Schmidt, Executive Director

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Note: Students enrolled in KIPP Miami remain active with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and retain entitlement to all applicable policies.

Disclaimer: KIPP Miami reserves the right to make changes to this document at any given time. You will be notified of any changes that are made. The most current version of this handbook will always be available at www.kippmiami.org.

KIPP:MIAMI

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mission of KIPP Miami

KIPP Miami Public Schools seek to create and sustain high achieving and inspiring community schools that battle inequity by empowering students to develop the knowledge, skills, character strengths, and habits to thrive in college and beyond, shape their futures, and positively impact the world.

I. Contact Information and School Overview

Royalty Academy

(currently serving grades K-4)

School Phone: (786) 822-7702	School Fax: (786) 353-1455	
School Address: 3000 NW 110th Street		
Miami, FL 33167		
School Hours:	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	7:45 am - 3:30 pm
	Wednesday or Early Dismissal Days	7:45 am - 1:25 pm
Wallace Mealing	School Leader	Wmealing@kippmiami.org
Jocelyn Rodriguez	Director of School Operations	Jrodriguez@kippmiami.org
Christina Ishmael	Assistant Principal - Culture	Cdunner@kippmiami.org

Courage Academy

(currently serving grades 5-8)

School Phone: 786-822-7702	School Fax: (786) 353-1455	
School Address: 3000 NW 110th Street		
Miami, FL 33167		
School Hours:	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	7:45 am - 3:30 pm
	Wednesday or Early Dismissal Days	7:45 am - 1:25 pm
Dr. Judith Alegre	School Leader	Jalegre@kippmiami.org
Kenny Garrett	Director of School Operations	Kgarrett@kippmiami.org
Tranika Fagan	Assistant Principal - Culture	Tfagan@kippmiami.org

Central Support Services

Raul Moreno	Conflict Resolution Designee	Rmoreno@kippmiami.org
Collette Dempsey	Assistant Principal of Exceptional Student Education Compliance	Cdempsey@kippmiami.org

II. Parents' Bill of Rights and Concerns

House Bill (HB) 241 (2021) created Section (s.) 1014.04, Florida Statutes (F.S.), Parental rights. Florida law guarantees that all parental rights are reserved to parents of minor children, without obstruction or interference from the state or any governmental or educational institution. Key parental rights include:

- Educational Rights:
 - o Directing their child's education and care.
 - o Directing their child's upbringing, including moral and religious training.
 - o Choosing their child's educational setting, including public, private, religious or home education programs.
 - o Accessing and reviewing all school records related to their child.
- Health and Privacy Rights:
 - o Making healthcare decisions for their child, unless otherwise prohibited by law.
 - o Accessing all medical records of their child, except in limited circumstances involving law enforcement investigations.
 - o Providing written consent before:
 - Biometric scans are made, shared or stored.
 - Audio or video recordings of their child are made, with exceptions for safety, instruction, school activities, security or identification cards.
 - DNA or blood records are created, stored or shared, except as required by law or court order.
 - o Notification Rights:
 - Receiving prompt notification if a state or governmental employee suspects a criminal offense against their child, unless reporting to law enforcement or child welfare would be impeded.
 - o Additional protections:
 - State and school employees may not encourage or coerce a child to withhold information from their parents. Violations of this provision may result in disciplinary action.
 - Parental rights under this law are broad and extend beyond the rights specifically listed in the statute. These rights may not be limited or denied unless expressly required by law.



Steps for Raising and Responding to a Parent Concern

Step One. In order to raise a concern about any of the issues listed above, the parent or guardian must first summarize the nature of the concern in writing specifically describing the factual issues and contact the School Leader. The School Leader will respond and attempt to resolve the concern within seven (7) days of receipt of the notification.

Step Two. If a parent or guardian believes the concern is not resolved by the School Leader, they may then notify the Parent Contact Representative/Conflict Resolution Designee, in writing, again describing the nature of the concern and the reason the School Leader's proposed resolution failed to address the concern. This notification should be made by contacting the Parent Contact Representative/Conflict Resolution Designee.

Within 30 days after receipt of the notification, the Parent Contact Representative/Conflict Resolution Designee will either resolve the concern or provide a statement of the reasons for not resolving the concern.

Parent Contact Representative/Conflict Resolution Designee:

Raul Moreno, Director of Regional Operations and Compliance
rmoreno@kippmiami.org
786-660-5627

III. Attendance Policies

Excused Absences

KIPP Miami considers the following as cause for excused absence:

- a) Personal illness of the student with a written doctor's note;
- b) Medical appointment with a written doctor's note;
- c) Death in immediate family;
- d) Attendance at Court or at a center under Department of Children and Families supervision
- e) Religious observance (In accordance with statute, no pupil absent for religious observance of a day recognized by the Commissioner of Education or the State District Superintendent shall be charged with an unexcused absence, deprived of an award or eligibility/opportunity to compete for an award, or of the right to take an alternate to a test or examination missed through such absence); and
- f) Any cause deemed acceptable to the School Leader with prior approval.

Only 10 written notes allowed per school year, if applicable to excused absence. Students are responsible for making up any missed assignments in a reasonable amount of time set by the teachers.

Unexcused Absences

We want to ensure that all students engage in learning and absences for any reasons other than those listed above are unexcused absences and are discouraged. In the event of an unexcused absence, families are responsible for communicating the absence with the school. In the case of an unexcused absence, students and families (depending on age appropriateness) are 100% responsible for initiating communication with the teacher. Make up work can only be made up if the absence is excused. **Parents have 3 days to submit documentation for excused absences. After 3 days the note will not be honored.** If students are absent frequently (excused or unexcused), please keep in mind that this affects learning and therefore may lower grades and negatively impact student performance. Families can expect to receive a call or text when students are late or absent.

Chronic Absenteeism

Includes all absences: excused, unexcused and suspension. Parents will receive notice of intervention when students have met the chronic absenteeism threshold of 3, 5, 10 or 15+ absences.

Truancy

Any student who has fifteen unexcused absences within a 90-calendar period will be referred to a Truancy Intervention Program.

Absences and Promotion/Retention

Once a student reaches 10 or more unexcused absences in an annual course or 5 or more unexcused absences in a semester course, their case will be evaluated by the Promotion Committee to determine whether or not the student is eligible for promotion. If a middle school student has more than 27 unexcused absences over the course of the school year, the student will not earn credit for any of their classes. Attendance will be taken on all days that school is in session during the school year, FL. §§ 1003.26 (2023).

Tardiness

Students shall be in attendance throughout the school day. If a student will be late to school, the parent shall notify the school in advance and state the reason for the tardiness. Justifiable reasons shall be determined by the principal. Students will be counted absent if they are not present in class for at least half of the class period. To be counted "present" for the day, the student must be in attendance for a minimum of two hours of the day. Students who are



tardy to school must have a family member who must sign the student in after 9am. Excessive tardies may result in loss of privileges, detention, parent conference, and/or suspension.

When making appointments that could cause a student to be late to school, we strongly suggest ensuring arrival no later than 11:00am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10:00am on Wednesdays.

Signing Out Early

In order for a student to receive attendance for the day, they are required to be in school for a minimum of two (2) hours.

No student shall be released within the final **60 minutes** of the school day unless authorized by the principal or principal's designee (i.e., emergency, sickness).

No student shall be permitted to leave school prior to dismissal at the request of, or in the company of, anyone other than a school employee, a police officer with judicial authority, a court official, or the authorized family of the student. Students who need to leave school early for unavoidable reasons must be picked up from school – they are not allowed to walk home or ride the public bus on their own. Family members must walk into the building to sign students out in the office.

Should the authorized family member picking up the student need ongoing accommodations, as outlined under Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Director of School Operations for your student's school to arrange reasonable accommodations. KIPP Miami is a firm believer in ensuring equity for all students and families.

Family Engagement Activities Attendance

At KIPP Miami, we believe that family engagement is a key component to our students' success in school and life. Thus, Family Engagement Activities are an important component of our program. There will be Annual Family Engagement activities over the course of the year that families can choose to participate in and some required. During this time, students and families will be exposed to many extracurricular and enrichment activities.

We are asking parents to participate in Annual KIPP Events for the year. Below are a few of activities that KIPP Miami will host annually so you can plan accordingly. Also, schools may have school specific activities throughout the school year that your student may be a part of and requires your participation.

- **Parent Engagement (Required):**
 - Quarterly Report Card Conferences: Q1, Q2, & Q3 are required, Q4 teacher will inform, if required to attend
 - Back to School Night/Orientation
 - State testing parent information meeting for all testing grades/subjects
 - Quarterly Town Hall Meetings
- **Annual KIPP Events:**
 - KIPPping it Under the Stars (Fall, Spring)
 - Doughnuts with Dads
 - Women's Health Fair
 - Literacy, Enrichment and STEAM Celebrations
 - Parent Workshops (Financial Literacy, Exceptional Student Services, KIPP Forward)

IV. Health Services

Medication cannot be administered or consumed at school unless both a doctor and families have completed the appropriate forms. KIPP Miami strongly encourages families to dispense both temporary and maintenance medications outside of school hours. Ask your physician for a medication schedule that will accomplish this.

Medication

If medication must be administered at school, it needs to be in the original container with the appropriate prescription label (including the name of the student, the name of the medicine, the date, the dosage information, and directions for administering the medication) and the appropriate Student Health Authorization for Administration of Medication Form. The school's administration team will store and administer the medicine in a secure location. Please be aware that the medication cannot travel back and forth to school – once it's given to the school for your child's use, it must remain with the school until it needs to be refilled. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to ask for two separate prescriptions when at the doctor's office with your child. Families should bring the medication to the main office.

Always check the child's medication before giving to the school to make sure that it is NOT expired. Provide a brand new, unopened container.

Illness at School

Students should not come to school when they are sick. This includes, but is not limited to: an oral temperature above 100 degrees (without the use of fever medication), nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, persistent headache, persistent or disruptive cough, wheezing breath sounds, ear ache, thick yellow discharge from nose, sore throat, any undiagnosed rash or infection of the skin, and red, pink or watery eyes not related to allergies. Always consult your child's pediatrician when in doubt for additional information and treatment. Also, you must keep your child at home until they are free of the mentioned symptoms for at least 24 hours without the use of medication and/or until your child is cleared by the doctor.

Always bring a doctor's note regarding the child's reason for absence and give it to the main office. If your child requires hospitalization, or has an extended or contagious illness, a doctor's note is required before returning to school.

If your child becomes ill during the school day, they will be sent to the main office. **Please be aware that you are required to pick up your child within two hours after you receive a call from the school. Your child will not be allowed to stay in school sick.**

Health Forms

Please be aware health forms including immunization records and physical examination forms are due by the first day of school. Families will be informed if all forms, records, and medications are not complete. Students who do not have up to date records after the start of school will be unable to return to school until documents are received. These will be considered unexcused absences.

Annually updated asthma, seizure, sickle cell anemia and food allergy plans are required. The applicable medications will be kept in school to be used during the school year and will be returned on the last day of school. Outdated or missing components of these records will result in students being unable to attend school beginning two weeks after the expiration date.



Health Care Service Offered at School and Parental Rights

Parents possess the fundamental right to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children. KIPP Miami requires affirmative consent from parents/guardians before a healthcare service is offered to a child at school. Parents/guardians have the option to withhold consent or decline any specific service. In compliance with Florida Statutes, if there is a change in a student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student KIPP Miami staff must notify the student's parent/guardian. If personal contact cannot be made after using all of the contact information in our student information system, staff must document the attempts in writing.

KIPP Miami already has existing procedures to ensure parent notification, if not actual input, in many instances involving a change in a student's services or monitoring related to their mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being. The following are examples of this:

- Certain related services on a student's IEP or Section 504 plan
- Safety Plans
- Health Care Plans
- Positive Behavior Intervention Plans
- Student Support Plans
- Baker Act

In instances involving such a change in services or monitoring where no procedures currently exist, this general procedure will be controlled, and staff will be trained to make the required parental notification.

In addition, any time that a student discusses their well-being with a KIPP Miami staff member, the staff member must either (i) encourage the student to discuss such issues with their parent/guardian or (ii) actually facilitate discussion of the issue with the parent/guardian. Except in the limited circumstances noted in the paragraph below, staff should not discourage students from sharing information with their parent(s).

Notwithstanding the requirements above, school personnel may, in accordance with Florida law, withhold information from a parent if a reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect, as those terms are defined in Section 39.01, F.S. Legal Authorities: Sections 1001.42(8), 1002.20, 1014.04, and 39.01, F.S.

KIPP Miami offers the health services listed below this school year. All parents have the rights to withhold consent or decline any specific service:

1. Children's Trust & Jessie Trice
 1. School Nurse
 2. Dental exams
 3. Biometric Screening
 4. Mental Health Screenings
2. I am Success through ReCapturing the Vision International, Inc.
3. FL Dept of Health mandated screenings
4. PROJECT SMARTS – Suicide prevention
5. Affirming Youth – Program in which families may be referred for mental health services.
6. Seals on Wheels – Sealants on students teeth for younger students
7. Heiken Vision
8. Big Smiles Dental Screenings

Food Allergies

Out of consideration for students with nut allergies, KIPP Miami schools are nut free. Please do not send your child to school with any foods that contain any kind of nuts such as peanuts, cashews, almonds, Brazil nuts, pistachios, chestnuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, and pecans. If your child does bring these kinds of foods, he or she may be asked to sit separately from his or her classmates during meals and snacks.

If your child is lactose intolerant, please provide a doctor's note to the cafeteria so an alternative, such as lactose free milk can be provided.

Any students with food allergies MUST complete the School Allergy Form, completed and signed by a physician. Request from front office.

Elementary Extra Clothes

To ensure that we are prepared for bathroom accidents, unfortunate spills and wardrobe malfunctions, all kindergarten and first grade students are required to have a spare change of clothes at school in case of a bathroom accident or wardrobe malfunction. Place the following in an enclosed Ziploc bag with your child's name on the bag: underwear, pants, shirt, and a pair of socks. The school will not be responsible for clothes that are not inside of a Ziplock bag with a name on it. Please be aware that if your child does not have clothes in school a diaper/ underwear and, if available, spare clothes from the school will be used in the case of a bathroom accident or wardrobe malfunction.

Family Notification

In the unlikely event that your child is injured during school hours, you will be notified immediately by school staff. Depending on the severity of the incident an incident report may be filed.

V. Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival/ Departure for Non-Bus Takers

Arrival and dismissal will be supervised by KIPP Miami staff. Staff will be assigned to specific locations, both inside and outside of the building, and given defined responsibilities to supervise student arrival at each school.

KIPP Miami employees are not responsible for supervising students who arrive on school grounds more than 30 minutes before school and/or 30 minutes before a school-sponsored activity is scheduled to begin or students remaining on school grounds more than 30 minutes after school and/or 30 minutes after the school-sponsored activity ends. Late pick-ups after dismissal require going to the Main Office to sign your child out. If a child is not picked up, the school reserves the right to call police or DCF.

Families will be required to provide identification upon pick up that will be cross-referenced against the student's list of identified adults who have been authorized to pick up the child. These may include plaques assigned by the school or government issued identification depending on the processes in place at each school site.

If a family agrees that the child can walk to and from school, the family must complete a permission slip that is kept on file and valid for the entire year. Students who have this permission are not allowed to walk home by themselves if they are sick or need to leave school early.

During arrival and dismissal our staff is supporting our students and access to school phones will be limited.

VI. Bus Policies

KIPP Miami does its best to provide bus transportation to and from school to as many students as possible. To maintain a sustainable and safe transportation program KIPP Miami offers courtesy bus service to families on a first come first serve basis. We are limiting the service area in which we are providing transportation to be within a 2-4 mile radius of the school servicing the northeastern and southern regions where the highest concentration of students reside. This radius allows KIPP Miami to seek reimbursement from the state to offset transportation costs and ensure more dollars stay in the classroom to provide your children a world class education. Bus transportation will not be provided for afterschool programs and activities.

We have further limited the number of bus stops that we are providing and have made these bus stops at local community parks where we can ensure a safe environment for both students and families during pick up and drop off. KIPP Miami will be providing families with a survey in which you can identify and indicate which park is closest to you if you want to continue to seek bus service for the school year. We will no longer be able to accommodate any additional bus stop requests outside of these pre-identified stops. Changes to bus stops can only be made with accompanying documentation and will be subject to available capacity. We do not provide door-to-door bus stops, unless there is a specified requirement within a student's IEP. Concerns or issues with access to bus transportation or stops will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

If approved to ride the bus, families MUST attend KIPP Miami Bus Orientation. Bus Orientation dates will be provided upon approval and required to attend before the student can be transported. Bus Orientation is completed each school year.

Timeliness

The bus schedule provided will give each stop a 10-minute window of time during which you can expect the bus to arrive. This time frame accounts for that day's particular traffic or weather. Please, be on time to your stop. **Buses will not wait for you if you are not at the stop.** Please do not ask the bus to wait for you out of courtesy and respect to the other families, as this delays bus arrival times at later stops along the route.

If a bus is running late due to weather or any other circumstance, you are always welcome to bring your child to school if you choose not to wait. Late buses will always make every stop. Students who typically ride that bus, will receive an excused tardy. Absences will not be excused.

If there is a delay in the bus routes in the afternoon, we will make every effort to proactively communicate to families through our all-call system. We will not always be able to proactively communicate any bus delays in the morning as often our families are aware of these delays before the school is.

Busing is a privilege and all bus families must attend a yearly "Bus Expectations Code of Conduct" orientation to go over student behavior contract/expectations and bus code of conduct. Bus services may be suspended or revoked for the family of a student that does not uphold the bus code of conduct.

Private Buses

If your student will be riding a private bus, please notify the school of the bus name. All private bus students will remain inside the campus for pick-up. The bus driver must come inside the building to pick up the student

Daily or Short-Term Dismissal Changes

Dismissal changes make it difficult for us to ensure that every student is exactly where they need to be in order to make it home safely. Therefore, we will be limiting the ability to make dismissal changes. You may request a dismissal change



to parent pick-up ONLY. Dismissal changes requests for a student to ride a different bus will not be honored. Requests must be made to the school by 9:00 am.

To request a DAILY dismissal change, please:

- 1) Call the school main office *prior to 9:00 a.m. and leave a message on the “dismissal change” extension of the main office phone.* Leaving a voice message is a sufficient way to make a bus change; you do not need to reach someone in person. The office is a busy place in the morning and office staff will not be able to answer each of these calls.
- 2) Your bus change is only confirmed once you have received a reply from the main office.
- 3) Texts, emails and calls to any teachers or other administrators will not result in a dismissal change.
- 4) You are not permitted to pick up your child from the sidewalk or from the bus directly. If you did not make a dismissal change in time, then you must pick up your child from a bus stop on their route. Your child’s safety is our number one concern and priority.

Student Release

To ensure the safety of our students, all individuals who are picking up kids will need to have some form of identification. Aides and staff will have a list of approved persons who have permission to pick up students. This list comes directly from the Student Release form families were required to fill out during enrollment and registration. If there is any question about an individual who is there to pick up a student, the primary guardian will be contacted to verbally verify before the child is released.

You have already identified up to 5 individuals other than the child’s 1-2 primary guardians who will have permissions. If you wish to add another person to the Student Release list, please contact the school.

Families will be required to provide identification upon pick up that will be cross referenced against the student’s list of identified adults who have been authorized to pick up the child. These may include plaques assigned by the school or government issued identification depending on the processes that are in place at each school site.

Student Behavior

Our buses are staffed with a bus driver. Our driver’s first responsibility is to ensure that up to 54 student riders arrive at their stops safely.

Since staff members cannot be with our students at all times and we want drivers to drive safely, we are very clear with our bus behavior expectations and policies. Busing is a privilege, and even minor behavioral issues will be dealt with seriously because we must ensure that buses are safe and orderly.

Unsafe Behaviors

Minor Infractions	Major Infractions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using unkind words Getting out of seat before stop Lightly tossing objects Turning around in seat Leg or knee in aisle Not following directions, the first time Being disrespectful towards aide or driver Standing up on the bus Leaning over in seat Lightly kicking seat Inappropriate language Eating food Loud voice Boarding a bus that you are not assigned to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fighting Play Fighting Bullying Weapons and/or toys that resemble weapons on bus Failure to cooperate with bus driver or bus aide Excessive yelling Egregiously kicking seat Any form of unwanted touching Spitting Throwing objects on the bus Throwing objects off the bus Drug and/or substance use/experimentation Destruction of bus property Vandalism

Consequences for these behaviors may include but are not limited to warnings, suspensions from the bus, in-school suspensions, reflections, apologies, behavior re-sets, or loss of privileges during the school day. This school may decide another consequence in alignment with the Code of Conduct that is appropriate to the infraction after investigating what occurred.

Family Expectations

Because it is our responsibility to ensure that students and staff get home every day in a safe manner, we will strictly adhere to all of the above policies and procedures. Failure for families to adhere to these policies will also result in consequences including suspension of bus privileges.

Examples of family/ guardian behavior that may result in suspension of bus privileges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to pick up your student by the last bus stop time Attempting to pick up a student whose plan is NOT for parent pick up at the school after dismissal. This includes attempting to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pick up a student from outside the school area (sidewalk, front steps of the school, etc.) pick up a student from the bus before it has left the school Failure to provide up to date contact and family release information Conflict with staff bus driver Any inappropriate behavior taken against bus staff

VII. Dress Code

KIPP Miami Uniform Policy

Our KIPP Miami uniform policy is designed to build a sense of pride within our school community and to ensure that our students look professional yet remain comfortable as they learn. Students must always remain in uniform while on campus. All students must arrive each morning on campus in uniform; students will not be given time at school to change into their uniform upon arrival.

A student who is not in uniform, but restoration is possible (e.g. able to remove an unbranded jacket or change from slides to gym shoes) will receive a consequence of a verbal warning. Additional violation of the policy will result in the student's family being notified and risk additional consequences in accordance with our code of conduct that could include loss of privileges, detention, or suspension.

A student who is not in uniform and is unable to restore their uniform to meet expectations will receive a consequence and the family will be notified with the goal of restoring that student's uniform quickly so they can attend class. Being out of uniform may result in students being assigned in-school suspension or loss of privileges to participate in school activities. Additional consequences may be given in accordance with our code of conduct.

If there is ever an obstacle to your child coming in uniform, please call the school in advance so we can work together toward a solution.

Dress Code Expectations

Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top layer shirt must have a KIPP Miami logo on it. • All tops must be branded unless it is a free dress day (to be determined by school leaders). • KIPP Miami polo is the standard navy polo with the KIPP Miami logo. • Students are additionally permitted to wear KIPP branded t-shirts as a part of the school uniform. • Shirts must be long enough to tuck in. • Ill-fitting shirts that expose the midriff may not be worn. • Shirts may not be written on or signed. • Students may wear undershirts or solid colored (white, black, blue, gray) long sleeve shirts beneath their uniforms.
Bottoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid colors pants, shorts or skirts (either khaki, blue or black) must be worn. • Capris/skirts/cargoes/leggings of any type are not permitted. • No holes are allowed. • Denim or jeans are not permitted unless awarded as part of a free dress day for students (to be determined by school leaders). • Pants must always be pulled above the waist and must not be so big that they fall. It is suggested that Kindergarten and first grade students wear elastic waist pants.
Outerwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should wear KIPP branded outerwear or solid school color crewneck sweatshirts. • Students are not permitted to wear hoodies. This allows for all student faces to be visible and ensure safety at all times. • Any other jackets must be left in the closet or backpack at the beginning of the

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	<p>day—not carried with them or worn around the waist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outerwear or shirts that do not meet dress code may be confiscated from students and returned at the end of the day or to a parent/guardian.
Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoes and sneakers must be closed toe. Shoes must not have wheels. Shower shoes/flip flops/slides/crocs of any type are not permitted. Shoes may not have a heel higher than 1.5 inches.
Additional Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDs are worn on a lanyard and visible. Hats of any type are not allowed to be worn at school. Any headdress worn for religious purposes is allowed. Shirts with inappropriate messaging or symbols (determined by school leaders) may not be worn (even on free dress days) Facial piercings are not permitted. Wearing sunglasses is not permitted in the building.

Uniform Shirts and Sweaters can be ordered from All Uniform Wear:

9007 Biscayne Blvd, Miami Shores, FL 33138

Tel: (305) 691-8807

Identification Cards

Students will be issued identification cards that include telephone numbers for national or statewide crisis and suicide hotlines and text lines as provided in Florida Statues section 1008.386, F.S. Students are required to have identification cards with them on a daily basis at school to verify their ID, take attendance and swipe for their meal program. All students will be issued a school ID/lanyard completely free of charge. Schools will also replace student IDs/lanyards once per school year free of charge. In the event that a student does not have their ID, and they have already received their free replacement they will be charged \$2 per additional ID required and \$2 per additional lanyard required. IDs are considered part of the school dress code and not wearing it will result in a dress code violation.

VIII. Field Trips

Field trips are one of the many ways we engage in learning outside the walls of the school and reward students who are doing the right things. A student may be deemed ineligible for a field trip for the reasons below. In the event this occurs, families will be notified in advance.

Field Trip Criteria

A student may be deemed ineligible for a field trip for the following reasons:

- Behavior as determined at the discretion of the teacher in partnership with the school support team.
- Attendance.
- Academics as determined at the discretion of the teacher.
- Outstanding liabilities to the school, including field trip expenses and signed permission slips.

Field Trips

No student will be permitted to leave the school for a field trip if they do not have a signed permission slip which is required for all field trips. Please be sure to sign all permission slips in a timely manner. Students will remain at the school under the supervision of a KIPP Miami staff member if a permission slip was not received or if the student has not satisfied the field trip criteria above.



Chaperones

Family members are encouraged to join us on field trips as chaperones. Please let your child's homeroom teacher know if you are willing and able to chaperone a school trip. We will honor first come first served cleared volunteers. Please note that siblings are not allowed to attend school field trips and chaperones are not allowed to bring other children with them on these trips. Chaperones must bring their state issued ID and obtain a badge via our visitor management system.

IX. Extra-Curricular Activities

We believe in providing opportunities for our students to engage in extracurricular activities outside of school hours. To provide these opportunities we partner with various outside service providers.

Each outside service provider that we partner with has been vetted by KIPP Miami and have been allowed to provide opportunities to our students and families because we believe they are mission aligned and have been open to communication, feedback, and partnership with KIPP Miami. All partners have either a memorandum of understanding or a contract in place. Any student participating in extracurricular activities through outside service providers are responsible for adhering to that organization's policies and disciplinary expectations.

We also sponsor our own extracurricular activities and sports led by KIPP Miami employees or contracted directly by KIPP Miami. Students participating in these activities will need to complete all sports forms and waivers in order to participate. No student will be allowed to participate without a completed waiver. Each of these activities have specified criteria to participate or limited capacity which will be determined by the staff activity sponsor. All policies and behavior expectations listed in this handbook and the Code of Conduct apply to extra-curricular activities. Additionally, participation in such activities may be revoked because of disciplinary infractions listed in the Code of Conduct.

X. Inclement Weather

School Cancellation

We will follow Miami Dade County Public Schools decisions as it relates to school closures. Announcements regarding closures will be made through our all-call system and on our website. All programs including after-school will be canceled for the duration of the day.

Delayed Opening

We will follow Miami Dade County Public Schools decisions as it relates to delayed school openings. Announcements will be made through our all-call system and on our website. Delayed openings will result in a 2-hour delay to the start of the school day. All programs will continue as normal. After school opportunities will be left to the discretion of the activity leader.

Emergency Early Dismissal

We will follow Miami Dade County Public Schools decisions as it relates to early dismissals. All decisions regarding early dismissal will be made by 11:00 am at the latest. Announcements will be made through our all-call system and on our website. We will follow our regular Wednesday dismissal schedule.

Make-Up Days

The KIPP Miami school calendar allows for up to three canceled school days due to emergency or inclement weather. Any school cancellations more than three days will be made up by hosting school on any previously scheduled teacher professional development day.

XI. Grading

At KIPP Miami we believe that grades serve as a feedback and communication tool so that families and students always know about student mastery of a given standard. We strive to maintain a grading system that is valid and reliable, and engages teachers, students, and families in the learning process. We will know our grading system is working when all stakeholders can act upon the information our grades provide.

Valid: Our grades are based on identified knowledge and skills rather than comparison to other students. (If every student has mastered all skills, every student can earn an A.) We do not assign grades based on effort displayed but learning observed. While active participation and completed assignments are expected and will ultimately support a child in his or her learning, it is the evidence of that which will determine grades.

Reliable: Our grades are connected to high-quality assessments. Our graded assessments are:

- Matched to specific standards
- At a level that reflects instruction and Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T. Assessments) rigor
- Judged consistently across classrooms
- Only assessing content that students have had an opportunity to learn

In elementary school, KIPP Miami's standards-based grading is determined by what students have shown that they know and are able to do. Students receive an overall mastery grade each quarter. Throughout the quarter students can revise their assessments to show mastery of standards.

In middle school, student's grades are comprised of

- Work Habits (class work)
- Formative Mastery (i.e. weekly exit ticket or quiz)
- Summative mastery (i.e. quarterly assessments, unit assessments).

Engaging Students, Families, and Teachers: Our grades are transparent to families and students. By basing our grades on what standards students have mastered, families can worry less about "what a B means" and more about where their child is mastering standards and where their child has yet to show mastery. We communicate progress through regular progress reports and quarterly student-led conferences. We encourage students to own their learning through regular reflection on their grades and help teachers identify what to reteach and reassess. Teachers can update grades to reflect new student learning as they reassess and resubmit work that increasingly meets the standard.

Absences and Promotion/Retention: Once a student reaches 10 or more unexcused absences in an annual course or 5 or more unexcused absences in a semester course, their case will be evaluated by the Promotion Committee to determine whether or not the student is eligible for promotion. If a middle school student has more than 27 unexcused absences over the course of the school year, the student will not earn credit for any of their classes. Attendance will be taken on all days that school is in session during the school year.

Where will the standards in our standards-based grading come from?

For math, ELA and social studies, our standards will come directly from the Florida B.E.S.T. In science, we will use the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

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How will this relate to promoting students to the next grade?

We will always make decisions about a student's retention based on his or her academic preparedness for the next grade, while also considering the social emotional impact that retention can have on certain students. Since our grades reflect what students know and are able to do, teachers will be able to accurately diagnose students' struggles and address those who are at-risk for retention. Moreover, when students move from grade to grade their teachers will have an accurate picture of their strengths and identified areas of growth.

In third grade, as required by state law, a student may only be promoted to the 4th grade if they meet one of the following:

1. Earn a passing score on Florida State's English Language Arts standardized exam;
2. Earn an acceptable rating on each Grade 3 standard in their student portfolio;
3. Earn above the 50th percentile on the I-Ready Diagnostic administered at the end of the school year;
4. Earn above the 45th percentile on the FAST at the end of summer school.

If a student does not meet one of these criteria, they are required to be retained in 4th grade. The student will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills in the fall following retention. If the student earns a 24 or higher, they can be promoted to the 4th grade mid-year.

In Middle School, students earn credits for passing classes. In order to be eligible for MDCPS high schools' students must earn the following credits in 6th - 8th grade:

- 3 years of English Language Arts
- 3 years of Math
- 3 years of Social Studies
- 3 years of Science
- 3 semesters of Physical Education
- Elective courses each year

Students who do not pass one or more classes each year will be required to take credit recovery during summer school in order to earn the credit. Any students who do not complete credit recovery over the summer will need to retake the course during the next school year.

i-Ready

i-Ready is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that helps your child's teacher(s) determine your child's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. Students take an I-Ready Diagnostic three times each year. The diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit your student's needs and provides a score that is predictive of how your student will perform on the state's standardized test. Each week, students complete i-Ready personalized lessons in both math and reading. The personalized lessons provide students with lessons based on their individual skill level and needs, so your student can learn at a pace that is just right for them. These lessons are fun and interactive to keep your student engaged as they learn. Overtime, students can see their growth in both math and reading.



Progress Reports

Progress Reports are distributed to students bi-weekly. They resemble a report card and display the current progress towards standards in each subject, as well as absences, tardies, and other student data.

Report Cards

Report Cards are given out four times during the school year, after each quarter.

Report Card Conferences

Each quarter, the school will host report card conferences. The purpose of these conferences is to update all parties on the student's progress towards his or her goals and determine what needs to be done to continue to grow and achieve. Teachers will reach out to schedule a specific time for a conference with families. Families are required to attend conferences for Quarters 1, 2 and 3. Quarter 4 report cards will be available for pick up with the opportunity to meet and discuss with the teacher as needed. Please refer to the calendar to find the dates of this year's conferences.

XII. ESE & ESOL

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) / MTSS

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of Americans with Disabilities Act, KIPP Miami serves all students, and we are inclusive of all students no matter their background, experience or abilities.

Students who are suspected of having a disability, as determined as not meeting academic or behavior expectations to a significant degree, may be enrolled into the Response to Intervention program (RTI). Students will receive tiered support interventions. If the student is not responding to intervention services, he or she may be eligible to be tested for ESE services. If your child has/may have a diagnosis, IEP and/or 504 plan please notify the Assistant Principal of ESE of your respective school. (contact information listed above)

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

In accordance with Title III of the Every Child Succeeds Act, KIPP Miami serves all students, and we are inclusive of all students no matter their background, experience or abilities. Students who are learning English as a second language are eligible to participate in the ESOL program. If your child is learning English as a second language, please contact the ESOL Coordinator/Assistant Principal of ESE of your respective school (contact information listed above).

XIII. Behavioral Expectations

Code of Conduct

Our schools seek to identify and correct misconduct; encourage all students to adhere to their responsibilities as citizens of the KIPP Miami community; protect students, employees, and property; and maintain a positive school environment. KIPP Miami students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the standards set in the Code of Conduct and the Commitment to Excellence contracts.

Below is an overview of our expectations. Families should consult the full Code of Conduct. It is available on the website and upon request. KIPP Miami has adopted a progressive Code of Conduct. Students will be held to this Code of Conduct.

If students do not adhere to the behavioral and academic expectations, then there will be a consequence. Disruptions, disrespect, and dishonesty of any kind are not taken lightly. To maximize student learning, and maintain a safe school culture, we expect all students to meet the standards. These expectations apply on school grounds, while being transported to and from school at public expense, during school-sponsored events, such as field trips, athletic functions, and similar activities. KIPP Miami also has the authority to discipline students for acts near or related to the school or when a student's conduct may harm the health, safety, or welfare of the student, of other students, of the school or of school personnel. In addition, while students may be disciplined according to the responses outlined in the

Code of Student Conduct, please be aware that there could be additional consequences through law enforcement for acts that violate the law.

Sample Disciplinary Infractions

Below are some examples of disciplinary infractions. A full list, identified by tier or level of severity is provided in the Code of Conduct.

- Assault or battery
- Possession of prohibited substance (alcohol, drugs, smoking, vaping, medications)
- Arson
- Theft
- Weapons possession
- False 911 calls and/or activation of fire alarm or fire extinguisher
- Leaving school grounds without permission
- Sexual offenses
- Sexting
- Cheating
- Confrontation with staff member or student
- Cutting class
- Disorderly conduct and disruptive behavior
- Bullying

Sample Consequences

Below are some examples of consequences used at KIPP Miami. A full list, identified by tier or level of severity is provided in the Code of Conduct.

- Reflection
- Family and student conference
- Behavior plan
- Referral to outside agency
- Loss of bus privileges
- Loss of extracurricular privileged or field trip privileges
- Removal from class
- In school suspension
- Out of school suspension

Suspensions

In the event that an extreme behavior, or pattern of misbehaviors occurs, a student may be suspended.



In-School Suspension

When a student is placed in In-School Suspension (ISS) that student will not participate in regular classes and will be in another room for the day. Students who are assigned ISS are expected to complete all of their work and receive a positive behavior report by the teacher who supervises him or her throughout the course of the day. Students must also complete a written reflection. Students assigned multiple In School Suspensions may then be given an Out of School Suspension.

Out of School Suspensions

A student who has broken the Commitment to Excellence Contract or has committed Tier 1 or 2 infractions as fully outlined in the Code of Conduct could be subjected minimally to a short-term suspension of 10 days or less. Depending upon the severity of the infraction, the student may also be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Infractions that are more serious than short term suspensions of 10 days or less or that are Zero Tolerance, would result in referral to the Miami-Dade School District for disciplinary hearing and recommendation for a change in placement. Families should consult the Code of Conduct for more details.

Procedures for Suspension

The School Leader may impose an in-school suspension or out of school suspension. Before imposing a suspension, the student will be informed of the suspension, the reason for it, and whether it will be served in school or out of school. The School Leader also shall immediately notify the student's family in writing that the student has been suspended from school. Such notice shall provide a description of the incident, or incidents, which resulted in the suspension. Families and students must have a reentry meeting when a student returns from an out of school suspension.

Threats

KIPP Miami maintains a School Based Threat Management Team (SBTMT) for each school that reviews and assess concerning behavior and investigates any event in which a student threatens to cause physical harm to another person with or without the use of a weapon that includes all of the following elements: 1) Communication or behavior indicating that an individual poses a danger to the safety of the school staff or students through acts of violence, or behavior that would cause harm to self or others. 2) An observable behavior that elicits concern in others regarding the safety of an individual or those around them.

The SBTMT will convene and KIPP Miami will consult with law enforcement. If the infraction is corroborated it must be reported to the FL Department of Education via the SESIR system and all pertaining reporting steps.

Each school's SBTMT

- Pursuant to [Florida Statute 1006.07\(7\)\(a\)](#), includes persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement. Pursuant to Florida Statute 1006.07(7)(b) the team also must include an instructional or administrative staff member who is personally familiar with the individual who is the subject of the threat assessment.
- Each member is required to complete training on the Florida's Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model, the standardized training from the Florida Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools.
- Students who pose a threat to self or others must be referred to the school's SBTMT
- Upon convening the SBTMT, proceed to Navigate 360, the platform selected by the district to manage and track behavior concerns or threats.
- Behavior concern or threat will be classified as unfounded, low, medium or high. Low, medium and high level classification will require an Student Support Management Plan



(SSMP) with a minimum required implementation and monitoring of 90 days for low level, 180 days for medium level and one year for high level.

Treat everyone in our building with respect. We will always aim to treat our families and students with kindness and professionalism and ask that everyone who enters KIPP Miami campus works to do the same. Physical or corporal punishment of any kind will not be tolerated on school grounds. All KIPP Miami employees are mandated reporters to the Division of Children and Families when there is reason to suspect abuse or neglect.

Pursuant to Florida Statute 1001.42 KIPP Miami Schools will notify a student's parent or legal guardian via an email in the student information system with families if there is a change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive environment for the student. Legal guardians have the right to notify the School Leader in writing of any concerns related to notification to parent or legal guardian with regards to change in the student's services or monitoring. The School Leader or designee must provide a response to the legal guardian within seven (7) business days of receiving the complaint. If the dispute cannot be resolved by the School leader or designee within seven (7) days, the legal guardian may present the dispute to the relevant school district, which complaint must be addressed within 30 business days. The district complaint process is available on the relevant school district website.

XIV. Bullying

KIPP Miami is committed to protecting its students from harassment and bullying. It is the policy of the KIPP Miami that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The district will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type including cyberbullying. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment will lead to disciplinary action. All definitions for bullying and harassment are found in Florida Statute 1006.147. KIPP Miami reviews its bullying policy at least every 3 years to ensure our policy is in alignment with the Florida Statute 1006.147 and to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families.

The definitions of "bullying" and "harassment" include:

1. Retaliation against a student or school employee by another student or school employee for asserting or alleging an act of bullying or harassment. Reporting an act of bullying or harassment that is not made in good faith is considered retaliation.
2. Perpetuation of conduct listed in paragraph (a), paragraph (b), or paragraph (c) by an individual or group with intent to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause physical harm to a student or school employee by:
 - a. Incitement or coercion;
 - b. Accessing or knowingly causing or providing access to data or computer software through a computer, computer system, or computer network within the scope of the district school system; or
 - c. Acting in a manner that has an effect substantially similar to the effect of bullying or harassment

XV. Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy

Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or selling alcohol or any illegal substances. Students are also prohibited from possession of all uses of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, nicotine dispensing devices, electronic cigarettes or smoking devices, any other matter or substances containing tobacco or nicotine, including any product designed or manufactured to imitate any of these products regardless of whether it contains tobacco or nicotine, and the possession of papers used to roll cigarettes.

Please consult the Code of Conduct for more details on our alcohol and substance abuse policy.

XVI. Searches

Students may be subject to search of person or property if a reasonable suspicion exists that the student may have violated the Code of Student Conduct or state or federal law. Be advised that, upon reasonable suspicion, student belongings and other storage areas (including, but not limited to book bags, pocketbooks, notebooks, pockets, lockers, personal electronic devices, sweatshirts etc.) may be searched.

XVII. Sexual Harassment/ Title IX Policy

KIPP Miami is committed to providing students, employees, and volunteers with an environment that is safe, welcoming, and inclusive. KIPP Miami takes seriously its obligations to ensure that no student or employee suffers discrimination on the basis of sex, as defined in Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 ("Title IX"). Title IX requires that "[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..." 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a). KIPP Miami does not discriminate against or tolerate discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

The following acts are prohibited and will not be tolerated at KMI:

- Dating violence
- Discrimination on the basis of sex
- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Stalking

KIPP Miami has designated a Title IX Coordinator to manage the response to reports or complaints of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and dating violence and oversee KIPP Miami's compliance with Title IX. This current information can be found on our website: www.kippmiami.org/compliance.

Any person may report sex discrimination, whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of sexual harassment, in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail.

Reports may be made to any staff member with whom the person reporting feels comfortable, including KIPP Miami's Title IX Coordinator, a teacher, counselor, the school Assistant Principal, the School Leader or any Dean. A report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) and as soon as possible in order for KMI to maximize its ability to respond promptly and effectively.

To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) alleging sexual harassment, contact OCR at:

Office for Civil Rights
Attention: Director, U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202
Fax: (202) 453-6021
Voice: (202) 453-6020
TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: ocr.dc@ed.gov
Web: www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html



When KIPP Miami has actual knowledge, with or without a formal complaint, of a Title IX violation, KIPP Miami will promptly respond and take steps to end and remedy any unlawful discrimination.

XVIII. Meal Program

KIPP Miami encourages students to make healthy nutritional choices. We provide breakfast and lunch for students daily so that they have energy to keep them focused throughout the day. Students are permitted to bring additional healthy snacks to school and are highly encouraged to bring a water bottle. Because we want to ensure that all brains and bodies are ready to learn, students may not bring candy, cookies, sodas, or other high-sugar food and drinks into the school.

Unless otherwise directed by the teacher, students are not permitted to consume any food or drinks other than water at any time other than breakfast, lunch and snack.

XIX. Recess

The purpose of recess is to provide your child with a short break, fresh air, and informal participation in positive social and physical activities. Recess will be held in appropriate locations or outside, except in extreme weather conditions. Families are expected to ensure that your student is dressed appropriately for the weather. If there is a medical reason for why your child should not participate, please contact the school's Main Office.

XX. Birthday Policy

At KIPP Miami, one of our goals is to create an inclusive environment that celebrates all of our students in a way that is comfortable for them and manageable for teachers and staff. We will celebrate students' birthdays by having teachers recognize a student's "special day" (birthday) with some special recognition.

At our KIPP Miami Schools, Families may choose to celebrate their child's birthday at school by following these guidelines:

- Birthday celebrations will **ONLY** take place on an agreed upon time between the family and teacher.
- Families must notify and coordinate directly with teachers. **Teachers require 1 week advance notice if you will be celebrating your student's birthday at school.**

XXI. Visitor Policy

If you are entering a KIPP Miami building outside of our arrival and dismissal times, you will be required to show a physical valid ID at the security or main office desk. You will be required to scan your ID through our visitor management system and be given a visitor badge sticker which you are required to wear while you are in the building.

It is expected that all visitors behave in a professional and respectful manner and are respectful of school grounds and personnel. Similar to staff members, all visitors should dress appropriately with shirt and pants, skirts or shorts. Bathing suits, sleepwear or any clothing that is revealing in nature will not be allowed. If any visitor is not following the security procedures, is disrespectful, not dressed appropriately or is disruptive in any way, our staff and security personnel reserve the right to ask them to leave or remove them from school grounds and have their access to campus revoked or limited.

XXII. Volunteer Policy

Throughout the school year we will have multiple events in which parents and community members may be allowed to volunteer their time with our KIPPsters. It is very important that we always follow proper guidelines to make sure that all volunteers are background checked and cleared by KIPP Miami. **All volunteers must be cleared every school year.**

Level 1 Clearance

For volunteers participating in the following activities will be required to undergo a Level 1 clearance:

Chaperones for field trip (not overnight)	Assist classroom teacher (if attending more than one day per school year)
Organized special events	Read/ tell story to students (if attending more than one day per school year)
College student (not enrolled in education classes)	Guest speaker (if attending more than one day per school year)

Volunteers will need to complete the volunteer clearance form on www.kippmiami.org no later than 4 days before volunteering. The school operations manager will notify the volunteer if they have been cleared and can volunteer or if they have not been cleared.

Level II Clearance

For volunteers participating in the following activities will be required to undergo a Level 2 clearance:

Chaperones for overnight field trip	Volunteer in athletics/ physical activities
Certified Volunteer (must have volunteer certificate)	Mentor (must have mentor certificate)

Volunteers will need to complete background and fingerprint screening at any Miami Dade Police Department Station by bringing 2 forms of ID, fingerprint card and paying \$15. Upon completion of fingerprints, the background screening paperwork must be returned to the main office.

Please allow for 1 week after the completion of fingerprinting for the school operations manager to notify the volunteer if they have been cleared and can volunteer or if they have not been cleared.

XXIII. Electronics Policy

Acceptable Internet/Computer Use Agreement

The Internet and other online resources are provided by KIPP Miami to support instructional programs and appropriate student learning in accordance with Rule 6A-1.0957, F.A.C. While the Internet can be a powerful educational tool, it is also an unregulated space that contains material unsuited for the school setting. All internet use by students must comply with the Children's Internet protection Act, 47 C.F.R. § 54.520 For this reason, we will make every reasonable effort to ensure that this resource is used responsibly and will further require that every student and family sign the Acceptable Internet Use Agreements before Internet access is granted.

If a student uses the Internet improperly or for purposes inconsistent with the educational program at KIPP Miami, he or she may lose technology privileges for a predetermined length of time.

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Although the following list is not intended to be comprehensive, it provides a sampling of some of the unacceptable uses of the Internet that could result in the suspension or revocation of a student's on-line privileges:

- Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other laws
- Sending or displaying offensive pictures or graphics, using obscene language, or harassing, insulting, threatening or abusing other network users
- Any online activity that encourages the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, or that promotes unethical practices, or any activity prohibited by law or district policy
- Using the Internet for financial or commercial gain
- Degrading, vandalizing or disrupting equipment, software or system performance or the data of another, including display settings and screensavers
- Wastefully using finite resources
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities
- Invading the privacy of others or using an account owned by another user
- Posting anonymous messages or messages with a false identity
- Downloading, storing or printing files or message that are profane, obscene, or that use language that offends or tends to degrade others
- Playing unauthorized games on the Internet
- Computer piracy, hacking, or any tampering with hardware or software
- Activities that allow a computer or network to becoming infected with a virus or other destructive influence

It is important to remember that the Internet is a 'public place' that is shared by millions of other users. Students' actions online can be seen by others and KIPP Miami expressly retains the right to monitor its students' Internet usage. Because of the public nature of the Internet, the following rules apply with respect to any student-created materials that are published online:

- No personal information about a student will be allowed. This includes home telephone numbers and addresses as well as information regarding the specific location of any student at any given time.
- No text, image, movie or sound that contains pornography, profanity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others will be allowed.

Limited Personal Electronic Device

To ensure our students can thrive in a distraction-free environment that promotes academic excellence, social-emotional growth, and character development, KIPP Miami Charter Schools implement a strict **No Use of Personal Electronic Device Policy** during school hours.

Cell phones and personal electronic devices are not permitted during the school day and the student and family assumes all liability for damages (including losing the item) if brought to school. Students in 2nd grade and above who come to school with a personal electronic device will turn off their electronic device(s) when entering the building. Cell phones/ personal electronic devices will be picked up by the homeroom teacher and stored inside a cell phone cabinet in the homeroom classroom. Students will return to their homeroom at the end of the day and pick up their cellphones/ personal electronic devices.

Family members who need to speak with their child during the day must call the school's main office. Should a student need to contact a family member during the school day, they should resolve this situation by speaking with a faculty member and using an office, classroom or teacher cell phone. Students are prohibited from using wireless communication devices during the school day unless authorized by school personnel.

Portable gaming devices (PSPs, GBAs, etc.) and personal music players (iPods, mp3 players, etc.) are strictly prohibited during the school day. If this rule is not followed, staff may confiscate the phone and hold it until a parent/ guardian comes to the school to pick up the device. Students are strongly cautioned against lending their electronic devices to



other students at any time or for any reason. KIPP Miami will take no responsibility for electronic devices lent to other students or liability for damages of any prohibited item.

Exceptions will be made for students that have an IEP or 504 accommodation that requires a personal electronic device

Use of School Phones

Students are prohibited to use school and classroom phones without authorization and under supervision of a staff member. School phones are a critical communication method to ensure that our classrooms and offices are able to communicate to all parts of the building as well as having the capability to call outside our building to connect with families, service providers and emergency responses. Unauthorized use of school phones is subject to consequences. False call to government office or agency subject to enhanced penalties which could result in suspension. Every outgoing emergency call is recorded and traceable to the phone used.

XXIV. Social Media Policy

Social media has become a powerful communication tool. With the power of social media come responsibilities. These guidelines provide best practices under which members of the KIPP community (families, teachers, students, and staff) should operate when using these tools. The basic principle is that community members are expected to adhere to the same levels of civility in their online and face-to-face conversations. The same laws, school policies, guidelines, and personal and professional expectations for interacting with all KIPP community members apply online as in the real world. For example, posting defamatory or confidential information about students or teachers may violate existing school policies and be handled as such.

Family members who engage in disrespectful or disruptive behavior on social media and/or while on campus may have their access to campus revoked or limited, per KIPP Miami policy. Off-campus conduct that interferes with the orderly operation of the school may result in discipline to a child under the student code of conduct.

Harmful social media posts not only negatively impact our community but make it more difficult for our school team to respond to and resolve issues quickly and effectively, especially in instances where student privacy is at stake. We encourage everyone to consider the unintended and long-term effects of social media posts that may refer to or include children, whether family or otherwise. In order to maintain an environment where all students can thrive, our expectation is that all KIPP family members also maintain mutually respectful relationships with all school staff.

We also encourage all families to speak with their children about the potential negative impact of social media and the consequences of engaging in behavior that negatively impacts others, and to actively partner with their child's school in ensuring that your child does not engage in unsafe or harmful behavior outside of school.

We will investigate any threat made toward the school or our school community (by anyone) which may also include involving the police and/or other authorities in the investigation. Please refer to our Code of Conduct for consequences and reports if threat or illicit content is shared on social media.

XXV. FERPA Notification and Directory Information Policy

Notification of Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child's or their education records should submit to the School Leader a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The School Leader will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend their child's or their education record should write to the School Leader, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official includes a person employed by the school or school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also includes a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, insurance investigator, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures of the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202

Directory Information Policy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that the school, with certain exceptions, obtain parent/guardian consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a child's educational records. However, the school may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent,



unless the parent/guardian has advised the school to the contrary. The primary purpose of directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, is to allow the school to include this type of information in certain school publications. Directory information can be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent.

The school has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student name
- Grade
- School/Homeroom
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Parent/guardian name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Honors and awards received
- Dates of attendance

If you do not want the school to disclose any of the above-listed directory information about your child, you must notify the school. Absent this notification it will be assumed you consent to having your child's information available as directory information.

In accordance with Rule 6A-1.0955, F.A.C., school will ensure that any deviation from a student's legal name is approved by the student's parent in accordance with this rule.

XXVI. Non-Discrimination Statement

We are committed to equal opportunity for all of our students. We prohibit discriminatory practices against any person by reason of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, pregnancy, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, domestic partnership status, familial status, liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States, nationality, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait of any individual, genetic information, or refusal to submit to a genetic test or make the results of a genetic test known, on account of disability, social or economic status, pregnancy, childbirth, actual or potential parenthood, or family status. We do not discriminate against any person protected for any reason protected by federal or state law.

XXVII. Homeless Students

KIPP Miami shall identify homeless children and youth as identified by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. If the KIPP Miami's liaison for homeless children and youth determines that a minor is unaccompanied homeless youth per Florida statutes, the liaison shall issue a youth certificate documenting the student status as required by Florida law. Student. Children and youth in KIPP Miami who experience homelessness, including those not currently enrolled due to homelessness, will have access to the same free, public education including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths, and other services needed to ensure an opportunity to meet the same challenging state academic achievement standards to which all students are held, and to fully participate in KIPP Miami's academic and extracurricular activities. Optional surveys will be administered twice a year for families to complete to become eligible for additional services and resources and to be connected to our counselors.

XXVIII. KIPP Miami Academic Calendar

Please note that KIPP Miami attempts to follow the MDCPS calendar as closely as possible, however, to implement the KIPP academic program there are a few variations in the calendar. Please refer to the KIPP Miami calendar at www.kippmiami.org. Every day noted on our calendar is legal attendance day and attendance will be taken and counted for your student even if KIPP is in session and MDCPS is not.

XXIX. Keeping Kids Safe with Appropriate Boundaries

KIPP's first priority is to ensure the well-being, safety, and protection of each of its students as well as the adults who work and volunteer at the school. **Healthy, supportive relationships are a pillar of the KIPP community.**

Students and Families should be aware that the following practices are followed at KIPP:

- Staff must ensure that if spending any time outside of school with KIPP students, that it is school sanctioned, permission is granted by the student's parent/guardian and other adults are present. In general, staff should
- not "hang out" with students outside of school or spend an inordinate amount of time "hanging out" with students even inside the school for any non-school sanctioned purpose in order to ensure healthy boundaries are being kept.
- Staff shall not direct or encourage a student to keep a secret from or not share information with his/her/their parent/caregiver or other adults
- Staff shall not be alone with a KIPP student in a non-observable setting.
- Staff shall not discipline students in any physical manner.
- Staff shall not have extended physical contact with a student. Any contact should be limited to a supportive or congratulatory quick hug, arm squeeze, or pat on the back and should always be student initiated.
- Staff shall not converse with a KIPP student or recent alumni about the student's sexual or romantic life. Staff shall not make sexual jokes, comments or engage in any conversation that has a sexual innuendo or contains sexual stories.
- Unless it is an emergency, and if at all possible, staff should wait to speak to the child in school the following day. Staff shall never speak with an elementary school or middle school child on the phone unless they first speak to the parent/guardian and obtain consent. If necessary, a staff member may call a high school student provided there is parental permission.
- Staff shall not have students at their private residence unless it is an officially school sanctioned event with parent/caregiver permission and multiple adults present. Exceptions are if the staff member's own child has an age-appropriate friendship with the other students.
- Staff shall only email students using official KIPP email accounts to a student's official school account.
- Staff shall only text message a student if there is a separate adult on the text thread. If a student texts an adult, then the adult shall reply with another adult on the thread.
- Staff shall not use apps or websites with private messaging to communicate with students. If a student needs to discuss a sensitive matter, then it should be done at school or must involve another adult.
- Staff shall not use their social media pages to "friend" a student or accept a "friend" request from a student.
- Staff shall not engage in gaming with KIPP students.
- Staff shall not babysit students.

If students or families are aware of any violation of the above policy, then it should be immediately reported to the School Leader.

XXX. Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Student safety is our first priority. All school staff are mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect and are legally required to call the Division of Children and Families if there is suspected child abuse or neglect.

In Florida, anyone with reasonable cause to believe a child is being abused should immediately call the Child Abuse Hotline. If the child is in immediate danger, call 911 as well as 1-800-962-2873. Calls can be made anonymously, and you do not need proof to report an allegation of child abuse. The Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Examples of abuse and neglect include-

When a student reports:

- being abused at home.
- witnessing drug use in the home.
- being sexually abused.
- engaging in child pornography or prostitution.
- witnessing domestic abuse.
- being threatened at home.
- being afraid to go home.

When a staff member suspects or witnesses:

- physical abuse
- such as bruises, burns, fractures, etc.
- other potential indicators of abuse such as wariness of adult contact, behavioral extremes (aggression, withdrawal), fear of parents/guardians or going home, difficulty walking or sitting.
- neglect- including lack of basic food and clothing, poor hygiene, consistent hunger, fatigue or falling asleep in class, lack of appropriate supervision, lack of medical treatment, or the child is residing in an inappropriate or dangerous environment.
- engagement in risky behavior (including sexual behavior, drug use, etc.) where the parents/guardians are either unable or unwilling to intervene.
- absence from school to care for family members or to do chores/work around the house.
- absence from school to hold down a job.

When parents/guardians:

- repeatedly fail to return phone calls, respond to notes/letters home, or attend school meetings.
- withdraw a student and fail to provide compulsory education.

Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected has a legal responsibility to report it to the Division of Children and Families at 1-800-962-2873.

2025-2026 CALENDAR

KIPP MIAMI

CALENDAR SYMBOLS KEY:



First Day of School



Last Day of School



Report Card Conferences



Beginning / End of Quarter

Great Days for Making Appointments on No School Days:

October 20

January 5

March 20

April 3

Make-Up Days:

The calendar allows for 3 missed school days due to emergencies or weather. School cancellations in excess of 3 days will be made up by adding school days following MDCPS calendar.

KIPP Miami North Campus

3000 NW 110th St,
Miami, FL 33167

P: (786) 822-7702

Daily Schedule:
M, T, Th, F: 7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

W: 7:45 AM - 1:25 PM

JULY 2025							AUGUST 2025							SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				4		5							1		2		3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
July 4: Independence Day							Aug 11: K, 3rd and 5th grade Orientation Aug 12: First day of school							Sep 1: Labor Day: No School						

OCTOBER 2025							NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
Oct 2: Teacher Planning Day Oct 17: End of Q1 Oct 20: Teacher Planning Day Oct 21: Start of Q2							30 Nov 11: Veteran's Day Nov 12-13: Q1 Report Card Conference Nov 24-28: Nov Break							Dec 19: Early Dismissal Dec 22-31: Winter Break						

JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026							MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31				
Jan 1-2: Winter Break Jan 3: Teacher Planning Day Jan 15: End of Q2 Jan 16: Teacher Planning Day Jan 19: MLK Day Jan 20: Start of Q3							Feb 11-12: Q2 Report Card Conference Feb 16: President's Day							Mar 20: Teacher Planning Day Mar 23-27: Spring Break						

APRIL 2026							MAY 2026							JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
Apr 2: End of Q3 Apr 3: Teacher Planning Day Apr 6: Start of Q4 Apr 22-23: Q3 Report Card Conference							31 May 25: Memorial Day: No School							Jun 3: Q4 Report Card Conferences Jun 4: Last Day of School Jun 5: Teacher Planning Day Jun 19: Juneteenth						

XXXI. Helpful Links

Scan QR code to access:



KIPP Miami Website



KIPP Miami Calendar



Student & Family Handbook



Code of Conduct





<Tear Off Page, sign and return to your school>

The KIPP Miami Family Handbook contains information about attendance, dress code, technology, cell phones, student conduct, and grading policies.

FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I, the parent/guardian of (child's name) _____, hereby confirm that I have access to or have received a copy of the KIPP Miami Student and Family Handbook and KIPP Miami Code of Conduct. I further understand the responsibilities expected of KIPP Miami families and students as well as the policies, procedures, rules, regulations and practices as stated in this document.

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have received, read and agree with the contents listed in the KPP Miami Student and Family Handbook and KIPP Miami Code of Conduct.

Student Printed Name: _____

Family Printed Name: _____

Family Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

Disclaimer: KIPP Miami reserves the right to make changes to this document at any given time. You will be notified of any changes that are made.





KIPP:MIAMI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

kippmiami.org