

Beehive Science & Technology Academy

Student Retention Policy

1. Purpose

Beehive Science & Technology Academy (“BSTA”) is committed to keeping every enrolled student engaged, supported, and in the classroom. This policy describes how BSTA supports all students once they are enrolled, including by reducing the overuse of discipline practices that remove students from the classroom. It does not address grade-level retention, promotion, or graduation, which are governed by separate BSTA policies.

2. Our Approach

BSTA is an inclusive, STEM-focused school where every student is a valued individual. Students are most likely to stay when they feel they belong, experience meaningful learning, and are supported by caring adults. Keeping students enrolled is therefore a shared responsibility of staff, families, and the wider school community, and removal from the classroom is always a last resort.

3. Positive School Climate

BSTA fosters a positive climate through its schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework and its HIVE values — Here to Learn, Include Others, View Mistakes as Learning, and Empathize. Behavioral expectations are taught and reinforced consistently, and positive behavior is recognized and encouraged throughout the school.

4. Supporting Students

Through a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), BSTA provides academic and behavioral interventions before disengagement occurs. Students who need additional help receive targeted or individualized support, developed where appropriate together with families and support staff.

5. Belonging and Engagement

BSTA offers a wide range of clubs, activities, and public showcases that give students meaningful reasons to attend and remain enrolled. These opportunities build connection, leadership, and a sense of belonging, and are an active part of how BSTA retains students.

6. Keeping Students in the Classroom

BSTA uses restorative practices, de-escalation, and alternatives to suspension to keep students in the classroom whenever possible. Seclusion and exclusionary discipline are not used as disciplinary tools. For a student with an IEP suspended more than ten cumulative school days in a school year, BSTA conducts a manifestation determination review consistent with IDEA; equivalent protections apply for students on Section 504 plans.

7. Family Partnership

Families are partners in keeping their child engaged. Before any decision to remove a student from the classroom for more than one school day, BSTA notifies the family and offers a meeting to review supports and next steps.

8. Non-Discrimination

This policy is applied without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, English-learner status, housing status, or foster-care status, and BSTA works to remove barriers to continued enrollment.

9. Related Policies

This policy works in conjunction with the following BH policies and should be read together with them:

- Student Discipline / Behavior Policy
- Emergency Intervention Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Special Education Procedures
- Section 504 Procedures
- McKinney-Vento (Homeless Students) Procedures