



STUDENT RECESS POLICY

The following guidelines are intended to define appropriate access to recess for students at Ocean Charter School (“Charter School”).

This Policy shall apply to students in Kindergarten and any of grades one (1) through sixth (6), inclusive.

Definitions

“Recess” means a period of time during the school day, separate and distinct from physical education courses and mealtimes, but may follow or precede physical education courses or mealtimes, when pupils are given supervised and unstructured time for any of the following:

1. Physical activity.
2. Play.
3. Organized games.
4. Social engagement with peers

Policy

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, Charter School shall implement the following requirements for student access to recess:

- 1) Recess shall be at least 30 minutes on regular instructional days and at least 15 minutes on early release days and may be provided in one or more periods. This requirement does not apply to students on days in which they are participating in a field trip or other educational program.
- 2) If Charter School provides the minimal 30 minute recess in conjunction with the lunch period, then Charter School shall ensure that the designated lunch period for students shall include a minimum of 20 minutes to eat. The 30 minutes of recess shall be *in addition* to this time to eat, and may occur either before or after the lunch period. Teachers shall have an uninterrupted lunch period of no less than 30 minutes.
- 3) Recess shall be held outdoors whenever the weather and air quality permits. If outdoor space is not sufficient, recess may be held indoors.
- 4) Recess shall comply with a Student’s individualized education program or a pupil’s Section 504 plan. 5.
- 5) A student shall not be denied recess by a member of the school’s staff unless the student’s participation poses an immediate threat to the physical safety of the student or to the physical safety of one or more of the student’s peers. If a



student's recess period is denied, school staff members shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve such threats and minimize exclusion from recess to the greatest extent practicable. Whenever possible and practicable, Charter School staff members shall use other means of correction in lieu of restricting recess for a student, pursuant to Charter School policies and procedures.

- 6) If recess is not provided in conjunction with the lunch period, Charter School may provide students with a snack during recess.