

District 2015-16 HANDBOOK FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL



Blendon · Genoa · Heritage · Walnut Springs

Westerville City School District
WHERE YOU BELONG



**2015-16 District Handbook – Middle School
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INTRODUCTION LETTER

Dear Westerville Families,

We would like to welcome our middle school students and families to the 2015-16 school year. We look forward to working with you and your student(s), and are happy to have you as part of the Westerville family. We are confident this will be a successful and exciting year for everyone.

This handbook is provided as a convenient resource for you and will answer many common questions about middle school and our school district. This student handbook is divided into three sections containing information relevant to middle school, district policy, procedures and programs, and guidance for participation in extra-curricular activities. The collective information is to help convey what is expected for the health, safety and well being of all. We ask that you take the time to review it with your student so that he/she understands our rules and procedures. Please keep the handbook in a secure, accessible place for easy reference throughout the year or bookmark it on your computer. This handbook is one means of communication between home and school. There are many policies, regulations, programs and services discussed in these pages. We have tried to anticipate many of your questions and have discussed them in detail.

Many factors make Westerville successful, but the support from the families is one of our main strengths. We encourage you to be actively involved in your child's education, be it volunteering at school, at home, attending PTO/PTSA meetings, meeting with the teachers, supervising homework, etc. Student success in school and parent/family support is highly correlated.

We look forward to working with you. Please contact our office with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

The Westerville Middle School Principals

DISTRICT PERSONNEL

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Board of Education
936 Eastwind Drive
614-797-5700

Board of Education

President Tracy A. Davidson
Vice-President Rick A. Vilardo
Member Richard W. Bird
Member Dr. Carol B. French
Member Dr. Nancy Nestor-Baker

Administration

Superintendent Dr. John R. Kellogg
Deputy Superintendent Mark Hershiser

Treasurer's Office

Treasurer Bart Griffith

**WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT
POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS
Board Approved 06/29/2015**

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

This section of the handbook contains the District Code of Student Conduct and other district policies and procedures. Both parents/guardians and students need to familiarize themselves with these district policies since parents/guardians and students, regardless of educational setting, are expected to follow them.

In addition to policies and procedures, this section contains descriptions of a variety of student services and programs which are available. If there are any questions about anything contained in this handbook, please contact the building principal or his/her designee.

This code of conduct includes (1) misconduct by a student that occurs off school district property but is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school district property; and (2) misconduct by a student that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a district official or employee or the property of an official or employee. Accordingly, this code of conduct is in effect while (1) students are under the authority of school personnel and/or (2) during all school-related activities and events, even when such activities occur off school grounds.

This Code of Conduct applies to school buses, extracurricular events and to alternative education programs.

The Board approved Code of Student Conduct is presented below. A major intent of the code is the establishment of a standard for acceptable behavior. Violation of rules in the Code of Student Conduct may result in disciplinary action including, but not necessarily limited to, suspension and/or expulsion from school and/or the referral to appropriate legal authorities. (Ohio Revised Code 3313.20, 3313.66, 3313.61).

Rules for Student Conduct

The purpose of listing rules for student conduct and disciplinary action which may be taken for violations is to inform students of what is considered unacceptable behavior; and the possible consequences of unacceptable behavior.

1. **Truancy**

Truancy is unexcused absence from school.

2. **Attendance Violations, other than Truancy**

A student shall not fail to comply with school regulations regarding attendance. According to OHIO REVISED CODE 3321.01, a child between six (6) and eighteen (18) years of age is of compulsory school age.

3. **Fighting/Violence**

Fighting/Violence is mutual participation in an incident involving physical contact. A

student shall not behave in such a way that could threaten to cause or cause physical injury to another person. A student shall not assemble to observe or encourage a fight nor inhibit school personnel from intervening when a fight occurs. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

4. Vandalism/Damage or Destruction of School and/or Personal Property

The Superintendent may expel for up to one year any student who has committed an act that inflicts serious physical harm to property.

Students are responsible for proper care of school property, school supplies and equipment. Students who cause damage to school property shall be subject to disciplinary measures.

Vandalism is the willful destruction or defacement of school or personal property. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private or school property. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

Students and their parents or guardians will be held responsible for any vandalism, damage, graffiti or destruction by the student at school, on property owned or controlled by the school district, or at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity regardless of the location. Remuneration for the complete restoration of the damage will be required.

5. Theft/Stealing/Deprivation of Personal Property or School Property

Theft is the unlawful taking of property belonging to another person.

A student shall not steal, attempt to steal or otherwise deprive the rightful owner of private or school property, or possess or transmit lost or stolen property. Failure to return property to its owner or transmit it to school officials is in violation of this code. According to OHIO REVISED CODE 2913.04, the unauthorized use of stolen property could be considered a felony. "Serious physical harm to property" is defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.01(A)(6) as physical harm to property that results in substantial loss to the value of the property or requires a substantial amount of time, effort, or money to repair or replace or temporarily prevents the use or enjoyment of the property or substantially interferes with its use or enjoyment for an extended period of time. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule

6. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of a Firearm

A firearm is considered a dangerous weapon. "Firearm" is defined as and shall include, but not be limited to: any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device. (Please refer to #8 below for a definition of "destructive device"). Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

BOARD POLICY 5772 - WEAPONS

The Board of Education prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a Board-owned vehicle.

The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or

is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

Policy exceptions include:

- A. Items pre-approved by the building principal or his/her designee as part of a class or individual presentation under adult supervision, if used for the purpose and in the manner approved (working firearms and any ammunition will never be approved as part of a presentation);
- B. Theatrical props used in appropriate settings

Students shall report any information concerning weapons and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the principal. Failure to report such information may subject the student to disciplinary action.

This policy shall be implemented through the Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Policy [5610](#), and Policy 5610.01, and through administrative guidelines.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish instructional programs on the weapons and the requirement that students immediately report knowledge of weapons and threats of violence by students and/or staff to the building principal or his/her designee. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

The Superintendent will refer any student who violates this policy to the student's parents or guardians and to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

This policy will be published annually in all District student and staff handbooks. Publication is not a precondition to enforcement of this policy.

R.C. 2923.12, 2923.122, 3313.20, 3313.66, 3313.66118 U.S.C. 921, 20 U.S.C. 8922, 20 U.S.C. 7151

7. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of a Dangerous Weapon Other Than a Firearm or Explosive, Incendiary, or Poison Gas

A dangerous weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or intended to be used for, or is represented to be readily capable of inflicting death, serious bodily injury or property damage or endangering the health and safety of persons. Examples may include, but are not limited to, tasers or mace.

A knife, razor blade, or any similar device (including sharp, metal martial arts weapons, such as throwing stars) is defined as any weapon or cutting instrument consisting of a blade fastened to a handle that is used for, or is readily capable of, cutting, slicing, or stabbing, causing death or serious bodily injury. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

8. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Any Explosive, Incendiary or Poison Gas

Any destructive device, which includes a bomb, a grenade, a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or similar device. This definition would also include any weapon that will, or that may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and that has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

9. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Tobacco Products

The use, possession or co-possession of tobacco in any form by students on or near school property, on school transportation or on school-sponsored activities is expressly forbidden. The student shall not use, possess or co-possess tobacco in any form. "Use of tobacco" means to chew or maintain any substance containing tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, in the mouth to derive the effects of tobacco, as well as all uses of tobacco or tobacco substitutes, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or any other matter or substances that contain tobacco, in addition to papers used to roll cigarettes and/or the smoking of electronic, "vapor," or other substitute forms of cigarettes, clove cigarettes or other lighted smoking devices for burning tobacco. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

10. **Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Intoxicating Alcoholic Beverages**

A student shall not possess, use, conceal, transmit, attempt to transmit, or be "under the influence" of any alcoholic beverage, (including substances containing any measurable amount of alcohol, such as "near-beer" or over-the-counter medicines). Under the influence is defined as manifesting before a school official signs of alcohol misuse such as, but not limited to, staggering, reddened eyes, odor of alcohol, nervousness, restlessness, memory loss, abusive language, falling asleep in class or any other behavior not typical for the particular student. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

11. **Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Drugs Other Than Tobacco or Alcohol**

Use, possession, sale, concealment or distribution of any controlled drug other than prescription medication that has been administered in accordance with the district's policies. A student shall not possess, use, transmit, attempt to transmit, conceal, or be "under the influence" of any illegal/harmful drug, alcoholic beverage, inhalants, mood altering chemical, or substance represented as an intoxicating or a mood altering substance. A student shall not possess or transmit drug paraphernalia and/or instruments, including rolling papers. Under the influence is defined as manifesting before a school official signs of drug misuse such as, but not limited to, staggering, reddened eyes, odor of drugs, nervousness, restlessness, memory loss, abusive language, falling asleep in class or any other behavior not typical for the particular student. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

12. **Physical Displays of Affection**

Physical displays of affection such as but not limited to kissing, groping, pinching, slapping, or grinding between students are prohibited. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

13. **Bullying**

Westerville City Schools adheres to a student non-bullying policy, as required by ORC 3313.666.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying behavior by any student in Westerville School District is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, is defined as:

any intentional written, verbal, electronic, graphic or physical act that a student or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and that the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and, is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive and that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive

educational environment for the other student(s).

Bullying, intimidation or harassment also includes violence in a dating relationship. Bullying is prohibited on or immediately adjacent to school property and at school-sponsored events, on school provided transportation, or at any official school bus stop.

Parents/guardians and students should contact their building principal or his/her designee to report conduct that falls under this prohibition. School personnel must report incidents of bullying to school administrators. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

The president of the board of education is provided a written summary semiannually of all reported incidents and this summary shall be posted on our website. The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

BOARD POLICY 5517.01 - BULLYING AND OTHER FORMS OF

AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR –

Refers to code item #13

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board of Education will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

A. Any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or

B. Violence within a dating relationship.

“Electronic act” means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to

negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional wellbeing. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyber-bullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means cyber-bullying through electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistance (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes he/she has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the building principal or his/her designee, or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The building principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

If the investigation finds an instance of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying/cyber-bullying by an electronic act or otherwise, has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. This may include suspension or up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyber-bullying, the Principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517 – Anti-Harassment.

Retaliation against any person, who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or other aggressive behavior is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in

disciplinary action as indicated above.

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, he/she should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

The District shall implement intervention strategies (AG 5517.01) to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation following such a report.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

If after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the custodial parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

Complaints

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal or his/her designee for review, investigation, and action.

Students, parents/guardians, and school personnel may make informal or anonymous complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator, or other school personnel. Such informal complaints shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. A school staff member or administrator who receives an informal or anonymous complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the information provided. This written report shall be promptly forwarded by the school staff member and/or administrator to the building principal or his/her designee for review, investigation, and appropriate action.

Individuals who make informal complaints as provided above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. Anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action shall be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

When an individual making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against who the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Reporting Requirement

At least semi-annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the President of the Board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District web site (if one exists). The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

Allegations of criminal misconduct and suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Child Protective Services in accordance with statute. District personnel shall cooperate with investigations by such agencies.

Immunity

A School District employee, student, or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and R.C. 3313.666 if that person reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying promptly, in good faith, and in compliance with the procedures specified in this policy. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student, or volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be **annually** circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. At least once each school year a written statement describing the policy and consequences for violations of the policy shall be sent to each student's custodial parent or guardian.

The statement may be sent with regular student report cards or may be delivered electronically.

The policy and an explanation of the seriousness of bullying by electronic means shall be made available to students in the District and to their custodial parents or guardians.

State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedures.

Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying and violence within a dating relationship. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and its accompanying administrative guidelines. All training regarding the Board's policy and administrative guidelines and aggressive behavior and bullying in general will be age and content appropriate.

Annually, the District shall provide all students enrolled in the District with age-appropriate instruction regarding the Board's policy, including a written or verbal discussion of the consequences for violations of the policy to the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for this purpose.

Students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) shall receive age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education, including instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships. Parents/guardians, who submit a written request to the building principal or his/her designee to examine the dating violence prevention instruction materials used in the school, will be afforded an opportunity to review the materials within a reasonable period of time.

The District shall provide training, workshops, and/or courses on this policy for school employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students, to the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for this purpose. Time spent by school staff in these training programs shall apply toward mandated continuing education requirements.

In accordance with Board Policy 8462, the Superintendent shall include a review of this policy on bullying and other forms of harassment in the required training in the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Guidelines shall include reporting and investigative procedures, as needed. The complaint procedure established by the Superintendent shall be followed.

R.C. 3313.666, 3313.667
State Board of Education Model Policy (2007)
Revised 6/9/14

14. False Alarms, Bomb Threat, Disruption of School, Arson/Unauthorized Fires and/or Possession of Lighters

Any threat (verbal, written or electronic) by a person to bomb or use other substances or devices for the purpose of exploding, burning, causing damage to a school building or school property, or to harm students or staff. A student shall not initiate or participate in a false fire or bomb alarm or any other false threat to school safety. According to OHIO REVISED CODE 2917.31, inducing a panic in school could be considered a felony.

A student shall not by use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, deceit, withholding of information or through any other conduct, cause the substantial and material disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process or function of the school. A student shall not initiate or circulate a report or warning of an alleged or impending fire, explosion, crime or other catastrophe knowing that such a report or warning is false.

A student shall not set nor attempt to set any unauthorized fires nor commit nor attempt to commit any act of arson. According to OHIO REVISED CODE 3737.63, the principal must report all "unfriendly fires" to the fire department. A student shall not have in his/her possession lighters, matches or any other items used to start a fire. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

15. Improper Dress

Clothing with profane or obscene pictures and/or lettering or which refers to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, firearms, or related material is prohibited. Clothing relating to gang colors, symbols or clothing styles is prohibited. Pants will be worn at the waist.

In circumstances which might be considered dangerous/disruptive to a student wearing a

particular mode of dress or hair style, that student may be required to wear special clothing for that period and/or some sort of hair restraint.

Immodest or inappropriate clothing including but not limited to: hats, hoods, bandanas, scarves and do-rags, except for religious and/or medically necessitated reasons, cut-off T-shirts, halters, or any clothing exposing cleavage, and clothing exposing the midriff or back is prohibited. Students shall be required to wear shoes.

Students will be expected to comply with stipulations placed on them by areas of our educational program that consider standards of dress as necessary parts of their programs (example: field trips, athletic squads, work programs, etc.).

16. **Wireless Communications Devices (WCD)/Entertainment and the Use of Technology**

A student shall not use wireless communications devices or entertainment devices during instructional time unless authorized by the teacher.

A wireless device is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor. The following devices are examples of WCDs: cellular and wireless telephones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), smartphones, WiFi-enabled or broadband access devices, two-way radios, e-readers or similar devices or video broadcasting devices, laptops, tablets and other devices that allow a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text, or other information. Students may not use Wireless Communication on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet web sites that are otherwise blocked to students at school.

Students are prohibited from using Wireless Communication devices to capture, record or transmit the words, (i.e. audio) images, (i.e., pictures/video) text or other information of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity, without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. Students are also prohibited from using Wireless Communication to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using Wireless Communication to receive such information.

WCDs, including but not limited to those with cameras, may not be possessed, activated or utilized at any time in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. If at any time, the possession of a wireless device creates a distraction, disruption, safety or security hazard on school property (to include district-operated vehicles), such devices may be confiscated. School officials will not be responsible for the security of confiscated wireless devices. Students will use school technology in a manner consistent with Board Policy. (Board of Education Policy: 5136).

17. **Dishonesty/Forgery and/or Impersonation**

Students shall not engage in any dishonest behavior, including, but not necessarily limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarizing, or providing false information. Students shall not forge parent, guardian, or teacher signatures on school forms, attendance notes, or any other document, nor impersonate parents, guardians, or teachers for the purpose of deceiving school officials. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

18. **Insubordinate/Disruptive Behavior and/or Use of Profanity**

Insubordination is defined as the refusal to respond to a reasonable request. A student shall not refuse to comply with the reasonable requests of his/her teacher, principal, coach, extracurricular activity advisor, staff employees or adult volunteers. In the case of

extracurricular activities, insubordination shall also include the failure to comply with the rules or requirements established by the coach or advisor for that particular activity.

Disruptive Behavior is defined as any act that disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function and may include off-campus behavior. A student shall not engage in behavior that substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

The use of profane, vulgar or other improper language in spoken, written or electronic format, or the use of profane, vulgar or other improper gestures/actions is prohibited.

19. **Harassment/Intimidation/Hazing**

A student shall not harass, intimidate, disparage, incite, provoke, stalk, or threaten any individual on school premises, on property owned or controlled by the school district, or, regardless of the location; at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity or otherwise disrupt the school environment. For this purpose, harassment or intimidation includes: electronically transmitted acts; slurs; profanity; written information; denigrating remarks or actions; obscene gestures; the wearing or display of insignia, signs, buttons, clothing, or apparel; or other verbal or physical conduct including, but not limited to, those based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, citizenship, religion, disability, age, gender preference or sex that have the purpose or effect of (1) causing or intending to cause any other student or school employee to be reasonably placed in fear of his or her personal safety; (2) causing or intending to cause a hostile, intimidating, or offensive educational environment for any other student or school employee; (3) causing or intending to cause material disruption of the educational process; (4) unreasonably interfering with a student's curricular, co-curricular or extracurricular performance; or (5) otherwise unreasonably having an impact on a student's educational opportunities. The use of physical, verbal, written, or electronic communications to cause fear and/or create an intimidating or hostile education or work environment, without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack, is prohibited.

In addition, a student(s) is prohibited from retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation, or who has filed a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of harassment.

In support of the W.C.S. Anti-Harassment Policy 5517, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee may provide appropriate training to all members of the school district community related to the implementation of this policy and its accompanying guidelines. All training regarding the Board's policy will be age and content appropriate.

Hazing activities of any kind are prohibited at all times. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing. Hazing is defined as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

BOARD POLICY 5517 - ANTI-HARASSMENT

Refers to code item #19

General Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes"), that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as "unlawful harassment"), and encourages those within the School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and, in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

For purposes of this policy, "School District community" means students, administrators, and professional and classified staff, as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

For purposes of this policy, "third parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off School District property).

Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of unlawful harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

Definitions

Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school or work performance or participation; and may involve:

- A. teasing;
- B. threats;
- C. intimidation;
- D. stalking;
- E. cyber-stalking;
- F. cyber-bullying;
- G. physical violence;
- H. theft;
- I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
- J. public humiliation; or
- K. destruction of property;

"Harassment" means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

- A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Sexual Harassment

Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity;

- B. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual;
- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.
- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videotapes, audio recordings or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, which may embarrass or offend individuals.
- F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
- G. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
- H. Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
- I. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.
- J. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment or education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment, or such that it is intended to, or has the effect of, denying or limiting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or activities.

NOTE: Any teacher, administrator, coach, or other school authority who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of the criminal charge of "sexual battery" as set forth in Ohio Revised Code 2907.03. The issue of consent is irrelevant in regard to such criminal charge.

Race/Color Harassment

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

Religious (Creed) Harassment

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

National Origin Harassment

Prohibited national origin/ancestry harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national origin or ancestry and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin or ancestry, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

Disability Harassment

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disabling condition, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like.

Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Students and all other members of the School District community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer at his/her first convenience.

Members of the School District community, which includes students, or third parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend his/her 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the 4362 investigation and provide him/her with a copy of the resulting written report.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers".

Executive Director, Human Resources /Employee /Labor Relations
614-797-5700
936 Eastwind Drive
Westerville, OH 43081

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the parent and staff handbooks and on the School District's web site.

The Compliance Officers will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when information another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

Compliance Officers shall accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, a Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the harassment or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Compliance Officers within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful harassment is expected to intervene to stop the harassment, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the harassment. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must

contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) school days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Compliance Officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Any employee or other member of the School District community or third party (e.g., visitor to the District) who believes that s/he has been subjected to the unlawful harassment or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through either the informal or formal procedures as described below. Further, a process for investigation claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of legally prohibited harassment or retaliation was substantiated are set forth below.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, or retaliation timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The informal and formal procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission ("OCRC") or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop inappropriate behavior and to investigate and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student, other member of the School District community, or third party who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint and will only be utilized where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in such process.

Employees, other members of the School District community, or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

However, all complaints of harassment involving a District employee, any other adult member of the School District community, or a third party against a student will be formally investigated. Similarly, any allegations of sexual violence will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully harassed and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. Such direct communication should not be utilized in circumstances involving sexual violence. The complaining individual should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the harasser of his/her complaint is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator; (2) directly to one of the Compliance Officers; and/or (3) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below on his/her own, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees, other members of the School District community, or third parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful harassment, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the alleged harasser.
- B. Distributing a copy of the anti-harassment policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming harassment and the individual accused of harassment to work out a mutual resolution. Such a meeting is not appropriate in circumstances involving sexual violence.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the Compliance Officers in accordance with the Board's records retention policy and/or Student Records policy (See Policy 8310 and Policy 8330)

Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant", may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, principal, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, Superintendent, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint or harassment or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process, the Compliance Officer should keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the alleged harasser. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing or retaliatory conduct, hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent", that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant administrative guidelines, including the Board's Anti-Harassment policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations or harassment/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful harassment. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. () The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a final decision regarding whether the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment/retaliation regardless of whether the member of the School District community or third party alleging the unlawful harassment/retaliation pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or his/her designee will instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provides during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of harassment will be maintained by the Compliance Officer in accordance with the School Board's records retention policy. Any records that are considered student education records in accordance with the *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* or under Ohio's student records law will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State laws.

Sanctions and Monitoring

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful harassment by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those

cases where unlawful harassment is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

Retaliation

Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or file a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.

Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any school teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child with a disability under the age of twenty-one (21) or that a child under the age of eighteen (18) has suffered or faces a threat of suffering a physical or mental wound, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the county children's services agency. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the Complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board Policy.

State law defines certain contact between a teacher and a student as "sexual battery". If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the Complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined in Ohio's Criminal Code, such knowledge should be immediately reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to a county children's services agency or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officer or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.

Allegations Involving Conduct Unbecoming the Teaching Profession/Suspension

The Superintendent will report to the Ohio Department of Education, on forms provided for that purpose, matters of misconduct on the part of licensed classified staff members convicted of sexual battery, and will, in accordance with Policy 8141, suspend such employee from all duties that concern or involve the care, custody, or control of a child during the pendency of any criminal action for which that person has been arrested, summoned and/or indicted in that regard.

Education and Training

In support of this Anti-Harassment Policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information, provided regarding the Board's policy and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

R.C. 4112.02

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)
20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.
29 U.S.C. 621 et seq. , Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967
42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.
42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.
29 U.S.C 6101, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
29 U.S.C. 794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, amended
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq. , Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended
42 U.S.C. 1983
National School Boards Association Inquiry and Analysis – May, 2008

Revised 6/9/14

20. **Firearm Look-a-Likes**

A firearm look-a-like is any item that resembles a firearm but does not have the explosive characteristics of a firearm but may use a spring loaded device or air pressure by which to propel an object or substance (i.e., toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns, air guns and paint ball guns). A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any firearm look-a-like, the use of which is unrelated to the educational process. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

21. **Unwelcome Sexual Conduct/Sexual Harassment/Dating Violence**

Unwelcome sexual advances and/or sexual harassment, may include requests for sexual favors, other physical or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature, including gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education or work environment, for example, but not limited to pinching, grabbing, slapping, groping, grinding, touching, rubbing against, and/or suggestive comments, gestures or jokes, unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles, obscene telephone calls or text messages, or pressure to engage in sexual activity. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

Dating Violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where a person uses or threatens physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control the person's dating partner. A dating partner is any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person, primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term. Dating violence is unacceptable and will be prohibited. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

22. **Serious Bodily Injury**

The Superintendent may expel for up to one year any student who has committed an act that inflicts serious physical harm to persons or serious physical harm to property. Serious physical harm to persons is defined as: any mental illness or condition of such gravity as would normally require hospitalization or prolonged psychiatric treatment; any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of death; any physical harm that involves some permanent incapacity, whether partial or total, or that involves some temporary, substantial incapacity; any physical harm that involves some permanent disfigurement or that involves some temporary, serious disfigurement; or any physical harm that involves acute pain of such duration as to result in substantial suffering or that involves any

degree of prolonged or intractable pain. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

23. Off-Limit Areas

Students are prohibited from occupying off-limit areas. Off-limit areas are defined as those areas, both inside and outside of the school building, which have been designated as such by school officials by definition or by time of day, including leaving the school building without permission during the school day.

24. Gambling

Students are prohibited from gambling. Gambling is defined as playing games for money or other gain, including but not limited to games involving dice, cards or poker chips. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

25. Merchandising

Students shall not offer any items for sale to other students without the approval of the building principal or his/her designee. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

26. Violation of School Rules

A student shall not fail to comply with school rules and regulations properly established for the safe and efficient operation of the school.

Students will be issued identification cards (I.D.) which will include their name, student ID number and photograph. These cards are to be carried at all times while the student is in the school building, during school hours, on school property or while attending any school-sponsored event. The I.D. shall be surrendered upon the request of any school employee or law enforcement officer.

27. Violation of Bus Rules

A student shall not fail to comply with school bus rules and regulations properly established for the safe and efficient operation of the school.

28. Use, Possession, Sale, or Distribution of Fireworks

The use, possession, sale or distribution of fireworks, including but not limited to "cherry bombs," is prohibited. Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

29. Assault

A student shall not cause physical injury or behave in such a way that could threaten to cause physical injury to another person. A student shall not assemble to observe or encourage and/or incite an assault, nor inhibit school personnel from intervening, when an assault occurs.

Included in this prohibition are those students who assist, are present, or in any way participate in the violation of this rule.

Search/Seizure

School Officials will consider the student's age, scope and severity of the suspected violation(s) when considering the breadth and/or intrusiveness of the search. All searches shall be conducted only to the extent reasonably necessary to investigate suspected violations of law or school rules.

School officials may search a student's person, including, but not limited to, having the student turn out his or her pockets or remove shoes, personal effects, including but not limited to wireless

communications and media storage devices, locker, desk and/or vehicle (while the vehicle is parked on school property) without the student's permission. Such action may be taken whenever school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of school rules, stolen property or an item or substance which may be illegal, dangerous to the student or to others, or disruptive of the safe and orderly environment of the school. Failure to cooperate in a reasonable search will be considered insubordination and is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

Consequences for Violation of School Rules

Violation on the part of a student of any one or more of the Code of Student Conduct shall result in disciplinary action. A record of a disciplinary action shall be maintained at the school of attendance. Action may include, but not be limited to: verbal and/or written reprimand; loss of parking permit; loss of operator's license permit; detention; after school discipline; work detail; community service; confiscation of items not appropriate for school; loss of curricular and/or extracurricular activity privileges; loss of leadership positions; loss of privileges to attend or participate in assemblies, banquets/ceremonies; graduation ceremonies; loss of academic credit (grades); loss of awards, letters, or recognition; diversion program; alternative learning center; out-of-school suspension; emergency removal; intervention referral; expulsion; permanent exclusion and/or referral to appropriate legal authorities.

Students who violate the school rules are subject to a variety of consequences as deemed appropriate by the school officials. The intent of the consequences is to improve the behavior of students.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

The procedures for suspension and expulsion of students with disabilities from attendance and participation in curricular and co/extracurricular activities will be followed in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, the Ohio Revised Code, and the 2008 Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies serving Children with Disabilities, revised in 2014 (Rules 3301-51-01 to 3301-51-09 and 3301-51-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code).

Board Defined Consequences

1. Tobacco

Disciplinary measures pertaining to the enforcement of this policy are necessary for the development and maintenance of a healthy, safe and tobacco-free school environment. The enforcement of this policy by the staff should be consistent and fair with the understanding of the developmental differences between elementary, middle and high school students. Therefore, as required by ORC 3313.715 (C) the following disciplinary measures for violations of this policy are listed below for smoking or the use or possession of tobacco, K-12.

FIRST OFFENSE	Up to 2 Days OSS or Administrative Discretion
SECOND OFFENSE	Up to 5 Days OSS or Administrative Discretion
THIRD OFFENSE	Up to 10 Days OSS or Administrative Discretion

OSS = Out-Of-School Suspension

The Principal or his/her designee may modify a student's suspension if the student agrees to attend a no tobacco use clinic intended to help a student quit smoking.

2. Drugs other than Tobacco

If the student is in possession of, concealment of, or sale of, or behavior is determined to be related to, the illegal use or misuse of drugs, alcohol (including beverages containing a measurable amount of alcohol including, but not limited to, "near-beer" or over-the-counter medicines) or substance believed to be or represented as a mood altering chemical, or an intoxicating or mood altering substance, drug paraphernalia or instruments such as pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles, rolling papers, cocaine spoons, kits, or any other item normally or actually used for the packaging, conveyance, dispensing or use of illegal drugs, the student shall be suspended and/or recommended for expulsion in compliance with the due process procedures and Code of Student Conduct. Disciplinary actions shall progress as follows:

1st offense – 10 days out of school suspension (reduced to five (5) if student participates in an evaluation and any accompanying, recommended intervention plan as outlined by a qualified mental health/medical professional.)

2nd offense – 10 days out of school suspension (recommendation for expulsion)

In the case of possession for sale or transmission of illegal drugs, alcohol or drug paraphernalia or a substance believed to be or represented as a drug, the principal or his/her designee shall recommend the student **who transmitted or intended to transmit** such material for expulsion from school on the first offense.

If it is determined that a student is in possession or control of illegal drugs or substance believed to be or represented as a mood altering chemical, an intoxicating or mood altering substance, and/or has transmitted same to others, law enforcement officials may be notified and requested to take appropriate action. Efforts will be made to notify parents/guardians of the school's intent to notify law enforcement officials and to give the parent(s)/guardian(s) the opportunity to be present while their student is interviewed by law enforcement officials.

School Consequences

1. Community Service

In determining whether to offer or impose community service as an option to a student who has been found to have violated the Code of Student Conduct and, if so, the nature and duration of the community service to offer or impose, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee will consider the individual circumstances of the student, the nature and severity of the Code of Conduct infraction(s) committed by the student, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee may, in their complete discretion, impose a community service requirement in lieu of applying the suspension or expulsion into the following school year. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee will work with the parents/guardians/students to identify the community service site. The community service is not to be served during the school day.

2. Detention of Students

No student will be denied lunch as punishment. Reasonable detention, at the close of the school day is not forbidden, but such detention will not exceed thirty (30) minutes for

elementary school students, forty-five (45) minutes for middle school students, and one (1) hour for high school students. In case a student in an elementary school is detained at the end of the day, the parents/guardians will be notified in advance. Any student who is transported in a school bus will not be made to miss the bus by reason of such detention except with advance notice to the parents/guardians.

3. **After-School Discipline**

Students under a disciplinary action may be assigned to after school discipline. Students are required to bring relevant textbooks and study materials. Parents/guardians must assume responsibility for all transportation. The building principal/designee will use his/her discretion when determining days and times of after school discipline.

4. **Emergency Removal**

“Emergency Removal” means that a student may be removed from curricular or extracurricular activities if it is determined that the student is posing a continuing danger to self, persons or property or poses an ongoing threat to disrupting the academic process.

5. **Loss of Extracurricular Activity Privileges**

“Loss of Extracurricular Activity Privileges” means the exclusion from some or all of the extracurricular activities in which a student is participating or eligible to participate unless otherwise specified. The exclusion from a particular activity is total and applies to practices, rehearsals, field trips, competitions, and all other activities related to the extracurricular activity as governed by Section IV of the Code of Conduct for Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities.

6. **Loss of Operator’s Permit and/or License**

The building principal or his/her designee may notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to suspend or prevent the ability to obtain a temporary instruction permit or operator’s license if: (1) the student withdraws from school for an unacceptable reason; (2) is habitually absent from school without a legitimate excuse for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or at least fifteen (15) total school days; or, (3) the student is suspended or expelled from school for the use or possession of alcohol or drugs or misconduct that involves a knife, a firearm or other weapon.

7. **Parent Intervention Option**

In those instances when a student repeatedly violates the Code of Student Conduct, the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee may modify the suspension/expulsion if the parents/guardians participate in an agreed upon intervention program such as, but not limited to, parenting classes, family counseling and/or after school discipline.

8. **Alternative Learning Center**

Alternative Learning Center (ALC) is an educational placement option which, when appropriate, provides for an alternative to an out of school suspension. This placement provides the student with an opportunity to attend school and receive 100% credit for the work performed, while educating the student in a controlled learning environment, removed from the customary educational setting. ALC is an educational center that teachers and administrators may use as a behavior-changing tool for our students.

9. **Suspension**

All suspensions are made under the authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.66 that provides procedural safeguards for the suspension and expulsion of students from public schools. “Suspension” is defined as a temporary exclusion of a student from school including both curricular and extracurricular activities for a period of not more than ten (10) school days. Suspension may extend beyond the current school year, if at the time a suspension is imposed, fewer than ten (10) days remain in the school year. The

Superintendent/Designee may apply any or all of the period of suspension to the following year. Students may earn 75% of points earned on graded work while under suspension except for semester/final exams or projects, which will be awarded full credit earned.

10. **Expulsion**

All suspensions are made under the authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.66 that provides procedural safeguards for the expulsion of students from public schools. "Expulsion" is defined as a removal of a student from school including both curricular and extracurricular activities for a period of more than ten (10) school days and within the maximum set by the Ohio Revised Code. The student will receive no academic credit for work missed during an expulsion.

The Superintendent may suspend or expel a student whose:

- a) Misconduct occurred off of property owned or controlled by the district but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by that district; and
- b) Misconduct, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a district official or employee or the property of such official or employee.

School Violations/Recommendation for Expulsion

Listed below are violations which may be considered serious enough to warrant a recommendation for expulsion. This list does not represent an exclusive listing of all misconduct which might warrant a recommendation for expulsion. The following violations are offered as examples of misconduct which may warrant a recommendation to the Superintendent for the expulsion of a student. Further, they include students who assist or in any way participate in the violations of rules of the Code of Student Conduct.

1. Repeated minor violations for which the student has been previously suspended for an accumulated total of fifteen (15) or more days.
2. Willful destruction or vandalism of school or other's property on or off school grounds.
3. Transmission, sale, or attempted transmission of an illegal/harmful drug, beverage, mood altering chemical or substance represented as a mood altering chemical.
4. Willful physical assault of a teacher, administrator or other school employee.

According to OHIO REVISED CODE 2903.13, assault of a teacher, administrator or school bus operator could be considered a felony.

1. Repeated violation of the alcoholic beverages and harmful drugs rules.
2. Threats regarding weapons or explosive devices.
3. Willful initiation of or participation in any type of false alarm or threat relating to the health and/or safety of the students or staff.
4. Any willful act of arson or unauthorized fire setting.
5. Possession and/or transmission of any object which could be considered a dangerous weapon.
6. Violation of any rule in a manner that that poses a significant threat to the health or safety of student, staff or volunteer.
7. Violent conduct that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult; and results in serious physical harm to a person(s) or to property.

OHIO REVISED CODE 3313.66 permits school districts to extend suspensions and expulsions into the next school year.

Expulsion for One Calendar Year

Firearms

A student who possesses a firearm at a school; on any other property owned or controlled by the Board of Education; or regardless of the location, at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity, which firearm was initially brought to school, on the property, or to the competition, event, program or activity by another person may be expelled from school by the Superintendent for one calendar year.

Knives

A student who possesses a knife at a school; on any other property owned or controlled by the Board of Education; or regardless of the location, at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity, which knife was initially brought to school, on the property, or to the competition, event, program or activity by another person may be expelled from school by the Superintendent for one calendar year.

Acts that result in serious harm to persons or property

A student who commits an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons or property, as defined in OHIO REVISED CODE 2901.01, while the student is at school; is on any other property owned or controlled by the Board of Education, or is at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity may be expelled from school by the Superintendent for one calendar year.

Bomb Threats

A student who makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring, may be expelled from school by the Superintendent for one calendar year.

Permanent Exclusion

Permanent exclusion shall mean the student is banned from attending a public school in the State of Ohio. The Board of Education may seek the permanent exclusion of a student, sixteen (16) years of age or older, who is convicted of committing or adjudicated a delinquent child for committing one or more of the following acts:

1. Conveying or attempting to convey deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance onto school property or to a school function in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2923.122;
2. Possessing deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance on school property or at a school function in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2923.122;
3. Carrying a concealed weapon on school property or at a school functions in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2923.122;
4. Knowingly possessing an object on school property or at a school function that is indistinguishable from a firearm (regardless of whether the object is capable of being fired) and indicating that the student possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or knowingly displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm, in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2923.122;

5. Trafficking or aggravated trafficking in drugs or the sale of a controlled substance on school property or at a school function in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2925.03;
6. Murder, aggravated murder, voluntary manslaughter, or involuntary manslaughter on school property or at a school function in violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, or 2903.04;
7. Felonious assault or aggravated assault on school property or at a school function in violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 2903.11 or 2903.12;
8. Rape, gross sexual imposition, or felonious sexual penetration on school property, at a school function, or when the victim is a school employee in violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 2907.02, 2907.05, 2907.12;
9. Possession of drugs on school property or at a school function in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2925.11, unless such violation is a minor offense under that provision.

Special Circumstances for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who commit an act that involves weapons, drugs, or serious bodily injury (as defined below) may be removed to an interim alternative educational setting. If the student's behavior is determined to be a manifestation of his or her disability, the removal may not be for more than forty-five (45) school days. If the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the removal may be longer.

The term "serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that involves:

1. A substantial risk of death;
2. Extreme physical pain;
3. Protracted and obvious disfigurement; or
4. Protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

18 U.S.C. 1365(h)(3)

School Safety Zone

The Code of Student Conduct governs student behavior at all times, on or near school grounds, while riding school transportation, during all curricular and/or extracurricular activities in any location and at all times during school related trips. Criminal Code 2901.01(C) defines "school safety zone" as a school building, school premises, school activity, school bus and vicinity of a school. Further, it includes those students who assist or in any way participate in the violation of rules of the code.

The Board will not tolerate violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior by its students and such behavior is prohibited as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.

1. Dangerous Weapons

A student shall not possess, store, make, transport, transmit, conceal or attempt to possess, transport, transmit or conceal a dangerous weapon, firearm, knife, explosive ordnance or dangerous instrument, or "look-alike" counterfeit weapon, firearm, knife, explosive ordnance or dangerous instrument. "Look-alike" weapons, firearms, knives, explosive ordnance, or instruments include, but are not limited to, any object a reasonable person might consider under the circumstances a dangerous weapon, firearm, knife, explosive ordnance or dangerous instrument.

Nothing in this provision is intended to, nor shall it preclude the Superintendent from suspending, expelling or removing a student in accordance with Ohio law for otherwise possessing, storing, making, transmitting, or concealing a weapon, explosive ordnance, or other dangerous instrument in a school safety zone that is not as just defined herein.

2. Gang Activity

Membership or participation in the organization or operation of any fraternity, sorority, or other secret group as described by law is prohibited throughout the School District. In particular, the Board shall not tolerate any type of gang or gang-related activity to occur on District property or while students is under the auspices of the Board.

A student shall not commit any act/behavior, verbal or non-verbal (for example, but not limited to, gestures, handshakes, attire) that may reasonably be perceived by any student or school personnel as evidence of membership in or affiliation with any gang. A student shall not commit an act, verbal or non-verbal, in furtherance of the interests of a gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to: (1) soliciting others for membership in a gang or gang-related activity; (2) requesting any person to pay for protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening a person. The term "gang", as used in the policy, means a group of two (2) or more persons whose purposes or activities include the commission of illegal acts or violation of school district rules or policies.

Right of Appeal – Suspension/Expulsion

A student, his parents, guardian, custodian or representative may appeal a suspension or expulsion by the Superintendent or principal to the Board of Education designee upon receipt of notice of suspension or expulsion in accordance with Board Policy 5611.

1. The Board's designee for suspension appeals shall be the Superintendent or other Central Office Administrators at the discretion of the Superintendent.
2. The Board's designee for expulsion appeals shall be the vice-president of the Board of Education. The president of the Board of Education shall serve as the alternate.
3. The decision of the Board's designee may be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas in accordance with OHIO REVISED CODE Chapter 2506.
4. There is no right of appeal to the Court of Common Pleas for transportation discipline.
5. You have fourteen (14) days to respond in writing if you intend to appeal. Upon notification in writing that you intend to appeal, a hearing will be scheduled.

The student or student's parent(s), guardian, custodian or representative has the right to be represented by anyone of their choosing at the hearing and shall be granted a hearing before the Board's designee in order to be heard against such suspension or expulsion.

By action of the Board's designee, the order of suspension or expulsion may be affirmed, the student may be reinstated, or the action reversed, vacated or modified.

The student shall remain suspended or expelled for the duration of the suspension or expulsion or until action is taken on the appeal.

School Transportation

The presence of unauthorized persons or vehicles on Westerville School District land or premises is NOT permitted. Unprivileged intrusion may constitute criminal trespass, a misdemeanor under Section 2911.21, Ohio Revised Code, and Section 509.05, Codified Ordinances of the City of Westerville. (O.R.C 3313.20; O.R.C.2911.21; City of Westerville, Codified Ordinances 509.05)

Student Conduct on School Buses

Transportation is a service provided by the Westerville Board of Education and should be regarded as a privilege by students and parents/guardians. Those who ride the school buses will conduct themselves as good citizens at all times.

High school students must show school identification badges when asked or on boarding school buses. Failure to provide requested identification badges may result in the loss of transportation privileges.

Responsibilities of Students

Students are expected to:

- Behave in an orderly manner at all times while on the bus.
- Follow the instructions or directions of the driver.
- Load and unload at their designated assigned stop. At each assigned stop, students shall be assigned a residence side designated place of safety. Students are not to proceed to their residence until the school bus has departed.
- Use their required and assigned stop. If a stop change or change in destination is necessary, a signed note by the parent/guardian and administrator must be presented and approved by a representative from transportation
- Maintain absolute quiet at railroad crossings and other places of danger as specified by the driver.
- Go promptly to the bus when dismissed from school.
- Have a note from their parent or guardian and signed by the principal or his/her designee if it is necessary for students to get off the bus other than at their regular stop.
- ODE Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rules OAC 3301-83-08(C) (12) states that "pupils may carry on the bus only objects that can be held in their laps".
- Skateboards, animals and/or pets of any kind are not permitted; individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals.

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

Parents are expected to:

- Be responsible for the safety and discipline of students while going to and from pickup points and at the bus stop.
- Refrain from entering the school bus without prior approval.
- Have their children at the bus stop five (5) minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time as outlined by the transportation department.
- Be monetarily responsible for any damage done to a bus by their child.
- Respect that staff should not be asked to enter disputes involving parents/guardians and/or students prior to pick up or after return to pick up points.
- Respect the need for a driver to focus on driving and to stay on schedule. Please refrain from discussing bus problems with the driver while he/she is in his/her route. This delays the schedule of the bus. Call the Transportation Department at 797-5950.

School Bus Safety Rules

1. Students shall remain seated at all times.
2. Fighting/tripping/pushing or other acts of violence are not permitted at any time (this also refers to bullying as described in section 5517.01 – "BULLYING AND OTHER FORMS OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR").

3. Obscene language/gestures will not be permitted.
4. Improper behavior at any time is not tolerated.
5. Throwing objects inside or out of the bus is not allowed.
6. Eating/drinking on the bus is not permitted except as required for medical reasons.
7. No loud or excessive noise is permitted.
8. Being disrespectful to others and/or not following driver's instructions will result in discipline.
9. Any other actions that jeopardize the safety of persons or property will result in discipline.
10. Students shall abide by the Code of Student Conduct at all times.

If an incident occurs on the bus which calls for suspension from school by the Code of Student Conduct, the Code of Student Conduct will take precedence, and the student will be suspended from school.

Suspension/Expulsion from School Buses

Proper conduct on a school bus is important because of the concern for the safety of other students and the driver. When a student does not display proper conduct on a bus, suspension and/or expulsion from the bus can be the result of the misbehavior. Students who choose to violate the bus rules will receive a Disciplinary Warning Notice. Copies of the report will be distributed to all parties involved and students' bus riding privileges may be suspended. Continued violation of bus rules could result in expulsion from the bus. School personnel will make every effort to protect the rights of the student through the use of due process procedures when suspension or expulsion is used.

Students and their parents or guardians will be held responsible for any vandalism, damage or destruction that the student commits on a school bus. Remuneration for the complete restoration of the damage will be required.

Change of Transportation or Destination

If at any time there is a change of transportation assignment or destination of a student, a note from the parents/guardians of each student involved must be sent designating this change and must be approved by both a building administrator and a transportation representative. Permission for such changes must be approved by transportation and is on a space available basis.

<p>For updates on transportation delays, call transportation at 797-5950 or visit www.wcsoh.org.</p>
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HEALTH OF OUR STUDENTS

Medications – Administering Medications to Students

Parents should determine with the counsel of their child's prescriber whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.

The Westerville City Schools do not purchase or make available aspirin, other nonprescription or prescription medications to be given to students. Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.713 requires school personnel to:

- A. Administer all prescription or non-prescription medications to students when parents/guardians request that the school personnel administer such medications. To request assistance with medication, the parent/guardian must:
1. Complete the appropriate medication related form. See summary of forms below. All medication forms must be signed by the parent and health care provider with prescriptive authority.
 2. Deliver medication to school directly by the parent/guardian or other responsible individual at parental request. This should be arranged in advance.
 3. Keep medication in a prescription labeled bottle, labeled with date; student's name; and exact dosage. (Pharmacy may provide an extra bottle for long-term medication.) If it is a non-prescription drug, it must be in the original container.
 4. Not deliver more than two to four (2-4) week's supply of medication at one time;
 5. Provide a revised statement signed by the parent/guardian and health care provider with prescriptive authority for any changes in the dosage to be given; a revised labeled medication bottle is required for prescription medications.
- B. If you would like your child to carry an inhaler during school hours, the "Self-Medication for Asthma Inhalers Authorization Form" (Form 5330 F3) needs to be completed by the health care provider with prescriptive authority and signed by you.
- C. If you would like your child to carry an Epinephrine Auto Injector (for anaphylaxis reaction to an allergen) during school hours, the Allergy Action Plan and Authorization for Student Possession and Use of an Epinephrine Auto Injector (Form 5330F4a and Form 5330F4b) need to be completed by a health care provider with prescriptive authority and signed by parent/guardian pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.718. The school must have a back-up dose of the Epinephrine Auto Injector. If a dose is used during school or at any school activity, 911 will be called.
- D. If you would like your child to self-administer any non-prescribed (over-the-counter) medications at school, Form 5330 F1a must be completed by a parent or guardian and kept in the students health file at school.
- E. If your child will need Diabetic Care at school, Form 5330 Fdm1 must be completed by a health care provider with prescriptive authority, and signed by the parent/guardian. WCS recognizes local endocrinologists have their own forms authorizing Diabetic Care for School. These forms can be substituted for Form 5330 Fdm1 once reviewed and deemed acceptable by the School Nurse. Students who require assistance from School Staff for Insulin administration (including student monitoring) will need "Insulin Administration Order" form completed. The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that each student enrolled in the District who has diabetes receives appropriate and needed diabetes care in accordance with an order signed by the student's treating physician. Within fourteen (14) days after the District receives an order signed by the student's treating physician, the Board will inform the student's parent or guardian that the student may be entitled to a Section 504 Plan regarding the student's diabetes.

Summary of Medication Related Forms - * Medication forms can be obtained from your school nurse, or on the Westerville City Schools website: www.westerville.k12.oh.us (*Click on Parents/Guardians; then Health Services links)

1. Request to Administer Prescribed Medication (5330 F1):
 - o This form allows for medications to be stored in the building clinic and administered by building staff.
2. Authorization for Student Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers (5330 F3):
 - o This form allows for students to self-administer their inhalers without assistance from school staff.

3. Authorization for Student Possession and Use of Epinephrine Auto Injectors (5330 F4a):
 - This form allows for students to self-administer emergency epinephrine without assistance from school staff, but also requires a “back-up” dose of epinephrine to be kept in the school clinic.
 - Form 5335 F4b must accompany Form 5330 F4a
4. Allergy Action Plan (5335 F4b):
 - This form allows for and gives specific directions re: the administration of epinephrine auto-injectors by trained school staff.
5. WCS Authorization for Diabetic Care (5330 Fdm1)
 - This form allows for your child to receive insulin and diabetic care at school.
6. Please refer to Policy 5330 and complete form 5330 F1a for appropriate procedures for Student Self Administration of Over-the-Counter medication.
 - Form 5330 F1a is a waiver form, allowing students to be 100% responsible and independent in their own **Over the Counter** medication management.
7. Resource Guide for Supporting Students With Life-Threatening Allergies (5335)
 - This document details the school process for assisting students with life-threatening allergies.

Please be aware, after reviewing instructions, the School Nurse and or the Principal's designee may need clarification of instructions from the prescribing healthcare provider before medication can be administered.

Illness and Emergency Procedures

Completed emergency cards are strongly encouraged to be submitted at the start of school. Only those persons listed on an emergency card may pick up students unless there has been prior approval from the building administrator. During the school year, there may be changes in addresses and telephone numbers on emergency cards. If there is a change, please notify the building principal's office at once.

Students who become ill during the school day should report to the clinic. Students are discouraged from calling or texting a parent/guardian directly, as an evaluation of symptoms and notification of proper contacts is best facilitated in the office/clinic. The school personnel will attempt to notify the parents/guardians or person listed on the student's emergency card to make arrangements for the student to go home. We can assume no responsibility for treatment of sickness beyond emergency first aid.

In all cases of illness or injury, it is expected a parent/guardian or the emergency contact person will pick up the student as soon as possible after being called. If a student needs to be transported by an emergency vehicle, the emergency squad official will determine to which hospital the student will be transported.

Immunizations

State legislation requires that the parents/guardians submit written evidence, within fourteen (14) days of beginning school, that their child has had all the required immunizations for him/her to remain in school. If, after the end of the fourteen (14) day grace period, the parent/guardian has not submitted written evidence of compliance, the student shall be excluded from school until such evidence is submitted. During the period of exclusion, the student's absence will be recorded as unexcused and a referral to Children's Services may occur. Immunizations required by Ohio Revised Code 3701.13 and 3313.671 can be found on the district's website, or located at the district enrollment center or building clinics.

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

Students enrolling in Westerville City Schools from any foreign country must show written documentation of a negative PPD skin test and/or a negative chest x-ray, done in the United States. If the parent/guardian is unable to provide the required written documentation, the student shall be required to have another PPD and or chest x-ray completed and reviewed. This documentation is required before enrollment can proceed. Westerville Schools follows the reporting requirement found in O.R.C. 3313.71.

Chronic Student Health Concerns

If a child has a health concern, parents/guardians must provide a written explanation of the concern for the child's school health records, and update the information at regular intervals, as needed. Documentation from the child's health care provider may be required.

Contagious Situations

If a child has been ill, please remember that he/she should be fever-free, without the aid of fever reducing medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.

A child will be sent home if he/she has a temperature of 100 degrees or above, has vomited, has diarrhea, has an undiagnosed rash, or is suspected of having a contagious condition, including head lice. Contagious students must be picked up by a parent/guardian and cannot ride school transportation. School bus or other public school-provided transportation is not advisable for students with contagious conditions. A parent/guardian or emergency contact person will be required to transport the student home.

HEAD LICE

Head lice (Pediculosis) seems to be a year-round problem for most communities. Since parents can be of crucial importance in controlling head lice, we want to help you become well informed.

How Do You Get It?

Head lice are a fairly common, easily treated condition that is generally not associated with any serious medical complications. Head lice are usually transmitted from one person to another by direct personal contact and by the common use of personal items such as combs, brushes, hats or scarves. Children should be warned against sharing hats, clothing or grooming aids with other children. Many people think that head lice become established on persons who are not clean. In the case of head lice, this is NOT TRUE. Frequent bathing will neither prevent head lice nor eliminate them once they are present.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

One of the most common signs to look for is intense itching and scratching of the scalp. Head lice are elongated insects about (--) this long and are grayish-white to light brown. Lice do not have wings and, therefore, cannot fly. They do not jump, but do move very quickly; this makes them very difficult to find in a child's hair. Since crawling forms are so difficult to see, the diagnosis of head lice is usually made on the basis of finding nits (louse eggs). Nits are teardrop in shape, about this size ('), and vary in color from yellowish-brown to white. Head lice attach nits to a single hair shaft with a waterproof, cement-like substance. Thus, nits cannot be washed out or brushed out of the hair like dandruff or other debris that sometimes look like nits to the naked eye. Nits are most commonly found in the hair at the back of the neck or behind the ears. It helps to use a magnifying glass and bright light (preferably daylight) when looking for nits.

What Can Parents Do?

Lice are highly communicable and difficult to prevent, but if every parent takes the responsibility to check the entire family's hair and scalp often, their spread can be controlled. If you suspect your child has head lice, but you are not sure, contact your child's school. If you know your child has head lice, consult your physician, school nurse or pharmacist concerning treatment. Don't be embarrassed to notify your child's school so measures may be taken to control the lice. Also, notify the parents of your child's recent playmates. Parental/guardian cooperation will help to prevent spreading lice to other children including your own.

Students should return to school as soon as treatment is completed and no active infestation is identified. Active infestation will be defined as the presence live lice, or no progression in nit removal. Treatment can be accomplished overnight, allowing readmission the following day. An adult must accompany the student to school to meet with the nurse or other staff member upon return to school. The student will be examined by a school staff member trained in the screening procedure. If a student is found to have an active infestation of head lice, the parent/guardian will take the student home for further treatment. Active infestation means that there are live bugs or no progress in nit removal. The process of nit removal may take a few days. Continue combing daily and remove any nits found.

Home Instruction

If it is determined by a physician that a child is physically unable to attend school and will be absent for eleven (11) or more consecutive school days, he/she may be eligible for home instruction. An Intervention Team meeting will be held to determine eligibility for home instruction. For further information, contact the school office.

Student Accident Insurance and Liability Insurance

The Westerville School District's insurance policy does not provide coverage for student injuries. While the district takes appropriate measures to ensure the safety of students, accidents do occur. The school district does not pay for any medical related expenses as a result of students injuring themselves on school premises, off school grounds during school sponsored events, on school-sponsored transportation, or on any school or non-school property before or after school hours. This means that the parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any bills from a school related injury to the child.

The district does not carry student accident insurance. However, for those families needing insurance, student accident insurance information is available. As a service to parents/guardians, insurance is available through school and parents/guardians are encouraged to obtain insurance for their child. Please remember this is not a school district sponsored program. The school district will allow the distribution of this information for the benefit of students and parents/guardians. Distribution of this information does not constitute an endorsement of this or any particular student insurance plan. The District is not being compensated in any way for distributing the information. Any decision whether to purchase insurance must be based upon the parent's/guardian's own assessment of the risk of injury or illness and the adequacy of the plan to meet their needs in the event of a covered illness or injury.

The district does not carry insurance for the property of others. If students lose an item (for example, but not limited to, a musical instrument) or their property is otherwise stolen, it is still their responsibility to replace the property. Parents/guardians are reminded that insurance is required for student-athletes and proof of insurance must be presented for eligibility.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Notifications

The Westerville City School District uses the process of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM uses a mixture of chemical and other, non-pesticide, methods to control pests. Parents/guardians or community members, desiring to be notified about pesticide applications, may locate pre-notification and emergency pesticide applications on our district website.

ATTENDANCE

Students enrolled in Westerville City Schools are required by state law to attend each day school is in session. Students are to be in all of their assigned classes and study halls every day.

Full-Day Absence

Students who are absent from school more than 85% of the current school day, shall be considered absent for the full school day.

One-Half Day Absence

Students who are absent from school more than 36%, but less than 84% of the current school day, shall be considered absent for one-half day.

Tardy

Students absent from school for 35% or less of the school day shall be considered tardy.

Attendance Definitions

Excused Absence: Absence resulting from personal illness, illness in the family, quarantine of the home, the death of a relative, work at home due to absence of parents or guardians, observance of religious holidays, pre-approved family vacation or emergency situations or a special reason for which approval is given by an administrator.

Unexcused Absence: Absence by consent of parent/guardian or with parent's knowledge for a reason not acceptable to the school. (Example: music lessons, hair appointments, car trouble, over-sleeping, out-of-town, etc.) The student will not receive academic credit missed during an unexcused absence.

School Truancy: A deliberate, unauthorized absence from school. The student will not receive academic credit for work missed during school truancy.

Class cutting: A deliberate unauthorized absence from a class. The student will not receive academic credit for work missed during class cutting.

Excused Absences

Make-up work should be completed within the number of day's equivalent to his/her absence when practical. If the work is not made up, the student will receive a failing grade for incomplete work.

An excused absence may be granted on the basis of any one or more of the following conditions:

Personal Illness: Absence of a child to receive health care from an appropriately licensed

health care provider will be excused. The approving authority may require the certificate of a physician if he/she deems it advisable.

Illness in the Family: The absence under this condition will not apply to children under 14 years of age.

Quarantine of the Home: The absence of a child from school under this condition is limited to the length of quarantine, as fixed by the proper health officials.

Death of a Relative: The absence arising from this condition is limited to a period of three (3) days unless a reasonable cause may be shown by the applicant child for a longer absence.

Work at Home Due to Absence of Parents or Guardians: Any absence arising because of this condition will not extend for a period longer than that for which the parents/guardians are absent. (This only applies to students 14 and over.)

Observance of Religious Holidays: Any child of any religious faith will be excused if his/her absence was for the purpose of observing a religious holiday consistent with his/her creed or belief.

Service as a Precinct Officer: A student may serve as a precinct officer at a primary, special or general election in accordance with the program set forth in Policy [5725](#)

Family Vacation: Although a student may be granted an "excused absence" for family vacation when parents/guardians request it, the student will be responsible for all work assigned during the period of absence, and prior approval of a building principal is required. Prior approval for "excused absence" due to family vacation must be requested by:

- Obtaining a "Pre-excused Absence Request Form" from the principal's office;
- Completing the form as indicated by the directions;
- Returning it to the designated administrator as soon as the reason for the absence is known but not later than three (3) school days prior to the expected absence. A building administrator will review the request and determine whether the absence will be excused or unexcused, according to criteria listed;

Emergency or Exceptional Situation: An emergency or a set of circumstances which, in the judgment of the building principal, designated assistant principal, or Superintendent of schools, constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school, will be approved for a student.

All absences from school which are not approved by a building administrator shall be recorded as "unexcused" or "truant."

Section 517.12 of the Westerville Codified Ordinances States: No person, being the parent or guardian or person having the legal custody and control of any minor shall negligently allow the minor, to be truant from school when the laws of the State require such child's attendance in school.

Student Attendance Accounting (Missing and Absent Children)

The Westerville Board of Education supports state and national efforts to decrease the number of missing children. Therefore, school personnel will attempt to identify possible missing children and notify the proper adults or agencies.

At the time of their initial entry to school a student, or a student's parent/guardian shall present a certified original certificate of birth, an attested baptism certificate showing the date of birth, or a birth affidavit and copies of those records maintained by the school that was most recently attended to the office in charge of admission. Copies will be made and returned. For homeless youth, see Board Policy 5111.01 for information on providing documentation for enrollment.

Tardy to School and Early Dismissal

Parents/guardians may request approval for late arrival or early dismissal of a student from the building principal or his/her designee. While the approval of late arrivals or early dismissals is discouraged, the Board recognizes that exceptional circumstances may arise where the granting of late arrivals or early dismissals is appropriate.

Such reasons would include family emergencies or doctor/dental care. However, doctor and dental appointments should be scheduled after school or on weekends, if at all possible.

If early dismissal or late arrival is necessary, send a note to the office explaining the reason for the early dismissal or late arrival and the time the child will be leaving or arriving. The principal or his/her designee will determine whether the request for late arrival or early dismissal shall be granted. Parents/guardians must report to the office when dropping a child off late or taking a child out of school early. School officials may request that such individual show proper identification.

No student who has a medical disability which may be incapacitating may be released without a person to accompany him/her. No student shall be released to anyone who is not the student's parent/guardian without parental/guardian permission. School officials may request a parent or guardian to show proper identification.

Late arrivals and early dismissals shall not be granted when such approval would interfere with the operation of any school program or activity, school opening, school dismissal or transportation, or when such approval would be a severe detriment to the education of the student or create a safety hazard.

Students who do not report to their assigned school classroom at the specified starting time shall be considered "tardy" and will be marked accordingly on attendance records.

Make Up Work

Students have the right to make up work missed during an excused absence. Following the return to school, the make-up work shall be completed within the number of days equal to the days of excused absence. Responsibility for obtaining information about missed assignments rests solely with the student or the student's parents/guardians.

If a student anticipates being absent more than three (3) consecutive school days, he/she may request assignments from teachers by calling the Attendance Office. Assignments may be picked up in the office the day following the request.

In the case of work missed due to a family vacation, please refer to the attendance section.

RESIDENCY

For a student to be enrolled in the Westerville City Schools, his/her custodial parent must reside

within the Westerville School District or satisfy one of the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.64 such as being in the legal or permanent custody of someone other than their parent, being eligible for special education, residing in a children's home or other residential institution, or by residing with an individual with whom the child has been placed for adoption. Enrollment must be authorized by the W.C.S. Enrollment and Family Resource Center, prior to registration.

School of Attendance

Students are assigned to attend a school based upon their custodial parent's (legal guardian's) residence unless an intra-district transfer request has been made by an individual student's parent or guardian and duly approved by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. School district boundaries within the Westerville school district will be established by the Superintendent, with the knowledge of the Board of Education. In establishing such boundaries, due consideration will be given to the capacity of buildings, size of classes, distances, topography, transportation and other pertinent factors. Parents/guardians are required to notify the building principal or his/her designee of any address changes.

Moving Out of the District

If the student's legal guardian(s) move out of the Westerville City School district before the completion of the school year, high school seniors will be permitted to finish the school year without the payment of tuition upon Board approval as outlined in OHIO REVISED CODE 3313.64.

Residency and Legal Guardianship

If the parents are separated or divorced or their marriage has been dissolved or annulled, the "parent" means the parent who has been granted residential custody of the child for school purposes.

When the child is in the legal or permanent custody of a "custodian," such as a government agency or person other than the natural or adoptive parent, "parent" means the parent who gave up custody and perhaps residual parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities. Residency and Guardianship are defined by Ohio Revised Code 3313.64(A) (1)).

In cases of joint custody, the child may attend school in the district assigned by the court. If no assignment is made by the court, the child may attend in the district of the parent with whom he/she is residing. In the best interest of the child, he/she should maintain attendance in one school district.

Any change of custody during the school year must be reported to the building principal and a copy of the custody papers must be on file at the student's building of attendance.

Non-Resident Issues

Procedures Governing the Enrollment of a Nonresident Student by the Non-Custodial "Parent" or Person Other Than the Parent

1. Prior to registration, the non-custodial parent shall provide the W.C.S. Enrollment and Family Resource Center with documentation of a court filing indicating that the non-

custodial parent, relative or person other than the parent, has initiated proceedings to gain custody of the child.

2. The sworn statement shall include the name of the non-custodial parent, address, name of child, name and address of custodial parent, name and address of school last attended by the child, and the name and address of their attorney.
3. Upon receipt of documentation of a court filing, the child may attend the Westerville City Schools without the payment of tuition for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days or the minimum number of days required by law.
4. If custody is transferred to the natural or adopting parent who resides in the Westerville School District within the sixty (60) day period, no tuition will be charged.
5. The parent who resides in Westerville must provide the W.C.S. Enrollment and Family Resource Center with legal documentation that he/she has been granted legal custody by a court of law.
6. If legal custody is not granted within the sixty (60) day period, payment of tuition will become the obligation of the parent for the period of enrollment. The child may be withdrawn from school if tuition is not paid.

Any change of custody during the school year must be reported by parents/guardians and copies of the custody papers must be on file at the student's building of attendance.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Deliveries and Messages

Other than an emergency, no messages or deliveries will be given to students during the school day. Items such as flowers, balloons, etc., will not be accepted for delivery to students. Phone calls to remind a student of an appointment or an errand cannot be forwarded to students.

Classroom Videotaping Notice

District teachers, as part of their own assessment, evaluation and professional development, as well as student teachers working toward their education degrees at local colleges and universities, may occasionally videotape themselves teaching in a classroom. If a parent or legal guardian desires to avoid the potential of having their child videotaped during instruction, accommodations can be arranged. Please notify your principal in writing by September 30 of the current school year should you wish to request these accommodations for your child.

Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring

Video surveillance is routinely used to help maintain a safe and orderly student learning environment for staff, students and visitors at our school facilities and during bus transportation.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, every effort will be made to communicate through multiple means of communication. Families may receive information through several communication channels employed by the district, including, but not limited to: the district web site (www.wcsoh.org), e-mail announcements, text messages, emergency phone notification, and announcements on local television and radio stations. Please note that in order to receive emergency text and e-mail messages, families must visit the district web site and subscribe to receive electronic communications from the district.

- A. Emergency School Closing
If it is necessary for the Westerville City Schools to close for the day, close early or have a start time delay, announcements including but not limited to the district web site, e-mail communication, text messages, emergency phone notification and broadcasts from local radio and television stations servicing the Franklin County/Delaware County area will take place. Parents/guardians are encouraged to listen for an announcement of the closing or delay of all Westerville Schools.
- B. Fire Drills
Fire drills conducted in an orderly manner are a necessary part of the school program. Students will leave the building by following the "fire exit" instructions posted in their classroom. All parents/guardians/visitors are required to evacuate the building.
- C. K-9 Searches
K-9 searches may be conducted without notice and at the discretion of the Superintendent or building administrator.
- D. Lock-Down Drills
Lock down drills will be conducted periodically as a part of the school safety program. Parents/guardians/visitors are required to cooperate in the school's effort in the operation of such drills.
- E. Tornado Procedures
Students are assigned to a safe and protected area during a tornado warning. Drills will be held to facilitate this procedure and specific safety instructions will be given. All parents/guardians/visitors are required to take cover per the building safety plan of the building.

Food Service Availability and Cafeteria Behavior

The free or reduced meal program is available to students who qualify under the federal guidelines. A free and reduced breakfast program is available to our students under the same federal guidelines. For students requiring special dietary needs, please contact your school's food service manager and notify your school nurse. For more information, contact the school or the food service office.

Lunches will be served during scheduled lunch periods in both plate lunch and, for high-school and middle-school students, a-la-carte fashion. Students may also bring their lunch. A breakfast program is also available to students. Please contact your school office for details and cost of this program. Students are asked to observe the following rules of courtesy:

- A. Remain in the lunch room until the end of the period or until dismissed by a supervising adult;
- B. Do not cut into the lunch line;
- C. Do not throw food, paper, or other items.
- D. Eat all food or beverages in the breakfast/lunch area.
- E. Remove all materials they have placed on the table before leaving. All paper and trash must be deposited in trash containers.
- F. Treat all cafeteria staff, custodians and supervising adults with respect and courtesy.

Student Achievement Records, Grade Cards

The Student Achievement Record or grade card provides a running summary of a student's scholastic achievement and attendance. Student Achievement Records or grade cards are

available online through the District's electronic grade reporting system. Parents/guardians may opt for a hard copy but must do so in writing to the school principal or his/her designee.

The Board may adopt rules and regulations providing a schedule of fees for materials used in a course of instruction and prescribing a schedule of charges which may be imposed upon pupils for the loss, damage, or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library material, textbooks, or electronic textbooks required to be furnished without charge, and for damage to school buildings, and may enforce the payment of such fees and charges by withholding the grades and credits of the pupils concerned. See Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.642(C).

Lost and Found

For any lost items, please check in the main office. Should a student find any item, he/she should turn it in to one of the secretaries in the office. To facilitate return in case of loss, students' names should be on all books and other property.

Personal Items

Students are not to bring personal items that are likely to disrupt and distract from learning such as, but not limited to: wireless communications or entertainment devices. Skateboards and bicycles are not permitted to be ridden on school property. The school cannot assume the responsibility of losses and damages.

Pets and Animals at School

In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of students and to maintain a quality educational environment, pets and animals are NOT PERMITTED in the school. In situations where a pet or animal is needed for a specific lesson, the principal or designee may approve this request. Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals.

Posting of Signs/Distribution of Leaflets

Anyone wishing to post a sign or distribute printed materials in the school or on school grounds must obtain approval from the Superintendent or designee.

Student Records

Federal and State Law as well as Board policy restrict the disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in student records. Typically, such information cannot be disclosed without the prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian or the adult student. Exceptions to this consent requirement include the disclosure of records to other school officials, disclosure that is required under a judicial order or subpoena, disclosure to facilitate a student's transfer, disclosure of directory information and disclosure related to a health or safety emergency. Complete details regarding the release of student records and the applicable exceptions to the written consent requirement are found elsewhere in Board Policy.

Annual Notice Concerning Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford parents/guardians and students over 18 year of age ("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 District receives a request for access.

Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate District official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The District official 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/guardian or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.

Parents/guardians or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy rights of the student. The parent(s), guardian(s) or eligible student shall write the school principal (or appropriate official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy rights of the student. The school principal or his/her designee shall decide whether he/she will amend the record within a reasonable time of the request, not to exceed forty-five (45) days after the request is made. If the school principal or his/her designee decides to grant the request, he/she shall amend the record accordingly. If the school principal or his/her designee decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the school principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when they are notified of the right to a hearing. If, as a result of any hearing held, it is determined that the information is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights, the record shall be amended accordingly, and the parent/guardian or eligible student shall be notified of the amendment in writing. If, as a result of any hearing held, it is determined that the information in the education record is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights, the parent/guardian or eligible student shall be so informed and shall be advised of the right to place a statement in the record commenting on the contested information and/or stating why he or she disagrees with the decision of the District. If the District places such a statement in the student's education records, the District shall maintain the statement with the contested part of the record as long as the record is maintained and shall disclose the statement whenever it discloses the portion of the record to which the statement relates.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to School officials with legitimate educational interests. A School official is a person employed by the Board as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and school resource officers); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task, including but not limited to an attorney, auditor, medical, educational or other consultant; a volunteer performing a task or function as directed by a person employed by the Board; or therapist.

"Legitimate educational interest" is defined as a direct or delegated responsibility for helping the student achieve one or more of the educational goals of the District, or if the record is necessary in order for the School official to perform an administrative, supervisory, or instructional task or to perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family.

The District also discloses student education records without consent of the parents/guardians or eligible student under the following circumstances:

- a. Upon request, to officials of another school, school district or system, or post-secondary education institution in which a student has enrolled or seeks or intends to enroll. In addition, the School may disclose a student's education record to another educational agency or institution if the student receives services from the other educational agency or institution;
- b. To authorized federal officials or state or local educational authorities;
- c. The disclosure involves necessary information in connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received;
- d. The disclosure is to state and local officials or authorities and is allowed to be reported or disclosed pursuant to a state statute adopted before November 19, 1974, if the allowed reporting and disclosure concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve the student prior to adjudication; and, where disclosure of information is permitted by a state statute adopted after November 19, 1974, the state official and authorities to whom the records are disclosed certify in writing to the school that the information will not be disclosed to any other party, except as provided under state law, without the prior written consent of the student's parent;
- e. To organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of, educational agencies or institutions in order to develop, validate or administer predictive tests, administer student aid programs, or improve instruction;
- f. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions;
- g. The disclosure is to parents of a dependent student, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code;
- h. To comply with a judicial order or subpoena;
- i. In a health or safety emergency, where necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or other individuals; or
- j. The disclosure is to the parent/guardian of a student who is not an eligible student or to the student.

"Directory information" is personally identifiable information that is contained in an educational record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Subject to this definition, the District has designated the following personally identifiable information in a student's education record as "directory information" and will disclose that information without prior written parental/guardian or eligible student consent, except when the request is for a profit-making plan or activity: a student's name, major field of study, dates of attendance, current grade level, participation in officially-recognized extra-curricular activities and sports, height and weight if a member of an athletic team, date of graduation, honors and awards received, and the current and previous educational institution attended by the student.

In addition to the above, the District releases the names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to military recruiters for any branch of the United States Armed Forces, or to an institution of higher learning, that requests such information, unless the secondary student or parent of the secondary student requests that such information not be released without prior parental/guardian consent.

Parent(s), guardian(s) or eligible students shall provide notice to advise your school principal or his/her designee by September 30 of the current school year, in writing, of any or all of the above

items that should not be released without the parent's/guardian's or eligible student's prior consent.

1. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED):
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents/guardians; or
 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of :
 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use :
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents/guardians to a student who is 18 years old or an

emancipated minor under State law.

Westerville City Schools (“The District”) has developed policies, in consultation with parents/guardians, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

The District will directly notify parents/guardians of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also make information available to parents/guardians of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent/guardian to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey.

Notification to parents/guardians will occur at the beginning of the school year if The District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents/guardians will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and are provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents/guardians will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys.

Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Westerville City School District not to discriminate, in violation of federal or state law

on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, military status, ancestry, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), age (except as authorized by law), genetic information, or disability (collectively, “Protected Classes”) in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in any service, program, or activity sponsored by the Westerville City Schools. Inquiries or complaints regarding compliance with this policy or the nondiscrimination requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 should be directed to the:

Westerville School District, Elizabeth Jelkin, J.D., M.B.A., Civil Rights/Section 504/ADA Compliance Coordinator
936 Eastwind Drive, Suite 200, Westerville, Ohio 43081,
Telephone (614) 797-5900, or to the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education
or
the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

504 Plans

The Westerville City School District is committed to the provision of high quality education for all students. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of a qualified disability and ensures that disabled students have equal access to the same educational opportunities as their nondisabled peers. If a student is suspected of having a qualified disability that must be accommodated in order to access their education, a Section 504 evaluation may be conducted. If the evaluation team determines that the student has a qualified disability (one that substantially limits one or more major life activities) and requires accommodations or supports that extend beyond those normally provided in the educational setting, a 504 Plan will be written. Any student identified as disabled under Section 504 is ensured equal opportunities for participation in academic, nonacademic and/or extracurricular activities. Requests for student assistance and 504 evaluations are directed to the building principal or district designee.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004

The Westerville City School District strives to locate, identify, and evaluate all children through age 22 who reside within the district and are suspected to have a disability. Children with qualifying disabilities may be eligible for special education and related services. Requests for student assistance and the necessary evaluations should be made in writing to the building principal or district designee.

Homeless Students

The Westerville City School District is committed to ensuring educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness, including those with disabilities, under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Homelessness is a lack of permanent housing and is broadly defined to mean individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. For more information on the rights of homeless students, see Board Policy 5111.01, or contact the school district's Office of Health & Safety Services.

BOARD POLICY 5111.01 - HOMELESS STUDENTS

Children who meet the Federal definition of "homeless" will be provided a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as all other students of the District. To that end, homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and will be assigned to the school serving those non-homeless students residing in the area in which the homeless child is actually living. The District shall establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

Homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and include those who meet any of the following criteria:

- A. Share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- B. Live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- C. Live in emergency or transitional shelters
- D. Are abandoned in hospitals
- E. Are awaiting for foster-care placement
- F. Have a primary night time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, or

- G. Live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.

Additionally, pursuant to Federal and State law, migratory children who are living in circumstances described in A-G above are also considered homeless.

Homeless preschool-aged children and their families shall be provided equal access to the educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the School District.

The District shall remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students in schools in the District. Homeless students shall be enrolled immediately, even if they do not have the necessary enrollment documentation such as immunization and health records, proof of residency or guardianship, birth certificate, school records, and other documentation.

Homeless students will be provided services comparable to other students in the District including:

- A. Transportation services;
- B. Educational services for which the homeless student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State and local programs, educational program for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency;
- C. Programs in vocational and technical education;
- D. Programs for gifted and talented students;
- E. School nutrition programs; and
- F. Before-and-after-school programs.

Homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin or the local attendance area school, according to the child's best interest. The school of origin is the school that the student attended when permanently housed or last enrolled. The local attendance area school is any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend.

Homeless students have the right to dispute their school assignment, if their assignment is other than their school of origin. In determining the best interest of the student, the District shall, to the extent feasible, keep the student in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the homeless student's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth. If the student is sent to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian, a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, will be provided to the homeless student's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth.

The Board of Education requires that these rights and the dispute process be communicated to the parent or guardian of the homeless student or unaccompanied youth.

In addition to notifying the parent or guardian of the homeless student or unaccompanied youth of the rights described above, the District shall post public notice of educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness in each school.

At the request of the parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison, transportation shall be provided for a homeless student to and from the school of origin as follows:

- A. If the homeless student continues to live in the School District in which the school of origin is located; transportation will be provided in accordance with District policy/administrative guidelines.
- B. If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing his/her education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student

resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin. If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

The Superintendent will appoint a Liaison for Homeless Children who will perform the duties as assigned by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Liaison will coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth as well as with community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.

The homeless liaison will assist, to the extent feasible, the homeless students and their parents(s) or guardian(s) or unaccompanied homeless students in their efforts to provide documentation to meet State and local requirements for entry into school.

All records for homeless students shall be maintained so that they are available in a timely fashion and can be transferred promptly as necessary.

No Board policy, administrative procedure, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment, attendance, or school success of homeless children.

42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq. (McKinney – Vento Homeless Act)
Revised 1/21/11

Textbooks/Library Books/Equipment

Students shall be responsible for textbooks, library books and other materials which they borrow. Costs arising from lost books or materials damaged beyond normal usage shall be the responsibility of individual students and/or their parents or guardians. Replacement costs and/or fees will be assessed accordingly.

Other equipment in the building should be treated with respect. Marking on walls, doors or other surfaces will not be tolerated. Stickers are not to be placed on any surface, especially student desks and lockers.

Per Ohio Revised Code O.R.C. 3313.642, the Board may adopt rules and regulations providing a schedule of fees for materials used in a course of instruction and prescribing a schedule of charges which may be imposed upon pupils for the loss, damage, or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library material, textbooks, or electronic textbooks required to be furnished without charge, and for damage to school buildings, and may enforce the payment of such fees and charges by withholding the grades and credit, which may impact participation in graduation exercises. In the event the above course of action does not result in the fee being collected, the Board authorizes the Treasurer to take appropriate legal or other action for collection.

School Facility/Classroom Visitors – Shadowing/Observing at School - Procedures

1. Persons wishing to visit a school or a class must make arrangements at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance in the main office and must agree to the provisions in Administrative Guideline 9150 School Visitors.

2. Upon arrival, visitors must verify with the office, via intercom, their arrangements for visiting and upon entry proceed directly to the main office.
3. No visitor may confer with a student in school without the approval of the principal or designee. A student is not permitted to leave the school with anyone who has not been identified as his/her parent or guardian or person authorized to act on the behalf of a parent or guardian.

Any visitor to the school whose presence or conduct is disruptive, or whose behavior, past or present, suggests that he/she intends or is likely to become disruptive, may be requested to leave the premises. If the visitor so addressed does not leave, the principal or designee may summon local law enforcement officers.

For more specific information to Visitors to any of the schools within Westerville School District, please refer to Administrative Guideline 9150.

Volunteer Programs

Our schools offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities and parents, guardians, community members, businesses and students are encouraged to get involved. Information about volunteer opportunities can be found by contacting the building principal, classroom teacher, PTA, PTSA, PTO or Booster organization or by visiting the Westerville Parent Council website, located on the Westerville City Schools website.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION - http://www.wcsoh.org/content_page.aspx?cid=1182

Definitions:

Level 1 – Supervised Building Volunteer

Directly supervised by district staff - District/building ID badge required.

Level 2 – Unsupervised Building Volunteer or Chaperone

These individuals may have unsupervised access to child/children. Examples include: library helper or overnight trip chaperone. District/building ID badge required.

In order to volunteer at a Westerville City Schools, please visit the district website for the complete volunteer process.

To review policy 3120.09, visit <http://www.neola.com/westerville-oh/search/ag/ag3120.09.htm>

To reviews administrative guidelines 3120.09, visit <http://www.neola.com/westerville-oh/search/policies/po3120.09.htm>

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Westerville City Schools Board of Education believes that parent/guardian involvement is an important part of the educational program. Current research indicates that a home-school partnership and greater involvement on the part of parents/guardians in the education of their children generally results in higher achievement scores, improved student behavior and reduced absenteeism. All parents/guardians of students enrolled in the district are encouraged to take a variety of active roles in the education of their children.

The Westerville City Schools Board of Education directs the administration to develop the necessary regulations to ensure that this policy is followed and that parent/guardian involvement is encouraged. The regulations should:

1. Encourage strong home-school partnerships and a shared responsibility for education;

2. Provide for consistent and effective communications between the parents/guardians and school official;
3. Offer parents/guardians ways to assist and encourage their children to do their best;
4. Provide opportunities for parents/guardians to be involved in the parental involvement program, including parent/teacher associations or organizations, booster and support groups, and other building and district opportunities;
5. Include parents/guardians, where appropriate, as leaders and/or decision makers;
6. Provide for appropriate dissemination of this policy. Such dissemination should include school handbooks and public posting at school buildings.

SPECIAL SERVICES

English as a Second Language (ESL)

English as a Second Language classes are provided by TESOL-endorsed teachers to students who qualify for services. Criteria for the ESL program include:

- Student's primary/home language is other than English.
- The student scores less than proficient on one or more areas of English proficiency (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and comprehension) on tests of English language proficiency within the district.
- The student is not over 21 years of age and is enrolled in the district.
- The student has difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English and may be unable to perform well enough in class or on state tests to meet expected state standards for achievement without support.
- The student's native/home language is not English, whether born in the U.S. or another country.
- Materials and the instructional pace of an ESL class are adapted to meet the individual needs of each student. Students move from the "Emergent" or "Beginning" levels of English proficiency through "Intermediate" to "Advanced" and finally to "Proficient" as basic skills and English fluency are acquired.

Gifted Education Service

In Ohio, the term "gifted" refers to students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment and who are identified following procedures and criteria established by Ohio Revised Code 3324.

The gifted education department is committed to identifying and meeting the needs of gifted students. In developing K-12 program options to accomplish this goal, a variety of opportunities are supported and provided in a number of settings to address the diverse abilities and needs of gifted students.

The district ensures equal opportunity for all district students identified as gifted to be considered for participation in district services. Each program service has qualifying criteria that must be met by identified students for participation.

School Health Service

Health services are provided by certificated school nurses. Services include general and emergency school health service to all schools in the district. Their services include screening hearing/vision in kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th grades and new students to the district. Students having a multi-factored evaluation also are required to have their vision and hearing screened prior to testing. A student's teacher might refer a student to the nurse for screening. A parent/guardian may ask for a screening by contacting their child's school. Postural (sometimes called scoliosis) screening may be conducted in middle school. Parents/guardians will be notified via a referral form if there is a recommendation that the student have a professional evaluation due to failure of any one of these screenings.

Counseling and Mental Health Supports

The Guidance Program and mental health support services are an integral part of the curricular structure of Westerville City Schools. They exist to help individuals derive the greatest possible benefit from educational experiences. Programs and services in the areas of classroom-based guidance activities, group counseling, individual counseling and planning, parent workshops, crisis counseling and referral, and the provision of consultation and coordination services to school personnel, parents/guardians and community agencies are available to all students to assist them with academic, career, and personal-social development.

Intervention Assistance

The IAT (Intervention Assistance Team) in each building collaborates with parents/guardians to address student concerns, develop a plan of intervention, and monitor progress. Referrals for the IAT can begin with a parent/guardian, student, or any school staff member who works with the child. The members of an IAT vary by building, but typically include a building administrator, teachers, guidance personnel, specialists, and often the school psychologist. The IAT addresses academic as well as health, social-emotional and behavioral concerns.

Education of Students with Disabilities

The Westerville City Schools are required to identify all students with disabilities, ages 3 – 22, residing in the district. Pre-school and school age students with disabilities are to be provided FAPE, a Free Appropriate Public Education, as determined by the Individualized Education Program Team. Students are provided services in the regular classroom and regular school to the maximum extent appropriate.

“Student with a disability” means a student evaluated by a multi-disciplinary team, and found to require special education and related services as a result of one of the following disabling conditions: Autism, Cognitive Disability, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Visual Impairment. The multi-factored evaluation team includes both school personnel and parents/guardians. If you are aware of a child who may qualify as a “student with a disability,” please call the Office of Special Education at (614)797-5900.

OPT-OUT STUDENT NETWORK/INTERNET ACCESS

The Westerville City School District considers the use of the Internet to be a privilege, not a right, and grants all students the means to access e-mail and/or the Internet at school. The Board's

Internet connection is provided for educational purposes only. Unauthorized and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.

The Board has implemented technology protection measures, which protect against (e.g. block/filter) Internet access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or are harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of students in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication, and/or services on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes and/or that they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet. Students assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.

The Board has the right, at any time, to access, monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board's computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

STUDENT NETWORK/INTERNET OPT-OUT FORM

Please read and complete the following information and return this form **ONLY** if you wish to restrict or refuse access to the Internet for your student:

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines located on the WCS Board Docs website. I understand that student access to the Internet is designed for educational purposes and that the Board has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Board to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that may be found on the Internet and hereby request the following:

- I deny permission for my child to use and access the Internet at school.
- I deny permission for the Board to transmit "live" images of my child (as part of a group) over the Internet via a web cam through distance learning opportunities using Skype and similar technologies.

Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating this decision to my child.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Opt-out forms for students under the age of eighteen (18) must include both parent and student signatures.

Ref Board Policy # 7540.03 Rev. 2/6/2012 CRT
Ref Student Handbook

**WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
MIDDLE SCHOOL
POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS
Board Approved: June 29, 2015**

ACADEMIC EVALUATION

Grade reports are mailed at year end for all students.

The Middle School Grading System

The Board of Education believes that a reliable grading system for use throughout the school district is essential in order to provide for consistency in reporting the evaluation of student performance and to communicate performance information about students to the students themselves and to the parents or guardians of the students. The Board will approve a grading system for the schools. The Superintendent will develop specific administrative procedures for implementation of this policy. These procedures will be reviewed periodically to ensure that grading practices remain consistent with changes in the district's courses of study.

Students taking high school coursework while enrolled in middle school must understand that grades are calculated using the appropriate high school grading system for each individual course. This may impact the calculation of the student's grade point average. Questions pertaining to the calculation of a student's GPA, especially in the case of a student taking high school coursework, can be answered by the student's school counselor.

Standardized Numerical Grading System

The following standardized range of percentages must be used by all teachers when awarding grades:

NUMERICAL PERCENTAGE <u>POINT RANGE</u>	LETTER GRADE
98 - 100	A+
92 - 97	A
90 - 91	A-
88 - 89	B+
82 - 87	B
80 - 81	B-
78 - 79	C+
72 - 77	C
70 - 71	C-
68 - 69	D+
62 - 67	D
60 - 61	D-
0 - 59	F

Quality Range, Letter Grade Options, And Quality Points

<u>QUALITY RANGE</u>	<u>LETTER GRADE</u>	<u>QUALITY POINTS</u>
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	4.0
Above Average	B+	3.0
	B	3.0
	B-	3.0
Average	C+	2.0
	C	2.0
	C-	2.0
Below Average	D+	1.0
	D	1.0
	D-	1.0
Failing	F	.0

High School Credit/Courses

Middle school students who enroll in a course leading to high school credit should consult the high school student handbook section, Grading Systems, for grade point calculations.

Conferences

Parents/guardians are encouraged to arrange conferences with teachers, guidance personnel, or school administrators. A conference time may be arranged by calling the school and by making an appointment. Student led conferences are held in the fall for parents/guardians to see their child's academic progress and have the opportunity to meet the students' teachers.

Promotion Retention

The Board of Education recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It shall be the policy of the Board that each student is moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development.

Such pattern should coincide with the system of grade levels established by this Board and the academic content standards established for each.

A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when he/she has in the opinion of the professional staff, met the academic content standards set for the present grade or as set forth in **an alternative** learning plan, met State mandated requirements and demonstrated the capacity for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

A student may be placed at the next grade level when retention would no longer benefit the student.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for promotion, placement, and retention of students which:

- A. Require the recommendation of the relevant staff members for promotion, placement, or retention;

- B. Require that parents/guardians are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at a grade level in a language parents/guardians understand;
- C. Assure that efforts will be made to remediate the student's difficulties before s/he is retained;
- D. Require that a student be retained if s/he has failed at least two (2) courses of study (major subjects), unless the principal or his/her designee and the teachers of the failed subjects determine that the student is academically prepared to be promoted;
- E. Assign to the principal or his/her designee the final responsibility for determining the promotion, placement, or retention of each student.
- F. Provide parents/guardians the opportunity to request the promotion, placement, or retention of their child.
- G. Assure that documentary and anecdotal evidence should be available to justify retention.

ATTENDANCE

A. Absences – What to do

When a student is absent from school, parents/guardians must notify the school of the reason for the absence.

1. A parent/guardian should call the school as soon as possible to report the student's absence. If this is done, no note will be necessary when the student returns to school.
2. If the parent/guardian does not call, the office will make a reasonable attempt to call parents/guardians of students whose name appears on the daily absence list during the school day. If contact is made with the parent/guardian on the day of the absence, it will be recorded and no note will be necessary when the student returns to school.
3. If the parent/guardian has not called the school on the day of the absence and if the school has been unable to contact the parent/guardian on the day of the absence, the student must bring a written statement from home, signed by the parent or guardian, properly dated, stating the cause of the absence.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain an admit slip from the attendance office and to be in class on time. Be aware that other students will also require the attention of the attendance office personnel. Allow yourself enough time to obtain the necessary admit slip and to get to class on time.

Those students who are not contacted by the attendance office, whose parents/guardians did not call the school, or fail to bring a note, will have one school day after their return to school to excuse the absence. Students should bring a note from home or have the parent/guardian contact the attendance office. The student will be given a "late verification of absence" form which is to be shown to all class teachers. This will allow the student to complete any work missed during this period. Students failing to avail themselves of this opportunity will not be allowed to make up any work missed. This period of time will be marked as an unexcused absence.

B. Release For Appointments

If at all possible, the district encourages parents/guardians to schedule medical appointments outside of the school day. **IF** a school day appointment cannot be avoided, please observe the following guidelines prior to or on the day of the appointment:

Send a written note with your son/daughter to school explaining the appointment and the necessary sign-out time.

Students shall bring the note to the attendance clerk **before school**.

A dismissal slip to show the student's teacher at the time he/she is to be signed out from the attendance office will be given to the student.

Parents/guardian come to the office and sign out their son/daughter on the early dismissal list. Please be sure to bring a picture ID with you.

Please bring in "**Return to School**" notes from all doctors' appointments taking place during the school day. Medical notes from the doctor for appointments during the school day will result in the absence **not** counting toward the student's **10 days** of parent-excused, medical-related absences for the year. To ease the process parents/guardians and/or medical offices can **fax** notes/letters.

C. Withdrawals from School

If a parent/guardian wishes to withdraw their child, please report to the main office and fill out a *Student Withdrawal Form*.

COMMUNICATIONS

Announcements

All regular announcements will be made each morning over the public address system. In addition, the announcements are typed and posted on the bulletin board across the hall from the main office. Announcements are also on the school website (www.wcsoh.org).

Bicycles at School

The Board of Education regards the use of bicycles for travel to and from school by students as an assumption of responsibility on the part of those students – a responsibility in the care of property, in the observation of safety rules, and in the display of courtesy and consideration toward others. The Board will not be responsible for bicycles which are lost, stolen, or damaged. Bicycles that are ridden to school must be parked in the bicycle racks provided. There are a limited number of spaces and students are responsible for securing their bicycles in the racks. Locks are recommended.

Due to the already hazardous nature of our parking lot and driveways at school opening and dismissal, the personal use of skateboards, skates, scooters, or mopeds by students is prohibited.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Field Trips, Assemblies, School Activities

Each year students are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of field trips and assemblies. Special dress and behavior may be required for these events. Dress requirements will be announced ahead of time. At all special events, students are expected to comply with the Student Code of Conduct. Students who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior in school may be excluded from field trips, assemblies or other school activities.

Social Events Policy

Student sports, clubs, and other recreational activities provide excellent opportunities for students. As voluntary participants in school social events, students shall be held responsible for

compliance with rules set forth for their conduct, and infractions of those rules will be subject to the same disciplinary measures as are applied during the regular school program. In addition to rules outlined in this handbook, the following special rules apply to after school activities:

1. Students remaining after school to participate in extra-curricular activities must be with and under the supervision of a teacher or coach at all times.
2. Areas such as the faculty lounge and copy rooms are off limits at all times including evenings and weekends.
3. Those remaining after school as spectators for a sporting event or other activity must leave the building by 3:00 p.m. until the appropriate starting time of the event.
4. All athletic practices are closed to student observers except with the permission of the head coach.
5. Students must have their transportation arranged to pick them up as soon as possible after the conclusion of a meeting or event. It is not acceptable for students to remain at school more than 15-30 minutes after the end of an activity unless they have permission from the coach or advisor.
6. A specific school's social event is for that specific school's students only.
7. Students that violate the Code-of-Conduct or school rules during after-school activities may lose their privilege to participate or attend, as participation in school events is not a right and may be denied to any student who has demonstrated disregard for the rules of the school.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board approved Code of Student Conduct is located on the district website. Please review this so there is no misunderstanding as to what is considered acceptable school behavior.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Absences Affecting Participation In Extracurricular Activities

Unless a student is in attendance for at least one-half day, he/she may not participate in any after-school extracurricular activities.

Book Bags/Backpacks

Due to space limitations, students may not carry book bags, backpacks, or similar bulky items to the cafeteria during lunch

Diversion

The Westerville City Schools and the Westerville Police Department (WPD) cooperate in the enforcement of a voluntary Diversion Program. This program is open for juvenile students, who fall under the jurisdiction of the WPD, and must be for an offense over which the Juvenile Court has jurisdiction. Examples include but are not limited to: habitual truancy, theft, or disorderly conduct.

All involved parties must agree to the following terms of the Diversion agreement:

- A. Conference with the school administrator, School Resource Officer, participant and parent(s)/guardian(s) and other as deemed appropriate.
- B. Abide by the Juvenile Diversion Program Contract.
- C. Failure to comply with the terms of the Program Contract will result in the original juvenile charge(s) being filed.

A School Resource Officer is available in each middle school and can be contacted by calling your respective building.

Hall Passes

Students must carry and be prepared to present a pass from a staff member to be out of their assigned classroom during class time.

Personal Items

Students should not bring personal items not related to their education. There should be no distractions from the students' "job" – which is school.

Toys, trading cards, and games are examples of personal property not needed at school. These items will be confiscated and held in the office. Consequences will be assigned when items are used during school, when items cause a distraction at school, or if items are repeatedly confiscated.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Students and parents/guardians should refer to the Westerville City Schools District Policies, Procedures and Programs Code of Student Conduct, or building level student guidelines.

STUDENT SERVICES

Lockers

The Board of Education has provided school lockers for the purpose of providing students with convenient storage for clothing, books, and other articles necessary or convenient for students' use during the school day. Lockers must be emptied on or before the last day of school.

LOCKER SEARCH NOTICE - [OHIO REVISED CODE SEC. 3313.20B]

All lockers are property of the Westerville Schools Board of Education and are subject to search at any time.

Locker Security

- A. Do not share lockers.
- B. Do not give your lock combination to anyone, even your best friend.
- C. Lock your lock at all times.
- D. Keep only necessary items in your locker.
- E. If your lock or locker is not locking properly, report it to the main office or custodian as soon as possible.

Physical Education Lockers

These lockers are used to store P.E. clothes and to secure street clothes, books and personal belongings while students are participating in physical education class. Each student is required to purchase a combination lock. Students are to secure all of their property and school books in this locker during class.

The school is not responsible for missing and stolen property.

A uniform is required which consists of shorts, t-shirt, athletic socks and gym shoes. The physical education department sells t-shirts.

Study Halls

Study halls are arranged implicitly for the purpose in the name ... study. Students should come to the study hall prepared with books, notebooks, pens, paper, pencil, etc. Seats will be assigned by the study hall monitor. No student will leave the study hall without a permit/hall pass. Students must follow library procedures to be excused from the study hall to use the library. Failure to observe such procedures will be treated as a class cut.

Textbooks

The use of book covers is highly encouraged. Remember not to use book covers that “stick” to the entire surface of the book. Students are financially responsible for all books issued to them. (Many books now cost over \$50.00).

If the student is responsible for damaging the binding, a rebind fee will apply.

Every textbook has a unique barcode which is electronically scanned when assigned to your student. The books are again scanned at the end of the school year to assure that the same book assigned to your student is returned.

Wireless Communications And Entertainment Devices - Middle School Guidelines

During the school day, students shall be allowed to use their Wireless Communications/Entertainment Devices during their lunch period and during class change time ONLY. If students are using their Wireless Communications/Entertainment Devices during lunch, it should only be in the Commons area of the school. The district is not liable for loss of or damage to devices at any time.

Teachers may allow students to use Wireless Communications/Entertainment Devices during class instruction for educational purposes. Use of any form of a camera device is strictly prohibited in any situation in which there exists a reasonable expectation of personal privacy, (bathrooms, showers, locker rooms, etc.).

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the wireless communication device. Confiscated devices may be subject to search. Wireless Communications/Entertainment Devices can be held for an indefinite period of time if they are part of an on-going investigation by administration.

School administration may review Wireless Communications/Entertainment Device information to investigate violations of school policy.

The building principal or his/her designee may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| First Violation: | Student will be warned and reminded to put the device away. |
| Second Violation: | Device may be confiscated, turned into the office, and will be released to the student after the school day is complete. |
| Third Violation: | Device may be confiscated, turned into the office, and will only be released to a parent or guardian of the student. |
| Additional Violations: | Device may be confiscated, turned into the office, and will be released to a parent or guardian of the student after an assigned disciplinary consequence has been served. Students may lose the right to bring device(s) on campus. |

POLICY
WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Board Approved Revised June 29, 2015

PHILOSOPHY

The Westerville City School District Board of Education recognizes the use and abuse of chemicals among students is a serious problem. Research has shown that use of drugs and alcohol has harmful effects on students' mental, physical and emotional health. Research has also shown that tobacco is addictive and harmful to students' physical health. Therefore, the Board believes regulations for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs should be developed for all extracurricular participants while enrolled as students in any Westerville School. Further, the Board of Education expects that students use good judgment and not attend activities where alcohol and other drugs are present among peers.

The goal of the extracurricular program is to provide every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically and emotionally. A student participating in extracurricular activities is expected to conduct him/herself in a manner that reflects good citizenship and brings honor to him/herself, one's family, one's school and one's community, both in the classroom, on and off the performance stage or athletic field, as a member of a school club, during and out of season.

To assure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with rules and regulations concerning personal behavior and the laws that help govern a civilized society. Student extracurricular participants who engage in actions that are not consistent with this philosophy will lose their privilege to represent their school. Participation in extracurricular activities is not a right, but a privilege. In addition, all students who participate in extracurricular activities at any time must meet the following regulations during the school year and any season in all locations. Failure to comply with the regulations could jeopardize a student's entire extracurricular career.

This policy is in conjunction with the existing Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board.

ADMISSION TO SCHOOL EVENTS

The Ohio Capital Conference sets the cost of admission for athletic events each school year. Admission fees for theatre or other school activities are set by the individual club or other organization. Coordination among all Middle Schools and High Schools is encouraged.

A. Extracurricular Eligibility

The opportunity to represent Westerville City Schools in any extracurricular activity is a privilege. The final determination of eligibility rests with the school and/or the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The decision to allow for participation rests with the school and the coach/advisor of each activity. Any student is welcome to try out for an extracurricular activity if he/she meets the following criteria. The students must:

1. Be eligible under the Ohio High School Athletic Association rules and regulations, when applicable;
2. When required, present a current [Ohio High School Athletic Association Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form](#) including parent's signature, student's signature and signature of physician with date of last medical exam, and information necessary for the eligibility list;

3. Present completed data sheets, insurance and emergency forms; achieve a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 1.75 each quarter for the academic grading period immediately preceding participation in the activity; freshman in fall activities have no GPA minimum but (per OHSAA) must have passed a minimum of five (5) subjects carried during the 4th nine weeks of the 8th grade.
4. Maintain compliance with the District's Code of Student Conduct, this Code of Conduct for Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities and Tobacco/Drug/Alcohol Policies and Procedures;
5. Be in attendance at school at least ½ day on the day of the contest/event when the event occurs on a school day;
6. Maintain compliance with the eligibility requirements of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Non-Traditional Extracurricular Eligibility Guidelines

Students who are enrolled in non-traditional coursework that includes but is not limited to: online coursework for credit recovery or credit acceleration, and approved Credit Flex options, must meet all of the eligibility requirements of Westerville City Schools and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

1. A student may not use the "Test-Out" option for coursework to qualify for extracurricular participation.
2. Unless a definitive start and end date coinciding with the Board adopted grading periods for non-traditional coursework is established *before* the student begins coursework, the non-traditional course will be weighted with a multiplier of "1" in determining the equivalency needed for extracurricular eligibility. Non-traditional coursework with an established end date will use the corresponding OHSAA Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility to determine eligibility.
3. Prior to the start of the non-traditional coursework, the non-athletic extracurricular supervisor or athletic/activities director will establish appropriate progress to be measured at the end of the Board adopted grading period to determine eligibility. All eligibility plans must have final approval from the non-athletic extracurricular supervisor or athletic/activities director.
4. If the student completes the non-traditional course prior to the end of the grading period, regardless of the established end date (if applicable) for the course, the student may not count the coursework for eligibility purposes in the grading period after the course was completed.

B. Fees/Rules

Students must comply with this "Code of Conduct for Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities." For each activity, the head coach/advisor has a set of written rules. Copies of these rules will be distributed to each student. The student and the parents/guardians will sign the form to acknowledge awareness of the rules and the consequences of their infraction. A Pay-To-Participate (PTP) fee is required of all students selected for high school teams/clubs. The PTP fee must be paid by the tenth day of participation as established by the OHSAA, or the first activity date, where applicable. Students will be removed from the team/club/activity for lack of payment.

Awarding Of Letters

To be awarded a Westerville City Schools varsity letter, the recipient must meet at a minimum, all Ohio High School Athletic Association and Westerville City Schools eligibility standards.

Special accommodations will be made for athletes involved in the Westerville Special Olympics program.

Hazing

Hazing activities of any kind are prohibited at all times. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing. Hazing is defined as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions. See the school handbook (District Code of Student Conduct, Item 19) for additional information.

Loss of Extracurricular Activity Privileges

"Loss of extracurricular activity privileges" means the exclusion from some or all extracurricular activities in which a student is participating or eligible to participate. This exclusion will normally apply to practices, rehearsals, field trips, competitions and all other activities connected with the extracurricular activity (or activities) involved.

The loss of all extracurricular activity privileges automatically accompanies any suspension or expulsion. In addition, the loss of extracurricular activity privileges may be imposed as a separate disciplinary measure whether or not the student is being suspended or expelled. (See Section II, below)

Students who are in their first academic year in a WCS high school or middle school who are serving a suspension from participation, due to a code violation, will serve their suspension in their current/next activity. All other students who are serving a suspension from participation, due to a code violation, will not be permitted to serve their suspension by participating in an extracurricular activity for the first time.

Fund-Raising

All fund-raising projects must be approved by the principal or his/her designee.

Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use

Section I - Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy, these terms are defined as follows:

1. Alcohol - Any liquor, wine, beer or other substance which contains intoxicants.
2. Assistance Program - The student may be required to do one or more of the following:
 - a) Attend an intervention conference with the student assistance team. Parent or guardian involvement is strongly encouraged.
 - b) Follow the recommendations of the student assistance team;
 - c) Complete an assessment for possible chemical problems at an approved agency;
 - d) Complete the treatment program recommended by the evaluator;
3. Extracurricular Activities - Out-of-class pursuits which may, or may not be associated with a specific class, in which students enjoy freedom in selection and participation and carries no grade or academic credit.

4. Drugs - Any mood altering substance, including, but not limited to, illegal drugs, marijuana, inhalants, build-altering steroids, legal prescription and over-the-counter drugs used or possessed or distributed for unauthorized purposes, and counterfeit (look-alike) substances.
5. Mood-Altering Chemicals - This includes, without limitation, narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, counterfeit drugs, marijuana and prescription drugs, unless authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container, which container shall state the student's name and the directions for proper use.
6. Parent/Guardian - A "parent" means a student participant's parent unless the rights of the parents have been restricted by court order or legal agreement; guardian; or legal custodian.
7. Permanent Suspension - Remainder of student's academic life from extracurricular activities.
8. Appeal - A student may file a petition for re-entry into an extracurricular activity by submitting a written notice to the building principal or his/her designee. The notice shall include the violation, activity and necessary rationale for consideration.
9. Possession - Alcohol, tobacco, controlled substance (as defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 3719.01), or drug paraphernalia that is found physically on or in student's body, or physically within his/her property (for example: coat, backpack, car, locker, shared locker (etc.)).
10. School Year - The school year is defined as the first official day of school/season through the last official day of school/season as set forth by the Westerville Board of Education.
11. Season Length – Athletic activity seasons are defined as Fall, Winter, and Spring. Extra-curricular activity seasons are defined by each semester.
12. Self-referral - A self-referral, to the principal, athletic/activities director and/or the head coach/school activity advisor, is not to be used as a means of avoiding the consequences of a code violation. Code violations already reported or pending violations cannot be "self-referred". Students may self-refer only once during their school career (see Section II, Rules, Item #1, below). A self-referral must be reported the next school day after the occurrence. A student cannot be self-referred if police intervention has taken place.
 - a) A student may seek assistance from a school approved program for drug/alcohol problems. The Superintendent or designee will establish the necessary criteria for sanctioning of drug/alcohol programs.
 - b) Self-referrals will be considered for first violations. No reduction of season or activity will be assessed if the student agrees to follow the student assistance procedure.
 - c) Parent/guardian-referral or peer-referral may be treated as a self-referral.
 - d) If the student fails to complete the assistance and treatment, the penalty will be enforced in full.
 - e) Each self-referral will be evaluated and approved by the administrator. Approval will be based on the participants' past history and disciplinary record.
13. Substance Abuse - The use of drugs or alcohol in violation of local, state or federal law or in violation of school policy.

Section II- Disciplinary Procedures

Infraction Of Rules

1. When a student is in violation or suspected violation of any rule, the principal (designee) shall be notified.
2. The student may be temporarily removed from an activity by the principal/designee, athletic/activities director, coach or activity advisor responsible for supervision of that activity.
3. A review committee consisting of no less than the coach or advisor and the principal or his/her designee or other staff deemed appropriate will meet to investigate the violation. If the review committee feels action beyond temporary removal is warranted, the principal or designee shall inform the student and parent/guardian of the specific violation and possible penalty.
4. An informal hearing with the student will be held.
5. Violations shall be determined on the basis of significant and/or relevant evidence. In assessing evidence, the principal or his/her designee and/or the review committee may take any reasonable step which may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a) Investigating the alleged violation before holding hearings;
 - b) Verifying evidence essential to hearings;
 - c) Creating records of sources of evidence or verifications of evidence;
 - d) Consulting with any other personnel of the Westerville City School District.
6. The building principal/designee will inform the student and parents/guardian of the decision.
7. The decision may be appealed to the Superintendent or designee.
8. During an appeal, the student may practice but may not participate in any official activity pending the outcome of the hearing conducted by the Superintendent or designee. The decision of the Superintendent or designee is final.
9. Consequences will apply to all extracurricular activities the student participates in during the penalty period.

Section III- Rules with Prescribed Consequences

Participants will be advised by means of the student handbook/folder of all regulations prior to their participation so that each student may determine the feasibility of his/her participation.

To help achieve the personal commitment of participating students, each coach/advisor will explain this Extracurricular Activities Code of Conduct before the first contest /event.

- RULE I. No use, abuse, purchase, or possession of drugs or alcohol.
- RULE II. No transmission, attempted transmission or sale of drugs or alcohol.
- RULE III. No use, purchase, possession or transmission of tobacco in any form.

Students may be exempted from the use of drugs or alcohol in Rule 4 if parents/guardians present a written statement specifying their objection for religious convictions, medical reasons, or due to a handicapped condition. All exemptions must be approved by the Superintendent or designee.

1. All penalties to the above rules shall be cumulative to the last official school day within each of the following three (3) periods of academic life:
 - a) Grades K through 5;
 - b) Grades 6 through 8;
 - c) Grades 9 through 12.
2. Penalties may not be fulfilled concurrently.

SECTION IV- Penalties

RULE I. NO USE, ABUSE, PURCHASE, OR POSSESSION OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.

First Violation

1. A student who is in violation will be prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities for one (1) school year from the date of violation.
2. If the student who is in violation agrees to follow the drug/alcohol assistance program, or attend a school approved drug/alcohol evaluation and treatment program not funded by the Westerville City School District, the penalty will be reduced to twenty percent (20%) from the current or next occurring extracurricular activity or season as determined by the principal or his/her designee or athletic/activities director. For example, if the violation occurs the last week of a season or activity the penalty will continue throughout the existing season and into the next season or activity. The student may participate but not compete/perform with the team or group during the suspension. The principal or his/her designee will determine approval or disapproval of the student's plan for an assistance program.
3. If the student agrees to follow the drug/alcohol assistance program, he/she must submit to the athletic/activities director or principal or his/her designee evidence of:
 - a) Successful participation, as determined by the principal or his/her designee/ athletic/activities director, of the drug/alcohol assistance program or participation of a school-approved drug/alcohol rehabilitation or counseling program;
 - b) An ongoing commitment of non-drug/alcohol use.
4. In case of a self-referral the banquet, recognition and/or award consequence will be waived if the student has attended or made plans to attend the assistance program.
5. A student who is in violation may not be allowed to serve in any leadership positions for the current or next occurring extracurricular activity or season as determined by the principal. He/she may not be permitted to attend an awards banquet/ceremony. The participant may not receive any awards, letters, or recognition for his/her participation in the current season or next season, if not currently participating in an extracurricular activity.

Second Violation

1. A student who is in violation of Rule 4 on a second occasion or in combination for a second time will be prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities for one (1) calendar year from the date of violation.
2. If the student agrees to follow the drug/alcohol assistance program or attend a school approved drug/alcohol evaluation and treatment program not funded by the Westerville City School District, the penalty will be reduced to fifty percent (50%) from the current or next occurring extracurricular activity or season. After the penalty period, the student may petition, to the principal, for a hearing to return to participation. The student will not participate nor travel with the team or group during the period of the suspension.
3. The student must meet with the review committee and a member (or members) of the student assistance team, providing evidence of:
 - a) Successful completion (or continued participation) in a school-approved drug/alcohol rehabilitation or counseling program;
 - b) An ongoing commitment of non-drug/alcohol use.
4. The review committee will recommend approval or disapproval of the petition, which may include further requirements (such as participation with a peer support or another approved drug and alcohol aftercare agency or counseling program).
5. A student who is in violation will not be allowed to serve in any leadership positions for one year. He/she will not be permitted to attend an awards banquet/ceremony, nor will the student receive any awards, letters or recognition for his/her participation in the current season or next season if not currently participating in an extracurricular activity.

Third Violation

1. The Superintendent or designee may enforce a permanent suspension from participation in extracurricular activities for the remainder of a student's academic career. The Superintendent's and/or designee's decision is final.

RULE II. NO TRANSMISSION, ATTEMPTED TRANSMISSION OR SALE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.

First Violation

1. The student who is in violation will be prohibited from participation in all extracurricular activities for one (1) calendar year from the date of violation.
2. If the student who is in violation agrees to follow the drug/alcohol assistance program or attend a school approved drug/alcohol evaluation and treatment program not funded by the Westerville City School District, the penalty will be reduced to fifty percent (50%) from the current or next occurring extracurricular activity or season. After the penalty period, the student may petition, to the principal or his/her designee and athletic/activities director, for a hearing to return to participation. The student will not participate nor travel with the team or group during the period of the suspension.
3. The student must meet with the review committee and a member (or members) of the assistance team, providing evidence of:
 - a) successful completion (or continued participation) in a school approved drug rehabilitation or counseling program;

- b) an ongoing commitment of non-drug use.
- 4. The review committee will recommend approval or disapproval of the petition, which may include further requirements (such as participation with a peer support or other approved drug and alcohol aftercare agency or counseling program).
- 5. In case of a self-referral, the banquet, recognition and award consequence will be waived if the student has attended or made plans to attend the assistance program.
- 6. A student who is in violation will not be allowed to serve in any leadership positions for one year. He/she will not be permitted to attend an awards banquet/ceremony, nor will the student receive any awards, letters, or recognition for his/her participation in an extracurricular activity.

Second Violation

- 1. The Superintendent or designee may enforce a permanent suspension from participation in extracurricular activities for the remainder of a student's academic life. The Superintendent's and/or designee's decision is final.

RULE III. NO USE, PURCHASE OR POSSESSION OF TOBACCO IN ANY FORM.

First Violation

- 1. A student who is in violation will be prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities for 20% of all the events from the date of the violation.
- 2. The penalty will be held in abeyance if:
 - a) The student agrees to participate in a tobacco education program approved by the school principal or his/her designee. Refusal or failure to complete the program will result in application of the full penalty. The student may participate, compete/perform and travel with the team or group during the suspension.

Second Violation

- 1. The penalty shall be 40% prohibition of participation, reduced to 20% if the student followed the above reduction requirements. The student may participate and travel, but not compete or perform with the team or group during the suspension.

Third or more Violations

- 1. The Superintendent or designee may prohibit the student from participation in fifty (50%) of the current and/or next occurring extracurricular activity. After the penalty period, the student may practice/participate and travel with the team or group during the suspension.

**EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT
RULES AND PENALTY MATRIX**

	1ST VIOLATION	1ST VIOLATION WITH AP	2ND VIOLATION	2ND VIOLATION WITH AP	3RD VIOLATION
RULE I No use, abuse, purchase or possession of drugs or alcohol.	RC 1 Year (12 months) suspension from all extracurricular activities.	P Reduction to 20% of current or following season.	RC 1 Year (12 months) suspension from all extracurricular activities.	P Reduction of 50% of current or following season.	RC Possible suspension for remainder of academic life.
RULE II No transmission, attempted transmission or sale of drugs or alcohol.	RC 1 Year (12 months) suspension from all extracurricular activities.	P Reduction of 50% of current or following season.	RC Possible suspension for remainder of academic life.		
RULE III No use, possession or transmission of tobacco in any form.	RC 20% reduction of season from all extracurricular activities.	P Reduction of season in abeyance.	RC 40% reduction of season.	P 20% reduction of season.	RC Reduction of 50% of current or following season.

RC = Determined by the Review Committee P = Determined by the Principal Program AP = Assistance

A student who is in violation may not be allowed to serve in any leadership positions for one year. He/she may not be permitted to attend an awards banquet/ceremony, nor may the student receive awards, letters, or recognition for his/her participation in the current season or next season if not currently participating in an extracurricular activity.