

# Student Handbook

## West Allegheny Elementary Schools



Donaldson, McKee, Wilson  
2023-2024



August 21, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of a West Allegheny Elementary Student:

Welcome back to the 2023-2024 school year! We are so glad that your scholar will be with us each and every day!

In this handbook, you will find information that will help you get to know our schools a little better. You will find documents that will outline procedures that are in place in the building as well as district level policies that we ask you to review with your students.

2023-2024 will be a very exciting school year. All of our schools are proud of the progress that our students continue to make. Part of what makes our elementary schools so special is the emphasis that we place on CARE; you will see and hear students talking about activities that encompass Connections and Culture, Awareness, Relationships, and Extra Support. This year, we will focus on **#WhAteverittakes** to continue to build school cultures that support and uplift each child and family.

We are here to work together and help you with any questions or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of assistance.

Here is to a great school year!

Dr. Dierker, Mrs. Wagner, and Dr. Gray

# West Allegheny School District Framework for Academic Excellence

## Our Mission

The mission of the West Allegheny School District, a leader in quality education, is to ensure each student acquires the necessary knowledge and skills to be a responsible citizen, prepared for life-long learning and employment; this is accomplished by providing meaningful and personally challenging learning experiences within a safe, nurturing environment in partnership with family and community.

## Our Vision

The West Allegheny School District will create a learning environment in which students maximize their potential and achieve success in a cooperative partnership with students, parents, staff, administration, and community through a positive, supportive, caring climate which promote the dignity of all individuals.

## Shared Values

- Quality education is essential to sustain our democratic society.
- Education benefits people throughout their lives.
- Every person is valuable and worthy of respect. All people can and want to learn.
- Quality education is a shared responsibility among students, family, school, and community.
- Higher expectations lead to higher performance.
- Family support provides a strong foundation for individual learning.
- Each individual is unique and capable of reaching higher levels of performance given the proper conditions.



# WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2023 - 2024 School Calendar

### 2023

|                       |                    |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| August 17, 18, 21, 22 | Thursday - Tuesday | Teacher Inservice/Clerical Days (8/17 & 8/18 Act 80 Days) |
| August 23             | Wednesday          | First Day of School for Students                          |
| September 4           | Monday             | NO SCHOOL - Labor Day                                     |
| September 19          | Tuesday            | High School Open House                                    |
| September 21          | Thursday           | Elementary Open House                                     |
| September 28          | Thursday           | Middle School Open House                                  |
| October 9             | Monday             | NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice Day (Act 80 Day)            |
| October 27            | Friday             | 1/2 Day Dismissal - PM Clerical Day                       |
| November 2            | Thursday           | 1/2 Day Dismissal - 1/2 Teacher Conference Day            |
| November 3            | Friday             | NO SCHOOL K-12 - Teacher Conference Day (Act 80 Day)      |
| November 22           | Wednesday          | 1/2 Day Dismissal - PM Clerical Day                       |
| November 23 - 27      | Thursday - Monday  | NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break                            |
| December 22           | Friday             | 1/2 Day Dismissal - PM Clerical Day                       |
| December 25-29        | Monday - Friday    | NO SCHOOL - Winter Break                                  |

### 2024

|               |                    |   |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| January 1     | Monday             | NO SCHOOL - Winter Break  |
| January 15    | Monday             | NO SCHOOL - 1/2 Clerical - 1/2 Teacher Inservice                              |
| March 25 - 29 | Monday - Friday    | NO SCHOOL - Spring Break  |
| April 1       | Monday             | NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice/Clerical Day                                    |
| April 12      | Friday             | 1/2 Day Dismissal - 1/2 Teacher Conference Day                                |
| May 27        | Monday             | NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day  |
| May 30        | Thursday           | Last Day Students Grade 12 - Graduation Commencement                          |
| May 31        | Friday             | 1/2 Day Dismissal - Last Day - Students Grades K-11<br>Commencement Rain Date |
| June 3 - 5    | Monday - Wednesday | Teacher Clerical / Inservice Days   |

|  |
|--|
| 1/2 Day Dismissals - 10/27/2023, 11/2/2023, 11/22/2023, 12/22/2023, 4/12/2024, 5/31/2024<br>11:25 a.m. (secondary) and 12:20 p.m. (elementary) |
|--|

|   |
|---|
| 9-Week End Dates -10/27/2023, 1/12/2024, 3/22/2024, 5/31/2024<br>Report Card Issue Dates - 11/1/2023, 1/19/2024, 4/5/2024, 6/6/2024 |
|---|

### INSTRUCTIONAL DAY INFORMATION

Student Days - 183

Teacher Days - equivalent to 196 days

Clerical 6.5 days - Professional Learning 5.5 Days

# WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2023 - 2024 School Year Calendar

| JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S    | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|      |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2    | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16   | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23   | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30   | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| AUGUST |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S      | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|        |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6      | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13     | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20     | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27     | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |

| SEPTEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|           |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3         | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10        | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17        | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24        | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| OCTOBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 1       | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8       | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15      | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22      | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29      | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| NOVEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5        | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12       | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19       | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26       | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

| DECEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3        | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10       | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17       | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24       | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| JANUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|         | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7       | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14      | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21      | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28      | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| FEBRUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4        | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11       | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18       | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25       | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |    |

| MARCH |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|       |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3     | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10    | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17    | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24    | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| APRIL |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|       | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7     | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14    | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21    | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28    | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

| MAY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S   | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|     |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5   | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12  | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19  | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26  | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

| JUNE |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S    | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|      |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2    | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16   | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23   | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30   |    |    |    |    |    |    |

- = No School
- = 1/2 Day Dismissal - 11:25 a.m. (secondary) and 12:20 p.m. (elementary)
- = District Shutdown
- = Open House (High School 9/19/2023 - Elementary 9/21/2023 - Middle School 9/28/2023)
- = End of 9-weeks
- = Report Cards Issued
- = Teacher Inservice/Clerical
- = Floating Professional Learning/Clerical
- = Teacher Conference Day
- = Act 80 Days
- = Commencement Ceremony
- = Last Day Students Early Dismissal - 11:25 p.m. (secondary) and 12:20 p.m. (elementary)

**DONALDSON ELEMENTARY STAFF**  
**2023/2024**

**PRINCIPAL**

*Dr. Erin Dierker*

**SECRETARY**

*Mrs. Laurie Rosso*

**CLERK**

*Mrs. Jean Borgo*

**NURSE**

*Mrs. Linda Hart*

**GUIDANCE/SOCIAL  
WORKER**

*Mrs. Kristen Tracy*

**KINDERGARTEN**

*Mrs. Sara Augustin*

*Mrs. Becky Claus*

*Mrs. Holly Smith*

*Mrs. Nikki Zdinak*

**FIRST GRADE**

*Mrs. Amy Mackey*

*Mrs. Shelley Murphy*

*Mrs. Lisa Rukas*

*Mrs. Amber Werling*

**SECOND GRADE**

*Mrs. Ruth Bouwers*

*Ms. Diane Ordich*

*Mrs. Denise Stitch*

*Mrs. Courtney Stone*

**THIRD GRADE**

*Mrs. Lisa Barr*

*Mrs. Amy Boesenberg*

*Mr. Bob DeMario*

*Mrs. Tanya Sekelik*

**FOURTH GRADE**

*Mr. Taylor Cavalovitch*

*Mr. Mitch Deller*

*Mrs. Jennifer Farrar*

*Mrs. Lynanne Shaffer*

**FIFTH GRADE**

*Mrs. Janet Burke*

*Mrs. Debra Hamilton*

*Mrs. Tiffany Mangan*

*Mrs. Lyndy Stout*

**LEARNING SUPPORT**

*Mrs. Lisa Panucci*

*Miss Emily Quinn*

*Mrs. Kristina Trozzi*

**LITERACY SPECIALIST**

*Ms. Michelle Bateman*

**ACADEMIC COACH**

*Dr. Kim Buser*

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

*Mrs. Meagan Bruno*

*Mr. Darren Humbert*

**PHYS. ED/SWIM**

*Mr. Matt DeChicko*

**ART**

*Mrs. Emma Popp*

**LIBRARY**

*Mrs. Beth Schultz*

**SPEECH**

*Mrs. Julie Vukovcan*

**TECHNOLOGY**

*Mrs. Leah Vestal*

**PARAPROFESSIONALS**

*Mrs. Robin Gardocki*

*Mrs. Vimala Hari*

*Mrs. Kristen Konieczny*

*Mrs. Dawn Stang*

**SWIM AIDE**

*Mrs. Anna Merhaut*

**CAFETERIA AIDES**

*Mrs. Heather Carter*

*Mrs. Julie Heufelder*

*Mrs. Brenda Quasey*

**CAFETERIA**

*Mrs. Kristin Delisio*

*Mrs. Gina Hendrick*

*Mrs. Stephanie Santucci*

**CUSTODIANS**

*Mr. James D'Amico*

*Mr. Wallace Darbous*

*Mr. Dan Fedorka*

*Mrs. Kerrie Zorey*

**RESOURCE OFFICER**

*Officer Lonnie Lamb*

**MCKEE ELEMENTARY STAFF  
2023 – 2024**

**PRINCIPAL**

*Mrs. Melissa Wagner*

**SECRETARY**

*Mrs. Renee Bollman*

**CLERK**

*Mrs. Barb Kelly*

**NURSE**

*Mrs. Carolyn Stultz*

**KINDERGARTEN**

*Mrs. Marianne Bertocchi*

*Mrs. Chris Pratt*

*Mrs. Kristen Orndoff*

*Miss Erica Conoscuito*

**FIRST GRADE**

*Mrs. Tami Derrick*

*Mr. Thomas Hamm*

*Miss Marissa McKee*

*Mrs. Megan Napoleone*

**SECOND GRADE**

*Mrs. Kristin Burdick*

*Mrs. Chrisanne Canovali*

*Mrs. Shara Shook*

*Mrs. Debbie Stockhausen*

**THIRD GRADE**

*Mrs. Renae Castelluci*

*Mrs. Brandie Short*

*Mrs. Julie Bisceglia*

**FOURTH GRADE**

*Miss Deirdre Conway*

*Miss Journie Crutchman*

*Mrs. Nicole Schumacher*

*Miss Olivia Pasquino*

**FIFTH GRADE**

*Ms. Tammy Chicarello*

*Mrs. Gwen Fuccy*

*Mrs. Kelly Mancuso*

*Mrs. Michelle Murray*

**COUNSELOR**

*Mrs. Jessica Denk*

**LEARNING SUPPORT**

*Mrs. Lisa Wensell (K/1/2)*

*Mrs. Hannah Nohe (K/1/2)*

*Heidi Kennedy (ES)*

*Mr. Scott Robbins (3/4/5)*

**LITERACY**

**SPECIALISTS**

*Mrs. Kirsten Davis*

*Mrs. Nicole Miller*

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

*Mrs. Ashley Tomaceski*

*Mrs. Taiylor Baumgardner*

**PHYS. ED. /SWIMMING**

*Mrs. Melissa Taranto*

**ART DEPARTMENT**

*Mrs. Claire March*

**LIBRARY**

*Mrs. Dana Bacu*

**TECHNOLOGY**

*Mrs. Kimberly Dawson*

**SPEECH**

*Mrs. Karen Machusko*

**PARAPROFESSIONAL**

*Mrs. Karen Fittipaldo*

*Mrs. Leanne Kocuba*

*Mrs. Kathy Krull*

*Mrs. Cassandra Prevade*

*Mrs. Amanda Rutkauskas*

*Mrs. Lisa Steward*

**CAFETERIA**

*Mrs. Michelle Beuchat*

*Mrs. Cheryl McBurney*

*Mrs. Michelle Ruffa*

**ESL**

*Mrs. Christiana Butler*

**LUNCH AIDES**

*Mrs. Angie Ciammaichella*

*Mrs. Vicky Lauff*

*Mrs. Melissa McCready*

**CUSTODIAL**

*Mr. Adam Haley*

*Mrs. Tammy Kandracs*

*Mr. Timothy Opfermann*

## **WILSON ELEMENTARY STAFF**

### **2023 – 2024**

#### **PRINCIPAL**

*Dr. Rachel Gray*

#### **SECRETARY**

*Mrs. Michele Nolte*

#### **CLERK**

*Mrs. Amanda DeFazio*

#### **NURSE**

*Mrs. Michelle Psaros*

#### **KINDERGARTEN**

*Mrs. Christine LaGrosse*

*Ms. Carolyn Stout*

*Mrs. Kelsey Zombek*

*(Ms. Avery Naleppa)*

*Miss Kylie Martin*

#### **FIRST GRADE**

*Mrs. Becky Barney*

*Mrs. Becky Kropf*

*Mrs. Jessica Cala*

*Mrs. Rebekah Tomazich*

*Ms. Catherine Liebrock*

#### **SECOND GRADE**

*Mrs. Kelly Britton*

*Mrs. Kim Eater*

*Mrs. Angie Morrison*

*Ms. Molly Cornelius*

#### **THIRD GRADE**

*Mr. Bob Meehan*

*Dr. Kristin Kobert*

*Mrs. Julie Dennis*

*Mrs. Karen Frech*

#### **FOURTH GRADE**

*Ms. Lisa Meehan*

*Mrs. Brianna Halfhill*

*Mrs. Liz Saras*

*Mrs. Samantha Sepesy*

#### **FIFTH GRADE**

*Miss Victoria DiCenzo*

*Ms. Tania DeSilva*

*Mr. Jim Muraco*

*Mrs. Brittney Kuhn*

#### **SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

*Mrs. Kathy Taylor*

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF**

*Mrs. Kelsey Hemley*

*Ms. Bryanne Michaels*

*Ms. Jen Rogers*

*Ms. Amie Schwartzmiller*

*Mrs. Tawnya*

*Weidinger(MTSS)*

#### **LITERACY SPECIALIST**

*Mrs. Kristin Martin*

#### **SPEECH**

*Mrs. Lauren Boyle*

#### **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

*Mr. Darren Humbert*

*Mrs. Laura Jack*

#### **PHYS. ED./SWIMMING**

*Mrs. Lisa Shultz*

#### **SWIM AIDE**

*Mrs. Anna Merhaut*

#### **ART DEPARTMENT**

*Mrs. Brittney Counihan*

#### **LIBRARY**

*Mrs. Beth McMullen*

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

*Ms. Renee Caruso*

#### **FAMILY LINKS**

*Miss Sara Kaempf*

#### **PARAPROFESSIONALS**

*Mrs. Laura Atkinson*

*Mrs. Sarah Dischinger*

*Mrs. Renee Gillpatrick*

*Mrs. Renee Greer*

*Mrs. Lindsie Grega*

*Mrs. Jamie Holmes*

*Mrs. Nicolle Martin*

*Mrs. Amy Oberg*

*Mrs. Rose Ourada*

*Mrs. Renee Patterson*

*Mrs. Mary Ann Russo*

*Mrs. Elaine Vattimo*

#### **CAFETERIA**

*Mrs. Dana Hannah*

*Mrs. Christie Dorste*

*Mrs. Jodie Messner*

#### **LUNCH AIDES**

*Mrs. Stefanie Gardner*

*Ms. Denise Lacek*

*Mrs. Crista Swartz*

#### **CUSTODIAL**

*Mrs. Lisa Hufnagel*

*Mr. Zach Rose*

*Mr. Bill Suchar*

#### **Resource Officer**

*Mike Johnson*



# The Elementary School Day

## **SCHOOL DAY- Arrival and Dismissal**

The school day for students begins at 8:20 am and ends at 3:20 pm. Students are encouraged and able to eat a healthy breakfast here at school. Students who eat breakfast at school should go directly to the cafeteria in the morning for the grab and go breakfast option. End of day bus dismissal and car pickup will start at 3:20 pm, following afternoon announcements.

| <b>West Allegheny Elementary Schools<br/>Daily Schedule</b>                 |             |                     |
|---|-------------|---------------------|
| <b>Doors Open</b>   | 8:20        |                     |
| 1   | 8:40-9:20   |                     |
| 2   | 9:25-10:05  |                     |
| 3   | 10:10-10:50 |                     |
| 4   | 10:55-11:35 | First Lunch Period  |
| 5   | 11:40-12:20 | Second Lunch Period |
| 6   | 12:20-1:00  | Third Lunch Period  |
| 7   | 1:05-1:45   |                     |
| 8   | 1:50-2:30   |                     |
| 9   | 2:35-3:15   |                     |
| <b>West Allegheny Elementary Schools<br/>Daily Schedule- Early Release</b>  |             |                     |
| <b>Doors Open</b>   | 8:20        |                     |
| 1   | 8:40-9:00   |                     |
| 2   | 9:00-9:20   |                     |
| 3   | 9:20-9:40   |                     |
| 7   | 9:40-10:00  |                     |
| 8   | 10:00-10:20 |                     |
| 4   | 10:24-10:54 | First Lunch Period  |
| 5   | 10:54-11:24 | Second Lunch Period |
| 6   | 11:24-11:54 | Third Lunch Period  |
| 9   | 11:54-12:20 |                     |
| <b>West Allegheny Elementary Schools<br/>Daily Schedule- Two Hour Delay</b> |             |                     |
| <b>Doors Open</b>   | 10:25       |                     |
| 1   | 10:40-10:50 |                     |
| 4   | 10:55-11:35 | First Lunch Period  |
| 5   | 11:40-12:20 | Second Lunch Period |
| 6   | 12:20-1:00  | Third Lunch Period  |
| 7   | 1:05-1:45   |                     |
| 8   | 1:50-2:30   |                     |
| 9   | 2:35-3:15   |                     |

## **ATTENDANCE AND ABSENTEEISM**

We know how important school attendance is as we realize that if students are not in school, they are not learning. Our goal is to have each student in attendance 95% of the time. However, in the event that a student is not going to be in school on a given day, parents/guardians are asked to call the school Absentee Call-Off Line as soon as possible the evening before or that morning, preferably by 9:00am.

**Donaldson 724 213-1013**

**McKee 724 695-5264**

**Wilson 724 695-1548**

By law, students must return to school with a written note from the parent/guardian explaining the reason and date of the absence. The principal or school guidance counselor will notify parent/guardian when a student's absence is unlawful under those Attendance Laws. Failure to bring a note explaining absence within 3 days will result in absence being marked unexcused/illegal. If a student is expected to be absent for more than three days, parents/guardians are asked to call the school. A note to the teacher is also required for a student's early dismissal due to family or medical concerns. Attendance patterns established at the elementary level can carry over to the middle and high school years.

## **EARLY RELEASE**

If your child has an Early Release from school, please send in a note or email the classroom teacher and school clerk to inform the school about the date, time, and nature of the early release.

## **HEALTH GUIDELINES**

1. All parents must have on file at the school: their home telephone number, their business number and an alternate adult's. It is also recommended that an up-to-date email address be provided. Also, please list your doctor's phone number and hospital preference. Completed emergency information forms must be returned immediately to your child's homeroom teacher.
2. Students must be fever, vomiting, and diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school.
3. No medication will be administered in school except by the direct order of a physician.
4. Any medication found on a student without the above order will not be given to the child.
5. Any child falling and bumping his/her head may be taken home by the parent/guardian for observation and/or necessary action.
6. Only injuries occurring on school property during school hours will be given first aid. Injuries occurring elsewhere must be taken care of by the parents/guardians.
7. Parents/guardians or their designee are responsible for picking up their children when they are sick or injured at school.
8. Serious emergency cases will be handled:
  - a. Emergency transportation will be made to a medical care facility.
  - b. Parents/guardians will be contacted.

# **Academic Information**

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework provides opportunities for students to prepare for, practice, apply, integrate, enrich, and extend school learning; to effectively use school/community resources; and to develop self-discipline. Teachers assess homework according to district guidelines. Students are responsible for completing assignments according to the teacher's established criteria.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Guidance** – In all elementary buildings, a school counselor is available to provide support to students. Students may be referred to the counselor by the administration, classroom teacher or parent. The counselor addresses many issues including attendance, social and/or emotional issues, etc. Do not hesitate to contact the school should you have questions about your child's growth.

**Literacy Specialists/Reading Clinics – Students are involved with What I Need (WIN) to address strengths and growth areas.** Programming occurs based on screenings.

Some students not meeting benchmarks may be referred to participate in Reading Clinics for more support. These clinics are meant to focus on specific literacy skills.

**Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)** is a framework that helps educators provide academic and behavioral strategies for students with various needs. Each elementary building has a team led by an MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) Coordinator that meets with teachers and parents to determine the proper interventions and create a plan to support students in the classroom and school setting. Students not making adequate academic progress through this process may be referred for additional assessment or support. Contact your school principal should you have more questions.

## **PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports)**

PBIS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. It is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom behavior support systems. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. Rather than a prescribed program, PBIS provides systems for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide, classroom, non-classroom, and student specific plans. PBIS includes school-wide procedures and processes intended for all students and all staff in all settings. PBIS is not a program or a curriculum. It is a team-based process for systemic problem solving, planning, and evaluation. It is an approach to creating a safe and productive learning environment where teachers can teach, and all students can learn.

## COMPUTER AND NETWORK INFORMATION RESOURCES

Our elementary schools are proud to offer 1-1 technology for our students. Kindergarten students will be assigned iPads, and students in grades 1-5 will be assigned a Chromebook. This device should travel back and forth with students and should be charged nightly. It is important that these devices only be used for school purposes, and families are encouraged to purchase device insurance to protect the investment in the event of a loss or damage.



**DEVICE LOANS:** If a student forgets their device or needs to borrow a charger, they may do so once per semester. The building clerk will track these requests. Any need to borrow technology past one time will be handled with school-based disciplinary consequences.

### CANVAS

The West Allegheny School District utilizes CANVAS as its learning management system (LMS). Students will have access to their teacher's content and class materials in this online portal. Parents also can view materials and coursework, including grades, through the interactive platform. Parents will be invited, as viewers, to their class pages via email. Students will have direct access to Canvas via their school issued iPad or Chromebook.

### SKYWARD

Skyward is the tool that we use to report student homeroom assignments, schedules, and report cards for each nine-week marking period. Parents are able to access their student's information through their Skyward account. Skyward is also where all parent contact information is housed. Parents should check to ensure that phone numbers and email addresses are up – to – date and accurate.

### WA FACEBOOK

The district maintains an active presence on Facebook. Families are encouraged to like and follow the page for valuable information and updates.

### WA HELPDESK

As instruction and learning increasingly move into the digital space, West Allegheny School District is committed to providing a secure digital environment for students. Each District-provided student device comes with management software and pre-configured settings to ensure security and a safe web experience. Security updates are routinely deployed to keep apps up-to-date, and cloud-based web filtering prevents access to inappropriate websites in school and at home. These features are also compatible with home web filtering solutions offered by internet providers, such as Comcast and Verizon, for families who want additional control over web content while in the household. For more information, feel free to reach out to the Technology Department at [wahelpdesk@westasd.org](mailto:wahelpdesk@westasd.org)

### WA WEBSITE

The West Allegheny School District website at <http://westasd.org> provides useful information regarding district events and initiatives as well as links to Donaldson, McKee, Wilson, the Middle School, and High School. Parents are also encouraged to take advantage of the Skyalert texting service and the recently launched West Allegheny App. Parents can expect school - based communications through Constant Contact. Constant Contact will also be used to communicate important district happenings and updates. It is crucial that parents ensure


their most current email address is on file with the school through Skyward. Please contact the school secretary if there are questions about how to update email accounts.

## DISTRIBUTION OF INVITATIONS, FLYERS, AND OTHER MATERIALS

The West Allegheny School District has guidelines for the distribution of flyers, informational materials, etc. through the school. These guidelines may be obtained through the administration office by calling 724 695-3422.

Parents are asked not to have students distribute invitations of any type at school. The only time invitations will be distributed is if the student's ENTIRE class will receive one. This type of activity causes a classroom disruption. Please distribute invitations to parties or special events outside of the school day.

## SCHOOL MESSENGER

 **SCHOOLMESSENGER®**

The Trusted Platform  
for School Community Engagement

---

### Parents and Guardians

**You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service**

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number:


For **CANADA-BASED** numbers: 978338  
For **US-BASED** numbers: 61569 (see next page for QR code)

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".


SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

For **US-BASED** numbers:

**Opt-In from your mobile now!**



**Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 61569.**  
(For US-based numbers).



\*if your number is Canada-based.

Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:  
SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students may be asked to have certain school supplies, and a teacher may communicate that need. These are not mandatory requests. Should you not be able to supply something, please just let the teacher know. Students are responsible for materials that the school loans them. If lost, they must be replaced. These materials include textbooks, calculators, devices, and all book materials borrowed from the library. Student ID's are also the responsibility of students and should remain at school. The cost of a replacement ID is \$5.00 and must be paid before a new ID is issued.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips may be offered as an extension of learning outside the school setting. When a field trip is being planned, the teacher will give a permission form to take home for parents' approval. This will include information on the designation, times, and any costs. The student MUST return

the permission form to go on the trip. Parents/guardians **MUST** provide insurance information for a student to participate in a field trip. If a student is not insured, please contact the school and we can provide information related to the option to purchase insurance coverage.

## **EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

Federal law permits the school district to disclose personally identifiable information in the student's educational records to "school officials with legitimate educational interests." School officials can include persons employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including, but not limited to transportation personnel,) or a person, agency, or company with whom the district has contracted or otherwise arranged to perform a special task or service. Such individuals have legitimate educational interest if they need to review an educational record to fulfill their professional and/or official responsibility. A legitimate educational interest may also exist when the staff member or other individuals working directly with a student need to review records to increase their awareness of steps necessary for the safety and welfare of the student.

## **General Information**

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Students often lose their personal belongings. When found, the lost items are placed in a common area at each school. Students who report a lost item should check the lost and found area first. Exceptions to this are jewelry, eyeglasses, keys and monies, which are turned into the office.

### **FIRE, WEATHER and EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Fire drills are held monthly during every school year. Evacuation routes are posted in each classroom, and school employees have attended training related to crisis situations. In addition, a weather drill is held each spring as part of state regulations. Other drills may be held in coordination with the school resource officer and the local law enforcement agencies.

### **SCHOOL DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS**

Inclement weather or unusual circumstances occasionally necessitate a delayed opening of school or a cancellation. Parents will be notified through the automated notification system of delays, cancellations, etc. Parents and students are urged **NOT TO CALL THE SCHOOLS**. School personnel do not arrive before 7:30 am, particularly in bad weather. Calling the school for delay/cancellation information causes unnecessary congestion on the phone lines, which are needed to handle emergencies, related to the circumstances.

Please remember that poor weather may impact bus transportation. If, after a 20-30-minute wait at the bus stop with no bus arrival, students can return home. An absence note is required to be given to the teacher upon return the next day so that the absence is excused. Students may be dismissed early due to an emergency or weather situation. Parents will be notified through the Skylert notification system of weather-related early dismissals. Develop a plan if this should happen.

### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

Each WA school building is supported by a School Resource Officer (SRO) in partnership with the police department in its corresponding township. School Resource Officers are specifically trained to provide safety and response to each school building. Duties of the School Resource



Officers include hosting informational sessions on various health and safety related topics, delinquency prevention, school security, and law enforcement, when necessary.

## **VISITORS**

West Allegheny School District utilizes the Raptor Visitor Management System. The system is intended to maximize operational efficiency, which aligns with Priority 3 of our Framework for Excellence: Financial Responsibility and Operational Efficiency, *Ensure Effectiveness of Crisis-Safety Response and Emergency Operations Plan*. Raptor verifies the identity of visitors, checks their status against national and local databases, and issues photo identification. These precautions are yet another layer used to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

When entering a District school/office, all visitors must present a valid state- or government-issued ID, which will be scanned into the Raptor system. Upon reading the information, Raptor will check the national database to identify sex offenders and a District database for individuals involved in Protection from Abuse (PFA) and custody orders. It is important to note that the Raptor System only scans the visitor's name, date of birth and photo. Additional visitor data from the driver's license is not gathered. The Raptor System is not connected to any other system like the Department of Motor Vehicles. Therefore, any other information connected to the visitor's driver's license is not accessible to any of the users. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor and includes a photo, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit. This photo ID should be visible throughout the visit and should be returned to the office when the visitor leaves.

## **HEALTHY SNACK GUIDELINES**

West Allegheny School District understands the important link between health and academic performance, and we are working to encourage healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school day. By starting these healthy habits early in life, we can help reduce our children's health risks and increase their chances for longer, healthier lives.

In alignment with Federal Meal Guidelines, schools participating in the School Nutrition Incentive Program are required to follow specific guidelines for classroom parties.

Smart 'healthy' snack guidelines are as follows:

- \*Must be under 200 calories
- \*Must be under 200mg of sodium per serving
- \*Minimal or no trans fats (zero grams)
- \*First ingredient must be whole grain, fruit, or a vegetable

Suggested options:

**Snacks:** Baked Chips, Baked Cheetos, Whole Grain Pretzels, Whole Grain Goldfish, Whole Grain Rice Krispie Treats, Fruit Snack (sliced apples, carrots, oranges, etc), Cereal Bars, Sunchip Mix

**Drinks:** Water (with or without carbonation), unflavored low fat or fat free milk, 100% fruit or vegetable juice

## **School Day Celebrations:**

During school – sponsored celebrations such as Halloween, Holiday, Valentine’s Day, or other PTA – sponsored events during the school day, edible items **MUST BE** prepackaged

\*Edible items served during the school day must follow the Smart Snack Guidelines.

\*Edible items that do not follow the Smart Snack Guidelines are not to be eaten at school and must be taken home.

## **Birthdays:**

To promote health and wellness while being mindful of our students with food sensitivities and allergies, we are requiring that non-edible items be provided when celebrating birthdays in the classroom. Non-edible items may include pencils, erasers, fidget spinners, bookmarks, stickers, party favors etc...

## **Evening Events:**

Smart Snack Guidelines **DO NOT** apply to school or PTA sponsored events held in the evening. Special catering through our Food Service Department is available with pricing provided upon request.

## **TOYS and PERSONAL ITEMS**

Toys or electronics are not allowed in school unless approved by a teacher or principal.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cell/smart phones, eBooks, eTablets, smart watches, with internet/texting capabilities (see discipline procedures below)
- Handheld electronic games
- Sports balls (football, baseball, tennis balls, super balls, etc...)
- Baseball mitts
- Marbles
- Laser pens
- Chains on clothing
- Sports cards/trading cards
- Yoyo’s
- Beads for necklaces, rubber bands for bracelets
- Key chains (on backpacks)
- Any other items that are socially popular or the newest fad

## **Procedures for Personal Electronic Devices (PED)**

(K-8) All personal electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, ear pods, smart watches, tablets, etc. must be silenced and kept in lockers. Personal electronic devices must be **“Silenced and Away”** in lockers unless permitted for educational purposes at the discretion of the teacher only. West Allegheny is not responsible for any loss or damage to PED’s brought to school.



Improper use and/or unauthorized possession of personal electronic devices will result in the following consequences:

**First Offense:** The PED will be confiscated by a teacher, and the student will pick-up the PED in the office at the end of the day. The teacher will notify the parent and administration.

**Second Offense:** The PED will be confiscated by a teacher, and the parent will pick-up the PED in the office at the end of the day. The student will serve an after-school detention.

**Third Offense:** The PED will be confiscated by a teacher, and the parent will pick-up the PED in the office at the end of the day. The student will serve one day of ISS

**Additional Offenses:** Additional offenses will follow progressive discipline in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

\*\*\*As with any policy violation, any mitigating and/or aggravating circumstances may alter the consequence for each violation in alignment with the Code of Conduct.

## **FOOD SERVICES**

Nutrition Inc.

Lindsay Castracane (lcastracane@westasd.org)

Phone: 724 695-5254

Fax: 724 695-8690

With health, fitness, and nutrition as major factors in student success the West Allegheny Food Service Department prioritizes these essentials in both its daily menu planning and online information resources. Serving healthy meals involves constant attention to the types of foods offered, an appropriate balance from the five food groups, food preparation methods, fat, sugar, and sodium levels, calorie content, and presentation.

West Allegheny has made it faster and easier for parents to apply for free and reduced meals. This free service enables families to receive program benefits faster than using a paper application. Your application is electronically submitted directly to the Nutrition Office.

[www.paschoolmeals.com/Register.aspx](http://www.paschoolmeals.com/Register.aspx)

### **WHERE WEST ALLEGHENY PARENTS CAN VIEW CHILDREN'S FOOD CHOICES ONLINE**

Parents of West Allegheny students can see exactly what their children are eating at school each day through the district's Internet-based service called School-Café.com.

- ❖ Remotely monitor your child's or children's cafeteria account balance and purchases
- ❖ Make one-time online payments anytime, anywhere
- ❖ Set up hassle-free automatic payment for each child
- ❖ Set up low balance email reminders

To enroll or learn more about School Café, please visit [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com)

### **MEAL PRICES**

Breakfast \$1.10

Lunch \$ 2.75

# TRANSPORTATION



## **West Allegheny School District – Transportation Guidelines and Expectations**

The West Allegheny School District Administration recognizes that safety is paramount in transportation. The administration is committed to working with the Board of Education, parents, students, principals, drivers and staff to maintain a safe and orderly environment. The following guidelines are in place to ensure positive and safe passage to and from school and school sponsored events.

Transportation to and from school is a privilege. Abuse of this privilege may result in loss of transportation to and from school. When you lose your transportation privileges, you cannot ride a bus owned by the Monark Bus Company and contracted by the West Allegheny School District during the time of suspension.

Video camera systems with audio capability are installed on the Monark Transportation School Buses. The information from these tapes can be used to determine disciplinary action. The cameras on buses and vans are to help ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Special education students will be subject to the same disciplinary procedures, including suspensions from riding the bus as regular education students unless otherwise noted in the student's IEP. The IEP will be reviewed to be sure that there are not any special circumstances that would warrant alternative forms of discipline, especially when a bus suspension is under consideration.

It is to be understood that in the event of a bus suspension, the student is still required to attend school and any absence during the suspension without a valid written excuse will result in school officials following the standard school truancy policy.

### Delay or Closing of Schools

The Transportation Department could be impacted by several variables during the winter weather season. The main factor for a delay or cancellation decision is weather conditions, but other factors do play a part.

The following are the steps that the department uses to make a recommendation for a delay or cancellation:

1. Weather conditions and local radar are monitored to determine the time and duration of snowfall. The temperature and wind chill are also considered.
2. Early morning checks of the roads are conducted. Typically starting at 4:00am, a sampling of township and state roads are driven to check road conditions.
3. Township and state road crews' status of snow removal and road treatment is monitored to determine what the road conditions will be like during student pickup hours.

The Superintendent makes the decision to delay or cancel school based on the data collected in the previously stated steps. Students and staff are notified via the district's mass phone

notification system. Additionally, local media outlets are notified, and the West Allegheny Website and Facebook accounts are updated.

**The following are expectations all drivers are expected to follow in operating a bus in the West Allegheny School District:**

1. Drivers will greet all students as they enter and exit the bus in a pleasant and welcoming manner.
2. Drivers will assign all students an area or seat on the bus and set expectations for students to sit in assigned seats or areas.
3. Drivers will maintain focus on student safety and not engage in distracting behavior including but not limited to cell phone usage.
4. Drivers will maintain open lines of communication with teachers, administrators and the Monark Transportation administration in regard to the safety, security and behavior of all students.
5. Drivers will act in a professional manner at all times when interacting with students, parents, staff members and administrators.

**The following are expectations all administrators are expected to follow in supporting the safe operations of district transportation:**

1. Administrators and/or their designees will reinforce seating arrangements on all buses.
2. Administrators and/or their designees will enforce all school and school bus safety rules when made aware of a violation.
3. Administrators and/or their designees will maintain open lines of communication with bus drivers, Monark Transportation administration and District Office Administration in regard to transportation related issues.
4. Administrators and/or their designees will request and review video from any bus violation that reaches level three or higher in the transportation guidelines and expectations.

**The following are expectations all students are expected to adhere to during transportation to and from school:**

1. Students will sit in their assigned area or seat and face forward at all times. No standing is permitted while the bus is in motion.
2. Students will keep hands, feet and personal belongings to themselves and out of the bus aisle.
3. Students will wait their turn to enter and exit the bus at the stop for which they are assigned.
4. Students will use appropriate language, tone and volume when speaking on the bus.
5. Students will be respectful of all other students and the driver while on the bus and at the bus stop.
6. Students will not eat or drink on the bus.
7. Students will not play loud or distracting music on the bus.

**Parents can contribute to the efficient and safe transportation of their children in the following ways:**

1. Ensure that students are at their designated bus stop at least five (5) minutes prior to bus arrival time. Drivers are not required to wait for children as all children further down the route would then be forced to wait that much longer.
2. Ensure students stay off the roadway at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. Ensure students cross in front of the bus when crossing the road or highway.
4. Ensure students wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and red lights are flashing before attempting to enter or leave the bus.
5. Ensure special items and projects are transported by parents to school rather than on the bus due to space and safety consideration.
6. Ensure students do not chase after a bus.
7. Ensure students are orderly while awaiting the bus.
8. Ensure that the bus stop is safe and maintained.
9. Ensure that if driving students to the bus stop you do not interfere with the traffic patterns of the bus.

**The district stance is that all students should ride their assigned bus to and from school.**

*NOTE: In case of the need for an **emergency** bus change, a note from a parent must be submitted to the office for approval. **This does not guarantee that approval will be granted.** If approval is given, the student will receive a bus pass to give to the bus driver. Students must submit the note to the office first thing in the morning in order to arrange for this change.*

# Transportation Code of Conduct

*Misbehaviors and interventions are categorized across four levels based on seriousness/frequency of occurrence.*

## LEVEL I

Level I offenses include minor misbehaviors on the part of the student, which are disruptive and impede or interfere with the orderly and safe operation of the school bus. These misbehaviors are expected to be addressed by the bus driver who observes the incident, but may require the intervention of an administrator. An accurate record of the offense, corrective and intervention supports, and disciplinary action must be maintained by the bus driver. Repeated instances of Level I behavior, despite redirection or intervention, may constitute a violation at a higher level with referral to the appropriate building administrator.

### **Examples of Level I Violations Including but not *Limited to*:**

- Disrespectful actions of language towards peers, adults, and/or property
- Inappropriate and/or profane language or gesture not directed at others
- Not following bus driver directions
- Inappropriate tone or volume when speaking on the bus (yelling and screaming)
- Standing up or moving seat-to-seat
- Unauthorized use of electronic devices
- Distracting loud music or noises
- Eating or drinking on the bus
- Leaving trash on the bus
- Students seated out of assigned seat or area

### **Examples of Level I Consequences Including but not *Limited to*:**

- Verbal redirection
- Special assigned seat
- Referral to building administration
- Timely parent notification  
(by phone & documented in writing)
- Behavior contract

## LEVEL II

Level II offenses are misbehaviors whose frequency or seriousness disrupt the safe operation of the school bus. These infractions can result from the continuation of Level I misbehaviors and/or include new offenses. The consequences are serious enough to require disciplinary action taken by administrative personnel.

### **Examples of Level II Violations Including but not *Limited to*:**

- Repeated Level I Violations or Level I with aggravating circumstances
- Verbal/non-verbal flagrant disrespect toward bus drivers or other students
- Agitating/instigating comments between students
- Horseplay
- Use of obscene language/gestures toward others
- Pushing, shoving or tripping other students in line
- Intentionally distracting the bus driver
- Inappropriate misuse of technology (videotaping other students)
- Intentionally boarding an unassigned bus
- Exiting the bus at an unassigned stop

### **Examples of Level II Consequences Including but not *Limited to*:**

- Verbal redirection
- Special assigned seat
- Referral to building administration
- Detention
- In-School suspension
- Out-of-School suspension
- 1-3 day bus suspension
- Parent notification and possible conference
- Referral to SAP
- Withdrawal of privileges and/or participation in school activities
- Written reprimand
- Behavior contract

## LEVEL III

Level III offenses are acts whose frequency or seriousness impact the safety of students and staff and are directed against persons or properties. These misbehaviors could endanger the health and safety the individual or other individuals.

### **Examples of Level III Violations Including but not *Limited to*:**

- Repeated Level II Violations or Level II with aggravating circumstances
- Vandalism (less than \$100) or Petty theft (less than \$100)
- Disorderly conduct
- Major disruption on the bus caused by the use of smoke/stink bombs, fireworks, ect.
- Fighting, harassment, threatening comments simple assault, hazing
- Act or acts of discrimination and/or intimidating behaviors intended to demean another person
- Bullying/Cyber-bullying
- Sexual harassment
- Possession of pornography or other illegal material, sexting
- Use/possession of drugs and/or alcohol, look-alike, and/or paraphernalia (non-distribution amount)
- Use/possession of tobacco and/or related products, look-alike products (2<sup>nd</sup> offense)
- Throwing items out of the bus window
- Throwing items at other people on the bus
- Hanging out the bus window

#### **Examples of Level III Consequences Including but not *Limited to*:**

- Up to a 10-day bus suspension
- Up to a 10-day suspension
- Law enforcement/charges
- Due Process
- Restitution
- Referral to SAP
- Parent Conference
- Activity Restriction (example include: school sponsored trips, dances, commencement exercises, etc.

### **LEVEL IV**

Level IV offenses pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of others. These criminal acts always require administrative actions and may require the removal of the student from district transportation and/or school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and possible action by the West Allegheny School Board.

#### **Examples of Level IV Violations Including but not *Limited to*:**

- Repeated Level III Violations or Level III with aggravating circumstances
- Possession of a weapon or look-alike weapon of any kind on school property including school sponsored event and transportation to or from school
- Arson or attempted arson
- Tampering with security/safety equipment and/or driving instruments
- Commission of criminal felony on the school bus

- Aggravated assault or sexual assault
- Distribution of pornography (including but not limited to child pornography)
- Distribution and/or intent to sell drug, alcohol, paraphernalia, or look-alike substances
- Vandalism and/or theft over \$100
- Possession/use of explosive devices

**Examples of Level IV Consequences Including but not *Limited to*:**

- Removal from district transportation
- Out of School Suspension
- Alternative Education Placement
- Restitution
- Expulsion
- Superintendent's hearing
- School Board of Directors' hearing
- Involvement of law enforcement with potential for criminal charges
- Applicable Level III consequences
- Activity restriction (examples include: school sponsored trips, dances, commencement exercises, etc.



# **West Allegheny School District**

## **Code of Conduct for School Based Offenses**

## West Allegheny School District - School Code of Conduct

West Allegheny School District believes that it is essential for our schools to provide a safe and supportive atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Students must be able to work together and to accept and share responsibilities. While discipline begins in the home, the school provides reinforcement and continued opportunity for students to learn self-discipline and behaviors appropriate for becoming responsible citizens and living productively in our society.

West Allegheny's approach to student discipline is corrective and intended to modify the inappropriate behavior. Maintaining appropriate standards of discipline in the West Allegheny School District is essential to the establishment of a safe and orderly educational environment where students can learn. The Student Code of Conduct will be interpreted by the administration and their designees in a manner which they deem just, given the circumstances of the individual case. **Additionally, students must understand that administrators shall have the authority to enforce other reasonable disciplinary actions which they find warranted by situations not covered specifically (including limiting student participation/attendance in extracurricular school-based events/special assemblies/programs aimed at rewarding positive student effort and performance).**

Discipline issues arise for a variety of reasons and in varying degrees of frequency and severity. The general sequence presented here is not intended to be rigidly followed. The actual sequence of disciplinary action may vary depending on the individual case and the process will be initiated at the step deemed appropriate. In general, these steps are followed:

1. Teacher and student address issue
2. Teacher and parent/guardian address issue
3. Teacher, counselor, parent/guardian and/or student meet to address issue
4. Principal, parent/guardian, student, and other school personnel are involved to address issue
5. School officials, parent/guardian, student, and social service agencies are involved to address issue
6. An administrative review occurs with the principal
7. A superintendent's review occurs with the administrative staff, the superintendent or designee
8. School Board hearing

Misbehaviors and their interventions are categorized across four levels according to degree of seriousness and frequency of occurrence. Each school may have additional guidelines for student behavioral expectations as part of a positive behavior intervention and incentive system.

## West Allegheny School District - School Code of Conduct

### Level I

Level I offenses include minor misbehaviors on the part of the student which are disruptive and impede classroom procedures and learning or that interfere with the orderly and safe operation of the school. These misbehaviors are expected to be addressed by the individual teacher or staff member who observes the incident but may require the intervention of an administrator. An accurate record of the offense, corrective and intervention supports, and disciplinary action must be maintained by the teacher or staff member. Repeated instances of Level I behavior, despite redirection or intervention, may constitute a violation at a higher level with referral to an administrator.

#### *Examples of Level I Violations Including but not Limited to:*

- Disrespectful actions or language towards peers, adults, and/or property
- Classroom disruptions and violations of classroom procedures established by the teacher, which may include tardiness to class, disruptive behavior, failure/refusal to follow directives
- Disruptive behavior in common areas (e.g., hallways, cafeteria, playground)
- Minor dress code violations
- Lack of cooperation with staff (verbal/non-verbal)
- Failure or refusal to comply with adult directives
- Inappropriate and/or profane language or gesture not directed at others
- Untruthful or deceptive behavior to school personnel
- Violation of Academic Integrity Policy (refer to Academic Integrity Policy), cheating, plagiarism
- Misuse or unauthorized use of electronic devices
- Refusal to engage in academic learning activities
- Inhibiting other students' learning process

#### *Examples of Level I Consequences Including but not Limited to:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Timely parent notification (by phone &amp; documented in writing)</li><li>• Verbal redirection</li><li>• Special assignment</li><li>• Behavior contract</li><li>• Confiscation of electronic device</li><li>• Mediation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent/Student/Teacher conference</li><li>• Loss of classroom privilege</li><li>• Classroom meeting</li><li>• Referral to school counselor</li><li>• Change of classroom seating</li><li>• Teacher assigned detention</li><li>• Student conference</li></ul> |
|---|--|

## West Allegheny School District - School Code of Conduct

### Level II

Level II offenses are misbehaviors whose frequency or seriousness disrupts the learning climate of the school and/or classroom. These infractions can result from the continuation of Level I misbehaviors and/or include new offenses. The educational consequences are serious enough to require disciplinary action taken by administrative personnel. Repeated or more serious instances of misbehavior at this level raise the offense to a higher level.

#### *Examples of Level II Violations Including but not Limited to:*

- Repeated Level I Violations or Level I with aggravating circumstances
- Failure to complete assigned Level I discipline
- Major dress code violation or repeated violations
- Minor disruption in school such as horse playing, play fighting, verbal altercation, etc.
- Failure to properly identify oneself to teachers and/or staff
- Falsification of documents, statements, and/or misrepresentation of parent/guardian
- Loitering in an unauthorized area
- Failure to attend class, leaving class without authorization, presence in unauthorized areas
- Leaving school without authorization
- Verbal/non-verbal flagrant disrespect toward teachers and staff
- Agitating/instigating comments between students
- Use of obscene language/gestures toward others
- Possession of matches, lighters
- Use/possession of tobacco and/or related products, look alike products (first offense)
- Use/possession of vapes, vaping materials and/or related products, look alike products (first offense)

#### *Examples of Level II Consequences Including but not Limited to:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detention</li><li>• In School Suspension</li><li>• Out of School Suspension</li><li>• Temporary removal of driving privileges</li><li>• Verbal and written reprimand</li><li>• Behavior contract</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent notification and possible conference</li><li>• Referral to SAP</li><li>• Withdrawal of privileges and/or participation in school activities</li><li>• Loss of driving privileges</li></ul> |
|--|---|

## West Allegheny School District - School Code of Conduct

### Level III

Level III offenses are acts whose frequency or seriousness disrupt the learning climate of the school and are directed against persons or properties. These misbehaviors could endanger the health and safety of those in the school.

#### *Examples of Level III Violations Including but not Limited to:*

Repeated Level II Violations or Level II with aggravating circumstances

- Failure to complete assigned Level II discipline
- Vandalism (Less than \$100) or Petty theft (less than \$100)
- Trespassing on school property
- Disorderly conduct
- Major disruption of school such as smoke/stink bombs, fireworks, etc.
- Fighting, harassment, threatening comments, simple assault, hazing
- Act or acts of discrimination and/or intimidating behaviors intended to demean another person
- Bullying/Cyber-bullying
- Refusal to leave school property when directed to do so
- Sexual misconduct, indecent exposure
- Sexual harassment
- Student demonstrations that result in disruption to the school
- Violation of the Acceptable Use Policy (refer to Acceptable Use Policy)
- Truancy
- Possession of pornography or other illegal material, sexting
- Use/possession of drugs and or alcohol, look-alikes, and/or paraphernalia (non-distribution amount)
- Use/possession of regulated and/or non-regulated THC (non-distribution amount)
- Use/possession of tobacco and/or related products, look alike products (2<sup>nd</sup> offense)
- Use/possession of vapes, vaping materials and/or related products, look alike products (2<sup>nd</sup> offense)

#### *Examples of Level III Consequences Including but not Limited to:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to 10-day suspension</li><li>• Law enforcement/charges</li><li>• Due Process</li><li>• Restitution</li><li>• Truancy citation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Referral to SAP</li><li>• Parent Conference</li><li>• Activity Restriction (examples include: school sponsored trips, dances, commencement exercises, etc.)</li></ul> |
|--|---|

## West Allegheny School District - School Code of Conduct

### Level IV

Level IV offenses disrupt the learning climate of the school by posing a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of others in the school. These criminal acts always require administrative actions and may require the removal of the student from school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and possible action by the West Allegheny School Board.

#### *Examples of Level IV Violations Including but not Limited to:*

- Repeated Level III Violations or Level III with aggravating circumstances
- Failure to complete assigned Level III discipline
- Possession of a weapon or look-alike weapon of any kind on school property including school sponsored events and transportation to or from school
- Bomb threat or causing a false alarm
- Arson or attempted arson
- Tampering with security/safety equipment and/or technology systems
- Terroristic threats or acts
- Commission of a criminal felony on school property or at a school sponsored event
- Aggravated assault
- Sexual assault (a student convicted/adjudicated will not be educated within the same school as the victim for the duration of their educational career)
- Distribution of pornography (including but not limited to child pornography)
- Distribution and/or intent to sell drugs, alcohol, paraphernalia, or look-alike substances
- Distribution and/or intent to sell regulated and/or non-regulated THC
- Vandalism and/or theft over \$100
- Burglary of school property
- Possession/use of explosive devices
- Misconduct off campus: If any of the above acts occur off campus, a student is subject to expulsion if the victim is a student or school employee and there is a reasonable basis to believe that the continued presence of the student demonstrates a clear threat to the safety of the victims or others in the school environment.

#### *Examples of Level IV Consequences Including but not Limited to:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Out of School Suspension</li><li>• Alternative Education Placement</li><li>• Restitution</li><li>• Expulsion</li><li>• Superintendent's hearing</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Board of Directors' hearing</li><li>• Involvement of law enforcement with potential for criminal charges</li><li>• Applicable Level III consequences</li><li>• Activity restriction (examples include: school sponsored trips, dances, commencement exercises, etc.)</li></ul> |
|---|---|

# **School District Policies**

## **Explanation of School Based Consequences:**

**Lunch Detention:** This consequence can be assigned by teacher or administrator for Level One offenses including lack of cooperation, disrespect to an adult, rough play, work refusal. Parents will be contacted by the teacher or administrator to inform them of the detention date.

**After School Detention:** This consequence can be assigned by teacher or administrator for Level One offenses (school and bus) including but not limited to: continuation of repeated Level One behaviors that a warning or lunch detention did not correct. Parents will be contacted by the teacher or administrator to inform them of the detention date. If a student willfully does not serve the assigned detention, the detention will be reassigned. Additionally, the student will be subject to further disciplinary actions. After school detention will run on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:30 –4:30 PM. Parents are responsible for transportation.

**In School Suspension:** This consequence is administrator assigned and used in repeated Level One or Level Two offenses. Students assigned to an In School Suspension for the day are expected to complete their class assignments in the office and will not be able participate in their classroom or school-wide activities for the day. Parents will be contacted by the school administrator to discuss the infraction and resulting suspension.

**Out of School Suspension:** This consequence is administrator assigned when progressive disciplinary measures have not been successful in correcting a repeated infraction or the action is severe enough to warrant out of school measures. Parents will be contacted by the school administrator to discuss the infraction and resulting suspension. Students serving an Out of School Suspension may not be on the school grounds or participate in after school activities on the days they are suspended.

School Attendance  
Dress Code  
Bullying  
Technology Policy  
Personal Device  
Information Notice  
Homebound Instruction  
Homeless Policy  
Drugs and Alcohol  
Smoking  
Weapons  
Sexual Harassment

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The Board believes there is a strong correlation between regular school attendance and academic success. The Board supports a comprehensive approach to identifying and addressing attendance issues.

Attendance shall be required of all students during the days and hours that school is in session, except that authorized district staff may excuse a student for temporary absences upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of mental, physical, or other urgent reasons that may reasonably cause the student's absence.

The Board shall establish and enforce attendance requirements, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, Board policy and administrative regulations.

Compulsory school age shall mean the period of a child's life from the time the child's parents/guardians elect to have the child enter school, and which shall be no later than six years of age until the child reaches eighteen years of age. The term does not include a child who holds a certificate of graduation from a regularly accredited, licensed, registered or approved high school.

Habitually truant shall mean six (6) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a child subject to compulsory school attendance.

Truant shall mean having incurred three (3) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a child subject to compulsory school attendance.

Person in parental relation shall mean a:

1. Custodial biological or adoptive parent.
2. Noncustodial biological or adoptive parent.
3. Guardian of the person of a child.
4. Person with whom a child lives and who is acting in a parental role of a child. This definition shall not include any county agency or person acting as an agent of the county agency in the jurisdiction of a dependent child as defined by law.

School-based or community-based attendance improvement program shall mean a program designed to improve school attendance by seeking to identify and address the underlying reasons for a child's absences. The term may include an educational assignment in an alternative education program, provided the program does not include a program for disruptive youth established pursuant to Article XIX-C of the Pennsylvania Public School Code.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians, staff, local children and youth agency, and local Magisterial District Judges about the district's attendance policy by publishing such policy in student handbooks, district website and other efficient communication methods.

The Superintendent or designee, in coordination with the:

- Building Administrator
- Attendance Office
- Home or School Visitor
- Student Services Representative



shall be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations for the attendance of students which:

1. Govern the maintenance of attendance records in accordance with law.
2. Detail the process for submission of requests and excuses for student absences.
3. Detail the process for written notices, School Attendance Improvement Conferences, School Attendance Improvement Plans, and referrals to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program, the local children and youth agency, or the appropriate judge.
4. Clarify the district's responsibility for collaboration with nonpublic schools in the enforcement of compulsory school attendance requirements.
5. Ensure that students legally absent have an opportunity to make up work.

### Compulsory School Attendance Requirements

All students of compulsory school age who reside in the district shall be subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements.

A student shall be considered in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board; the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction, or health or therapeutic services; the student is engaged in an approved and properly supervised independent study, work-study or career education program; or the student is receiving approved homebound instruction.

The following students shall be excused from the requirements of attendance at district schools, upon request and with the required approval:

1. On certification by a physician or submission of other satisfactory evidence and on approval of the Department of Education, children who are unable to attend school or apply themselves to study for mental, physical or other reasons that preclude regular attendance.
2. Students enrolled in nonpublic or private schools in which the subjects and activities prescribed by law are taught.
3. Students attending college who are also enrolled part-time in district schools.
4. Students attending a home education program or private tutoring in accordance with law.
5. Students fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) years of age whose enrollment in private trade or business schools has been approved.
6. Students fifteen (15) years of age, and fourteen (14) years of age who have completed the highest elementary grade, engaged in farm work or private domestic service under duly issued permits.
7. Students sixteen (16) years of age regularly engaged in useful and lawful employment during the school session and holding a valid employment certificate. Regularly engaged means 35 or more hours per week of employment.

## Excused/Lawful Absence

For purposes of this policy, the following conditions or situations constitute reasonable cause for absences from school:

1. Illness, including if a student is dismissed by designated district staff during school hours for health-related reasons.
2. Obtaining professional health care or therapy service rendered by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts in any state, commonwealth or territory.
3. Quarantine.
4. Family emergency.
5. Recovery from accident.
6. Homebound Instruction. A child of school age enrolled in the public schools who is homebound and unable to attend the public schools as determined by a medical examination, and who is receiving approved homebound instruction or instruction in the home, shall be counted for attendance purposes as if in regular school attendance. During the time such homebound student is able to receive instruction in the home, the District or intermediate unit or both shall provide such homebound instruction or instruction in the home.
7. Required court attendance.
8. Death in family.
9. Participation in a project sponsored by a statewide or countywide 4-H, FFA or combined 4-H and FFA group, upon prior written request.
10. Participation in a musical performance in conjunction with a national veterans' organization or incorporated unit, as defined by law, for an event or funeral.
  - a. The national veterans' organization or incorporated unit must provide the student with a signed excuse, which shall include the date, location and time of the event or funeral.
  - b. The student shall furnish the signed excuse to the district prior to being excused from school.
11. Observance of a religious holiday observed by bona fide religious group, upon prior written request from the person in parental relation.
12. Non-school sponsored educational tours or trips, if the following conditions are met:
  - a. The parent/guardian submits a written request for excusal at least one week prior to the absence.
  - b. The student's participation has been approved by the Superintendent or designee.
  - c. The adult directing and supervising tours or trips is acceptable to the parents/guardians and the Superintendent.
  - d. Educational trips are to equal no more than five (5) days in a school year. International educational trips may be given consideration for up to ten (10) days in a school year. In addition, trips will not be approved during state standardized testing periods. Trips also will not be approved for any student who has incurred ten (10) or more absences.
13. College or postsecondary institution visit, with prior approval.
14. Other urgent reasons. Urgent reasons shall be strictly construed and do not permit irregular attendance.

The district may limit the number and duration of non-school sponsored educational tours or trips and college or postsecondary institution visits for which excused absences may be granted to a student during the school year.

NOTE: The Superintendent or designee may require a written statement signed by the state licensed health care practitioner stating the time of the student's appointment.

## Tardiness to School –

Students who are tardy to school shall report directly to the appropriate school office. The student will be issued a pass to report to class. Failure to report to school office will result in an illegal/unexcused absence for the entire day. A maximum of ten (10) instances of excused tardiness will be accepted every school year.

At the secondary level, upon accumulation of three (3) instances of unexcused tardiness, a warning will be given to the student and parent/guardian. A detention will be assigned to the student after four (4) instances of unexcused tardiness. Detention will continue to be assigned for each subsequent, unexcused tardy.

## Temporary Excusals –

The following students may be temporarily excused from the requirements of attendance at district schools:

1. Students receiving tutorial instruction in a field not offered in the district's curricula from a properly qualified tutor approved by the Superintendent, when the excusal does not interfere with the student's regular program of studies.
2. Students participating in a religious instruction program, if the following conditions are met:
  - a) The person in parental relation submits a written request for excusal. The request shall identify and describe the instruction, and the dates and hours of instruction.
  - b) The student shall not miss more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year in order to attend classes for religious instruction.
  - c) Following each absence, the parent/guardian shall submit a statement attesting that the student attended the instruction, and the dates and hours of attendance.

## Parental Notice of Absence –

Absences shall be treated as unlawful until the district receives a written excuse explaining the absence to be submitted within five (5) days of absence.

A maximum of eight (8) days of cumulative lawful absences verified by parental notification shall be permitted during a school year. All absences beyond eight (8) cumulative days shall require an excuse from a licensed practitioner of the healing arts.

Medical excuses are required for absences of five (5) or more consecutive days.

## Unexcused/Unlawful Absence

For purposes of this policy, absences which do not meet the criteria indicated above shall be considered an unexcused/unlawful absence.

An out-of-school suspension may not be considered an unexcused absence.

Students who miss ten (10) consecutive days may be dropped from the active membership role unless the school is provided with evidence the excuse is legal or the school is pursuing compulsory attendance prosecution.

District staff shall provide notice to the person in parental relation upon a student being dropped from the active membership role.

### Enforcement of Compulsory Attendance Requirements

#### Student is Truant –

When a student has been absent for three (3) days during the current school year without a lawful excuse, district staff shall provide notice to the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student within ten (10) school days of the student's third unexcused absence.

The notice shall:

1. Be in the mode and language of communication preferred by the person in parental relation;
2. Include a description of the consequences if the student becomes habitually truant; and
3. When transmitted to a person who is not the biological or adoptive parent, also be provided to the child's biological or adoptive parent, if the parent's mailing address is on file with the school and the parent is not precluded from receiving the information by court order.
4. The notice may include the offer of a School Attendance Improvement Conference.

If the student incurs three (3) additional unexcused absences after issuance of the notice and a School Attendance Improvement Conference was not previously held, district staff shall hold a School Attendance Improvement Conference.

#### School Attendance Improvement Conference –

District staff shall notify the person in parental relation in writing and by telephone of the date and time of the School Attendance Improvement Conference.

The purpose of the School Attendance Improvement Conference is to examine the student's absences and reasons for the absences in an effort to improve attendance with or without additional services.

The following individuals shall be invited to the School Attendance Improvement Conference:

1. The student.
2. The student's person in parental relation.
3. Other individuals identified by the person in parental relation who may be a resource.
4. Appropriate school personnel.
5. Recommended service providers.

Neither the student nor the person in parental relation shall be required to participate, and the School Attendance Improvement Conference shall occur even if the person in parental relation declines to participate or fails to attend the scheduled conference.

The outcome of the School Attendance Improvement Conference shall be documented in a written School Attendance Improvement Plan. The Plan shall be retained in the student' file. A copy of the Plan shall be provided to the person in parental relation, the student and appropriate district staff.

#### Student is Habitually Truant –

When a student under fifteen (15) years of age is habitually truant, district staff shall:

1. Refer the student to:
  - a. A school-based or community-based attendance improvement program; or
  - b. The local children and youth agency
2. May file a citation in the office of the appropriate judge against the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student.

When a student fifteen (15) years of age or older is habitually truant, district staff shall:

1. Refer the student to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program; or
2. File a citation in the office of the appropriate judge against the student or the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student.

District staff may refer a student who is fifteen (15) years of age or older to the local children and youth agency, if the student continues to incur additional unexcused absences after being referred to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program, or if the student refuses to participate in such program.

Regardless of age, when district staff refer a habitually truant student to the local children and youth agency or file a citation with the appropriate judge, district staff shall provide verification that the school held a School Attendance Improvement Conference.

#### Filing a Citation –

A citation shall be filed in the office of the appropriate judge whose jurisdiction includes the school in which the student is or should be enrolled.

Additional citations for subsequent violations of the compulsory school attendance requirements may only be filed against a student or person in parental relation in accordance with the specific provisions of the law.

#### Special Needs and Accommodations

If a truant or habitually truant student may qualify as a student with a disability, and require special education services or accommodations, Superintendent or designee shall be noted and shall act to address the student's needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.

For students with disabilities who are truant or habitually truant, the appropriate team shall be notified and shall address the student's needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.

The district shall not expel or impose out-of-school suspension, disciplinary reassignment or transfer for truant behavior.

## **DRESS CODE POLICY**

A student's manner of dress or hairstyle is the basic responsibility of the student and his/her parents. However, the school is responsible for stressing decency, cleanliness, and appropriateness of dress for school. As a means towards addressing that goal, the following guidelines are to be followed:

### **Dress Not Permitted:**

- Clothing with words, symbols, or pictures that are sexually suggestive and/or encourage drugs, alcohol, violence, or gangs
- Wearing of hats, sun visors, sunglasses, or coats during school hours (unless it was set up by the school or the student's teacher)
- Bandanna, sweatbands, headbands with scarves attached
- Sagging clothing that shows undergarments
- Long pants that go below shoes that could cause tripping or unsafe conditions
- Short skirts, short dresses, and/or short shorts (these items must be at least fingertip length)
- Wallet chains, dog collars, heavy linked chains around neck, spiked and/or studded necklaces or bracelets
- Clothing with rips/holes
- "Wheelies" (shoes with pop out wheels)

When choosing clothing, please keep in mind these items must cover undergarments and must not be revealing. The following are not permitted:

- Halter tops
- Midriffs
- Tube tops
- See through tops
- Muscle shirts
- One shoulder shirts
- Shirts with thin spaghetti straps (must be at least 2" in width)
- Shirts that expose the stomach and/or any back areas below shoulder blades

Any clothing and/or accessories deemed inappropriate and/or disruptive to the education process will not be permitted and will be addressed on an individual basis.

### **ID badges should be worn and are needed for lunch purchases and library usage.**

We believe that the students at the West Allegheny School District possess the ability to practice good judgement and good grooming. Students are encouraged to select shoes and clothing with safety in mind. In accordance with our district's mission statement, we hope we are inspiring responsible young adults and citizens. As a result, they hopefully will realize their collective appearance should reflect with pride and honor on the public image of the West Allegheny School District.

Please note: Students will be given the opportunity to correct the situation with warnings. Continual violation of the dress code will result in consequences which will follow the discipline plan for the building and district. All school rules will be in the line with existing student Code of Conduct and will be enforced.

# **BULLYING POLICY**

## **Purpose**

The West Allegheny School District is committed to fostering a safe positive learning environment of mutual respect, honor, acceptance and encouragement, free from threat, harassment, and bullying/cyberbullying. West Allegheny recognizes that bullying/cyberbullying cannot only impede on the academic environment and growth, but also the vocational, social, emotional development of our students. Students and employees should be free from all types of bullying/cyberbullying stemming from peers and employees of the district, therefore bullying/cyberbullying will not be tolerated.

## **Definitions**

**Bullying/Cyberbullying** is intentional, unwanted, severe behavior between or among individuals or groups that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior may be repetitive, persistent and/or pervasive.

**Bullying** may include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Physical – including but not limited to, hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, and taking personal belongings
2. Verbal – including, but not limited to, taunting, malicious teasing, name-calling, and making threatening statements or gestures
3. Psychological or Related – including, but not limited to, spreading rumors, and engaging in social isolations or intimidation

**Cyberbullying** may include, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, malicious teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student or employee of the school district by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, digital pictures, images, videos or web site postings (including social media)

These actions have the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Interfering with a student's education
2. Creating a threatening environment
3. Disrupting the orderly operation of the school
4. Causing a negative change in the dynamics of the school culture or group

**School setting** includes school district property, at school-sponsored activities scheduled on or off school grounds, or during the time students spend traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activities, including bus stops and routes of travel to and from the bus stops, or to school property or school-sponsored activities.

The term bullying/cyberbullying shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.



## **Authority**

All forms of bullying/cyberbullying by district students and employees are hereby prohibited. Anyone who engages in bullying/cyberbullying is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to appropriate discipline. The school district will not tolerate acts of bullying/cyberbullying occurring on school district property, at school-sponsored activities scheduled on or off school grounds, or during the time students spend traveling to/from school or school-sponsored activities, including bus stops and routes of travel to and from the bus stops, or to school property or school-sponsored events.

## **Delegation of Responsibility**

Complaints of bullying/cyberbullying shall be investigated promptly by the school principal and/or his/her designee, and corrective action shall be taken.

The West Allegheny School District shall at least annually inform students, parents, and employees through awareness activities that bullying/cyberbullying will not be tolerated.

Each student and employee shall be responsible for respecting the rights of all students/employees and to ensure an educational environment free from all forms of bullying/cyberbullying.

Students and employees shall receive information regarding this policy and shall be expected to report to their school principal and/or his/her designee any suspected incidents of bullying/cyberbullying involving themselves or other district students or employees.

Students or employees who have been bullied/cyberbullied are encouraged to report such incident to a school employee, an administrator, or through another designee reporting system without repercussion.

Parents/Guardians shall receive information regarding this policy, at least annually, and shall be encouraged to report to their administrator(s) any suspected incidents of bullying/cyberbullying involving their own child or other district students.

Each employee of the West Allegheny School District shall be responsible for attempting to maintain an educational environment free of bullying/cyberbullying and ensure the rights of all students are respected.

Employees shall be observant of bullying/cyberbullying, take appropriate actions to intervene upon observing or learning of a bullying/cyberbullying incident and report the bullying/cyberbullying to the school administrator(s).

Upon learning of a bullying/cyberbullying incident, the school principal and/or his/her designee shall undertake a thorough investigation. The school principal and/or his/her designee will inform parents/guardians of any impacted student(s) and person(s) accused of the complaint. The administrator(s) will report incidents of bullying/cyberbullying to the superintendent or designee and the superintendent and/or designee will, where appropriate, notify the proper authorities.

The district shall provide ongoing educational programs for employees, students and parents concerning the harmfulness of bullying/cyberbullying, the identification of bullying/cyberbullying, and appropriate responsive actions to address bullying/cyberbullying

## **Guidelines**

### **Discipline**

A violation of this policy shall subject the offending student to appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with the student code of conduct, which may include suspension or expulsion. Additionally, Act 26 of 2015 makes cyberbullying a crime, and issues of cyberbullying or bullying may be referred to law enforcement.

### **Confidentially**

The West Allegheny School District recognizes that both the reporting complaining students or employees and the alleged bully/cyberbully have a right to maintain the confidentiality of the allegations and related information. The privacy of the reporting person(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, any individuals impacted and the witnesses will be respected as much as possible, consistent with legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and any discovery or disclosure obligations. As limited by FERPA protections, the principal or his/her designee may inform the complaining student\parents/guardians or employees of the outcome of the investigation.

### **Reprisal**

Anyone who retaliates against another student and/or employee for reporting bullying/cyberbullying, assisting or testifying in the investigation or hearing will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Display and Dissemination**

This policy will be displayed and accessible for review in the following manners:

1. A copy of this policy shall be available on the school district's publicly accessible website.
2. A copy of this policy shall be posted in every classroom.
3. A copy of this policy shall be posted in each school where notices are usually posted.
4. A copy of this policy shall be disseminated to parents/guardians annually along with a copy of the student code of conduct.

The terms of this policy shall be reviewed with students at least once every school year.

## **TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

Internet users are expected to access the Internet and World Wide Web as an educational resource. The Internet and World Wide Web are available in the district as a resource to promote and enhance the educational experience. All District technology resources including the Internet, web resources, and approved personal electronic devices for student use must be used appropriately and explicitly for educational purposes only.

Specific networking guidelines, prohibitions, and benefits are explicitly **described in the district's Technology Acceptable Use Policy. This policy can be read in its entirety at the district's school board information policy/procedures/law website:**

<http://www.westasd.org/Downloads/Technology%20Acceptable%20Use%20Policy.pdf>

However, because of the length and abundance of technical term throughout the policy, we have outlined the key points for your convenience. First of all, students are expected to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner in accordance with district policy, accepted rules of network etiquette, and federal and state law. Specifically, the following uses are prohibited:

1. Unlawful activity
2. Commercial or for-profit purposes
3. Non-work or non-school related work
4. Product advertisement or political lobbying
5. Hate mail, discriminatory remarks and offensive or inflammatory communication
6. Unauthorized or illegal installation, distribution, reproduction, or use of copyrighted materials
7. Access to obscene or pornographic material or child pornography
8. Inappropriate language or profanity
9. Transmission of material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients
10. Intentionally obtaining or modifying files, passwords and data belonging to other users
11. Impersonation of another user, anonymity, and pseudonyms
12. Fraudulent copying, communications, or modification of materials in violation of copyright laws
13. Loading or using of unauthorized games, programs, files or other electronic media
14. Disruption of the work of others
15. Destruction, modification, abuse or unauthorized access to network hardware, software and files (i.e. backup)
16. Quoting of personal communications in a public forum without the original author's prior consent
17. Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
18. Unsupervised Chat Rooms

*As a district we have implemented several safety measures to protect you when using the Internet and the World Wide Web. For example, any District computer/server utilized by students and staff shall be equipped with a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to materials that are obscene, child pornographic, or harmful to minors (harmful terms are defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act – C/PA). Additionally, a district employee will always be supervising students while accessing the Internet or World Wide Web.*

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE USE**

- a) The network user shall be responsible for damages to the equipment systems, and software resulting from deliberate or willful acts.
- b) Illegal use of technology resources, the network or approved personal electronic devices: intentional deletion or damage to files or data belonging to others; copyright violations; and theft of services may be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution.
- c) Loss of access and other disciplinary actions up to and including suspension or expulsion from school shall be consequences for inappropriate use.
- d) Vandalism will result in cancellation of access privileges. Vandalism is defined as any attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet or other networks; this includes but is not limited to uploading or creating computer viruses.
- e) Violation of this Policy may result in disciplinary action pursuant to due process procedures established by Board Policy, state and federal law, and/or collective bargaining agreements.

## **CONCLUSION**

The West Allegheny School District and the District Computer Program Coordinator recognize that our users have a wide range of needs and requirements. To this end, we depend on and request that our users practice considerate and responsible computing and adhere to common sense standards. When problems arise, they will be dealt with to ensure the unimpaired operation of our systems and network, but we request that all users try to be considerate and prudent in their use of the resources.

## **INFORMATION NOTICE**

### **Screening and Evaluation**

The West Allegheny School District employs the following procedures for locating, identifying, and evaluating specified needs of school age students requiring special programs and services. These procedures, as required by law, are as follows:

The district, as prescribed by section 1402 of the School Code, routinely conducts screenings of a child's hearing acuity (kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade), visual acuity (all students every year), and speech and language skills (teacher, parent/guardian, and outside agency referrals). Gross motor and fine motor skills, academic, skills, and social and emotional skills are assessed by teachers and support staff on an ongoing basis. Screening activities include DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) K-2, review of group-based data such as cumulative enrollment and health records, report cards, and achievement test scores (i.e. PSSA). Identified needs from these screening sources, as well as information obtained from parents/guardians and outside agencies, are assessed, noted within student records, and discussed with parents/guardians. These school records are always open and available to parents and only to school officials who have a legitimate "need to know" about the child. Information from records is released to other persons/agencies only with appropriate authorization, which involves written permission by parents/guardians.

Screening information will be used by school personnel within the student's school to meet his/her specific needs or to document the need for further evaluation. If it is determined that a child needs additional services, the classroom teacher will make adjustments relative to be more in keeping with traditional classroom expectations. Parents/guardians will be notified if a child is receiving accommodations/adaptations. If a student does not demonstrate progress, and it is determined that a student may be eligible for special education services, the student is referred for a multidisciplinary evaluation. After all of the evaluations are completed, a Comprehensive Evaluation Report is prepared with parent/guardian involvement and includes specific recommendations for the types of intervention necessary to deal with the child's specific needs. When the Comprehensive Evaluation Report is completed and in accordance with state regulations, an IEP team meeting with parent/guardian involvement is scheduled to develop an appropriate Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the student.

Parents/guardians of students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education services may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child through a written request to the Building Principal or Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services. Please contact your building principal or the Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services office for the required forms.

### **Services for School Age Exceptional Children**

The school district provides a free, appropriate, public education to exceptional students according to state and federal mandates. To be eligible, the child must be of school age, need specially designed instruction and meet eligibility criteria for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities as set forth in the Pennsylvania State Standards: autism/pervasive development disorder, blindness/visual impairment, deafness/hearing impairment, physical disability, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, and speech/language impairment.

Services designed to meet the needs of eligible students include annual development of an individualized education program (IEP), triennial multidisciplinary reevaluation, supportive intervention in the regular class, supplemental intervention in the special education resource program, and placement in a full-time special education class outside of the regular school. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the parents and staff at the IEP team meeting and are based on the abilities, chronological age, and the level of intensity of the specific intervention. The school district also provides related services, such as transportation, physical therapy, and occupational therapy that are required to enable the student to derive educational benefits.

Prior to the initiation of services, parents/guardians are presented a “Notice of Recommended Educational Placement” (NOREP) with which they may agree or disagree. If parents disagree with the program being recommended, they have the right to request a pre-hearing conference, mediation and/or a due process hearing.

#### Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools

Public special education is accessible to resident students attending nonpublic schools by permitting the nonpublic school student to enroll on a part-time basis in a special education program operated in a public school.

Special education programs are accessible to nonpublic school students through dual enrollment following the multidisciplinary team evaluation and development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Parents/guardians of nonpublic school students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child through a written request to the Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services.

#### Services for Protected Handicapped Students

The school district will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school programs and extracurricular activities to the extent appropriate to the student's abilities. To qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in, or access to, an aspect of the school program. Services and protections for protected handicapped students are different from those applicable to all eligible students enrolled in special education programs. Additional information about the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students is available by contacting the Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services at (724) 695-5521.

#### Services for Preschool Age Children

Act 212, the Early Intervention System Act, entitles all preschool age children with disabilities to appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing development delay or physical or mental disabilities are eligible for early intervention services.



If your child is less than the age of beginners of your district and at least three (3) years of age, he/she is considered to have a development delay when difficulties exist in the areas of cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help development. If you have questions regarding difficulties your child may be experiencing, please contact the Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services at (724) 695-5521.

The Pennsylvania Department of Welfare is responsible for providing services to infants and toddlers, defined as children from birth through two years of age. Contact the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, 2801 Custer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15227, (412) 885-6000.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to preschool age children from age three (3) through five (5). Contact Project DART, 475 East Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120, (412) 394-5736.

### Confidentiality of Student Records

The privacy rights of parents/guardians and students are mandated by federal legislation known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), state regulations (Chapter 14-Special Education Services and Programs, Chapter 12-Student Rights and Responsibilities), and district policy.

The different categories of information maintained by the school district are as follows: educational and health records, personally identifiable information, and directory information. With the exception of the receiving school district, educational and health records and personally identifiable information cannot be disclosed or released without parental consent or adult student (a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, married, or attending an institution of post-secondary education) consent. Directory information means information which would be considered not harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. This information includes the following: student's name, address, date and place of birth, courses taken, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the most recent educational agency or institution attended by the student. Also, group or individual interviews, photographs, or videos of students are directory information, and these items may be used by the district in various publications or by the media.

Written parental or adult student request is required for the disclosure of educational and health records and personally identifiable information. The consent must specify the records that may be disclosed and purpose of the disclosure and identify the parent or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. A written record of the disclosure must be maintained by the school district. Parents or adult students have the right to inspect and review the student's educational records within thirty (30) days of the date the district receives a request for access. Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal will then make arrangements for access to inspect the records. Parents/guardians and adult students can seek an amendment to the student's educational records that the parent/guardian or adult student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. The parent/guardian or eligible student can do so by writing the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record to be changed, and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record, the district will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise the individual of his/her right to a hearing regarding the

request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

Parents/guardians or adult students have the right to file complaints concerning alleged failures of the district to comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Such complaints should be directed to the Health, Education, and Welfare Office, Washington, D.C.



## **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

The Administration shall provide, pursuant to law and regulations, homebound instruction to students confined to home or hospital for physical disability, illness, injury, urgent reasons, or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons. The period of homebound instruction for an individual must be certified by a physician and must be renewed by the attending physician every three (3) months. A student who has received approved homebound instruction for a period exceeding three (3) months shall be referred to the School District's special education department to assess the need to evaluate the student.

Application for homebound instruction shall be made by the parent/guardian or the student. Each application shall certify the nature of the illness or disability, state the probable duration of the confinement, and be recommended by a licensed physician. If a student's illness pertains to an emotional and/or psychosocial condition, the recommendation must be certified by a psychiatrist.

The Superintendent or designee may grant recommended requests for homebound instruction.

The Superintendent or designee may request approval from the Department of Education to extend the period of homebound instruction for an individual, which shall be re-evaluated every three (3) months.

The School District shall provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least two (2) business weeks, but exceptions may be made by the Superintendent or designee if deemed advisable.

The program of homebound instruction provided to each student shall be in accordance with the standards established by the state. The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires that each school district report any and all students with disabilities, upon their initial placement on homebound instruction, and file a follow up report when the temporary placement has concluded and the student has returned to school. A homebound instruction in the home reporting form for special education students must be completed by the Superintendent or designee and forwarded to the PDE.

Homebound instruction may not be used as a way to avoid compulsory school attendance and must be based on a physician's recommendation. Homebound instruction is not intended to take the place of a regular or special educational program obtained through regular school attendance and is not an educational placement. The purpose of homebound instruction is to maintain the current skill levels and minimize regression if possible until the student can return to school.

### **Pregnant and Parenting Students**

Becoming pregnant or being a parent does not, in itself, necessitate that a student receives homebound instruction. Certification of a physician is required for any student, including pregnant or parenting students, who are requesting homebound instruction because of an illness or other urgent reason.

### **Conditions for Approval**

Parents/guardians and students are advised of the following conditions for the approval/provision of homebound instruction:

1. The District may require parental consent for verification of information within the homebound form and
2. If the District believes that additional information is needed, with legally required consent, the District may contact the recommending physician.

### Instructional Services

Homebound instruction is available to approved students in grades kindergarten through twelve, including students with disabilities who are hospitalized or medically unable to attend school on regular basis. The district is responsible for assigning teachers for homebound instruction and for all costs associated with this service.

Homebound instruction will be based on assignments from the student's current courses, provided by the student's current teachers. The homebound instructor will act as the liaison between the student and the school.

The student's parent/guardian is required to provide the homebound instruction teacher with an environment in which the teacher and the student can complete assignments.

The parent/guardian or other responsible adult is expected to be at home during the hours of instruction. The weekly time schedule will be arranged to accommodate the schedule of the homebound teacher, the parent and the student.

It is the student's responsibility to complete all assignments, tests, and exercises as determined by the classroom and homebound teacher(s) and carried out by the homebound teacher. Failure to do so within the time limits prescribed by the District may result in a failing grade.

Student on homebound instruction shall not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular, co-curricular or after school activities or events while on homebound instruction. Exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent or designee.

The administration reserves the right to withhold homebound instruction when:

1. The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the teacher
2. A parent/guardian or other adult in authority is not present with the student during the hours of instruction
3. The condition of the student precludes any benefit from such instruction

**References: School Code – 24P.S. Sec. 1329  
State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.25**

### **Authority**

The Board of School Directors recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students. The Administration shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the District, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations.

The Board may waive policies, procedures and administrative regulations that create barriers for enrollment, attendance, transportation and success in school of homeless students, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

**Homeless students** are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular and nighttime residence, which include the following conditions:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
3. Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters.
4. Abandoned in hospitals.
5. Children who are awaiting foster care placement including living in emergency, interim or respite foster care, kinship care, evaluation or diagnostic centers or placements for the sole purpose of evaluation.
6. Living in public or private places not designated for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
7. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, temporary shelters, transportation stations or similar settings.
8. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
9. Living as run-away children under the age of 18, abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers, or separated from parents/guardians if they have no other living accommodations.
10. Living as school age parents/guardians in houses for school age parents/guardians if they have no other living accommodations.

School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.

The Board designates the Superintendent or his/her designee to serve as the District's liaison for homeless students and families.

The District's liaison shall coordinate with:

1. Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youth and families.
2. Other school districts on issues of records transfer and transportation.
3. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.

The District's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in the schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens within the District.

Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.

### **Enrollment/Placement**

To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the student's best interest, homeless students shall continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing.

Parents/guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools. If a student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the District liaison will consider the views of the student in determining where he/she will be enrolled.

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies. The District will request a parent/guardian to submit contact information. If the parent/guardian is unable to do so, the District Liaison will work with the parent/guardian to establish a reliable method of communication. The District Liaison may also contact the district of origin for oral confirmation that the student has been immunized, but this must not be a barrier to enrollment. Oral confirmation between two professionals is a sufficient basis to verify immunization with written confirmation to follow within thirty (30) days. The enrolling district's liaison will assist the parent/guardian/student in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

If the District is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the District shall administer tests or utilize appropriate means to determine the student's placement.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent/guardian shall be provided with a written explanation of the District's decision, their right to appeal and the procedures to use for the appeal.

### **Services**

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other district students including, but not limited to, transportation services; school nutrition programs; vocational programs and technical education; preschool programs; programs for students with limited English proficiency; and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students.

### **Transportation**

The District shall provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin or the school they choose to attend within the School District. If the school is outside district boundaries or homeless students live in another district but will attend their school of origin in this district, the school districts shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation.

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY**

No student will be allowed to possess any drug, inhalant, or alcohol and/or paraphernalia in any quantity while on school grounds during normal school day or when attending a school-sponsored function beyond the normal school day. If a student is found in possession of a drug, inhalant, or alcohol, the parent(s)/guardian(s) are contacted, the situation is described and a conference is arranged as immediately as possible. If a student possesses a personal amount of drugs, he/she receives a five-day suspension and is required to have an assessment by the school counselor or an appropriate rehabilitation facility. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) must meet with the school administration and guidance counselor before the student is readmitted to school.

When a student is found to be in possession of a distribution amount of drugs, the staff will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office. The principal or designee will conduct a search of the student. The search may include the student's locker, desk or other personal property. A witness will be present during the search. The student will be suspended for ten days, and be required to have an assessment by the school's D&A counselor or an appropriate rehabilitation facility. Students who fail to have an assessment will receive an additional four days' suspension and be required to meet with his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and school officials before being readmitted to school.

When a student is discovered in the act of distributing, giving, selling, purchasing, or receiving drugs to or from another person, the same staff action as above will apply. The parent(s)/guardian(s) are contacted immediately and the situation described. Following an informal hearing with the principal, the student will initially be suspended from school for ten days or until a hearing before the school board. Students who are not expelled must have an assessment by the school's D&A counselor or appropriate rehabilitation facility. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) must meet with the SST to discuss the findings of the assessment. Following an informal hearing before the principal, the uncooperative student will initially be suspended from school for ten days or until a hearing before the school board. A formal hearing will be held before the board to consider expulsion. Terms of that expulsion or an alternative to that expulsion will be determined by the school board. Students will follow the recommendation of the rehabilitation facility when applicable.

## **SMOKING POLICY**

The West Allegheny School Board recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health risk and safety hazard which can have serious consequences for both the smoker and the non-smoker. In order to protect students and staff from an environment that may be harmful, possession or use of tobacco products by students is prohibited in school buildings, on school buses, on school grounds, or at school sponsored events. Use of products shall include using smoking or smokeless tobacco in any form. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary actions.

Senate bill 1315 became Act 145 on December 4, 1996. This law amends Title 18 Crimes and Offenses. The law clarifies the School Tobacco Control Act for school districts and local district justices. This law defines possession or use of tobacco products or smokeless tobacco by a student in a school building, a school bus or on school property as a summary offense. School districts must initiate prosecution. The student may be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$50 for the benefit of the school district in which such offending pupil resides, and to pay court costs, or be assigned to an adjudication alternative.

In addition, a student at the elementary school, found in possession of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco, will be assigned an out of school suspension.

## **WEAPONS POLICY**

Possession of a weapon by any person is prohibited in any West Allegheny School District building, or any grounds of the West Allegheny School District, by a student on his/her way to/from school, in any vehicle providing authorized transportation of students or from any West Allegheny School district building or any district sponsored function, activity or event and at any school function, activity or event whether or not held on West Allegheny School District property. "Weapon" shall mean any instrument or implement for the infliction of or capability of inflicting bodily injury which serves no common lawful purpose including but not limited to, any knife, razor blade, or other cutting instrument or cutting tool, sharpened wood, sharpened metal, nun-chuck stick or other martial arts device, brace or metal knuckles, club metal pipe, blackjack chemical agent such as acid, mace, Taser, shocker or stun gun, any explosive device, firearm (including pellet guns and B.B. guns), gun, bullet, slingshot, bow, arrow or any other similar device from which a projectile may be discharged, including a firearm or other weapon which is not loaded or which lacks a component or device necessary to render it immediately operable. The term "weapon" shall include "weapon look alike", including any instrument or implement designed to look like a weapon or facsimile of a weapon such as a toy gun or water pistol. "Possess" and "possession" shall mean being on the person or in a person's car, locker or otherwise under his or her control.

### **INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES**

Anyone who had knowledge of a weapon being impermissible upon or in school property shall immediately inform the principal, who will immediately conduct an investigation. Persons having knowledge of a weapon being in or on school property or as prohibited above shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings if the person does not timely report same. Upon reasonable suspicion that a student possesses a weapon, the principal will request that the student voluntarily empty his/her pockets and remove any coat, book bag or purse so the same may be searched by a school official. Such search shall take place according to the State Board of Education Regulations that provide that reasonable force may be used by teachers and school authorities to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects.

### **ACTION**

A student who violates this policy or assists in the violation of this policy will be subject to one or more of the following actions depending upon the specific violations and intent: warning and/or in-school suspension, suspension from school for up to ten days, a mandatory hearing before the Board of School Directors and permanent expulsion.

## **SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**

The elementary school maintains a learning and working environment that is free from harassment, both sexual harassment and bullying. Such conduct can interfere with a student's academic performance and social-emotional development. It is the policy of the West Allegheny School District to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment. No student or staff member of the district shall be subjected to sexual harassment.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any member of the district staff to harass a student through conduct or communications of a sexual nature. It shall also be a violation of this policy for students to harass other students through conduct or communications of a sexual nature.

Definitions of sexual harassment and procedures for investigation and disciplinary actions are listed in the Sexual Harassment Policy Guidelines, available in each of the buildings.



# FORMS FOR PARENTS

Bus Change Notice

End of Day Pickup

Early Dismissal

Excuse for Absence

Handbook Review Verification



### Bus Change Note

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

For the date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Stop \_\_\_\_\_

Destination \_\_\_\_\_

(including address, name of: relative, friend, baby sitter or daycare center)

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number where you can be reached \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ .....



### Bus Change Note

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

For the date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Stop \_\_\_\_\_

Destination \_\_\_\_\_

(including address, name of: relative, friend, baby sitter or daycare center)

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number where you can be reached \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers Name \_\_\_\_\_



### End of Day Pickup (after school)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
For the date(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person picking up child \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number where you can be reached \_\_\_\_\_  
Teachers Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ .....



### End of Day Pickup (after school)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
For the date(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person picking up child \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number where you can be reached \_\_\_\_\_  
Teachers Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Early Dismissal

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
For the date(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Time of Dismissal \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason for Dismissal \_\_\_\_\_  
Will Return to school \_\_\_\_\_ Will not Return to school \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person picking up child \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number where you can be reached \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ .....



## Early Dismissal

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
For the date(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Time of Dismissal \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason for Dismissal \_\_\_\_\_  
Will Return to school \_\_\_\_\_ Will not Return to school \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person picking up child \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number where you can be reached \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXCUSE for ABSENCE  
DONALDSON ELEMENTARY

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child \_\_\_\_\_ was absent on \_\_\_\_\_. We have not received an excuse for this absence. Please complete and return the bottom portion of this form with your child tomorrow. If this form is not returned, the absence will be recorded as ILLEGAL. The accumulation of three illegal absences could result in a hearing citation being issued through the local magistrate. Please return this form to your child's teacher tomorrow. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Erin Dierker  
Principal



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Absence:

☐ Doctor appointment

☐ School-Approved vacation

☐ Dentist appointment

☐ Funeral

☐ Hospitalization

☐ Other: Please state specific reason

☐ Illness

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EXCUSE for ABSENCE  
MCKEE ELEMENTARY

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child \_\_\_\_\_ was absent on \_\_\_\_\_.  
We have not received an excuse for this absence. Please complete and return the bottom portion of this form with your child tomorrow. If this form is not returned, the absence will be recorded as ILLEGAL. The accumulation of three illegal absences could result in a hearing citation being issued through the local magistrate. Please return this form to your child's teacher tomorrow.  
Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Melissa Wagner  
Principal



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Absence:

☐ Doctor appointment

☐ School-Approved vacation

☐ Dentist appointment

☐ Funeral

☐ Hospitalization

☐ Other: Please state specific reason

☐ Illness

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EXCUSE for ABSENCE  
WILSON ELEMENTARY

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child \_\_\_\_\_ was absent on \_\_\_\_\_.  
We have not received an excuse for this absence. Please complete and return the bottom portion of this form with your child tomorrow. If this form is not returned, the absence will be recorded as ILLEGAL. The accumulation of three illegal absences could result in a hearing citation being issued through the local magistrate. Please return this form to your child's teacher tomorrow.  
Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Rachel Gray  
Principal



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Absence:

☐ Doctor appointment

☐ School-Approved vacation

☐ Dentist appointment

☐ Funeral

☐ Hospitalization

☐ Other: Please state specific reason

☐ Illness

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STUDENT APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL TOUR OR TRIP

**Part I: To be completed by parent or guardian.**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student # \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed temporary address or travel destination \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates student will be absent from school \_\_\_\_\_  
Were prior requests granted during school year? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
Please explain the purpose of the tour or trip \_\_\_\_\_  
Itinerary \_\_\_\_\_

The adult(s) accompanying the student is \_\_\_\_\_  
I hereby request that the above student be excused from compulsory attendance during this period of absence. I assume responsibility for supervising the completion of all assignments/responsibilities which are to be submitted upon his/her return to school or within a reasonable period of time as designated by his/her teacher(s).

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II: To be completed by student's teacher(s)**

Reason for disapproval \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Part III: To be completed by the building principal. Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_ Disapproved**

Educational Trip. Upon receipt of a **written** request from the parent/guardian, **at least one week in advance** of the trip, students may be excused from school attendance to participate in an educational tour or trip provided during the school term at the expense of the parent/guardian **when such tour or trip is so evaluated by the school principal** and student participants therein are subject to direction and supervision by and adult personage acceptable to the principal and the parent/guardian of the students concerned. **If above procedure is not completed, any absence will be considered illegal. Educational trips are to equal no more than five (5) days in a school year. In addition, trips will not be approved during state standardized testing periods, and/or for students with ten (10) or more absences.**

| <u>Teacher</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Comment//Assignments</u> | <u>Due/Date</u> |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| _____          | _____          | _____                       | _____           |
| _____          | _____          | _____                       | _____           |
| _____          | _____          | _____                       | _____           |
| _____          | _____          | _____                       | _____           |