

*Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart
Elementary School
Family-Student Handbook
2022 – 2023*

[VACDES Website](#)



Local Leaders Today; Global Leaders Tomorrow



*550 Virginia Avenue
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 665-6330 (school)
(540) 665-6334 (fax)
www.wps.k12.va.us*

*Principal: Dr. Lisa Pluska
Assistant Principal: Ms. Wendy Perkins*



Dr. Lisa Pluska
PRINCIPAL

550 VIRGINIA AVENUE
WINCHESTER, VA 22601

Dear Families,

I am so excited to welcome you to Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School whether it is your first year or your fifth year. We are proud to be the Little Judges and prepare your student to be a Handley Judge graduate. We are a global school which means we make sure our students understand issues in the world and how they can connect to what happens here in Winchester. We are also a Dual Immersion school with each grade level up through the third grade this year and fourth grade next year learning half of the time in Spanish and half of the time in English. Our goal is for our students who choose to be in the program to be biliterate.

We have high expectations for our students and want them to be successful in their educational career as well as life. One of the things you will hear about this year is the importance of attendance. Students need to be at school on time as much as possible to be sure they are exposed to the curriculum. We are also a PBIS school (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). Your child will be learning to Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible. If you can also talk about these tenets at home with your child, we would be most appreciative.

We want all students to be leaders in their classroom, home, and wherever they may go. We will be talking about how our students are Local Leaders Today - Global Leaders Tomorrow. I feel strongly that with families, teachers, and the community around Virginia Avenue working together we will have students that we are proud to say are the global leaders. Please come visit us, volunteer with us, or support us in whatever way works best for you. In return, let us know how we can help support you!

In Partnership,
Lisa Pluska
Principal

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Winchester Public Schools Mission and Beliefs

Learning For All, Whatever It Takes

Winchester Public Schools Mission Statement

The mission of Winchester Public Schools, a vibrant and diverse community of learners, is to have the courage and commitment to inspire every student's passion for excellence in learning.

This will be accomplished through:

- innovative and engaging instruction
- preparation and empowerment of students

Provided by:

- a highly qualified and dedicated staff
- committed families
- dynamic community partnerships

Winchester Public Schools Beliefs

We believe that . . .

- Excellence in education is paramount to the success of the City of Winchester.
- Excellence in education is a shared and reciprocal responsibility among educators, students, families, caregivers and the community.
- Every student can learn, and, when students have access to quality instruction, technology, and community resources, education is the equalizer.
- Every student has the right to an excellent education in a safe and engaging learning environment.
- Mental, emotional, and physical health is essential for optimal learning.
- Embracing the diversity of students is a strength that unifies our learning community.
- Success for every student is dependent upon a well-communicated expectation of excellence.
- Every student must have the requisite knowledge and skills to become a productive citizen in a global
- Pursuing excellence in learning and life develops student self-esteem and self-confidence.

2022–2023 Winchester Public Schools Board Members

Dr. Bryan Pearce–Gonzalez
Ms. Karen Anderson Holman
Mr. Michael Birchenough
Mr. Elyus Wallace

Ms. Marie Imoh
Ms. Erica Truban
Ms. Carmen Crawford
Ms. Bonnie Sandy, Clerk of the Board

Winchester Public Schools Office Telephone Numbers

Central Administrative Offices (CAO)	540–667–4253
John Handley High School	540–662–3471
Daniel Morgan Intermediate School (DMIS) & Daniel Morgan Middle School (DMMS)	540–667–7171
Frederick Douglass Elementary School	540–662–7656
John Kerr Elementary School	540–662–3945
Garland Quarles Elementary School	540–662–3575
Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School	540–665–6330
Melvin Rhodes Program	540–678–3966
Emil & Grace Shihadeh Innovation Center at JHHS	540–678–3966



WPS DIVISION CALENDAR 2022-2023

JULY 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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JANUARY 2023

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- New professional staff orientation
- Teacher work day
- Student attendance day
- Teacher professional development day

AUGUST 2022

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FEBRUARY 2023

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- Holiday/Break
- Administrative offices are also closed
- End of grading period
- Early dismissal
- Inclement weather make up day

SEPTEMBER 2022

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MARCH 2023

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🎓 **Graduation: May 26, 2023**
Graduation Rain Date: May 30, 2023

Click link to:
[Multi cultural observances](#)

OCTOBER 2022

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NOVEMBER 2022

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MAY 2023

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DECEMBER 2022

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JUNE 2023

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Approved by School Board 2/8/2021

Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School



Our Vision

Local Leaders Today – Global Leaders Tomorrow!

Our Philosophy

Our teachers and staff are committed to integrating global education into the curriculum. Our students and staff celebrate cultures from around the world, their histories, religions, customs, beliefs, current events, and geographical regions. We want our students to develop curiosity, empathy, and responsiveness to the diversity around the globe to make the world a better place.

SCHOOL COLORS: Maroon and White

SCHOOL MASCOT:

Little Judge



A Brief History of Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary

Construction of the Virginia Avenue School building was completed in 1931. The original building had eight classrooms. Eight more classrooms were added to the original structure in 1950, and a second addition of a library and four classrooms was completed in 1958.

Fourteen dedicated individuals have provided leadership in the role as principal. Charlotte DeHart served as the first principal of the school until her retirement in 1970. Following the lengthy tenure of Charlotte DeHart were Tom Edwards (1970–1972), Fred Wiechman (1972–1974), Dickie Blackwell (1974–1983), William Askew (1983–1989), Nancy Porter (1989–1992), J. Vernon Laney (1992–1999), Diana Carpenter (1999–2003), Kathy Wetsel (2003–2011), Michele Dempsey (2011–2014), Dr. Matthew Wygal (2014 – 2017), Dr. Nikea Hurt (2017–2018), and Dr. Nan Bryant (2018–2022), and Dr. Lisa Pluska (2022–present).

During the school years of 1993–1995, students and staff were temporarily housed in the Douglas School at 598 Kent Street while a new school was built. The new two–story facility was constructed on the old Virginia Avenue School site. Renamed in honor of its first principal, Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School opened its doors to children in the fall of 1995. The school’s unique and beautiful courtyard was dedicated in 2018 and named in honor of former principal Kathy Wetsel.



VACDES Staff

FRONT OFFICE

- ★ Lisa Pluska, Principal
- ★ Wendy Perkins, Assistant Principal
- ★ Candy Bean, Bookkeeper
- ★ Pat Helsabeck, Registrar
- ★ Ginger Lawhorn, Nurse
- ★ Daisy Mondell, ESOL Family Liaison

PRE-K

- ★ Troy Phillips, Teacher & Team Leader
- ★ Tanesha Hutchinson, Teacher
- ★ Brandie Brown, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Heather Servage, Teaching Assistant

KINDERGARTEN

- ★ Rita Peters, DL Teacher & Team Leader
- ★ Kate Dean, Teacher
- ★ Jenny Ramirez, DL Teacher
- ★ Shannon Gallagher, Teacher
- ★ Sarah Keeler, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Ann Porter, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Summer Hartley, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Guadalupe Perez, DL Teaching Assistant

FIRST GRADE

- ★ Melinda Holthaus, Teacher & Multi-classroom Leader
- ★ Maria Garcia, DL Teacher
- ★ Julie Weese, DL Teacher
- ★ Heidi Chilcott, Teacher
- ★ Kaitlyn Flaherty, Reach Associate
- ★ Fernanda Munoz Stewart, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Koy Mislowsky, Teaching Assistant

SECOND GRADE

- ★ Ashlynn Walther, Teacher & Team Leader
- ★ Maggie Clemens, DL Teacher
- ★ Martha Hernandez, DL Teacher
- ★ Kirsten Winner, Teacher
- ★ Thressa Meadows, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Kim Hurlbut, Teaching Assistant

THIRD GRADE

- ★ Kimberlie Swogger, Teacher & Team Lead
- ★ Jennifer DiMarco, Multi-Classroom Leader (Grades 3 & 4)
- ★ Deena Baker, DL Teacher
- ★ Rosa Arevalo Lips, DL Teacher
- ★ Brandi Searfoss, Teacher
- ★ Devon Thompson, ACE Teacher
- ★ Becky Bush, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Kim Hurlbut, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Kelly Honey, Reach Associate

FOURTH GRADE

- ★ Betty Jo Amsler, Teacher & Team Lead
- ★ Jennifer DiMarco, Multi-Classroom Leader (Grades 3 & 4)
- ★ Diana Colburn, Teacher
- ★ Andice Geesaman, Substitute Teacher
- ★ Jenna Hanks, Teacher
- ★ Devon Thompson, ACE Teacher
- ★ Beverly Gilpatrick, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Kim Hurlbut, Teaching Assistant
- ★ Kelly Honey, Reach Associate

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- ★ Morningstar Tucker, SPED Teacher
- ★ Casey Wright, SPED Teacher
- ★ Will Grantham, Teaching Assistant

CLASSROOM SUPPORT & ACADEMIC

INTERVENTION

- ★ Kara McDaniel, Technology Resource Teacher
- ★ Robin Packard, Reading Specialist
- ★ Lisa Robertson, Reading Specialist
- ★ Sara Gould, Instructional Coach
- ★ Kathy Mitchell, RTI Teacher
- ★ Laura Hodgkin, Interventionist/MTSS Coach
- ★ Jordan Allen, Flex Sub

CUSTODIAL SUPPORT

- ★ Mike Butler, Lead Custodian
- ★ Teri Wallace
- ★ Mary Ann Utterbuck
- ★ Donna Clark

FOOD SERVICES

- ★ Becky Miller, Cafeteria Manager
- ★ Janet Crim
- ★ Sharon Keefer
- ★ Debbie Amick

ESOL

- ★ Patricia Hedden, ESOL Teacher
- ★ Laura Baker–Anderle, ESOL Teacher
- ★ Lucy Santos, ESOL Teacher
- ★ Becky Conoboy, ESOL Teacher

SPECIALS

- ★ Albert Jett, Physical Education Teacher & Team Leader
- ★ Sarah Stratton–Huntoon, Music Teacher
- ★ Tina Genay, Library/Media Specialist
- ★ Janet Fabin, Art Teacher
- ★ Tyler Strosnider, STEM Teaching Assistant

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- ★ Kristina Wallace, School Counselor
- ★ Brooke Hill, School Counselor
- ★ Michelle Madden, School Psychologist
- ★ Natalie Gerometta, Family Support & McKinney–Vento Specialist
- ★ Lindsay Owen, School Social Worker
- ★ Officer Marshall, School Resource Officer
- ★ Debbie Kidwell, SEL Teaching Assistant
- ★ Mandy Glover, Speech Pathologist
- ★ Sarah Priest, Occupational Therapist
- ★ Elizabeth Turner, Physical Therapist
- ★ Kelly Honey, Reach Associate

REGULAR SCHEDULE School Day Hours



Monday – Friday

The school opens for children at 7:30 a.m. Please do not send your children any earlier than 7:30 a.m.

7:50 a.m. Tardy Bell
2:35 p.m. Dismissal

Attendance Counts! Be on time and present each day!

In accordance with Virginia State law A MOMENT OF SILENCE is observed after the Pledge of Allegiance. Teachers, staff, students, parents and visitors are requested to honor and observe this silence when in the building.

BREAKFAST SCHEDULE

7:30 a.m.

LUNCH SCHEDULE

10:55-11:30
11:40-12:15
11:00-11:35
11:10-11:45
11:50-12:25
12:00-12:35

Lunch—Pre-Kindergarten in classroom
Lunch—Kindergarten
Lunch—First Grade
Lunch—Second Grade
Lunch--Third Grade
Lunch—Fourth Grade

MODIFIED ARRIVAL SCHEDULES

One-Hour Delay*

Lunch schedule unchanged
 SPECIALS - 40 minute classes
 9:00 - 9:40—Grade 4
 9:45 - 10:25—Pre-K
 10:30 - 11:10—Grade K
 11:40 - 12:20—Grade 1
 12:25 - 1:05—Grade 3
 1:10-1:50—Grade 2

* Students and staff, other than custodians and front office, begin their day 1 hour later than normal.

Two-Hour Delay**

Lunch schedule unchanged
 SPECIALS - 30 minute classes
 10:00 - 10:30—Pre-K
 10:35-11:05—Grade 4
 11:10 - 11:40—Grade K
 11:45 - 12:15—Grade 1
 12:50 - 1:20—Grade 3
 1:25-1:55—Grade 2

** Students and staff, other than custodians and front office, begin their day 2 hours later than normal.

Inclement Weather Day Schedule**

Students log on to live Google Meets or Video-Based Instruction:

Reading	Math
Grade 4--8:00	Grade 4--10:30
Kindergarten--8:30	Kindergarten--11:00
Grade 1--9:00	Grade 1--11:30
Grade 2--9:30	Grade 2--12:00
Grade 3--10:00	Grade 3--12:30

Other assignments for all students to complete:

- Lexia / Imagine Español (Dual Language students) 20 minutes
- Dreambox--20 minutes
- 20 minutes of independent reading or reading with someone at home

Other:

- Specials Choice Board
- Empowered learning project
- Free Choice Writing
- Resource small group meets planned by the SPED, reading specialists, interventionists, and ESOL teachers.

**Should the inclement weather extend for multiple days, additional Google Meets and assignments may be posted on Canvas.

FOOD SERVICES

Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School participates in the Federal Grade A breakfast, lunch and milk support programs. All Pre-K to Grade 4 students receive free breakfast and lunch daily.

A monthly menu is sent home in the take home folder and a menu is posted in each classroom.

Soft drinks are not permitted as part of the lunch program. Glass containers should not be sent to school.

Children may buy a la carte items. Please send all money in a sealed envelope. On the envelope, list the name of the child and the name of the teacher. If you have any questions concerning the breakfast or lunch menu, money collections or anything else pertaining to food services, please contact our cafeteria manager, Becky Miller (540) 665-6330 extension 28001.

In addition to school rules, simple lunchroom rules and expectations allow the children to enjoy their lunch with friends in a healthy and safe environment.

We expect all students to:

- Follow school rules while eating.
- Talk quietly with friends
- Eat their own lunch and do not share food with others.
- Use excellent manners.
- Clean their area after eating.

As part of the Governor's Nutrition Program and our emphasis on healthy lifestyles, we discourage bringing in fast foods for students at lunch and breakfast.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

All exterior doors to the school are locked. **VISITORS MUST ENTER THROUGH THE MAIN DOORS THAT FACE VIRGINIA AVENUE AND SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE UPON ENTERING THE BUILDING. Please have your ID.** A visitor's sticker must be worn at all times while in the school building. Guests other than parents or guardians must have permission from the school principal or designee to visit instructional or other school areas. Classroom visits during instructional time must be cleared with advance notice to the Principal or Assistant Principal. Volunteers and visitation are encouraged. Please let your child's teacher or the office know if you would like to come in and help out.

PARKING

As a courtesy to our school neighbors, we request that when you visit the school you park in the lower school parking lot or only on the sides of the streets directly adjacent to school property (please do not park in front of our neighbors' houses).

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Students will be allowed to enter the building at 7:30 a.m. Please do not send your children any earlier than 7:30 a.m.

All walkers will enter and dismiss through the main doors that face Virginia Avenue. Car riders will enter and dismiss through the cafeteria. **In the mornings and afternoons, please do not drop off or pick up your child from your car while parked on either side of the school.** Instead, please use the convenient, supervised loop in the back of the school.

If a parent or guardian sends a designee to pick up a student, a note must be sent indicating the person who has permission to do so. If older siblings are sent in place of a parent/guardian, they too must have a note from that parent or guardian granting his or her permission. **A photo ID must also be shown to pick up any student.**

Car riders must enter and exit through the cafeteria doors at the back of the school. **Under no circumstances should cars be double parked.** Parents and students are asked to cross the street at the designated crosswalks. Please be prompt in picking up your student.

Any transportation change **MUST** be made by notifying the office via a phone call or a note, no later than 12 noon. **If the change is that a child is going home with another child, verification of this change is needed from both parents/guardians.**

Parents are requested to wait outside to pick up students at dismissal if walking.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Winchester Public Schools provide students safe and dependable transportation to and from school on our school buses. Riding the bus is a privilege and students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times (including while waiting for and riding on the bus) abiding by established school rules and expectations.



To ensure student safety and accountability all assigned bus students must ride a bus home each day unless the parent has completed one of the following requirements:

- A note is written to the child's homeroom teacher specifying directions for specific days and has notified the bus driver.
- The office has been notified prior to dismissal that different arrangements have been made.

Parents are requested to stress the following with their children:

- When walking to school, cross the street only at corners.
- If there is no light or crossing guard, STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN.
- Do not trespass on private property.
- Do not pet or play with dogs or other animals.
- Tell you or someone at school if another person is bothering him or her on the way to or from school.
- Do not accept rides from strangers or accompany strangers anywhere on foot.
- Conduct on the bus is to be the same behavior expected in the school building, to include standing in line to board the bus.

LEAVING SCHOOL

Students should be released early only for a medical appointment or emergency. Parents are urged to make every effort to schedule all appointments outside of the school day so that loss of learning time is minimized.

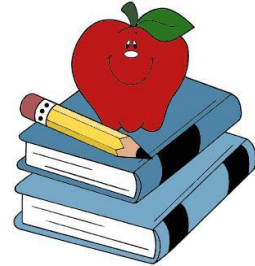
A student will not be released from school unless a note has been sent with the student in advance or the parent makes a personal contact with the school. Parents or designee must report to the office and sign the student out. The student will then be called to the office for dismissal. Under no circumstances will a student be dismissed to wait outside of the school. For safety reasons, at dismissal, once a student is in the bus area, in order for a parent or designee to remove a child from the bus area, he or she or designee must go to the main office to sign the student out. The student will be sent from the bus area to leave the office.

HOMEWORK

Homework will vary according to the student's grade level. If your child struggles with homework to the point of being upset, please stop and send a message to your child's teacher. Your relationship with your child is more important than a tough struggle over homework.

Teachers may assign homework using the following guidelines:

- Appropriate for the specific standards at each grade level
- Reasonable in length
- Directly related to classroom work
- Well defined in advance by the teacher
- Understood by the students
- Reviewed by the teacher and students
- Positive in nature
- Not graded, but with feedback from the teacher



REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued four times during the year at approximately nine-week intervals. The first and third quarter reports involve student-led conferencing with parents. The second and fourth quarter reports are sent home with the child. Grades are:

- 4 = Exceeds grade-level standards
- 3 = Meets grade-level standards
- 2 = Approaching grade-level standards
- 1 = Developing proficiency

INSTRUCTION

Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School is composed of graded, heterogeneously grouped homeroom classes that are sub-grouped by achievement levels in language arts and math to provide for appropriate pacing and skill mastery.

Students are assigned to a team of grade level teachers who are responsible for teaching the core curriculum: language arts, math, science, and social studies. Instruction is provided by specialists in the areas of art, music, physical education, STEAM, and library science on a rotating schedule.

Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School supports a guided math and a balanced literacy curriculum which provides small group instruction in the subject areas of language arts and math.

Guided math and balanced literacy support the following sound instructional practices:

1. Equitable and enriched learning experiences for all students.
2. Structure for small group instruction.
3. Enrichment and/or remediation according to individual needs.
4. Increased teacher-directed instructional time and student time-on-task.
5. Authentic and engaging learning experiences.

A listing and information regarding the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) may be found on the department of Education's website:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/index.shtml>

DUAL IMMERSION

VACDES launched Dual Language Immersion in the 2019-20 school year. Through our Dual Immersion program, students have the opportunity to develop bilingual skills in English and Spanish. The program began in Kindergarten and will be available in grades Kindergarten, 1 and 2 in 2021-22. Students whose parents opt for them to participate will be taught half of the day in Spanish and half of the day in English. The program will be added to 3rd, and 4th grades in the succeeding years. The goal is that students who participate in Dual Immersion through fourth grade will be bilingual learners who can read, write, speak and listen in English and in Spanish.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

We are a Global Education school. As a Global Education school, our teachers are committed to helping students make connections between the required SOL curriculum and global issues. One goal is to build awareness, empathy, and an action-oriented capacity for issues that affect students now and into the future. Other goals are to foster project-based learning and higher-level thinking.

ACE CENTER

VACDES hosts the division's specialized program for students from throughout the city who have been found eligible for Gifted Education services. The ACE Center is designed for students in grades 3 and 4 who learn at a faster pace and can handle advanced concepts of greater complexity. Programming includes, but is not limited to: emphasis on higher-level thinking skills, an integrated approach to content areas, an opportunity to work with academic peers, nurturing of social-emotional (affective) needs of gifted students, attention to individual interests, and emphasis on complex, advanced material

DISCOVERING THE ARTS

Specialists in the field provide art and music instruction to all students on a rotating schedule.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Every student is given the opportunity to use the library.

Library books and materials are checked out to the child with the understanding that he or she is responsible for the care and punctual return of the loaned materials. The VACDES library does not charge fines for overdue books. However, students and parents/guardians will be responsible for lost or damaged books.

CLASSROOM MEETINGS

Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School strives to build a sense of community among the children and staff of the school through classroom meetings. The following skills are taught and reinforced in the effort to create a sense of community: the sense of safety, caring for others, resolution of conflicts, working cooperatively together, listening and empathizing with others, empowerment, affirmation, and the inner sense of responsibility. The program fosters a better learning environment, service to others, and respect for self and others.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR SERVICES

Our school counselor(s) help all students 1) apply academic achievement strategies, 2) manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills, and 3) set goals for personal growth. In addition, our school counselor(s) deliver classroom lessons as well as provide short-term counseling; referrals for long-term counseling; collaboration with families/teachers/administrators/community for student success; advocacy for students at IEP meetings and other student-focused meetings; and data analysis to identify student issues, needs, and challenges. In addition, counselors act as a systems change agent to improve equity and access, achievement and opportunities for all students. If a parent does not wish his/her child to participate in any part of the counseling program, the parent or guardian should contact the counselor.

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

ITEMS NECESSARY FOR SCHOOL

All school supplies will be provided by the school. Students may bring their own backpacks, although the school can provide one. Knives, guns, and other potentially dangerous objects and glass containers are not allowed in school. Real weapons, or toy guns, knives, and other weapons are prohibited and grounds for disciplinary action.

Students should only bring items necessary for use in the classroom. Items that distract from instruction will be taken from the student and possibly to the office until the parent can retrieve the item.

Animals, including pets, are not permitted in school unless special permission has been obtained from the principal.

Chewing gum is not allowed at any time during the school day.

BIRTHDAYS/CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays are announced and children receive birthday pencils from the principal. Please do not deliver invitations to personal/private parties to school unless every child in the classroom receives one.

To avoid foods that may be potentially harmful to students with allergies, we ask for your help by **NOT** sending in "birthday food treats" or food of any kind to be shared or distributed at school. We appreciate your cooperation with this. We request flowers, balloons, etc. **NOT** be delivered to students at school due to limited space in the classroom and transportation safety concerns.

BICYCLES

Students in grades 1-4 will be permitted to ride a bicycle to school provided a parent has written a note to the principal requesting permission. Kindergarten students are not permitted to ride bicycles to school. Students who ride bicycles to school must wear a helmet and lock their bicycles in the rack located on the front porch of the school and enter the building at the front main entrance.

FIELD TRIPS

From time to time students may have an opportunity to participate in a school-sponsored field trip to reinforce instruction. While on a field trip, students will be under the supervision of school personnel and all school rules and regulations will apply. Parents will be advised of any field trip prior to its occurrence.

Due to liability, additional children (brothers, sisters, cousins, etc) are not permitted to go on a school field trip even if accompanied by an adult.

The School Board does not endorse any privately sponsored trips for students or any student trips not a part of the instructional program. The faculty shall not be permitted to solicit students for such trips during the school day.

If parents or guardians wish their child to participate in field trips under these conditions, they must check the "yes" blank on the PARENT PERMISSION FORM FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT; if not, they must check the "no" blank. If parents have given consent for field trip participation, but there is a particular field trip planned in which they do not want their child to participate, they may notify the school principal or the child's teacher in writing to excuse the child from participation. No child will be penalized for not participating in a field trip.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Necessary emergency drills are required by law and are periodically practiced by the staff and student body. These include fire, tornado, earthquake, lockdown, and lockout of the building. These drills focus on the safety of the children during various possible threatening situations. Parents are encouraged to discuss the serious nature of such drills and to assist in preparing children for emergencies.

USE OF TELEPHONES

Students will be allowed to use the telephone in the class area **in the event of an emergency and/or with teacher approval**. Calls to teachers and students during instructional time will not be forwarded to the classroom but a message will be taken. Students may not use cellphones in school. They are to be turned off. If a cell phone causes an interruption, it will be taken and must be picked up by the parent.

- A. The parent should inform school officials upon registering a child in the Winchester Public Schools of any medical or physical disability which might hamper the child's progress in school or pose a threat to the child's safety. As an added precaution, each year thereafter, the parent should inform the school of this problem, and of any procedure, which should be followed by the school, should a problem arise.
- B. In the interest of the child and others in the class, the school nurse or other school personnel will contact the parents and send a child home under the following circumstances:
 - 1. The child has a temperature of 100.4°F or higher; the child should be kept at home for one full day (24 hours) after the temperature returns to normal.
 - 2. The child is vomiting, coughing, has a sudden loss of taste or smell, or has a headache, muscle aches, or other flu-like symptoms..
 - 3. If the presence of a communicable disease is suspected.
 - 4. When the school nurse deems it necessary.
- C. In case of a medical emergency it is important that we have on file a current phone number for all emergency contacts.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

Hearing and Vision Screenings

Code of Virginia, section 22.1-273 requires that children in grades K and 3 receive hearing and vision screening to determine if formal assessment by a healthcare provider is indicated. These are performed within 60 days of the start date of the school year. VACDES may also offer these services to any student, if advisable, should a parent/guardian, teacher, or administrator request them.

Medications

All medications, prescription or over-the-counter, will not be administered to a student without an order from a healthcare provider. Medications will be kept in a locked cabinet in the nurse's office. Students will not be allowed to bring medications to school and administer it by themselves in the classroom. Carrying a prescribed inhaler by a student will only be allowed if a medication administration order/care plan authorizes the student to do so. Prescribed medications must be brought to school by a parent/guardian in its original container. It should state the child's name, healthcare provider's name, medication name, dosage and instructions as prescribed. The school nurse or trained personnel may administer medications during school hours provided the following conditions are met:

- It has been determined by the school nurse or trained personnel that it is required or advisable that a medication be administered during the school day.
- There is a medication administration order completed by the healthcare provider and signed by a parent/guardian requesting the school nurse or trained personnel administer the medication. The school can also obtain permission to contact the healthcare provider should there be questions or concerns regarding the medications. This permission form is available from the school nurse.
- Discontinued or unused medications must be picked up by parent/guardian by the end of each school year. If not claimed, the school nurse will destroy the medication and log the incident on the medication administration form.

INSURANCE

Injuries that occur at school may not be covered by school insurance. Student accident insurance is available. The information is provided in the Back-to-School Parent Packet. Insurance money is handled through the carrier and sent directly to the carrier.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES BY NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

Unless a court order has been issued to the contrary, non-custodial parents of students enrolled in public schools or day-care centers shall not be denied the opportunity to participate in activities such as lunch breaks and parent-teacher conferences, for which parental participation has been encouraged by school policy. The custodial parent is responsible for providing the court order, if one exists, to the public school.

SALE OF ITEMS AT SCHOOL

Students may not participate in the name of the school in the collection of money for any campaign, the sale of tickets to non-school activities, or for any fundraising activity not specifically approved by the Superintendent or his designee.

Students may not sell items at school to classmates where there is a money exchange. Example: Scout cookies or popcorn. The money exchange must take place out of school with the parent.

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

Distribution within the school of non-school publications (materials not purchased or approved by the School Board or used for instructional purposes) is restricted. Such materials must have the prior written approval of the Superintendent of Schools before they may be distributed at school.

WINCHESTER PUBLIC POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Winchester Public School's policy and procedures are located on the [WPS website](#).

COMMUNITY-RELATED PROGRAMS

An initiative of the school is to further develop formal business-partnership programs with local business sources. Businesses are invited to contact the school regarding their interest.

Many community members volunteer to share their expertise in particular subject areas or career fields. Students visit local areas of interest on field and study trips, taking advantage of the rich cultural heritage of the area

VIRGINIA AVENUE CHARLOTTE DEHART
PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION
(VACDES-PTO)

All parents/guardians and staff are members of the Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Parent-Teacher Organization (VACDES PTO). All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to become involved in the life of the school through their volunteer effort and participation in the VACDES PTO. There are committees that are responsible for various projects throughout the year. There is always a need for volunteers. Every child's school experience can be enhanced through the commitment of the members of the VACDES PTO and their dedication to each child who walks through these halls.



Some of the VACDES PTO activities include:

1. Sponsoring and organizing family and school activities
2. Serving as the parent liaison to school issues
3. Funding special programs
4. Providing funding for teachers' requests and funding for general school improvements
5. Chaperoning student social activities
6. Meeting classroom and school needs through a volunteer program.

2022-23 PTO Officers:

President: Elizabeth Dame
Vice President: Kylie Zoller
Secretary: Rachel Estok

Treasurer: TBD
ESOL Representative: TBD

COMMUNICATION

The WPS SchoolMessenger notification system enables you to stay in touch in the event of emergencies, delays/cancellations, and other important events throughout the school year. In order for you to be able to receive these notifications, it is vital that you keep your contact information accurate and up to date with your child's school. To confirm and/or update your contact information, you should [contact your child's school registrar](#). If you have children who attend different schools, you will need to contact each school separately. We encourage you to take a minute to make sure your contact information is up to date so you don't miss out on important notifications. Another great way to stay connected is to download our SchoolMessenger Parent Mobile App. For instructions on how to install the app, sign in, manage your preferences, and more, refer to the [Parent Mobile App guide](#).

PBIS

What is PBIS?

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based framework adopted by schools to positively affect student outcomes, specifically behavior.

As a PBIS school, we focus on teaching the behaviors we desire while at school through explicit instruction, practice, and positive reinforcement.

This school-wide approach to discipline focuses on building a safe and positive environment in which all students can learn. PBISrewards.com lists many benefits of a PBIS program including:

- Improved school culture
- Reduced number of office referrals
- Increased instructional time

The foundation of PBIS at VACDES lies in our three fundamental expectations:



The VACDES PBIS Program Is About:

- ★ Providing every member of the VACDES community with a safe and supportive place to teach and learn.
- ★ Setting expectations for student behavior.
- ★ Directly teaching students how we expect them to conduct themselves at school.
- ★ Reminding students of the specific behavioral expectations.
- ★ Acknowledging when students conduct themselves as expected.
- ★ Re-teaching expectations to students when they have been forgotten.
- ★ Engaging ALL students in minds-on learning with a purpose.
- ★ Being safe, kind, and responsible... ANYWHERE & EVERYWHERE!

Opportunities to Reteach







Even with clear expectations and positive reinforcement, sometimes students will display negative behaviors. If such an event occurs, an adult, generally the classroom teacher, will work with the student to review and reteach the expected behavior. The student will also be assisted in determining positive alternatives for how to respond in the future, should a similar situation arise.

VACDES PBIS Team

The VACDES PBIS team includes teachers, administrators, a school counselor, a parent representative, and a WPS Central Office staff member. The team gathers monthly to review data concerning times, locations and the nature of negative behavioral incidents. This information helps the team to identify areas in need of improvement. The team also discusses ways to acknowledge the positive behaviors of our students.

The VACDES PBIS Matrix

*Get to know our three schoolwide expectations
(Safe, Kind, Responsible) and the VACDES PBIS matrix (shown below).*

Little Judges	Safe	Kind	Responsible	Voice Level
Anywhere & Everywhere	Keep away from danger	Be friendly & helpful	Keep your word & honor commitments	
Bathroom 	Flush toilet & wash hands	Respect privacy	Clean up after yourself	0
Cafeteria 	Keep food to yourself	Use VACDES cafeteria etiquette	Be attentive to cafeteria helpers' requests	1
Classroom 	Follow directions	Show compassion	Be committed to success	0, 1, or 2
Hallway 	Straight Line To the Right Only Walking Pause at Stop Point	Admire student work	Walk with purpose	0
Playground 	Use equipment appropriately	Include others	Be attentive to teachers' directions	2 or 3
School Bus 	Stay seated & facing forward	Keep your hands to yourself	Be attentive to the bus driver	1

Behavior Flow Chart

Continuous and Intentional Teaching of Behavior Expectations

An Unexpected Behavior is Observed

Is the behavior to be managed in the classroom or managed in the office (see below)?

Classroom-Managed

- Proximity** - Move closer to the student but avoid invading personal space
- Redirect** - If appropriate, attempt a nonverbal prompt before verbal redirection
- Restate/Remind Student of Expectations** (e.g., point to PBIS matrix: "Remember, we always ____ in the hallway.")

Set Clear Limits/Offer Choices

- I need you to ____ or ____.
- When you ____, then ____.
- If you ____, you will have to ____.
- You may ____ as soon as you ____.
- I allow ____ when ____.

Limits should be simple and clear. Also, consider your volume and tone of voice. Give time for student to process the request.

Implement an appropriate Intervention/Strategy

(See suggestions at right)

Document in PBIS Rewards

Examples of Classroom-Managed (minor) Incidents

- Calling out
- Difficulty transitioning
- Failure to follow directions
- Inappropriate language/gestures
- Littering
- Creating distractions
- Running in the hallway
- Misuse of restroom time
- Rough play/horseplay
- Misuse of school property
- Not having materials
- Not telling the truth
- Out of seat/area in the classroom
- Refusal to comply
- Pushing/shoving/cutting in line
- Inappropriate physical contact

Examples of Office-Managed (major) Incidents

- Ongoing* harassment/bullying/teasing
- Fighting/inciting a fight
- Striking a staff member
- Destruction of property
- Disorderly or unsafe conduct
- Using slurs, hate speech, gestures
- Concerns with bus behavior
- Profanity directed at staff
- Theft
- Threats of violence or harm to self or others
- Elopement (leaving the classroom without permission)
- Violation of acceptable use policy
- Inappropriate contact of a sexual nature

Suggested Classroom (Tier 1) Interventions/Strategies

Interventions

- Private conversation with student
 - Problem-solve with student
 - Reflection sheet/drawing
 - Change in seating
 - Mediation/conflict resolution
 - Call/message to parent
- Other ways to intervene**
- Refer student to counselor
 - Problem-solve with team members/mentor

Prevention Strategies

- Teach, reteach, and model safe, kind and responsible behavior
- Use a visual schedule/agenda
- Use a visible timer
- Provide flexible seating options
- Have a cool-down area in room (teach students how to use it)
- Post reminders
- Acknowledge appropriate and expected behavior

Office-Managed

When Safety is NOT an Immediate Issue

- When appropriate (see information to the left), the teacher completes a Discipline Referral in PBIS Rewards.
- When the referral is received by an administrator, it will be verified as being a major incident.
- The administrator will investigate and deliver consequences as she deems appropriate and in accordance with division policy.

When Safety IS an Immediate Issue.

- A call is made to the front office or by way of walkie talkie.
- A designated staff member will respond to the call as quickly as possible.
- Once in the office, an administrator will investigate and deliver consequences as she deems appropriate and in accordance with division policy.
- The teacher should create an entry PBIS Rewards as soon after the incident as possible.

Did the behavior improve?

YES



Recognize and Reinforce Corrected/Expected Behavior

NO



Repeated Referrals

If a student has multiple referrals (despite classroom interventions) for the same behavior, the following are some options for administrators:

- Arrange for completion of an Antecedent, Behavior, and Consequence (ABC) chart to determine possible function of the behavior.
- Submit a referral to MTSS.
- Refer to counselor.
- Assign student to "reset" room (113).

Re-Evaluate the Behavior
After intervention, does the continued behavior warrant an office referral or is there another classroom-level strategy that can be tried?

*Documented in PBIS Rewards 3-5 times.

See also the [WPS Behavior Discipline Matrices](#)

Winchester Public Schools

Policy Summaries

The following policies and standards of student conduct are based upon School Board policies and general school rules applicable at the time of publication. For a complete outline of School Board policies and additional policy changes, please visit the Winchester Public Schools website at www.wps.k12.va.us or contact your student's school. Printed copies of school division policies and regulations are available to citizens who do not have online access.

We believe that . . .

1. Excellence in education is paramount to the success of the City of Winchester.
2. Excellence in education is a shared and reciprocal responsibility among educators, students, families, caregivers and the community.
3. Every student can learn and when students have access to quality instruction, technology, and community resources, education is the equalizer.
4. Every student has the right to an excellent education in a safe and engaging learning environment.
5. Mental, emotional, and physical health is essential for optimal learning.
6. Embracing the diversity of students is a strength that unifies our learning community.
7. Success for every student is dependent upon a well-communicated expectation of excellence.
8. Every student must have the requisite knowledge and skills to become a productive citizen in a global society.
9. Pursuing excellence in learning and life develops student self-esteem and self-confidence.

The mission of Winchester Public Schools, a vibrant and diverse community of learners, is to have the courage and commitment to inspire every student's passion for excellence in learning.

Every student will be...

- SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE exhibiting trust, respect, and integrity to create physically and emotionally safe environments
- COLLABORATIVE & INQUISITIVE by being authentically engaged in enriching learning environments
- EMPOWERED & PREPARED for the emerging opportunities in the global marketplace
- PASSIONATE & FOCUSED to achieve personal excellence by developing interests, passions, and talents
- ENGAGED participating in and benefiting from open and honest relationships at the school and interpersonal level

Acceptable Computer System Use

Winchester Public Schools provides a variety of educational technologies including computer hardware, software, networked and internet-based resources and communication links for the use of students only as an integral part of the instructional program. Students are responsible for the appropriate use of these resources. All policies and regulations of Winchester Public Schools governing student conduct shall apply when students are using educational technology. The use of this technology for any improper or illegal activity is prohibited.

The complete Acceptable Use Policy IIBEA is available for review on our website, www.wps.k12.va.us, or from the school's office.

I. Purpose - The School Board supports the use of technology for purposes of educational research, communication, and instruction, and to provide access to unique resources and opportunities for collaborative work. In furtherance of its approved curriculum, the School Board provides a Computer System, which includes the Internet, the use of which must be consistent with this Policy, the educational objectives and work climate of Winchester Public Schools ("WPS" or the "Division") and other School Board policies, regulations, and directives.

The term Computer System includes, but is not limited to, hardware, software, data, communication lines and devices, display devices, printers, CD/DVD and other media devices, flash drives, servers, mainframe and personal computers, tablets, laptops, cellular and network phones, including smart phones, the Internet and all other electronic services and internal or external networks (the "Computer System"). All use of the Computer System must be for educational purposes or legitimate school business. The Computer System is not a public forum and is not intended to be a forum; its purpose is to advance the Division's communications, curriculum, and work. This Policy applies to all users of the Computer System. By using or accessing the Computer System, the user agrees to abide by this Policy. The failure of any user to follow the terms of this policy may result in the loss of computer system privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

Winchester Public Schools has established and manages an instance of G Suite for Education, a set of free productivity tools for classroom collaboration provided by Google, and utilizes additional services with the G Suite for Education platform as deemed appropriate and that support education purposes at Winchester Public Schools.

Use of the Computer System is a privilege, not a right, and can be withdrawn by the Division at any time, with or without prior notice. Any communication or material generated using the Computer System, including without limitation electronic mail, social media posts, instant or text messages, and other files, may be monitored, read, and/or archived by school officials without prior notice, reason, or permission, even if the communication or material was deleted from a user's account.

II. In General

A. The Computer System shall be used as follows:

1. The Computer System must be used for either an educational purpose or for legitimate school business. The term "educational purpose" includes, without limitation, use of the Computer System for class assignments; instruction, including the development and preparation of lessons and assignments; professional or career development; and otherwise in furtherance of the School Board's vision, mission, approved curriculum and other educational objectives.
2. The Computer System may not be used for commercial purposes. The term "commercial purposes" includes, without limitation, use of the Computer System for the purpose of promoting or soliciting the sale of an item or the promotion or solicitation of a service that does not have an educational purpose or is not for legitimate school business; purchasing personal, family, or household items; to obtain a monetary or personal gain; to solicit membership in or support of any non-school sponsored organization; or to raise funds for any non-school sponsored purpose, whether profit or non-profit. No staff member shall knowingly provide names, e-mail addresses, or other personal information to outside parties whose intent is to communicate with staff, students and/or their families for non-school purposes.
3. The Computer System may not be used for political lobbying or campaigning. This activity includes, without limitation, sending emails or making web postings or advertisements that advocate support for a particular political position or candidate; however, nothing in this Policy shall be construed to limit staff and students from using the Computer System to communicate with their elected representatives and to express their opinion on political issues for educational purposes.

B. The following definitions apply to this Policy:

1. The term "staff" or "staff member" is defined to include all School Board employees, including without limitation all administrators, counselors, teachers, coaches, employees of virtual school programs (to include but not be limited to distance learning, on line programs) and vendors providing instructional services to students, as well as all student teachers, interns and practicum students, volunteers and community members.
2. The term "immediately" is defined as reporting a situation that may constitute a violation of this Policy within twenty-four hours of the first suspicion of the violation.

III. Areas of Responsibility - Staff and students must comply with, and are responsible for monitoring, enforcing, and reporting infractions of this Policy as follows:

A. Central office managers (i.e., department supervisors and directors) and building principals and other school-based administrators shall be responsible for ensuring that this Policy is followed.

B. The Director of Technology will serve as the coordinator to oversee the Computer System and will work with other local, regional, or state organizations as necessary. All purchases of hardware, software, on-line resources, and other services must be evaluated and approved beforehand by the Director of Technology or designee.

C. The building principal or designee will serve as the building-level coordinator for the Computer System and will support the building-level activities and Computer System, ensure that staff receives training pursuant to this Policy, maintain student permission data, ensure that students receive training pursuant to this Policy, and be responsible for implementing and interpreting this Policy at the building level.

D. Teachers shall be responsible for guiding and monitoring student use of the Computer System.

E. Students shall be responsible for adhering to this Policy and using the Computer System for assignments directly related to the curriculum.

F. Parents and guardians shall be responsible for ensuring that their child (ren) adhere to this Policy and use the Computer System for curriculum related assignments.

IV. Internet Safety

A. Content Filtering. Pursuant to the federal Children’s Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 254, and Va. Code § 22.1-70.2, the Division shall select and implement a technology protection measure to filter or block Internet access, for both adult and minor users, through the Computer System, to material unrelated to the Division's educational vision, mission, and approved curriculum, and to:

1. Pornography, including child pornography, as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2256 and Va. Code § 18.2-374.1:1;
2. Profane and obscene material, as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1460 and Va. Code § 18.2-372; and
3. Material that the Division deems to be harmful to juveniles, as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-390, material that is harmful to minors, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(G), and material that is otherwise inappropriate for minors.

The technology protection measure will be enforced during any and all use of the Computer System as required by law. The current technology protection measures include without limitation managed networks, firewalls, Internet filters, virus controls, and monitoring devices. Despite its best efforts, it may not be possible for the Division to restrict access to all prohibited materials. User activity and the operation of filtering protection measures will therefore be monitored to ensure compliance with federal and state law, this Policy, and other School Board policies, regulations, and directives.

B. Student Training. Pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-70.2, WPS will provide Internet safety training to all students. Internet safety instruction is integrated into the K-12 curriculum. Principals will review this Policy and other applicable School Board policies, regulations, and directives with staff and students annually.

C. Student and Staff Training. WPS will also provide students and staff training designed to educate about appropriate online behavior, including without limitation, appropriate conduct when using email, social media, blogs, and chat rooms, as well as cyber bullying awareness and response.

V. Access to the Computer System

- A. Staff and students will have access to the Internet through selected computers and other electronic devices. Student use may be limited upon parental or guardian notification. Parents and guardians may request alternative activities for their child(ren) that do not require Internet access by notifying the building principal in writing or completing the Parent Permission Form for Student Involvement issued with the Student Handbook. Parents and guardians may also request to view the content of their child's user file.
- B. Staff and students are permitted to use personal electronic devices, such as smart phones tablets, and laptops, provided that such use is consistent with this Policy and as set forth in Policy JFI- Student Use of Personally Owned Electronic Devices.

VI. Limitation of Liability. The School Board makes no warranties of any kind, neither express nor implied, regarding the Computer System. The School Board will not be responsible for any damages users suffer, including, but not limited to:

- A. Loss of data resulting from delays or interruptions in service;
- B. Accuracy, nature, or quality of information stored on the Computer System;
- C. Accuracy, nature, or quality of information gathered through the Computer System;
- D. Damage to personal property used to access the Computer System; or
- E. Unauthorized financial obligations resulting from use of the Computer System.

VII. Unacceptable Uses of the Computer System

- A. WPS shall cooperate fully with local, state, and/or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any alleged illegal activities conducted through the Computer System.
- B. Students who violate the provisions of this Policy, applicable state and federal law, applicable School Board policies, regulations, and directives, and/or applicable building-level rules shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Policy JFC Student Conduct.
- C. School Board employees who violate the provisions of this Policy, applicable state and federal law, applicable School Board policies, regulations, and directives, and/or applicable building-level rules shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the School Board personnel policies.
- D. Non-employees violating this Policy shall have their access privileges immediately suspended.

VIII. Computer System Monitoring and Related Searches

- A. Users have no right of privacy and should have no expectation of privacy in materials sent, received, or stored on the Computer System. The Division reserves the right to monitor and review all usage of the Computer System at any time, for any reason, with or without prior notice or permission.
- B. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the Computer System may lead to the discovery that the user has or is violating this Policy or other School Board policies, regulations, and directives.
- C. A search of a user's account shall be conducted if there is individual reasonable suspicion that a user has

violated the law or School Board policies, regulations, or directives. The nature of the search/investigation will be reasonable and appropriate to the nature of the alleged misconduct.

D. User files may be subject to protection and disclosure requirements set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and other federal and state laws.

E. Users must provide their password upon request to technology staff for use in diagnosing and repairing Computer System problems and in providing routine maintenance and monitoring of the Computer System. In the event an account or password is known or suspected to have been lost, stolen, or disclosed, the user shall immediately report the incident to technology staff and new passwords will be created.

IX. Software and Hardware. Only school or Division licensed software approved by the Director of Technology may be installed on the Computer System. No school-licensed software may be copied for use on other school's Computer System unless this right is specifically granted in the school's license agreement. Software may only be installed by technology staff members. All licensing and registration materials shall be furnished to the building Technology Resource Teacher, who is responsible for maintaining licensing records on a building level. The Director of Technology will maintain records on Division licensed software.

X. Selection of Material. When using the Internet for class activities, staff shall select material that is appropriate in light of the age of the students, relevant to the course objectives, and consistent with the Division's approved curriculum and educational mission, vision and objectives. Staff shall preview the materials and sites they require or recommend students to access in order to determine the appropriateness of the material contained on or accessed through the site. Staff shall provide guidelines and lists of resources to assist students in channeling their research activities effectively and properly. Staff shall assist their students in developing the skills to evaluate the truthfulness of information, distinguish fact from opinion, and engage in discussions about controversial issues while demonstrating tolerance and respect for those who hold divergent views.

XI. Acceptable and Unacceptable Use

A. Acceptable Use. Use of the Computer System shall be consistent with the educational vision and mission, approved curriculum, and work of the Division, as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of students. Staff are to utilize the Computer system for educational purposes, legitimate school business, and performance of job duties. Incidental personal use of the Computer System is permitted as long as such use does not interfere with the staff member's job duties and performance, with system operations, or other system users. "Incidental personal use" is defined as use by an individual employee for occasional personal communications not occurring during instructional time and is not otherwise prohibited by this Policy.

B. Unacceptable Use. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of unacceptable uses of the Computer System:

1. Engaging in Illegal and other Unacceptable Activities. Users shall not use the Computer System to:
- a. "Hack into" or otherwise access data not intended for the user, including, without limitation, logging into another user's account or otherwise obtaining another user's files or administrative data.
 - b. Make deliberate attempts to disrupt the Computer System or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means.
 - c. Send, receive, view or download illegal material, or engage in any other illegal act, including, without limitation, arranging for the sale or purchase of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco, engaging in criminal gang activity, or threatening the safety of another individual.
 - d. Access, upload, download, create, or distribute profane, pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit, or other illegal material.
 - e. Transmit profane, obscene, abusive, sexually explicit, or threatening language that could be characterized as bullying, harassing, prejudicial or discriminatory attacks, or is otherwise damaging to one's reputation.
 - f. Vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another individual or organization, including destroying data by creating or spreading viruses or by other means.
 - g. Violate any other local, state, or federal law.
 - h. Delete, erase or otherwise conceal any information stored on the Computer System that violates this Policy or at any time after being advised by an administrator or supervisor to preserve any materials stored on the Computer System.

2. Jeopardizing System Security

- a. Users are responsible for the use of their individual accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from accessing their accounts. Under no conditions should a user provide password information to another person except as provided in this Policy.
- b. Users shall not alter system or network settings, circumvent the menu, password, or Internet filtering software installed on the Computer System, or change configurations (hardware and software), except under the direct supervision of technology staff.
- c. Users shall immediately notify the Director of Technology if they have identified a possible security problem.
- d. Users shall insure that the latest antivirus/antimalware software is installed and functioning on their personal electronic device when it is connected to the Computer System.

3. Using Inappropriate Language

- a. Restrictions against inappropriate language apply to messages and posts made on or through the Computer System, including without limitation public messages, private messages, email, and material posted on Division, school, and extracurricular organization webpages or related social media accounts.
- b. Users shall not use the Computer System to convey or otherwise disseminate obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.
- c. Users shall not use the Computer System to post or email information that, if acted upon, could cause damage or a danger of disruption.
- d. Users shall not use the Computer System to knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.

4. Failure to Respect Privacy

- a. Users shall not use the Computer System to publicize a message that was sent to them privately without permission of the person who sent the message.
- b. Users shall not use the Computer System to post or email private information about themselves.
- c. Users shall not use the Computer System to disclose, use, or disseminate photographs and/or personal information regarding other people. Personal information is defined to include information such as a person's home address, telephone number, social security number, bank or credit card account number, log-in information or password.

5. Failure to Respect Resource Limits

- a. Staff shall not download large files on the Computer System unless absolutely necessary. If necessary, large files shall be downloaded only at a time when the Computer System is not being heavily used. All files downloaded shall be for educational purposes or legitimate school business. Students shall not download any files.
- b. Users shall not use the Computer System to post or email chain letters or to engage in "spamming." For purposes of this Policy, spamming is defined to include sending an unnecessary message, unrelated to educational purposes or legitimate school business, to a large number of people.
- c. Users may not use the Computer System to subscribe to discussion groups or e-mail lists, unless such groups or lists are relevant to an educational purpose or legitimate school business, including a specific assignment or for instructional purposes.
- d. Users shall not abuse or monopolize the Computer System for non-educational use.

6. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

- a. Users shall not plagiarize works found on the Computer System. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting such ideas or writings as if they were original to the user.
- b. Users shall respect the rights of copyright owners. The School Board Policy EGAA Reproduction of Copyright Materials applies to copyrighted materials accessed through the Computer System, as well as traditionally published materials. Copyright infringement occurs when an individual inappropriately reproduces a work that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies acceptable use of that work, the user should follow the expressed requirements. If users are unsure whether or not they can use a work, users should request permission from the copyright owner.

7. Student Acceptable Use of Email and Other Electronic Communication. Student access to direct electronic communications, including e-mail, shall be made via a special account assigned to each student and used under staff supervision, provided that the following restrictions are met:

- a. Students shall not use the Computer System to post or e-mail personal or sensitive information about themselves or other people. This includes information such as the student's or another person's home address, telephone number, student ID number, bank or credit card account numbers, social security numbers, login information and passwords.
- b. Students shall not use the Computer System to meet with someone they have met online without their parent's or guardian's prior approval and participation.

c. Students shall promptly disclose to their teacher or other school staff any message they receive that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.

8. Staff Acceptable Use of Email and Other Electronic Communication

a. **In General.** The Computer System provides opportunities for increased communication and collaboration for both students and staff. As students and staff are connected to the global community, their use of new tools and systems brings new responsibilities. Any electronic or online communications by staff with other staff, students and parents must be transparent, accessible to supervisors and parents, and professional in content and tone.

Electronic communications should not replace in person and telephone communication, which are better modes of communication for conveying meaning and context and should be used whenever possible. Staff using electronic and online communication shall adhere to the following guidelines:

- i. Any staff member who has a reason to suspect that inappropriate communication is occurring between a staff member and student or among staff members shall report the matter immediately to their principal.
- ii. Staff members who correspond with students or parents via email must use only the Division's email system to receive or send email. Staff correspondence with students is strictly limited to school related content.
- iii. Staff members who correspond with other staff members about school related business must use only the Division's email system to receive or send email.
- iv. Staff should not include detailed student information in any email or document attached to an email. Staff shall not use or attach a document that reveals a social security number, biometric record, or student identification number that could be used directly or indirectly to gain access to education records. When referencing students, the email shall be limited to basic factual information and exchanged only between parties who have a legitimate educational interest in the information and in the student that is the subject of the correspondence.
- v. Electronic resources must never be used to discuss contentious, sensitive, emotional or highly confidential issues. These issues should be discussed in person or by phone. Emails should be short and directional in nature and only include objective factual information. Examples of such factual information are set forth in Section 8(B) below.
- vi. Staff members are responsible for all email sent from their account, and should take care to protect access to their account by keeping their password secret and by logging off when not using their account.
- vii. Electronic communication should be consistent with professional practices for other correspondence. This includes grammar, format and salutation.

b. Acceptable uses of staff to parent email or other electronic communication. Examples of this acceptable use includes providing general information about class activities such as curriculum, homework, tests, special events and school announcements; making arrangements for meeting/telephone call regarding a student issue, including a general description of the issue; and following-up on an issue that has previously been discussed. Any discussion related to other students or staff members is not appropriate.

c. Acceptable uses of staff to student email or other electronic communication. Examples of this acceptable use includes discussions specifically related to class activities, such as curriculum, homework, tests, special events, and school announcements. There should be no discussion related to other students, discussion about the personal life of staff members or students, or sensitive information regarding the student's performance.

d. Establishment of social media accounts or accounts on educational sites for instructional purposes. Staff may establish one or more social media accounts or accounts on educational websites solely for educational purposes. Staff must notify the building principal of their intent to establish such accounts and the building principal must approve and monitor each account.

These accounts shall not be used for personal communications and are to be separate from staff members' personal social media accounts. Any such site shall have a clear statement of purpose and outcomes for the use of the account, and a code of conduct for all participants. The staff member establishing the account shall apply appropriate security and privacy settings, be responsible for the account's content, diligently monitor the account for inappropriate content, and post only information related to the account's purpose that is appropriate for viewing by students, parents and the community at large. Students should not be required to create a login in order to access or view the information. When appropriate, links to these accounts shall be posted on the school's webpage, as outlined in Policy CJA-Website Development and Management. Staff members are expected to read and understand all terms of service and privacy policies associated with the social media and educational site accounts they intend to use for instructional purposes.

e. Personal social media accounts. Staff members are expected to be role models. Material posted on staff members' personal websites, accounts, and social media websites must model the behavior that staff members are expected to exhibit, as a role model, both on and off campus and school related activities. Inappropriate content, including without limitation, material that compromises a staff/student professional relationship or boundaries, messages and pictures that diminish a staff member's professionalism, discredits his/her capacity to maintain the respect of students and parents, or that impairs the ability of that staff member to serve as a role model for students, is prohibited. WPS expects the following in regards to personal electronic communications, use of social media, and other online communications:

- i. WPS prohibits any students and staff members from establishing an online social media relationship through their personal social media websites. Interaction between staff and students on a social media websites must be for educational purposes only, as set forth in section XI(B)(8)(d) above.
- ii. Staff and students shall not use Internet resources that require the establishment of a student account or login that is not administrated or monitored by WPS.
- iii. Students appearing in individual or group photographs shall not be individually identified.
- iv. Staff shall not post comments about students.

XII. Non-Computer System Use. The School Board has no legal responsibility to regulate or review Internet messages, statements, postings, or acts either made off-campus or not made on, through, or in connection with the Computer System. The Division reserves the right to discipline students and staff for actions taken off-campus or independently of the Computer System, which would violate this Policy or other applicable

School Board policies, regulations or directives if occurring on-campus or on, through, or in connection with the Computer System, if such actions adversely affect the safety, well-being, or performance of students while in school, on school buses, at school activities or school sponsored events, or coming to and from school; if such actions threaten violence against another student or staff member; if such actions violate local, state or federal law; or if such actions disrupt the learning environment, administration, or orderly conduct of the school.

XIII. Remote Access to the Computer System. All provisions of this policy apply when accessing the Computer System remotely or on-site.

The School Board will review and amend, if necessary, this Policy every two years.

Attendance

COVID Disclaimer: WPS will communicate to families how distance learning and in-person attendance will be monitored and recorded on days are not physically present.

Good attendance requires a team effort from the school, parent/guardian and student.

The importance of regular school attendance cannot be over emphasized. Students regularly attending school achieve at much higher levels, enjoy school more and develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. All of these will serve an individual well as he/she continues through school and into the world of work.

Each parent/guardian or person having control or charge of a child within the compulsory attendance age shall be responsible for such child's regular and punctual attendance at school as required under provisions of the law. Therefore, the parent/guardian or person having control or charge of a child shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the school on the day of absence.

We request that any time your child must be absent from school, please call the school on the day of the absence and advise the school that your child will not be in attendance that day. Below is a table outlining the responsibility of the school, the parent/guardian and our students in maintaining strong attendance.

Students shall attend school for a full day unless otherwise excused. Secondary students shall be scheduled for a full school day unless they are enrolled in a cooperative work-study program. All other exceptions to a full day schedule must be approved on an individual basis by the Superintendent or designee.

The superintendent's regulations will include procedures for excusing students who are absent by reason of observance of a religious holiday. Such regulations will ensure that a student is not deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award, or of the right to take an alternate test or examination, which he or she missed by reason of such absence, if the absence is verified in an acceptable manner.

Student Attendance Policy

Number of Day(s) Absent	Responsibility of School	Responsibility of Student	Responsibility of Parent/Guardian
1+	<p>The school staff shall record the student's absence for each day as "excused" or "unexcused".</p> <p>It will be excused when the reason provided by the parent/guardian is acceptable to the school administration. Examples of an excused absence may include, but are not limited to, the following reasons: funeral, illness (including mental health and substance abuse illnesses), injury, legal obligations, medical procedures, suspensions, religious observances and military obligation.</p> <p>The absence will be reported as unexcused when the student misses his/her scheduled instructional school day in its entirety and (i) no indication has been received by school personnel within three five days of the absence that the student's parent is aware and supports the absence, or (ii) the parent provides a reason for the absence that is unacceptable to the school administration.</p>	Turn in any doctor's notes to teacher or school office.	Contact school on morning of absence. If unable to call, a note should be sent in with the student.
5 th Day of Unexcused Absence	<p>When a student has received five unexcused absences, the school principal or attendance designee shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that direct contact is made with the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian shall be contacted in a face-to-face conference, by telephone, or through the use of other communication devices. During the meeting with the parent/guardian and the student (if appropriate), reasons for nonattendance shall be documented and the consequences of nonattendance explained. An attendance plan shall be made with the student and parent/guardian to resolve the nonattendance issues. The student and parent/guardian may be</p>	Participate in attendance meeting and comply with plan of action.	Participate in attendance meeting and comply with plan of action.

	<p>referred to a school-based multi-disciplinary team for assistance implementing the attendance plan and case management.</p> <p>If the principal or principal's designee, after reasonable efforts have been made, are unable to contact the student's parent/guardian, the conference shall be held regardless of whether the student's parent/guardian approves of the conference.</p>		
Throughout School Year	<p>A school-based team shall monitor the student's attendance and, as necessary, meet again to address concerns and plan additional interventions if the student's attendance does not improve. If additional meetings are necessary the principal or principal's attendance designee should make reasonable efforts to contact the student's parent/guardian and schedule a face-to-face meeting, or an interaction that is conducted through the use of communication technology. If the principal or principal's attendance designee, after reasonable efforts have been made, are unable to contact the student's parent/guardian, the conference shall be held regardless of whether the student's parent/guardian approves of the conference.</p> <p>The principal may notify the juvenile and domestic relations court, which may take action to suspend the student's driver's license.</p>	Respond for requests from school staff to discuss attendance.	Respond for requests from school staff to discuss student's attendance.
If Absences Continue	<p>In circumstances in which the parent/guardian is intentionally noncompliant with compulsory attendance requirements or the student is resisting parental efforts to comply with compulsory attendance requirements, the school principal or attendance designee shall make a referral to the attendance officer (school social worker) or division superintendent of the student's lack of</p>	Respond for requests from school staff to discuss student's attendance.	Respond for requests from school staff to discuss attendance.

	<p>progress towards resolving nonattendance issues, given sufficient intervention to address the student's nonattendance. The attendance officer shall schedule a conference with the student and the student's parent or parents within 10 days of receiving the referral. The attendance officer may contact the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court intake to (i) file a complaint alleging the student is a child in need of supervision as defined in <u>§ 16.1-228</u> or (ii) to institute proceedings against the parent pursuant to <u>§ 18.2-371</u> or <u>22.1-262</u>. In addition to documentation of compliance with the notice provisions of <u>§ 22.1-258</u> of the Code of Virginia, all records of intervention regarding the student's unexcused absences, such as copies of the conference meeting notes, attendance plan, and supports shall be presented to the intake worker.</p>		
<p>10th Day of Absence (Excused or Unexcused)</p>	<p>School will mail "Make Every Day Count" letter to raise awareness of the impact of regular attendance on school success.</p>	<p>Discuss receipt of letter with parent/guardian.</p>	<p>Contact school administration or school social worker with any concerns/needed support.</p>
<p>20th Day of 20% of the school year of Absence (Excused or Non-excused)</p>	<p>The principal or attendance designee will schedule a face to face meeting with the parent/guardian, student and other school staff. The purpose of this meeting is to explore barriers to regular attendance and provision of services to ensure school success. If deemed necessary, a decision can be made to initiate court proceedings for excessive excused absences. Medical excuses may be required for additional absences.</p>	<p>Participate in attendance meeting with school staff.</p>	<p>Participate in attendance meeting with school staff.</p>

Attendance Reporting

Excused and unexcused absences shall be counted for each individual student and shall be reported to the Virginia Department of Education.

Dismissal Precautions

Principals shall not release a student during the school day to any person not authorized by the student's parent/guardian to assume responsibility for the pupil. Students shall be released only on request and authorization of the parent/guardian. The Superintendent shall provide procedures for release of pupils who

are not residing with or under the supervision of a parent/guardian. The burden of proof on the authority of the person to receive the student is on the requesting party. A formal checkout system shall be maintained in each school.

Tardy

If excessive tardies continue then the following could occur:

1. If an elementary student arrives to school late, then a parent/guardian must accompany him/her to the office to be signed in.
1. Excessive tardies may be referred to an administrator for disciplinary action.
2. If a student is on a school zone variance, that variance can be revoked due to excessive tardies or absences.
3. If a student has moved out of the city during a school semester the student may continue in attendance without payment of tuition until the end of the semester. In the event of excessive absences, tardies, and/or discipline issues the administration may review this privilege on a case by case basis.

Boundaries Policy - GM

MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL STAFF/STUDENT BOUNDARIES -

Winchester Public Schools ("WPS" or the "Division") provides its students with a safe and supportive learning environment and protects its students from sexual misconduct and abuse. The responsibility to protect students from sexual misconduct and abuse is shared by the Winchester Public School Board ("School Board"), Superintendent, administrators, teachers, other School Board employees, volunteers, parents, state agencies and law enforcement.

Although the Division has dedicated, professional staff members, it is important to be certain that proper boundaries between staff members and students are maintained at all times in order to ensure respect for the ethical and legal duties in the staff/student relationship and the essential duty of a staff member to serve as a role model to the student. In doing so, staff members will demonstrate a focus on job duties, a commitment to promote educational purposes, and an unconditional dedication to professionalism in conduct and interactions with students.

For the purposes of this Policy, a "staff member" is defined to include all School Board employees, including without limitation all administrators, counselors, teachers, nurses, student support specialists, support staff, coaches, employees of virtual school programs (to include but not be limited to distance learning, online programs) and vendors providing instructional services to students, as well as all student teachers, interns, practicum students, volunteers and community members. In addition, the term "immediately" is defined as reporting a situation that may constitute a violation of this Policy, including without limitation an appearance of impropriety, within 24 hours of the first suspicion of the violation.

All staff members are to maintain a professional, moral, and ethical relationship in their conduct with students and shall serve as role models for students at all times, whether on or off School property, both during and outside of school hours. The Division encourages healthy relationships between students and staff members that promote student achievement and success. At the same time, clear and reasonable boundaries for interactions between students and staff members are necessary to protect students from sexual misconduct and abuse and to protect staff members from misunderstandings and false accusations.

All staff members have a responsibility to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning through consistent and fairly applied discipline and the maintenance of professional physical and emotional boundaries

with students. These boundaries shall be maintained regardless of the student's age, the perceived consensual nature of the relationship or activity, the location of the activity, and whether the staff member directly supervises the student. For staff members whose children are students of WPS, this policy is not intended to violate or otherwise intrude upon the usual parent/child relationship.

Personal contact between students and staff members must always be professional, non-sexual, appropriate to the circumstances, and unambiguous in meaning. A boundary invasion is an act, omission, or pattern of behavior by a staff member that does not have an educational purpose and either abuses or compromises the staff/student professional relationship or has the potential to abuse or compromise the staff/student professional relationship.

Unacceptable Conduct

Examples of boundary invasions by staff members include but are not limited to the following:

- Any type of inappropriate physical contact with a student or any other conduct that might be considered harassment under Policies GBA/JFHA Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation.
- Showing inappropriate images to a student, including pornography;
- Dating a student, or discussing or planning a future romantic or sexual relationship with a student;
- Making sexual advances toward a student;
- A flirtatious, romantic or sexual relationship with a student;
- Unnecessarily invading a student's personal privacy;
- Singling out a particular student or students for personal attention and friendship beyond the professional staff/student relationship;
- Socializing where students are consuming alcohol, drugs or tobacco;
- Providing or offering to provide alcohol, drugs or tobacco to students;
- For non-guidance/counseling staff, excessively encouraging students to confide their personal or family problems and/or relationships. If a student initiates such discussions, staff members are expected to use their professional judgment and refer the student to appropriate guidance/counseling staff when appropriate;
- Sending students on personal errands unrelated to any educational, non-curricular or extracurricular purpose;
- Banter, allusions, jokes or innuendoes of a sexual nature with students;
- Asking a student to keep a secret;
- Disclosing inappropriate personal, sexual, family, employment concerns, or other inappropriate private matters to one or more students;
- Addressing students with personalized terms of endearment or pet names that would suggest the staff member feels love or affection for the student. As a staff member, permitting students to address you by your first name, nickname, with personalized terms of endearment, pet names, or otherwise in an overly familiar manner;
- Maintaining personal contact with a student outside of school by telephone, text message, email, Instant Messenger, Internet chat rooms, social networking websites or letters (beyond homework or other legitimate school business) without the prior express permission of the student's parent/guardian;
- Exchanging gifts cards or letters that are personal or extravagant in nature with a

- student (beyond customary student-teacher gifts);
- Socializing or spending time with students outside of school related or school sponsored curricular or extracurricular activities or organized community activities (including but not limited to activities such as going out for beverages, meals or movies, shopping, traveling and recreational activities) and/or
- Giving a student a ride alone in a vehicle in a non-emergency situation or a situation that can be avoided. If a staff member must give a student a ride, the student shall ride in the back seat of the vehicle when possible and staff member must attempt to gain prior permission from the parent for the transportation arrangement.

Appearances of Impropriety

The following activities are boundary invasions and can create an actual impropriety or the appearance of impropriety. Whenever possible, staff members should avoid these situations. If unavoidable, these activities must be pre-approved by the appropriate administrator. If not pre-approved, the staff member must immediately report the occurrence to the appropriate administrator.

- Conducting ongoing, private conversations with individual students that do not have an educational purpose, are unrelated to school activities or the well-being of the student, and that take place in locations inaccessible to others;
- Being alone with an individual student out of the view of others or in an inaccessible location, except for in the context of school counselors providing professional counseling support services, teachers working with students in an afterschool setting or during testing, or a school nurse providing medical services to a student;
- Driving students home or to other locations without the prior knowledge and express permission of the parent/guardian;
- Inviting or allowing individual students to visit the staff member's home without the prior knowledge and express permission of the parent/guardian;
- Inviting students for social contact off school grounds without the prior knowledge and express permission of the parent/guardian;
- Visiting a student's home in the absence of the student's parent/guardian or without the prior knowledge and express permission of the parent/guardian; and/or
- Social networking with students for non-educational purposes.

Staff members are expected to be sensitive to the appearance of impropriety in their conduct with students. Staff members are encouraged to discuss issues with the appropriate administrator whenever they are unsure whether particular conduct may constitute a violation of this Policy.

Electronic Communication

Digital technology and social networking provide multiple means for staff members to communicate appropriately with students and personalize learning. Electronic and online communications between staff members and students must be transparent, contemporaneously accessible to supervisors and parents/guardians, and professional in content and tone. Such communication must be professional, non-sexual, appropriate to the circumstances, and unambiguous in meaning. Staff members must restrict one-on-one electronic communications with individual students to accounts, systems, and platforms that are provided by and accessible to the Division or with the prior express permission of the principal or supervisor and the parent/guardian.

As with in-person communications, staff members shall avoid appearances of impropriety and refrain from inappropriate electronic communications with students. Factors that may be considered in determining whether an electronic communication is inappropriate include, but are not limited to:

- The subject, content, purpose, authorization, timing and frequency of the communication;
- Whether there was an attempt to conceal, shield or misportray the communication from supervisors and/or parents/guardians;
- Whether the communication could be reasonably interpreted as soliciting sexual contact or a romantic relationship; and
- Whether the communication contained sexual innuendo, such as for purposes of grooming the student.

Parents are encouraged to have access to their children's social networking and digital communications and to supervise their children's use of these methods of communication.

Reporting Violations

Students and their parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to notify the principal, an administrator, the lead supervisor, or division superintendent if they believe a staff member may be engaging in conduct that violates this Policy.

Staff members are required to immediately notify the principal, an administrator, the lead supervisor, or the division superintendent if they become aware of a situation that may constitute a violation of this Policy. This obligation is in addition to the statutory responsibility to report suspected abuse and neglect under Policy JHG Child Abuse Neglect and Reporting.

Anonymous complaints involving inappropriate boundary invasions by staff members with students will be investigated as if a student, parent, or staff member reported the violation.

Investigation

Investigations of allegations concerning improper staff/student relations shall follow the procedures utilized for complaints under Policies GBA/JFHA Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation and GBA-R1/JFHA-R1 Harassment: Complaint Procedure.

Disciplinary Action

A violation of this Policy by a staff member may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. In the case of termination of employment for sexual misconduct or abuse, the Division will notify the State Superintendent of Instruction. Consistent with the Virginia Department of Education Guidelines, the Division will disclose to school divisions seeking references any formal reprimands or dismissals for violating this Policy.

Retaliation

Retaliation against students or staff members who report an improper staff/student relationship or participate in any related proceedings is prohibited. Appropriate action will be taken against students or staff members who retaliate against any student or staff member who reports alleged harassment or participates in related proceedings.

Inappropriate Behavior Initiated by a Student

In the event that a student initiates inappropriate behavior toward a staff member, the staff member must document the incident and report it to the principal, an administrator, counselor, or the lead supervisor. If appropriate, the principal, administrator, counselor, or lead supervisor will intervene and speak with the student and the student's parent/guardian about the alleged inappropriate behavior.

Training

The Division will provide its employees and volunteers with training on the prevention of sexual misconduct and abuse, including providing them with this Policy. All teachers are required to be trained during their recertification process. Contracts with virtual school programs and other vendors providing instructional services to students will include a requirement that those staff members will comply with this Policy.

Dissemination of Policy and Reporting Protocols

This Policy will be included on the Division's website and in all employee, student and volunteer handbooks.

Career and Technical Education - Annual Public Notice

The Winchester Public School Division provides a program of career and technical programs incorporated into the kindergarten through twelfth grade curricula that include:

- knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession, and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills
- career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades
- competency-based career and technical education programs are implemented which integrate academic outcomes, career guidance and job-seeking skills for all secondary students based on labor market needs, career guidance and student interest. Career guidance includes counseling about available employment opportunities to all students and placement service information for students exiting school; and
- Annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents/guardians of (i) the availability of the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher Education on its website and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college or workforce.

Emergency Procedures – Standard Response Protocol

STUDENT SAFETY - A critical ingredient in the safe school recipe is the classroom response to an incident at school. Weather events, fire, accidents, intruders and other threats to student safety are scenarios that are planned and trained for by students, teachers, staff and administration.

SRP - Our school is expanding the safety program to include the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). The SRP is based on these five actions. Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter. In the event of an emergency, the action and appropriate direction will be called on the PA.

HOLD - "Hold in your rooms or area"
SECURE - "Get inside and lock outside doors"
LOCKDOWN - "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"
EVACUATE - "To the Announced Location"
SHELTER - "For a Hazard Using a Safety Strategy"

Please take a moment to review these actions. Students and staff will be trained and the school will drill these actions over the course of the school year. More information can be found at <http://iloveguys.org>.

HOLD - HOLD IN YOUR ROOMS OR AREA

Hold is called when the hallways need to be cleared

STUDENTS:

- Clear the hallways and remain in the room or area until "All Clear" is called
- Do business as usual

TEACHERS

- Close and lock the doors
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual

SECURE - GET INSIDE AND LOCK OUTSIDE DOORS

Secure is called when there is a threat or hazard outside of the school building.

STUDENTS:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

TEACHERS

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual

LOCKDOWN - LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT

Lockdown is called when there is a threat or hazard inside the school building.

STUDENTS:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

TEACHERS:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock classroom door
- Turn out lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend

EVACUATE - TO A LOCATION

Evacuate is called to move students and staff from one location to another.

STUDENTS:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring your phone
- Follow instructions

TEACHERS:

- Bring roll sheet and go bag (unless instructed not to dependent on reason)
- Lead students to Evacuation Location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using red card/green card method

SHELTER - FOR A HAZARD USING SAFETY STRATEGY

Shelter is called when the need for personal protection is necessary.

SAMPLE HAZARDS:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

SAMPLE SAFETY STRATEGIES:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover, and hold
- Get to high ground

STUDENTS:

- Appropriate hazards and safety strategies

TEACHERS:

- Appropriate hazards and safety strategies
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using red card/green card method

English Learners (EL)

The School Board accepts and provides programs for students for whom English is a second language who entered school in Virginia for the first time after reaching their 12th birthday, and who have not reached age 22 on or before August 1 of the school year. No tuition is charged to such students, if state funding is provided for such programs.

The School Board will, not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, inform a parent or the parents of a limited English proficient child identified for participation in, or participating in, a program for limited English proficient students of

- the reasons for the identification of their child as limited English proficient and in need of placement in a language instruction education program;
- the child's level of English proficiency, how that level was assessed, and the status of the child's academic achievement;
- the method of instruction used in the program in which their child is, or will be, participating, and the methods of instruction used in other available programs, including how such programs differ in content, instruction goals, and use of English and a native language in instruction;
- how the program in which their child is, or will be participating will meet the educational strengths

- and needs of the child;
- how such program will specifically help their child learn English, and meet age appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation;
 - the specific exit requirements for such program, the expected rate of transition from such program into classrooms that are not tailored for limited English proficient children, and the expected rate of graduation from secondary school for such program;
 - in the case of a child with a disability, how such program meets the objectives of the individualized education program of the child; and
 - information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance
 - detailing the right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request and the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available, and
 - assisting parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than one program or method is offered by the school division.

Graduation Requirements

NOTE: Full descriptions of graduation requirements and courses can be found in the High School Program of Studies found at <https://www.wps.k12.va.us/domain/1670> .

Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC20-131-51) for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2018-2019 and Beyond

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English (reading and writing)	4	2
Mathematics	3	1
Laboratory Science	3	1
History and Social Science	3	1
World Language, Fine Arts, or Career & Technical Education	2	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	4	
Total	22	5

Advanced Studies Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC20-131-51) for Students Entering the Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2018-2019 and Beyond

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English (reading and writing)	4	2
Mathematics	4	1
Laboratory Science	4	1
History and Social Science	4	1
World Language	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or CTE	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3	
Total	26	5

Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC20-131-50) for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2011-2012 through 2017-2018

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	SOL Verified Credits Required
English	4	2
Mathematics	3	1
Laboratory Science	3	1
History and Social Sciences	3	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
World Language, Fine Arts or CTE	2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	4	
Student Selected Tests		1
Career and Technical Education Credential		
Total	22	6

Advanced Studies Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC20-131-50) for Students Entering the Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2011-2012 through 2017-2018

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	SOL Verified Credits Required
English	4	2
Mathematics	4	2
Laboratory Science	4	2
History and Social Sciences	4	2
Foreign Language	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3	
Student Selected Test		1
Total	26	9

Note: Athletes should work closely with their school counselor to ensure courses meet NCAA/NAIA requirements. All potential college student-athletes must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse and meet NCAA academic requirements. Information is in the High School Program of Studies found at <https://www.wps.k12.va.us/domain/1670>.

APPLIED STUDIES DIPLOMA

Students identified with disabilities who complete the requirements of their individualized education programs shall be awarded special diplomas by local school boards if they do not fulfill any other diploma requirements.

LOCALLY AWARDED VERIFIED CREDIT

A verified credit is received when a student passes a high school course and the associated Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course state test. A Locally Awarded Verified Credit (LAVC) is an option available for some students who pass a class but do not pass the associated SOL test and do not have enough verified credits to graduate.

The criteria for the award of locally-awarded verified credit is summarized below:

- To qualify for locally-awarded verified credits, a student must:
 - Pass the high school course;
 - Score within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning test after taking the test at least twice; and
 - Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level (submit evidence of mastery to the Director of Secondary Education).
- Students with disabilities who have credit accommodations are not subject to the limit on the number of locally-awarded verified credits.

For students entering the ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2018-2019 academic year:

- No more than three locally-awarded verified credits may be awarded.
- Locally-awarded verified credits cannot be applied toward an Advanced Studies diploma.
- Students that are no longer in school who would now be eligible for a locally-awarded verified credit in English or mathematics may now earn a locally-awarded verified credit, provided that all criteria are met. These students could be upgraded to a diploma if they meet the criteria.

For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2018-2019 academic year and beyond:

- No more than one locally-awarded verified credit may be awarded.
- Locally-awarded verified credits can be applied toward either a Standard or an Advanced Studies diploma.

NOTE: Emergency COVID-19 Guidelines from the Virginia Department of Education may be in place if SOL testing cannot take place.

Gifted Program

COVID-19 Disclaimer: Due to temporary changes, identification and programming may be modified.

The Winchester Public Schools EXCEL Program (emphasizing: Excellence, Creativity, “En”dividuality, and Leadership) offers a continuum of services and options which provide appropriate learning pathways for gifted students. Learning opportunities are designed to be open-ended so that they may be tailored to the talents and interests of students.

The goal is to engage students in comprehensive study for which the rate of learning, the content, and high level processing skills are adjusted to provide a program commensurate with the needs of each intellectually gifted student. To ensure successful learning for all children, Winchester Public Schools affirm the need and the right of each child to appropriate and equitable educational experiences of consistently high quality.

Identification at all levels is based on multiple criteria which focus on a variety of information sources concerning potential candidates for services. Careful review of the many perspectives of each child ensures identification that draws from all segments of the population and provides a diverse gifted community in which interaction and exchange have heightened and enriched meaning. Referrals and screening of students for gifted services occur in September (students new to WPS) and Feb/March. Any of the following discrete sources may place students in the referral process for EXCEL services: referral by parent, professional school staff, community member or student. The division gifted instructional specialists may be contacted for procedures and forms.

Gifted students are identified with specific aptitudes in the academic areas of mathematics and/or English, as demonstrated by advanced skills, performance and creative expression in those areas. Students identified for gifted services at the elementary level (K-4) are cluster grouped in classes with teachers who have received specialized training in gifted education. Students receive differentiated classroom instruction, acceleration and enrichment linked to the regular curriculum and additional research opportunities. In grades 3 and 4, students may apply for admission to a center-based program, A.C.E. (**A**ccelerated **C**urriculum through **E**nrichment), which offers an integrated model of language arts, science, and math and exposure to content and concepts beyond the general education curriculum.

Middle school students (5-8) are provided sequential differentiated instruction within the regular classroom. Services may include: acceleration (content or grade level), cluster/flexible grouping, independent study, compaction, or enrichment. Course electives and pull-out seminars are designed to challenge the ability of the highly committed gifted child and are offered several times a year to all middle school EXCEL students. Gifted middle school students are also afforded an opportunity each year to apply for admission into the summer regional Blue Ridge Environmental Governor’s School.

Students in grades 9-12 are provided with subject area options and advanced placement courses. Services can include any of the following: opportunities to develop higher level thinking skills, independent study, curriculum differentiation, acceleration, compacting, enrichment activities within the student’s aptitude area(s), and an opportunity for admission into the regional Mountain Vista Governor’s School.

Counseling Program

The Winchester School Board supports the provision of a comprehensive program of guidance and counseling services for all students.

1. Academic guidance which assists students and their parents to acquire knowledge of the curricula choices available to students, to plan a program of studies, to arrange and interpret academic testing, and to seek post-secondary academic opportunities.
2. Career guidance which helps students to acquire information and plan action about work, jobs, apprenticeships, and post-secondary educational and career opportunities;
3. Personal/Social Counseling which assists a student develop an understanding of themselves, the rights and needs of others, how to resolve conflict, and to define individual goals which reflect their interest, abilities and aptitudes. Information and records of personal/social counseling will be kept confidential and separate from a student's educational records and not disclosed to third parties without the prior parental consent or as otherwise provided by law. Parents may elect, by notifying their child's school in writing, to have their child not participate in personal/social counseling.
4. No student is required to participate in any counseling program to which the student's parents object. The guidance and counseling program does not include the use of counseling techniques, which are beyond the scope of the professional certification or training of counselors, including hypnosis, or other psychotherapeutic techniques that are normally employed in medical or clinical settings and focus on mental illness or psychopathology.

Parents are notified about the counseling programs which are available to students within the school division. Parents shall be advised concerning the purpose and general description of the programs, information regarding ways parents may review materials to be used in guidance and counseling programs at their child's school and information about the procedures by which parents may limit their child's participation in such programs.

Employment Counseling and Placement Services

The School Board provides to secondary students employment counseling and placement services to furnish information relating to the employment opportunities available to students graduating from or leaving the school division. Such information includes all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, the military, career education schools, and the teaching profession. In providing such services, the School Board consults and cooperates with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Department of Labor and Industry, local business, labor organizations, and career schools.

Interrogation of Students by Law Enforcement Officials

Although Winchester Public Schools wishes to cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies, it has a responsibility to protect the constitutional rights of the students entrusted to its care. The interrogation of students by law enforcement officers regarding acts committed beyond school jurisdiction shall be held outside of the school day and off school property whenever possible. However, if this restriction would impede swift law enforcement or endanger others, the interrogation of a student or students may be permitted on school property with the permission of the parents or guardian or if the parents or guardian cannot be contacted, the principal or a designee may authorize such interrogations. The interrogation shall be held in a private place designated by school officials and in the presence of school officials.

McKinney-Vento Act - Rights of Homeless Students

The federal McKinney-Vento Act guarantees school enrollment for anyone who, ***due to a lack of permanent housing, lives in inadequate or temporary settings***, such as:

- In emergency or transitional shelters
- In motels, hotels, or campgrounds
- In cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings
- Doubled up with relatives or friends
- In these conditions and is a migratory child or youth
- Unaccompanied Youth

All Homeless Students Have the Right to:

- Enroll or remain in school without a permanent address.
- Attend and enroll immediately in school even if unable to provide records required for enrollment.
- Remain in the same school (school of origin) even if you move.
- Go to school where last attended or school where temporarily living.
- Transportation (to the extent feasible).
- Automatically qualify for free lunch programs.
- Participate in extracurricular activities and/or special education services if eligible
- Written explanation and appeal is given if educational placement is denied. Information regarding the dispute resolution process can be obtained upon request.

Determination of homelessness is made by the Homeless Liaison or Director of Student Services

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA), which reauthorizes the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) and replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). There are significant differences between these two laws regarding accountability, teacher qualifications and parents' right to know. The U.S. Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Education have revised regulations. The Virginia Board of Education approved its plan to implement ESSA at its July 2018 business meeting.

Teacher Qualifications

Parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of students' classroom teachers, which will include, at a minimum, the following:

- whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas
- in which the teacher provides instruction whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived
- the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher
- the field of discipline of the certification or degree
- whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

Schools receiving Title I funds must also give timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified, as defined by federal law.

Non-Discrimination Notice

Winchester Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of based on sex, gender, race, color, national origin, disability, political affiliation, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, veteran status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists, in the education program and activities, or employment. Equal access is provided to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. In addition, arrangements will be made to assure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in our educational programs, including our vocational education programs.

The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

TITLE IX COORDINATOR

Jennifer Buckley
Director of Student Services
Washington St., Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 667-4253

SECTION 504 COORDINATOR

Erin Kirkland
Special Education Coordinator
12 N. Washington St., Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 667-4253

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit see list of OCR enforcement offices for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Notice of Directory Information

The Winchester Public School Board notifies parents and eligible students at the beginning of each school year what information, if any, it has designated as directory information, the right to refuse to let the division designate any or all of such information as directory information, and the period of time to notify the division, in writing, that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information designated as directory information. The notice may specify that disclosure of directory information will be limited to specific parties, for specific purposes, or both. If the School Board specifies that disclosure of directory information will be so limited, the disclosure of directory information will be limited to those specified in the public notice.

No school discloses the address, telephone number, or email address of a student pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act unless the parent or eligible student affirmatively consents in writing to such disclosure. Except as required by state or federal law, no school discloses the address, telephone number, or email address of a student pursuant to 34 C.F.R. Section 99.31 (a)(11) unless (a) the disclosure is to students enrolled in the school or to school board employees for educational purposes or school business and the parent or eligible student has not opted out of such disclosure in accordance with Virginia law and this policy or (b) the parent or eligible student has affirmatively consented in writing to such disclosure.

Parents and eligible students may not use the right to opt out of directory information disclosures to 1) prevent disclosure of the student's name, identifier or institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled; or 2) prevent an educational agency or institution from requiring the student to wear, to display publicly or to disclose a student ID card or badge that exhibits information designated as directory information and that has been properly designated as directory information.

Winchester Public Schools has designated the following information as directory:

- Student's name
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listings
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors and awards received
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

Parental Responsibility and Involvement Requirements

- A. Each parent of a student enrolled in a public school has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and compulsory school attendance in order that education may be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons or property, and supportive of individual rights.
- B. A school board shall provide opportunities for parental and community involvement in every school in the school division.
- C. Within one calendar month of the opening of school, each school board shall, simultaneously with any other materials customarily distributed at that time, send to the parents of each enrolled student (i) a notice of the requirements for this section; (ii) a copy of the school board's standards of student conduct; and (iii) a copy of the compulsory school attendance law.

These materials shall include a notice to the parents that by signing the statement of receipt, parents shall not be deemed to waive, but to expressly reserve, their rights protected by the constitutions or laws of the United States or the Commonwealth and that a parent shall have the right to express disagreement with a school's or school division's policies and decisions.

Each parent of a student shall sign and return to the school in which the student is enrolled a statement acknowledging the receipt of the school board's standards of student conduct, the notice of the requirements of this section, and the compulsory school attendance law. Each school shall maintain records of such signed statements.

- D. The school principal may request the student's parent or parents, if both parents have legal and physical custody of such student, to meet with the principal or his designee to review the school board's standards of student conduct and the parent's or parents' responsibility to participate with the school in disciplining the student and maintaining order, to ensure the student's compliance with compulsory school attendance law, and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior, school attendance, and educational process.
- E. In accordance with the due process procedures set forth in this article and the guidelines required by §

22.1-279.6, the school principal may notify the parents of any student who violates a school board policy or the compulsory school attendance requirements when such violation could result in the student's suspension or the filing of a court petition, whether or not the school administration has imposed such disciplinary action or filed a petition. The notice shall state (i) the date and particulars of the violation; (ii) the obligation of the parent to take actions to assist the school in improving the student's behavior and ensuring compulsory school attendance compliance; (iii) that, if the student is suspended, the parent may be required to accompany the student to meet with school officials; and (iv) that a petition with the juvenile and domestic relations court may be filed under certain circumstances to declare the student a child in need of supervision.

- F. No suspended student shall be admitted to the regular school program until such student and his parent have met with school officials to discuss improvement of the student's behavior, unless the school principal or his designee determines that readmission, without parent conference, is appropriate for the student.
- G. Upon the failure of a parent to comply with the provisions of this section, the school board may, by petition to the juvenile and domestic relations court, proceed against such parent for willful and unreasonable refusal to participate in efforts to improve the student's behavior or school attendance, as follows:
 - 1. If the court finds that the parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to meet, pursuant to a request of the principal as set forth in subsection D of this section, to review the school board's standards of student and maintaining order, and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior and educational progress, it may order the parent to so meet; or
 - 2. If the court finds that a parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to accompany a suspended student to meet with school officials pursuant to subsection F, or upon the student's receiving a second suspension or being expelled, it may order the student or his parent, or both, to participate in such programs or such treatment, including, but not limited to, extended day programs, summer school, other educational programs and counseling, as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior or school attendance. The order may also require participation in a parenting, counseling or a mentoring program, as appropriate or that the student or his parent, or both, shall be subject to such conditions and limitations as the court deems appropriate for the supervision, care, and rehabilitation of the student or his parent. In addition, the court may order the parent to pay a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.
- H. The civil penalties established pursuant to this section shall be enforceable in the juvenile and domestic relations court in which the student's school is located and shall be paid into a fund maintained by the appropriate local governing body to support programs or treatments designed to improve the behavior of students as described in subdivision G2. Upon the failure to pay the civil penalties imposed by this section, the attorney for the appropriate county, city, or town shall enforce the collection of such civil penalties.
- I. All references in this section to the juvenile and domestic relations court shall be also deemed to mean any successor in interest of such court.

Prohibition against Harassment and Retaliation

The Winchester Public School Board is committed to maintaining an educational environment and workplace that is free from harassment. In accordance with law, the Board prohibits harassment against students, employees, or others on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, status as a veteran, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists hereinafter referred to as protected group status, at school or any school sponsored activity.

It is a violation of this policy for any student or school personnel to harass a student or school personnel based on protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity. Further it is a violation of this policy for any school personnel to tolerate harassment based on a student's or employee's protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity, by students, school personnel or third parties participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in school sponsored activities.

For additional information, review the following Winchester School Board Policies and Regulations located on the Winchester Public Schools website:

- *JB Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination*
- *GB- Equal Employment Opportunity/Non-Discrimination.*
- *GBA/JFHA Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation*
- *GBA-R1/JFHA-R1 Harassment Complaint Procedure*
- *GBA-R2/JFHA-R2 – Report of Harassment*

Students guilty of harassment may be subject to suspension/restriction. Any person who believes they may have been harassed or has knowledge of conduct/behavior which may constitute discrimination or harassment shall immediately report such conduct/behavior to the compliance officer or any member of the school staff.

The designated Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer are as follows:

Compliance Officer

Jennifer Buckley
Director of Student Services
Winchester Public Schools
12 N. Washington Street
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 667-4253

Alternate Compliance Officer

Hayley Mullins
Director of Special Education & Related Services
Winchester Public Schools
12 N. Washington Street
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 667-4253

See Winchester School Board regulations JBA-R Section 504 *Non-Discrimination Grievance Procedures* and GBA/JFHA-R1 *Harassment: Complaint Procedure* for more information.

Promotion/Retention

The Winchester School Board believes in an academic program that sets “high expectations” and continuous growth for all its students. We believe that continuous academic growth and improvement are achieved through focused academic instruction. The foundation of this philosophy is based on the Instructional Goals and Objectives (IA) and Effective Schools correlate of “time.” Through focused remediation, increased length of the school day, and extended learning opportunities (e.g. summer school academy) more time for learning will be provided to meet the needs of all students as they progress toward high school graduation. Consequently, there will be an increase in the number of high school graduates, number of post-secondary education graduates, and number of career certifications earned.

Teachers will confer with the parents/guardians of a child making unsatisfactory progress as soon as problems arise and will develop plans to help the child reach an acceptable level of performance. Ongoing communication should be maintained between the teacher and the parents/guardians to assure that intervention procedures are being employed to assist the child in attaining vital academic skills.

When a teacher has reason to believe that a child needs a change in his/her instructional program, the teacher will consult with the principal and additional school personnel who have worked with the child. The parents/guardians of pupils being considered will be informed of the impending program changes and/or possible retention. The final decision relative to program changes and/or possible retention is the responsibility of the building principal.

Principles

1. It is important to challenge all students to pursue a high level of performance;
2. In evaluating student achievement, each teacher shall make use of all available information, including results of teacher-made tests and other measures of skill and content mastery, writing assignments, and teacher observation of student performance;
3. For students with disabilities, attainment of the promotion benchmarks is determined after consideration of the goals, accommodations, and impact of the disability;
4. For students with a primary language other than English (ESL), attainment of the promotion benchmarks is determined after consideration of the goals and accommodations for language acquisition as defined by the ESL placement;
5. Changes in a program or possible retention of students shall be in effect only after prior notification of and explanation to the student’s parents/guardians; however, the decision shall rest with the base school principal;
6. At the time program changes and/or possible retention is considered a possibility, comments on the Report Card shall reflect the student’s academic problems. The possibility of retention or placement shall be communicated to parents/guardians via the end of quarter Report Card no later than the end of the third quarter;
7. Promotion/retention requirements will be subject to an annual review of the data to be completed by the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction with the cooperation of the school principals.

Elementary and Middle School Students (Grades K-7)

Elementary and middle school students will be promoted when, in the professional judgment of the school-based instructional personnel, competency in the appropriate grade level has been demonstrated. Promotion is the assignment to the next grade level. Students will be retained only when, in the professional judgment of the school-based instructional personnel, the student has not demonstrated appropriate grade level competencies, or the action of retention would be in the best interest of the student. Retention is the reassignment to the current grade level. In all cases of promotion or retention, the parent/guardian is to be fully involved and informed throughout the promotion/retention decision making process, but the ultimate decision will be made by the professional staff.

Eighth Grade Students (Grade 8)

1. In order to be promoted to ninth grade, students will be required to pass English, math, social studies, and science. A school-based Retention Committee will consider other promotion criteria, if a student has failed one or more of these courses, and will recommend retention or promotion with interventions.

Secondary School Students (Grades 9-12)

1. Secondary assignment of students in grades 9 through 12 earning a Standard or Advanced diploma is normally based on the following schedule of accumulated credits.

Grade 9	Met requirements for 8 th - 9 th grade promotion
Grade 10	Promoted 5 credits
Grade 11	Promoted 11 credits
Grade 12	Promoted 17 credits

2. Upon the Superintendent's recommendation and subject to School Board approval, credit may be awarded for courses having less than one hundred forty (140) hours per course upon demonstration of mastery of the course content and objectives. Having received credit for the course, the student will be permitted to sit for the relevant Standards of Learning assessment and, upon receiving a passing score, will earn a verified credit. (§ 8 VAC 20-131-110B).

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment – Administration of Surveys, Questionnaires

I. Instructional Materials and Surveys

A. Inspection of Instructional Materials

All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary material which will be used as part of the educational curriculum for a student or which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any federally funded program shall be available for inspection by the parents/legal guardians of the student in accordance with Policy KBA Requests for Information.

B. Participation in Surveys and Evaluations

No student shall be required, as part of any federally funded program, to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning

- (1) political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/legal guardian,
- (2) mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family,
- (3) sex behavior or attitudes,
- (4) illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior,

- (5) critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships,
- (6) legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers,
- (7) religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent/legal guardian, or
- (8) income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), without the prior consent of the student (if the student is an adult or emancipated minor), or in the case of an unemancipated minor, without the prior written consent of the parent/legal guardian.

C. Surveys Requesting Sexual Information

In any case in which a questionnaire or survey requesting that students provide sexual information, mental health information, medical information, information on student health risk behaviors pursuant to Va. Code Section 32.1-73.8, other information on controlled substance use, or any other information that the School Board deems to be sensitive in nature is to be administered, the school board shall notify the parent/legal guardian concerning the administration of such questionnaire or survey in writing at least 30 days prior to its administration. The notice will inform the parent/legal guardian of the nature and types of questions included in the questionnaire or survey, the purposes and age-appropriateness of the questionnaire or survey, how information collected by the questionnaire or survey will be used, who will have access to such information, the steps that will be taken to protect student privacy, and whether and how any findings or results will be disclosed. In any case in which a questionnaire or survey is required by state law or is requested by a state agency, the relevant state agency shall provide the School Board with all information required to be included in the notice to parents/legal guardians. The parent/legal guardian has the right to review the questionnaire or survey in a manner mutually agreed upon by the school and the parent/legal guardian and exempt the parent's/legal guardian's child from participating in the questionnaire or survey. Unless required by federal or state law or regulation, school personnel administering any such questionnaire or survey shall not disclose personally identifiable information. No questionnaire or survey requesting that students provide sexual information shall be administered to any student in kindergarten through grade six.

D. Additional Protections

A parent/legal guardian or emancipated student may, upon request, inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum of the student and any survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to a student. Any inspection shall be in accordance with Policy KBA Requests for Information. In addition, in the event of the administration or distribution of a survey containing one or more of the subjects listed in subsection I.B. above, the privacy of students to whom the survey is administered will be protected by setting procedural guidelines and providing adequate instruction to survey handlers relating to handling survey information in a manner to protect student privacy.

II. Physical Examinations and Screenings

If the Winchester Public School Division administers any physical examinations or screenings other than those required by Virginia law, and surveys administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, policies regarding those examinations or screenings will be developed and adopted in consultation with parents/legal guardians.

III. Commercial Use of Information

Questionnaires and surveys shall not be administered to public school students during the regular school day or at school-sponsored events without written, informed parental/legal guardian consent when participation in such questionnaire or survey may subsequently result in the sale for commercial purposes of personal information regarding the individual student.

This subsection does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:

- college or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
- book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products;
- curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools;
- tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments;
- the sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; and
- student recognition programs.

IV. Notification

The Board shall provide notice of this policy directly to parents/legal guardians of students annually at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in the policy. The Board will also offer an opportunity for the parent/legal guardian (or emancipated student) to opt the student out of participation in

- activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose);
- the administration of any survey containing one or more items listed in subsection I.B. above; or
- any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is
- required as a condition of attendance;
- administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
- not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

Notification of Specific Events

The Board will directly notify the parent/legal guardian of a student, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled, or expected to be scheduled:

- activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose);
- the administration of any survey containing one or more items listed in subsection I.B. above;

- any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is
- required as a condition of attendance;
- administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
- not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

V. Definitions

Instructional material: the term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

Invasive physical examination: the term "invasive physical examination" means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.

Parent/legal guardian: the term "parent/legal guardian" includes a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child).

Personal information: the term "personal information" means individually identifiable information including

- a student or parent's/legal guardian's first and last name;
- a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town);
- a telephone number; or
- a Social Security identification number.

Survey: the term "survey" includes an evaluation.

Records: Access To Records

Winchester Public Schools officials may review an education record for legitimate educational interest to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Parents have the following rights with respect to access to scholastic records:

1. The right to an explanation and interpretation of records;
2. The right to inspect and review records of their children without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding an IEP or hearing involving identification, evaluation or placement. Parents may also extend the rights of inspection and review to a designated representative;
3. The right to request copies of records when fees for duplication are paid. These fees must not effectively prevent parents or their designee from exercising their rights to inspect and review records and does not include a fee for search and retrieval;
4. The right to inspect and review only information pertaining to their child in cases where records contain information on more than one child;
5. The right to request that information within the scholastic record be amended when it is believed that such information is inaccurate or misleading. School officials will, upon written request, respond within 15 administrative working days after receipt of such request of the decision to amend the record or to deny the request. Any amendment will be in writing and will be inserted in the student's record. If the

- request is denied, the parent or eligible student will be advised for the right to a hearing;
6. The right to a hearing if school officials refuse to amend information in records per parent request;
 7. The right to challenge the content of scholastic records and to file with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office a complaint concerning an alleged failure by Winchester Public Schools to comply with 20 U.S.C. 1232g. Central Administrative Offices, Winchester Public Schools, 12 N. Washington St., Winchester, VA.

In addition, a copy of the document, *Management of the Student's Scholastic Record in the Public Schools of Virginia*, is available for review by parents at the Central Administrative Office of Winchester Public Schools.

Records: Scholastic Records Maintenance Policy

This information is being given to you to inform you of the rights accorded students and parents regarding records kept by Winchester Public Schools. Each school in Winchester maintains scholastic records which are official school records.

Scholastic records are records directly related to a student and are maintained by the school division. These include, but are not limited to, documentation pertinent to the educational growth and development of students as they progress through school, student disciplinary records, achievement and test data, cumulative health records, reports of assessments for eligibility for special education services and Individualized Educational Programs.

Scholastic records do not include records of instructional, supervisory, administrative and ancillary educational personnel that are kept in the sole possession of the maker and the record and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a temporary substitute for the maker of the record.

Whenever a pupil transfers from one school division to another, the scholastic record or a copy of the scholastic record shall be transferred to the school division to which the pupil transfers upon request from such school division. Permission of the parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of the student shall not be required for transfer of such scholastic record to another school or school division within or outside the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Search and Seizure Policy

In order to promote a safe learning environment, and to protect the safety and welfare of all students and school personnel as well as maintain order and discipline in the schools, authorized school personnel are permitted to conduct searches of students, their belongings and personal effects, motor vehicles, lockers and desks whenever there is a reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing based on all the circumstances. Any and all searches of students shall be conducted in conformity with applicable state and federal laws and Winchester Public School Board Policy. Searches must balance the student's expectation of privacy against the need to maintain a safe learning environment.

Winchester Public Schools may employ appropriately trained canines for use on school property in the search for illegal narcotics, drugs, marijuana and other illegal contraband or evidence of other criminal activity that may be located or have occurred on school property. Authorized school officials may confiscate any contraband discovered in the course of a student search.

SEX OFFENDER AND CRIMES AGAINST MINORS REGISTRY: Policy KN

Each school in the division registers with the Department of State Police to receive electronic notice of the registration, reregistration, or verification of registration information of any person required to register with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry (the Registry) within the division. The superintendent establishes procedures regarding the use and distribution of information received from the Registry. Information received from the Registry may not be used to intimidate or harass.

The superintendent notifies the parent of each student enrolled in the school division of the availability of information in the Registry and the location of the website.

Visitors to Schools

When the school division learns that a parent, other than a parent who has been convicted of a Tier III offense as defined in Va. Code 9.1-902 of an enrolled student is required to register with the Registry, the parent is notified in writing that he or she is barred from being present at school or at school functions without the express written approval of the student's principal. Such approval must be obtained in advance of the proposed visit and will state the conditions under which the parent may be present.

When such a parent is permitted at school or at school functions, the parent will be monitored to ensure that it does not come into contact with any children other than the parent's own children.

When the school division learns that any person other than the parent of an enrolled student who is required to register with the Registry, but who has not been convicted of a Tier III offense, as defined in Va. Code 9.1-902, seeks to be present at school or at school functions, the person will be notified in writing that he or she is barred from being present at school or school functions without the express written approval of the principal of the school the person seeks to visit or which sponsors the event the person seeks to attend. Such approval must be obtained in advance of the proposed visit, and if obtained, will state the conditions under which the person may be present. One of the conditions will be that the person will be monitored to ensure the safety of students, staff, and others.

Principals consider requests to be present at school or at school sponsored activities from all persons who are required to register with the Registry but have not been convicted of a Tier III offense as defined in Va. Code 9.1-902 in accordance with procedures established by the superintendent. No adult who has been convicted of a Tier III offense, as defined in Va. Code 9.1-902 may enter or be present during school hours, and during school-related or school-sponsored activities on any property the person knows or has reason to know is a school or child day center property, school bus, or any property, public or private, when such property is solely being used by an elementary or secondary school for a school-related or school-sponsored activity unless the person is a lawfully registered and qualified voter and is coming upon such property solely to vote; the person is a student enrolled at the school; or the person has obtained a court order pursuant to Va. Code 18.2-370.5.C allowing the person to enter and be present upon such property, has obtained the permission of the School Board or its designee for entry within all or part of the scope of the lifted ban, and is in compliance with the School Board's terms and conditions and those of the court order.

Special Education

Winchester Public Schools provides special education services to students ages two to 21 inclusive, in categories of disability as established through the Virginia regulations. Students must be found eligible to receive special education services under the provisions of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Eligible students will receive a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. Should you feel that your child might need and be eligible for such services, you should contact your child's principal or the Director of Special Education to make a referral to Child Find.

The rights and responsibilities for students with disabilities are contained in a booklet called "A Parent's Guide to Special Education." You may receive a copy of this document from your child's school or from the Director of Special Education.

Standards of Student Conduct

The following are standards of student conduct established by the School Board for all students under its jurisdiction. Consequences shall be determined on the basis of the facts presented in each instance of misconduct in the reasonable discretion of the School Board, its designated committees and other appropriate school officials.

Prohibited Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited. Students engaging in such conduct are subject to disciplinary action.

Assault and Battery

A student shall not assault or commit battery upon another person on school property, on school buses or during school activities on or off school property.

An assault is a threat of bodily injury.

A battery is any bodily hurt, however slight, done to another in an angry, rude or vengeful manner.

Bomb Threats

Students shall not engage in any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive or incendiary materials or devices or hoax explosive devices or chemical bombs as defined in the Code of Virginia. Moreover, students shall not make any threats or false threats to bomb school personnel or school property.

Bullying and Use of Electronic Means for Bullying

Bullying is prohibited. "Bullying" means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma.

"Bullying" includes cyber bullying. "Bullying" does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument or peer conflict.

Bus-Related Offenses

Students shall not behave in a disruptive manner or otherwise violate these Standards of Conduct while waiting for a school bus, while on a school bus or after being discharged from a school bus.

Defiance of the Authority of School Personnel

Students shall comply with any oral or written instructions made by school personnel within the scope of their authority as provided by Board policies and regulations.

Extortion

No student may obtain or attempt to obtain anything of value from another by using a threat of any kind.

Felony Charges

Students charged with any offense, wherever committed, that would be a felony if committed by an adult may be disciplined and/or required to participate in prevention/ intervention activities.

Fighting

Exchanging mutual physical contact between two or more persons by pushing, shoving or hitting with or without injury is prohibited.

Whether a student acted in self-defense during the fight is considered when the student's conduct is evaluated for disciplinary action.

Gambling

A student shall not bet money or other things of value, or knowingly play or participate in any game involving such a bet, on school property, on school buses or during any school related activity.

Gang Activity

Gang activity, as defined in Policy JFCE Gang Activity or Association, is prohibited.

Harassment

As provided in Policy JFHA/GBA Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation, students are prohibited from harassing other students, school staff, volunteers, student teachers or any other person present in school facilities or at school functions.

Hazing

Hazing is prohibited.

Hazing means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily harm on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

Intentional Injury of Others

Students are prohibited from intentionally injuring others.

Other Conduct

In addition to these specific standards, students shall not engage in any conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the ongoing educational process or which is otherwise a violation of federal, state or local law.

Possession or Use of Weapons or Other Dangerous Articles

Students shall not have in their possession any type of unauthorized firearm or other dangerous weapon or device (See Policy JFCD Weapons in School.)

Stalking

Students shall not engage in a pattern of behavior that places another person in fear of serious harm.

Theft

A student shall not intentionally take or attempt to take the personal property of another person by force, fear or other means.

Threats: Intimidation

Students are prohibited from making any verbal, written or physical threat of bodily injury to another person.

Trespassing

Students, including students who have been suspended or expelled, are subject to disciplinary action for trespassing on school property

Use and/or Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco Products, Nicotine Vapor Products, Anabolic Steroids, and Other Drugs

Students are prohibited from possessing, using, or distributing any of the restricted substances listed below on school property, on school buses or during school activities, on or off school property. Students are prohibited from attempting to possess, use, consume, procure and/or purchase, any of the restricted substances listed below or what is represented by or to the student to be any of the restricted substances listed below or what the student believes is any of the restricted substances listed below. Students are prohibited from being under the influence of any of the restricted substances listed below, regardless of whether the student's condition amounts to legal intoxication. Restricted substances include but are not limited to alcohol, tobacco products as defined in Policy JFCH Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products, nicotine vapor products as defined in Policy JFCH Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products, inhalant products, and other controlled substances defined in the Drug Control Act, Chapter 15.1 of Title 54 of the Code of Virginia, such as anabolic steroids, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, marijuana, imitation and look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia and any prescription or non-prescription drug possessed in violation of School Board policy.

In addition to any other consequences which may result, a student who is a member of a school athletic team will be ineligible for two school years to compete in interscholastic athletic competition if the school principal and the superintendent determine that the student used anabolic steroids during the training period immediately preceding or during the sport season of the athletic team, unless such steroid was prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition.

Use of Derogatory or Discriminatory Language and Conduct

Students are prohibited from using derogatory or discriminatory language or engaging in profane or obscene conduct.

Vandalism

Students are prohibited from vandalizing school property and the property of any School Board staff member or any other person.

The School Board may recover damages sustained because of the willful or malicious destruction or, or damage to, public property pursuant to Policy ECAB Vandalism.

Corrective Actions

The following corrective actions are among those available to the school administration for violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The facts and circumstances of each offense are considered fully in determining reasonable corrective actions.

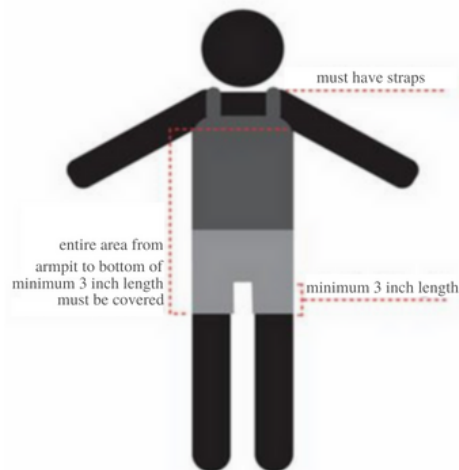
- Counseling
- Admonition
- Reprimand
- Loss of privileges, including access to the School Division's computer system
- Parental conferences
- Modification of student classroom assignment or schedule
- Student behavior contract
- Referral to student assistance services
- Removal from class
- Initiation of child study process
- Referral to in-school intervention, mediation, or community service programs

Tasks or restrictions assigned by the principal or his designee
Detention after school or before school
Suspension from school-sponsored activities or events prior to, during, or after the regular school day
In-school suspension
Off-site restriction (served at Alternative Education Center)
Out-of-school suspension
Referral to an alternative education program
Notification of legal authority where appropriate
Recommendation for expulsion including recommendation for expulsion for possessing a firearm, destructive device, firearm muffler, firearm silencer or pneumatic gun on school property or at a school-sponsored event and recommendation for expulsion for having brought a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, onto school property or to a school sponsored activity
Evaluation for alcohol or drug abuse
Participation in a drug, alcohol or violence intervention, prevention or treatment program

Student Dress Code

Minimum Requirements:

1. 2.Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to 3 inches in length on the upper thighs (see image below). Tops must have shoulder straps.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment (pajamas, bedroom shoes or slippers shall not be worn, except for school activities approved by the principal).
3. See-through or mesh garments must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the minimum requirements of the dress code.
4. Headgear including hats, hoodies, and caps are not allowed unless permitted for religious, medical, or other reason by school administration.
5. Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.



Additional Requirements:

1. Clothing may not depict, imply, advertise, or advocate illegal, violent, or lewd conduct, weapons, or the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
2. Clothing may not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
3. Clothing may not display or imply vulgar, discriminatory, racially divisive or obscene language or images.
4. Clothing may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.
5. Sunglasses may not be worn inside the building.
6. Clothing and accessories that endanger student or staff safety may not be worn.
7. Apparel, jewelry, accessories, tattoos, or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute, denotes membership in a gang that advocates illegal or disruptive behavior is prohibited.

Accommodations and Compliance:

1. School Board employees are prohibited from enforcing the dress or grooming code by direct physical contact with a student or a student's attire.
2. School Board employees are prohibited from requiring a student to undress in front of any other individual, including the enforcing school board employee, to comply with the dress or grooming code.
3. Dress code conversations should be private and focused on health, safety, and school climate considerations. The school should make a reasonable effort to contact the family when a dress code violation occurs to promote mutual understanding of the dress code.
4. School staff should listen to understand any cultural or situational issues regarding student dress when discussing dress code concerns.
5. Winchester Public Schools prohibits the use of exclusionary discipline sanctions solely for non-compliance with dress and grooming policies. Possible temporary resolutions may include:
 - A warning to the student but requiring the student not to continue the infraction after that day
 - Allowing the student to alter the attire in order to comply
 - Lending the student appropriate attire to allow the student to be in compliance
6. The administration at each school reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate dress. If, after appropriate intervention outlined above and contact home has been made, disciplinary actions that are consistent with other student discipline policies, regulations, or guidance may be imposed.

Transportation

Winchester Public Schools provides dependable and safe transportation to and from school daily for students. Buses are equipped with video cameras to address safety concerns. Bus routes, stops and times of departures will be available from your child's school in August prior to the start of school and will be available

on the school system website (www.wps.k12.va.us) by mid-August. Students should be at their stop five minutes prior to the morning departure time. We request parents of kindergarten students be at their stop five minutes prior to the afternoon arrival time.

Safe transportation to and from school is dependent upon children conducting themselves properly on the bus. Students are expected to follow the directions listed below:

- Listen to the drivers at all times
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion
- Speak only at conversational levels
- Keep arms, legs and heads in the bus at all times
- Do not use vulgar language
- Be respectful to drivers or classmates
- Students must not engage in any type of roughhousing, fighting or any behavior that may distract the driver and create a safety hazard
- Students may have in their possession a beeper, cellular telephone, personal digital assistant (PDA) or other communications device on school buses, provided that the device must remain off and out of sight unless the bus driver is notified of a declared emergency by school officials
- Do not deface or damage the bus. Violators will be assessed repair costs and will be subject to disciplinary action

Students who violate these rules lose their privilege to ride the bus.

Visiting Our Schools

COVID-19 Disclaimer: Visitors to our buildings will be strictly limited in order to provide for the safety of our students and staff.

We encourage you as a parent to visit your child's school as often as possible. However, in today's world, building safety and security must be a strong component of keeping our children safe at school. All visitors are asked to enter a school through the designated entrance, go directly to the office (show identification), register as being in the building and receive a visitor's badge. Upon completion of the visit, please return the badge to the office and sign out.

