

# STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

MANUAL PARA PADRES Y ESTUDIANTES

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**WAKE COUNTY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



More information: [www.wcpss.net/handbook](http://www.wcpss.net/handbook)



## WELCOME TO THE WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

This handbook contains important information about the district's expectations regarding student conduct, student rights, student responsibilities and district policies. As policies are added or updated during the school year, information will be available on [www.wcpss.net/handbook](http://www.wcpss.net/handbook).

## ACCESS TO POLICIES

Students and families are encouraged to review and discuss the material contained in this handbook, which summarizes several important policies. **Please note that this document is not a comprehensive list of all district policies and that these summaries are not a substitute for the policies themselves.**

All other policies and procedures are available online at [www.wcpss.net/policies](http://www.wcpss.net/policies) and at the central office.

Students and their families are urged to review the actual language of these policies and procedures, which include important information about student rights and responsibilities.

Please contact the administration at your student's school if you have questions about a policy.

Full copies of all of the policies referenced in this handbook are available online at [www.wcpss.net/handbook](http://www.wcpss.net/handbook), at the district's central administrative offices at 5625 Dillard Drive in Cary and at the front office of every school.

### *Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted*

Academically and/or intellectually gifted students perform or show the potential to perform at substantially high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. Academically and/or intellectually gifted students exhibit high-performance capability in intellectual areas, specific academic fields, or in both the intellectual areas and specific academic fields. Academically and/or intellectually gifted students require differentiated educational services beyond those ordinarily provided by the regular educational program. See Board Policy regarding Assurance of Appropriate Services for Academically Gifted Students.

### *Acceleration Opportunities*

Our district provides opportunities for all students to expand their learning through enrichment, extension, and acceleration in academically challenging coursework. See Board Policy regarding Access to Rigor and Acceleration.

### *Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs*

A healthy learning environment is free of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. The possession, use, distribution or sale of these substances in any form is prohibited on school property.

The prohibition of tobacco and nicotine includes all lighted and smokeless e-liquid products, e-cigarettes and vaporizers even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine.

See Board Policy regarding Prohibition of Alcoholic Beverages, Use of Tobacco and Nicotine Products, and Code of Student Conduct.

### *Attendance*

Coming to school every day ready to learn is important for your child's success—and it's required by state law for children between the ages of 7 and 16. Being tardy to class, skipping class or school, leaving campus without permission or being in an unauthorized area is prohibited. Excused absences include: illness or injury, a death in the family, health care appointments, court appearances, college visits and religious observance.

Participation in a valid educational opportunity outside of the school setting may be approved with prior notice. See Board Policy regarding Attendance.

### *Bullying and Harassment*

Bullying and harassment are unacceptable behaviors that should be immediately addressed. Bullying and harassment include any physical act, threatening communication, or pattern of gestures or communications that places a student in actual and reasonable fear of harm or is certain to create a hostile environment. Bullying and harassing behavior includes, but is not limited to, behaviors motivated by the victim's identifying characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, gender identity, religion, age or disability. If bullying or harassment is suspected, parents should contact their child's school for help. Parents and students also can share safety concerns via the WCPSS Tip Line, 919-856-1911. See Board Policy regarding Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying.

### *Bus Conduct*

Bus transportation is an extension of the school day, and the same student behavior standards that apply in the classroom also apply on the bus and at the bus stop. A driver will report to the school administrator any misconduct or violation of the driver's instructions. Buses also have cameras on board to provide video and audio that school leaders may use to manage student behavior. See Board Policy regarding Code of Student Conduct.

### *Cellphones and Personal Devices*

We recognize the value of personal devices for family communication and student safety and the need to also minimize classroom disruption and promote healthy digital habits. District policies are in place to outline when students may use personal devices and the consequences for policy violations. See Board Policy regarding Student Use of Personal Communication Devices.

### *Cheating, Plagiarism*

Cheating and plagiarism, including giving or receiving any unauthorized assistance on academic work or copying and representing another's work as one's own, is prohibited. See Board Policy regarding Honor Code and Code of Student Conduct.

### ***Character Education and Respect***

Every school has programs and activities to help students develop good character, including programs to help students understand, assess and take responsibility for their behavior and learning, as well as how to act responsibly toward others. See Board Policy regarding Citizenship and Character Education.

### ***Complaint Procedures***

A student or parent may question a school-based decision by using the procedures outlined in the Board Policy regarding Responding to Complaints.

### ***Child Find for Students with Disabilities***

We are required to identify, locate and evaluate children with disabilities, ages three through 21, who may be in need of special education and related services. Parents of children aged two years old or younger who may be in need of such services should contact the Children's Development Services Agency at 919-662-4600. Parents of children aged three or older who are not yet eligible to enter kindergarten should call the WCPSS Child Find Office at 919-431-7700 or [child-find-office@wcpss.net](mailto:child-find-office@wcpss.net). Parents of children in kindergarten through 12th grade should contact their child's school. They may also contact the district Family and Community Connections at 919-431-7334 (Spanish line: 919-431-7143) or email [facc@wcpss.net](mailto:facc@wcpss.net).

### ***Districtwide and State-Mandated Tests***

We use a variety of tools to measure and communicate student progress throughout the school year. These tools include quarterly report cards, progress reports, and feedback on assignments and state and local tests. Information about K-12 testing can be found at [www.wcpss.net/k12tests](http://www.wcpss.net/k12tests)

### ***Dress Code***

Students are expected to adhere to standards of dress and appearance. Parents are asked to partner with the district to monitor student attire to help adhere to the guiding principles set forth in the Student Dress Code policy.

### ***Dropout Prevention/Driver's License Legislation***

A student's driving permit or license will be revoked if they are unable to maintain Adequate Progress or drop out of school. Adequate Progress is defined as passing at least 70% of a student's courses. The law does not affect students who are 18 or older. Learn more at [www.wcpss.net/driving-privileges](http://www.wcpss.net/driving-privileges)

### ***Fee Waivers for Economic Hardship***

Our district does not charge families for required courses or activities. Students facing economic hardship may request a waiver or reduction of any fees that are imposed. Each school must notify families of the available waivers and the process for requesting them. The superintendent ensures a system is in place to review these requests fairly. See Board Policy regarding Student Fees.

### ***Grading and Reporting***

Assessment and grading practices are designed to support learning, communicate achievement, and promote academic success for all students. Students in grades K-12 receive quarterly report cards and mid-quarter interim reports. Grades reflect mastery of learning objectives and are designed to support student learning. Each school follows a grading plan that is communicated to families. See Board Policy regarding Evaluation of Student Progress.

### ***Lose Control, Lose Your License***

N.C. Senate Bill 57 requires that a student's driving permit or license be revoked for one year if a student is given a suspension for more than 10 consecutive days or an assignment to an alternative educational setting for more than 10 consecutive days for one of the following reasons:

- The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property;
- The possession or use on school property of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under N.C. General Statute 115C-391 or that could have resulted in that disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school; or
- The physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel on school property.

### ***Medicaid Rights for Students with Disabilities***

A parent's prior written consent is required for the district to release information needed to access NC Medicaid reimbursement for services provided through a child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP), Section 504 Plan, Individualized Health Plan (IHP), or Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP). The district may then release a child's name and Medicaid number; date of birth; service documentation, including evaluations; dates and times services are provided at school; and reports of child's progress, including therapist notes and progress notes. Parents may revoke consent at any time. Revoking parental consent does not change the

district's responsibility to provide all required services at no cost. The funds collected from Medicaid will be used to provide valuable and necessary additional staffing to meet therapy needs of students, and to purchase assistive technology equipment and materials for individual student needs.

### ***Multilingual Learners Language Support***

Language support services are provided to all students identified as Multilingual Learners. When a student's home language is not English, we administer a test to identify students who are still learning English as a new language. A plan is then created to help all teachers know the level of English language support your student may need. For more information, contact your child's school.

### ***Non-Discrimination***

In compliance with federal law, the district administers all education programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, gender identity, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or sexual orientation. We have broad protections against discrimination as set forth in multiple Board policies. Parents and students who perceive any form of discrimination should report it to the school principal. Parents and students also should contact the principal to request assistance or accommodations to assure a non-discriminatory, inviting, inclusive and supportive school environment.

See Board Policies regarding Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying; Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Process.

### ***Parent's Guide to Student Achievement***

We provide parents and guardians of our students with access to information pertaining to student achievement through the district's Parents' Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). You can request paper copies of this document and the information included within it from your child's individual school. Learn more at [www.wcpss.net/parentguide](http://www.wcpss.net/parentguide)

### ***Parental Right to Withhold Consent and Opt Out***

Parents may request in writing to opt out of any of the following:

- Release of the student's directory information (See Board Policy regarding Student Records and Parental Involvement);

- Release of the student's name, address and telephone number to military recruiters or colleges/universities (See Board Policy regarding Student Records and Parental Involvement);
- The student's participation in certain instructional activities related to reproductive health and safety (See Board Policy regarding Comprehensive Healthful Living Education Program and Parental Involvement);
- The student's participation in certain academic, career guidance, personal or social counseling services provided to students in a group setting (See Board Policy regarding the Counseling Program and Parental Involvement);
- The student's participation in certain types of surveys (See Board Policy regarding Surveys of Students and Parental Involvement);
- The student's participation in certain non-emergency physical exams or screenings (See Board Policy regarding Health Services and Parental Involvement);
- Collection, disclosure or use of the student's personal information for marketing purposes (See Board Policy regarding Surveys of Students and Parental Involvement);
- The student's participation in online classroom recording (See Board Policy regarding Student Records); and
- Release of student's free and reduced-price meal information to State Medicaid or to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (See Board Policy regarding Parental Involvement).

### ***Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)***

The PPRA is a federal law that affords parents of elementary and secondary students certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. See [www.wcpss.net/PPRA](http://www.wcpss.net/PPRA) and Board Policies regarding Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials and Survey of Students.

### ***School District and School Performance/Assessment Information and School Performance Grades***

Information regarding district and individual school student achievement, graduation rates, and school performance grades can be found on the district's website and on the NC Department of Public Instruction website. This includes data about school system performance as compared to the state as a whole.

### ***School Meals***

Student wellness and proper nutrition are related to a student's physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn. All meals and other items available for students to purchase from Child Nutrition Services meet strict nutritional requirements. All foods and beverages that are offered to students during the school day should support a school environment that promotes student health and wellness.

### ***School Meals, Special Diet Accommodations for Students***

The Wake County Public School System's Nutrition Program is committed to supporting students with documented dietary requirements. We provide meal accommodations for students with food allergies, intolerances, or texture modification needs as documented by a state-licensed healthcare professional. At this time, we are unable to accommodate requests based on religious, cultural, or personal preferences.

To initiate the meal accommodation process, we kindly ask parents to complete and submit the Medical Statement form to their school's Child Nutrition Manager. The manager will forward the form to the Child Nutrition Services central office for processing.

Once your request is reviewed and processed, a menu will be created for your student. This information will then be shared with your school's Child Nutrition Manager, who will contact you to confirm the starting date for the meal accommodations.

### ***School Meals, Charges***

Meals should be paid for in a timely manner. We recognize that students occasionally forget or lose their meal money. In the event that a student is unable to pay for a meal on a particular day, the student may charge a meal so long as it does not create a negative account balance that exceeds the value of three days of meals (breakfast and lunch) based on current student meal prices. Parents are notified of low balances in a child's meal account and charge balances that need to be paid off, at regular intervals during the school year. Parents are responsible for paying off any meal charges by the end of the year. See Board Policy regarding Operation of Child Nutrition Services.

### ***School Meals, Free or Reduced-Price***

If your family meets income eligibility requirements, your child may be able to receive free or reduced-price meals from the school cafeteria. Parents can complete a meal benefits application online at [myschoolapps.com](https://myschoolapps.com). Paper applications also are available at all schools. More: [www.wcpss.net/free-reduced-meals](https://www.wcpss.net/free-reduced-meals).

### ***School Meals, Refunds***

Students may leave a school with funds left in their meal accounts. You may request a refund at [www.wcpss.net/refund](https://www.wcpss.net/refund). You have until September 1 following the year your student withdraws to request a refund. If you do not make a request by that date, the balance will be donated to WCPSS Child Nutrition Services to be used to support the district's school meal program for students. If you need assistance, contact Child Nutrition Services at 919-856-2918.

### ***Seclusion, Restraint and Reasonable Force***

The use of seclusion, restraint and isolation of students is governed by N.C. General Statute 115C-391.1, Board Policy and Regulation & Procedures. To the extent allowed by these laws, policies and procedures, N.C. General Statute 115C-390.3 authorizes school personnel to use reasonable force to control behavior or remove a person from the scene when necessary to correct students, quell a disturbance threatening injury to others, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person or within the control of a student, act in self-defense or to protect other persons or property, or to maintain order on educational property, in the classroom or at a school-related activity on or off educational property. Also, see Board Policies regarding Code of Student Conduct and Seclusion and Restraint.

### ***Section 504 Services, Disability Accommodations***

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, prohibits discrimination against students with diagnosed physical or mental impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activities. Major life activities include, but are not limited to, learning, concentration, walking, seeing, breathing, hearing, lifting, bending, performing manual tasks and the operation of major bodily functions/systems such as the immune, neurological or respiratory systems. For more information, including complaint procedures, please see Board Policy regarding Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities, as well as the Prohibition Against Discrimination. For more information regarding Section 504 Services Support, please call 919-694-0581.



### *Selection of Instructional Materials*

Our schools provide instructional materials that enrich and support the curriculum and enhance student learning. Parents or guardians may review the process for the selection of instructional materials, including core instructional resources, supplemental materials, and school library collection materials. See Board Policy regarding Selection of Instructional Materials.

### *Special Education*

We provide special education and related services to students identified with a disability according to the Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and N.C. Public School Law, Article 9. If a parent suspects that their child has a disability or would like to receive additional information, parents of children who are ages three to those who are eligible to enter kindergarten should contact the WCPSS Child Find Office at 919-431-7700 or [child-find-office@wcpss.net](mailto:child-find-office@wcpss.net). Parents of children in kindergarten through 12th grade should contact their child's school. They may also contact the district Family and Community Connections at 919-431-7334 (Spanish line: 919-431-7143) or [facc@wcpss.net](mailto:facc@wcpss.net). General information may be found at [www.wcpss.net/special-education](http://www.wcpss.net/special-education) or Board Policy regarding Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities.

### *Student Accident Insurance*

Each year, parents have the option to purchase accident insurance through a WCPSS-contracted vendor at any time during the school year. This accident insurance includes a variety of plans and coverages. Students who participate in interscholastic or intramural activities are required to have insurance. See [www.wcpss.net/insurance](http://www.wcpss.net/insurance) for the current student accident insurance plans and claim forms.

### *Students in Transition*

The McKinney-Vento Program provides legal protection and support services to children and youth experiencing a housing crisis. For assistance, contact the School Social Worker or SAP Counselor at your child's school. See [www.wcpss.net/mckinney-vento](http://www.wcpss.net/mckinney-vento) for more information.

### *Student Information in Infinite Campus*

Infinite Campus is a statewide student information system that gives parents and students access to real-time information including attendance, grades (middle and high school students only), transportation and school assignments. All students and parents have access to Infinite Campus. For more information, visit [www.wcpss.net/ncsis](http://www.wcpss.net/ncsis)

### *Student Preferred Name Request for Student Records*

Families may contact the school to request a student be referred to by a preferred name rather than a legal name in some areas of our student information systems and digital platforms. Parental permission is required for students younger than 18. Once approved, the student's preferred name will replace the legal name on report cards, Campus Parent/Campus Student portals, Teacher Gradebook, and other student-facing platforms. The student's legal name will still display on official student records.

### *Student Records and Directory Information*

A federal law known as FERPA provides parents and eligible students with rights to inspect and review the student's education records, to request amendments to such records, and to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged FERPA violation. FERPA also provides that student records and personally identifiable information contained in those records generally may be released to third parties only if the parents or eligible students provide written consent. One of those exceptions to this requirement is that "directory information" about a student may be released to anyone upon request unless the parent or eligible student has opted out of the disclosure of such information. "Directory information" includes the student's name, grade, school most recently attended, dates of attendance, date of graduation, awards received and participation in officially recognized sports and activities. **Any parent, guardian or eligible student who does not want directory information released must notify the school in writing each year within 20 days of the receipt of this notice.** For additional information relating to FERPA and student records, including the criteria for determining which school officials may access a student's confidential information, please see Board Policy regarding Student Records.

### *Student Support Services*

Our counseling and student services staff and programs support students in their personal and social development and help them transition from school to higher education or a career. School counselors are available at each school as the first point of contact if a student has needs and families are unsure where to start. Visit [www.wcpss.net/CASS](http://www.wcpss.net/CASS) for a description of the staff and services to support our students. Visit [www.wcpss.net/wellness](http://www.wcpss.net/wellness) for links to additional wellness resources and support information for families. See Board Policy regarding the Counseling Program.



### ***Student Surveys***

Our district sometimes partners with individuals and agencies conducting research. We review and approve or deny requests from individuals or agencies for any research project. Research can include surveys of staff or students. See Board Policy regarding Surveys of Students.

### ***Student Wellness***

We are committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. See Board Policy regarding Student Wellness.

### ***Technology***

Students should use their WCPSS-assigned Chromebooks, except when prior arrangements have been made for students to use personal devices. See Board Policies regarding Technology Responsible Use and Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected to comply with these policies when students use a school or personal device on school property, at school-sponsored events, on school-based transportation, or any time a personal device is connected to district technology resources. Any device used in violation of these policies will be confiscated and returned to the student's parents. Contact your student's school for additional information and technology assistance.

### ***Volunteering in Your Child's School***

All school volunteers must register and pass a criminal background check. Learn about volunteering in our schools and register through MyVolunteer at [www.wcpss.net/volunteer](http://www.wcpss.net/volunteer). N.C. General Statute 95-28.3 provides parents up to four hours of unpaid leave each year to volunteer in their child's school. You are encouraged to check with your employer to see if you may receive paid leave for volunteering. See Board Policy regarding School Volunteers.

### *Cervical Cancer, Cervical Dysplasia and Human Papillomavirus*

N.C. General Statute 115C-47.51 requires school districts to provide information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia and human papillomavirus to parents and guardians of students in grades 5 through 12. Visit [www.wcpss.net/HPV](http://www.wcpss.net/HPV) or contact your school for more information.

### *Flu*

Flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness and at times can lead to death. Symptoms include: fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, cover mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing, avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth and wash hands to protect from germs. It is important to stay at home when sick. The flu vaccine is generally effective in preventing cases of the flu, so it is recommended that the pros and cons of taking the vaccine be discussed with the student's physician. Information about the flu may be found at [www.immunize.nc.gov](http://www.immunize.nc.gov).

### *Garrett's Law*

Garrett's Law (Senate Bill 444) is a North Carolina statute enacted in 2004 that mandates that schools provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal meningitis, influenza, and the vaccines that protect against these diseases.

### *Lawful Abandonment of a Newborn Infant*

A parent may lawfully abandon an infant under seven days of age by voluntarily delivering the infant to one of the following: health care provider, law enforcement officer, social services worker, certified emergency medical services worker or any responsible adult. See N.C. General Statute 14-322.3 and 7B-500(b).

### *Medications at School*

Students may receive or self-administer medication at school when the medication is medically necessary for health or learning and must be taken during the school day. In some cases, a form may be required for a student to receive medication at school. Parents should contact the school for guidance. For more information, see the Board Policy regarding Administering Medications to Students or visit [www.wcpss.net/medications](http://www.wcpss.net/medications)

### *Meningococcal Meningitis*

Meningococcal meningitis is a respiratory illness with symptoms that may resemble the flu. Seek immediate medical care if your child develops fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, confusion, sleepiness and sensitivity to light. The Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices recommends vaccination for college-aged students. Information about meningococcal meningitis may be found at [www.immunize.nc.gov](http://www.immunize.nc.gov).

### *Notification of Health Conditions*

It is the parent's responsibility at the beginning of each school year to inform both their child's teacher and the school nurse if there are medical conditions that require special measures during the school day. Teachers are not responsible for communicating students' health-related information to nurses. School nurses are available for health consultation but are not present at the school on a daily basis.

### *Screenings*

Screenings are provided to students at certain grade levels or schools. Students at any grade with evidence of problems related to hearing, vision, dental, communicable disease or other learning issues will be screened or re-screened upon request. For more information, including the list of screenings students receive by grade level, visit [www.wcpss.net/screenings](http://www.wcpss.net/screenings). See Board Policy regarding Student Health Services.

Our school system has plans and procedures in place to protect your student and communicate with you in the event of an emergency. Our security department works with school staff, local law enforcement and other public health and safety leaders to make our campuses safe places to learn. Our families and the community also play important roles in keeping schools safe and we value our partnership with you. Learn more at [www.wcpss.net/schoolsafety](http://www.wcpss.net/schoolsafety).

### *Assault, Fighting, Threats*

Students who become angry or upset with anyone are encouraged to resolve conflicts peacefully. Teachers, counselors and other school personnel can help students find civil ways to handle disagreements. A student who threatens to harm, attempts to harm or harms another student, staff member, school volunteer or visitor is subject to consequences. See Board Policy regarding Code of Student Conduct.

### *Emergency Contact Information*

To ensure that you receive communications in the event of an emergency, provide accurate emergency contact information to your child's school at the start of the year. Update your contact information with school staff as soon as it changes.

### *Emergency Drills*

Each school will plan for and conduct emergency drills annually, including fire, tornado and lockdown drills. See Board Policy regarding School Safety.

### *Lockdown Procedures*

When threats to a school warrant taking protective action, schools enter into a code red or code yellow lockdown. Schools enter into a code red lockdown if there is an immediate threat to the school. During a code red lockdown, students remain in their classroom or are moved into safe areas. Schools enter a code yellow lockdown if there is something in the community that may pose a threat to the school, but there is no imminent threat inside the school building. During a code yellow lockdown, all students return to and remain inside the building and continue with normal activities. Visitors may not enter the building during a lockdown. The lockdown remains in place until law enforcement officials give administrators an all-clear announcement.

### *Reducing Firearm Violence and Misuse*

Safe schools require a strong partnership between students, families, school staff and our community. We encourage parents to help keep firearms out of our schools by following [www.wcpss.net/safestorage](http://www.wcpss.net/safestorage) for resources on safely storing firearms.

### *Reporting Safety Concerns*

Parents, guardians, students, staff and members of the community should report safety concerns or threats against a school or member of the school community to an administrator, law enforcement, or the 24-hour, anonymous WCPSS Tip Line at 919-856-1911. Students and parents can also report these concerns using the SaySomething Anonymous Reporting System via the app, [www.saysomething.net](http://www.saysomething.net), or by calling the hotline at 844-5-SAYNOW (844-572-9669). Contact the WCPSS Office of Security Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 919-431-7777.

### *School Resource Officers*

We partner with local law enforcement agencies to promote a safe learning environment through our School Resource Officer program. Parents, guardians, students, staff and members of the community can provide feedback regarding this program or individual SROs via our School Resource Office Program - Feedback Form [www.wcpss.net/securityfeedback](http://www.wcpss.net/securityfeedback). This resource allows anyone within the school district to anonymously provide commendations or concerns/grievances.

### *Search and Seizure*

Schools must be safe and free of weapons, drugs and other contraband. School officials may search a student, student lockers, student automobiles or school computers under the circumstances outlined in Board Policy, and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered during the search. See Board Policy regarding Student Searches.

### *Weapons*

Students are not permitted to possess, handle or transmit any weapon, facsimile of a weapon, dangerous instrument or substance or other object that can reasonably be considered or used as a weapon or dangerous instrument or substance. See Board Policy regarding Weapons and Explosives Prohibited and Code of Student Conduct.

The Code of Student Conduct rules are leveled according to the severity of violation and type of consequence. In any given situation, based on the unique circumstances of a situation, the principal may use a different level of intervention than is indicated on the chart. Various interventions may be considered to address a student's behavior including restorative practices, detention, referrals to the counselor or community resources.

### *Level 1*

Level 1 rule violations can generally be addressed with non-disciplinary intervention or non-exclusionary discipline consequences. Except in the very limited circumstances described in a subsequent rule found in Level 2, Level 1 rule violations may not result in out-of-school suspension. Examples of a Level 1 rule violation are students not using appropriate language or students not complying with directives.

### *Level 2*

Level 2 rule violations involve more serious misconduct that may warrant a short-term suspension of up to five school days when, in the judgment of the principal or designee, non-disciplinary interventions and non-exclusionary discipline consequences are insufficient to address the behavior and prevent its recurrence. Principals may impose a short-term suspension of six to 10 days or recommend a long-term suspension of 11 days or more based on one or more aggravating factors regarding the severity of the violation or safety concerns, provided such aggravating factors are listed in the written suspension notice. Examples of this rule violation are fighting or theft.

### *Level 3*

Level 3 rule violations are more severe in nature and may support long-term suspension. The principal may impose a short-term suspension of 10 days or less or decline to impose any suspension based on mitigating factors. An example of this rule violation is assault on a student.

### *Level 4*

The only rule in Level 4 is one that reflects a statutory prohibition on the possession of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in the rule) on school property or at a school-sponsored event. State law requires principals to recommend a 365-calendar-day suspension for all violations of this rule. Only the Superintendent or Board of Education may modify this outcome. A Level 4 violation is always extremely serious and is treated as such.

### *Level 5*

Level 5 allows for expulsion of a student from the district for violation of one or more Level 2, 3 or 4 rules in the code of conduct if the following criteria are met: (1) the student is 14 years old or older; (2) both the principal and superintendent or designee recommend expulsion; (3) the superintendent and Board determine, consistent with the Board's "Due Process" policy, that there is a significant or important reason not to offer the student alternative education services and; (4) the Board determines, by clear and convincing evidence, that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff.

The Student/Parent Handbook does NOT include all WCPSS discipline policies. Additional policies and information may be found online at

[www.wcpss.net/handbook](http://www.wcpss.net/handbook)