

2015-2016

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

MANUAL PARA PADRES Y ESTUDIANTES



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

More information: www.wcpss.net/handbook

We have created this handbook to help you and your child understand the rules and expectations in school, on the way to and from school and at school-sponsored activities. We encourage you to discuss those rules and this document with your child.

For your convenience, policies can be found online at www.wcpss.net/handbook. If you have questions about any of the information, please talk with your child's teacher or principal.

Our Vision

All Wake County Public School System students will be prepared to reach their full potential and lead productive lives in a complex and changing world.

Our Mission

Wake County Public School System will provide a relevant and engaging education and will graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators and critical thinkers.

Keeping our schools safe is a shared responsibility among parents, students and school staff. As a district, we are committed to ensuring that student discipline is handled in a fair and equitable manner. We seek to provide interventions and supports to limit the amount of class instructional time due to student discipline.

All students shall comply with the Code of Student Conduct of the Wake County Public School System, state and federal laws, school board policies and local school rules governing student behavior and conduct.

Students are expected to comply with all directions of school personnel or volunteers who are authorized to give such directions. They must exhibit appropriate respect towards school personnel and volunteers.

Section 504

504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments ACT of 2008 prohibit discrimination against students and/or employees on the basis of a disabling condition. All individuals determined to have a disability are protected by this law.

504/ADA cases in schools involve students who are not found to be in need of special education, however have various types of diagnosed physical or mental impairments that are shown to substantially limit one or more of the student's major life activities. Those major life activities include, but are not limited to, areas such as learning, concentration, walking, seeing, breathing, hearing, lifting, bending and performing manual tasks. Additionally, the major life activities include the operation of "major bodily functions/systems" such as the immune, neurological or respiratory system.

For the complaint procedure, review Board Policy: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities

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. For more information, review Board Policy: Code of Student Conduct.

Assault, Fighting

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 or who physically attacks another student or staff member is subject to consequences. For more information, review Board Policy: 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

and religious observance. Outside educational opportunities may be approved with advance notice. For more information, review Board Policy: Attendance.

Bullying

Bullying is unacceptable behavior that should be immediately addressed. Bullying can include behaviors such as physical violence, repeated verbal, written or electronic taunts, name-calling, threats or stealing of money and possessions. If bullying is suspected, parents should contact their child's school for help. Any student who believes that he or she has been harassed or bullied should immediately report the behavior. For more information, review Board Policy: Harassment/Bullying.

Bus Conduct

Bus transportation is an extension of the school day and the same student behavior standards that apply in the classroom 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. For more information, review Board Policy: Code of Student Conduct.

Cervical Cancer, Cervical Dysplasia and Human Papillomavirus

For students in grades 5 through 12, information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia and human papillomavirus is available from your school nurse or counselor.

Cheating, Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism, including giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on academic work or copying and representing another's work as one's own, is prohibited. For more information, review Board Policy: Code of Student Conduct.

Directory Information

Directory information will be made public without permission unless a parent annually requests to the school that such information not be released. 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.

Dress Code

To help keep our students focused on learning without distractions, we expect each one to dress appropriately. Our Code of Student Conduct prohibits disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive, obscene or unsafe clothing or bodily appearances. For more information, see Board Policy: Code of Student Conduct.

Electronic Devices

Except when authorized by a teacher or principal, no student may use a wireless communication device or personal entertainment device. Any device used in violation of this policy will be confiscated and only returned to the student's parents. For more information, see Board Policy : Code of Student Conduct.

Flu

The 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.immunizenc.com or G.S. 115C-47 (Garrett's Law).

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.immunizenc.com or G.S. 115C-47 (Garrett's Law).

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.

Student Grievances

A student or parent may question a school-based decision by using the procedures outlined in Board Policy: Student Grievances.

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. For more information, visit www.wcps.net/medications.

Property Damage

Students are expected to respect school property. Intentionally damaging or attempting to damage or deface school or personal property is subject to discipline. For more information, see Board Policy: Code of Student Conduct.

Search, Seizure

Schools must be safe and drug-free. 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 in the search.

Seclusion, Restraint and Reasonable Force

The use of seclusion, restraint and isolation of students is governed by section 115C-391.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes, Board Policy and Regulation & Procedures. All of these materials are available online at www.wcps.net/restraint at the school system's central administrative offices at 5625 Dillard Drive in Cary, North Carolina and at the front office of every school. To the extent allowed by these laws, policies and procedures, G.S. 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.

Weapons

Students are not permitted to possess, handle, or transmit any weapon, facsimile of a weapon, dangerous instrument/substance or other object that can reasonably be considered or used as a weapon or dangerous instrument/substance. For more information, review Board Policy: Weapons Prohibited on School Property.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The Code of Student Conduct rules are leveled, indicating the severity of violation and type of consequence. In any given situation, based on the unique circumstances of a situation, the principal may utilize 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 I

Level I rule violations generally result in in-school interventions rather than out-of-school suspensions. A student may receive an out-of-school suspension for a Level I rule violation if it is the student's third violation of a Level I rule within the same semester and in-school interventions were attempted in response to both prior violations or in cases where a student refuses to participate in the in-school interventions.

- Noncompliance
- Disrespect
- Being tardy to class, skipping class or school
- Leaving Campus without Permission
- Being in an Unauthorized Area
- Inappropriate Language
- Inappropriate Dress
- Use of unapproved electronic devices
- Trespassing
- Tobacco
- Gambling

Learn more

Information on Interventions, Support and Disciplinary Actions found online:
www.wcpss.net/codeofconduct

Level II

Level II rule violations may warrant a short-term suspension, not to exceed five school days. Principals may recommend a long-term suspension based upon aggravating factors regarding the severity of the violation or safety concerns which may warrant the recommendation of long-term suspension.

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Falsification
- Violation of software copyright laws
- Inappropriate Literature, Illustrations and Images
- Violation of computer access
- Class or Activity Disturbance
- School Disturbance
- School Transportation Disturbance
- Disruptive Protest
- False Fire Alarm
- Fire Setting
- Property Damage
- Theft
- Extortion
- Indecent Exposure, Sexual Behavior
- Harassment, Bullying
- Sexual Harassment
- Threat, False Threat
- Physical Aggression, Fighting
- Failure to Report
- Hazing
- Failure to Permit Search and Seizure
- Aiding and Abetting

Level III

Level III rule violations are more severe in nature and typically result in a recommendation for long-term suspension.

- Narcotics
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Controlled Substances
- Drug Paraphernalia
- Gang and Gang-Related Activity
- Weapons
- Assault on a Student, School Personnel or Other Adult
- Assault Involving Weapon
- Bomb Threat
- Acts of Terror

Level IV

Level IV rule violations compromise the safety and welfare of students and staff and require a 365 calendar-day suspension.

- Firearm
- Destructive Device

Level V

Level V allows for expulsion of a student, as provided by state statute, for a violation of the Code of Conduct, if the student is 14 years of age or older and the student's behavior indicates that his or her continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees and the Board determines there is no appropriate alternative education program.

PARENT AND/OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE SHEET

Please sign and return this form to your child's school. By signing and returning this page, you acknowledge that you have received this booklet. This form will be kept at your child's school.

The undersigned parent or guardian acknowledges receipt of all items listed above.

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

To enable us to properly record that you have returned this sheet, please carefully print the information below:

Student's Name

Student's Grade

CUT ON DOTTED LINE

CUT ON DOTTED LINE