

WILMINGTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2024 - 2025



350 Wood Street

New Wilmington, PA 16142

(724) 656-8866 / FAX (724) 946-8982

www.wasd.school

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Wilmington Area High School Students and Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the administration and faculty, I sincerely welcome you to Wilmington Area Junior/Senior High School. We are committed to inspiring and preparing students to learn continuously, lead responsibly, and live purposefully. We hope that your experience at Wilmington Area is both a challenging and rewarding one. There are opportunities for all to succeed in the classroom, as well as in the many extra-curricular areas that are offered. We are confident that by working together we can create a school environment that allows every student to experience personal and academic growth.

In order for all of us to enjoy a successful year, it is important that everyone is aware of the expectations of the Wilmington Area Junior/Senior High School and the School District. The policies and procedures contained in this handbook aim to ensure a productive and effective partnership between school personnel, students and parents. Please read this carefully. It is important that everyone involved in your education is informed and understands the policies and procedures that follow. Common sense and respect for the rights of others will dictate the course of action in the absence of printed guidelines. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions. Have a great year!

Go Hounds,

Brendan Hathaway, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspire and prepare students to learn continuously and to live purposefully and act responsibly.

VISION STATEMENT

Students will compete successfully in taking on life's challenges, knowing they are empowered to make a difference in an ever-changing world.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE Dr. Terence Meehan	300 Wood Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142 724-656-8866 ext. 6000
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES Mr. Brandon M. Phillian	300 Wood Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142 724-656-8866 ext. 6600
HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE Mr. Brendan Hathaway, Principal	350 Wood Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142 724-656-8866 ext. 1000
HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE Mrs. Katie Gray, Counselor	350 Wood Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142 724-656-8866 ext. 1020
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION Mr. Michael Conglose	300 Wood Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142 724-656-8866 ext. 6502

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Vanessa Russo, President	Mr. Michael Crawford Vice President	Mrs. Jessica Cubellis
Mrs. Nicole Cox	Mrs. Carol Harris	Mr. Broc Johnson
Mr. Joe Kollar	Mrs. Diana Caiazza	Mrs. Kirstan Tervo

HISTORY OF SCHOOLS

The Wilmington Area School District consists of 111 square miles and is composed of four townships (Pulaski, Wilmington, Washington, and Plain Grove) and two boroughs (New Wilmington and Volant) in Lawrence County, and Wilmington Township in Mercer County. The district stretches 26 miles from Butler County to the Ohio State line. The present school district was made one for educational purposes in 1966, reducing the Board of Education from 35 members (7 five-member boards) to one nine-member board elected at large. New Wilmington Borough, the geographical center of the district, was chosen as the site for the single secondary school, constructed in 1957. The district operates one elementary school in New Wilmington, and one building containing the middle school and high school, located in New Wilmington. Geographically the district is composed of rolling farmland. Technically the district is classified as 100% rural (any area with less than 2500 population is considered rural). The population centers are New Wilmington, New Bedford, Volant, Pulaski, and Plain Grove. Only New Wilmington and Volant are organized as boroughs. All others are unincorporated and governed by township government. As a result of the rural nature of the district, 80% of the students are bused to school. There are approximately 60 businesses in the district. The district's largest employers are Westminster College, Wilmington Area School District, and Farmers' Cheese Plant.

BELL SCHEDULE

Event		Begin Time	End Time	Duration
Teachers on Station		7:20		
Tardy Bell		7:45		
Period 1		7:45	8:31	46 minutes
Period 2		8:34	9:16	42 minutes
Period 3		9:19	10:01	42 minutes
Period 4		10:04	10:46	42 minutes
Period 5		10:49	11:31	42 minutes
Period 6		11:34	12:16	42 minutes
Period 7		12:19	1:01	42 minutes
Period 8		1:04	1:46	42 minutes
Period 9		1:49	2:31	42 minutes
Teacher Dismissal		2:50		

TWO HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE

Event		Begin Time	End Time	Duration
Teachers on Station		9:20		
Tardy Bell		9:45		
Period 1		9:45	10:17	32 minutes
Period 2		10:20	10:48	28 minutes
Period 3		10:51	11:19	28 minutes
Period 5		11:22	11:52	30 minutes
Period 6		11:55	12:25	30 minutes
Period 7		12:28	12:58	30 minutes
Period 4		1:01	1:29	28 minutes
Period 8		1:32	2:00	28 minutes
Period 9		2:03	2:31	28 minutes
Teacher Dismissal		2:50		

STUDENT DROP-OFF/PICK UP

Students should be dropped off at the high school office entrance prior to 7:45. If students are dropped off late, the student must enter through the high school entrance security station. They will then be let into the building and checked in by the office staff.

Students arriving late must sign in at the main office. Students are required to sign out in the main office when leaving during the school day and must be picked up at the high school office entrance.

EARLY DISMISSAL

In order for a student to be dismissed early (**even age 18 and older**), the online early dismissal form must be completed and submitted by a parent/guardian. The online early dismissal form can be found on the Parent Dashboard on the district website. To request an early dismissal, parents/guardians must submit the request to the office before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the requested dismissal. The student will sign out at the high school office, and must be picked up at the high school office entrance. A staff member will supervise your child leaving the building.

Phone call verification will be made by the administration as determined necessary. Students will not be excused during the time school is in session except for extraordinary reasons approved only by the principal. All shopping and social engagements are to be made after school hours. **Before leaving school, students must inform a secretary or principal, and sign out before leaving the building.** Requests for doctor or dental appointments must be accompanied by an appointment card from said doctor or dentist.

If it is necessary for a student to leave school for health reasons, the student must go to the nurse's office and have the nurse make arrangements with parents/guardians. An excuse from the nurse must be presented to the office. Students are not permitted to call their parent/guardian to pick them up from school without permission from the school nurse or principal.

SCHOOL VISITORS

Students are not permitted to bring visitors to school at any time. The school will not assume responsibility for children who do not attend our school. All visitors must report to the office to get a visitor's pass. Any unauthorized visitor or stranger in the building should be immediately reported to the office by students or personnel.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If a student moves from the district or changes their address within the same school district, s/he should immediately give the new information with proof of residency to the office secretary.

SOLICITATIONS

Students are not permitted to sell or solicit for sale any item(s) unless approved through a school-sponsored activity or organization.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The District has implemented the Alert Now automated telephone system to notify parents of school delays, cancellations, or emergencies. If you do not receive the Alert Now call early enough for your schedule, feel free to call the school at (724) 656-8866 and press 8 to hear the most up-to-date delays or closings or the district website, www.wasd.school.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

ABSENCE, LEGAL & ILLEGAL

The School Laws of Pennsylvania classify all absences as unexcused or illegal except those for the following reasons: illness of the pupil, death in the immediate family, quarantine, and “exceptionally urgent reasons” that affect the child. “Personal Reasons” is not an excused absence and will be marked as “Unexcused”. *All students of compulsory school age who are enrolled or reside in the district shall be subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements.* The State Laws of Pennsylvania require that legal action be taken after three (3) days of unlawful absence. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to call the Attendance Office on the day their child is absent from school. The parent/guardian must submit an excuse within five (5) days of the student’s return to school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to submit excuses electronically using the Excuse Permission Form on the district website

EXCUSES

For excuse guidelines please see below:

- A. When a student is absent, parent/guardians must access, complete and submit the online excuse form within five (5) school days, or the absence will be marked “unexcused.” The online form can be found on the Parent Dashboard on the district website.
- B. The excuse must contain the date(s) of absence, the reason for the absence, and the parent’s or guardian’s signature. If any of these three items is omitted, the parent/guardian may rewrite the excuse and submit it the next day.
- C. Students who arrive after the designated starting time will be marked as tardy. Students must have a written excuse, explaining the reason for their tardiness. If they have no excuse, the tardy will be considered unexcused.
- D. Students who arrive after 10:54 or leave before 11:44 will be marked as absent for half of the school day.
- E. For athletic purposes, students must arrive before 10:45 to be considered eligible for that day (practice or games) unless the student has a medical excuse. Students must have a medical excuse to leave early on the day of a practice or game.
- F. If a student has excessive absences (**15 or more**), the school district will require that a doctor’s excuse be provided for each and every absence due to illness. **Vacation days count towards the 15 day total.**
- G. Measures taken to deal with a student who has been truant, or absent without a legal excuse, may include counseling, referral to CYS, a parent/guardian conference, after-school detention, suspension or expulsion. **After three (3) unexcused absences, a letter will be sent to parents/guardians warning of possible actions through the magistrate.**
- H. The annual “Take Your Child to Work” day will not be approved as an excused absence. Regular school attendance is in the best interest of the student and his/her progress in school. Please feel free to observe that day in the summer months or when school is not in session.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

The following applies to class absences exclusive of those which are documented by a physician’s medical excuse.

A student who has 20 or more class absences for a year long course and/or 10 or more class absences for a semester long course shall be ineligible for credit without attending and winning an appeal process. A student may individually request a waiver of the attendance provision by appealing to the building's administration. The individual case shall then be reviewed by the Appeals Committee after all records, including physician’s excuses, are submitted to the attendance personnel.

The Appeals Committee will consist of an administrator, school counselor, and teacher(s) who will determine whether the student’s absences or tardiness are legitimate and thus waived.

VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

The school calendar is designed to give students extended vacations during winter and spring breaks; vacations at other times are discouraged. Parents/Guardians who wish to take children out of school for vacation purposes must **in advance** pick up a “Pre-Approved Educational Trip Form” in the office. **The approval form must be completed and returned to the principal at least five (5) days prior to the requested trip. The superintendent has the authority to authorize an additional 5 days for exceptional and meritorious reasons to a maximum of 10 school days per year.**

Vacations will only be approved as an excused absence if they are with the child’s parents/guardians. Any other vacations taken will be marked as an unexcused absence. Educational trips during the Keystone testing window **will not** be approved. The student is responsible for making arrangements for homework prior to vacation. **Please note that even if a vacation is approved, the days absent will count towards the student’s total days absent from school.**

MAKING UP WORK

The time (days) allotted for make-up work will be the same as the time (days) as the lawful (excused) absence. Teachers reserve the right to allow for more time if the amount or depth of the assignment mandates or new material was introduced. Students who are absent as a result of school related trips/ events are expected to complete all prior and/ or digitally assigned "missed" assignments by the posted due date when posted/ assigned no less than 7 days in advance. All other paper and/or assignments assigned during the duration of the trip are expected to be submitted upon return to class. Furthermore, unless new material was presented, missing class the day before an exam does not excuse a student from taking the exam.

UNEXCUSED TARDINESS TO SCHOOL

Approved reasons for tardiness are the same as the reasons for excused absences. In order for tardiness to be recorded as excused, the student must submit a written note from a parent/guardian. After ten (10) excuses, a note from a physician is required.

The following disciplinary procedures will be followed for unexcused tardiness to school. Parking privilege suspension will carry over to the second semester. Multiples of 5 will result in Mega Detentions (5, 10, 15, etc.)

<u>Number of Unexcused Tardies</u>	<u>Disciplinary Action</u>
3rd Unexcused Tardy	Warning and parent contacted
6 th Unexcused Tardy	Detention
9 th Unexcused Tardy	Mega Detention PLUS loss of extracurricular privileges for day of unexcused tardy and parking privileges suspended for 3 days
11 or more Unexcused Tardies	Mega Detention PLUS Principal discretion for the number of days lost of extracurricular and parking privileges.

TARDINESS TO CLASS

Tardiness to class will be handled by the individual period teacher. Detention will be assigned according to the Hallway Behavior Expectations procedure.

FIELD TRIPS

No student will be permitted to go on a school district approved field trip unless the parent/guardian has given written permission prior to the trip. Students who are absent as a result of school related trips/ events are expected to complete all prior and/ or digitally assigned "missed" assignments by the posted due date when posted/ assigned no less than 7 days in advance. All other assignments assigned during the duration of the trip are expected to be submitted upon return to class." Furthermore, unless new material was presented, missing class the day before an exam does not excuse a student from taking the exam. Students with excessive absences, or failing grades may be prohibited from attending field trips.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

Any student who is absent from school cannot participate in extracurricular activities (athletics, clubs, dances, band, chorus, etc.) on the day of the absence. This includes all suspended students. Students must be in school at 10:45 to participate, practice, rehearse, compete, or perform. The Athletic Director and Principal will review exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis.

Any student that does not turn in their school paperwork on time (a due date is given at the beginning of the year): health inventory form, permission to be photographed, student handbook sign-off, and transportation information form, will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular events or field trips until all of the paperwork is turned in and accounted for.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM

The Wilmington Area High School has one secondary counselor to serve grades 9 through 12. The school counselor is available to assist all students by providing counseling, consultation, information, record keeping, assessment, referral, academic, and post-high school planning services. The purpose of the school counselor is to aid students in making wise academic choices, acquiring positive social and emotional attitudes, and seeking the information necessary to plan appropriately for the future.

The counselor provides students with the necessary information about scholarships, financial aid, college selection and application, apprenticeship, and employment opportunities. Students are encouraged to be proactive in utilizing the information system provided to access as many services as possible.

A program of studies is developed each year to assist students in selecting academic classes. This information, including course descriptions, credit requirements, and scheduling deadlines, is provided to the students through large group meetings, classroom presentations, and individual consultation.

It is the school counselor's responsibility to maintain accurate records of each student's achievement, ability, interests, and attendance. Transcripts are created and forwarded by written request.

Students are encouraged to apply for college admission in the early fall of their senior year. Information about careers, post-secondary programs, armed services, applications, and financial aid is available in the guidance office.

The school counselor provides individual counseling, makes referrals to outside agencies, and coordinates the CARE Team program.

By providing information to students and parents/guardians, maintaining information about the students, and guiding students through their decision making process, we can help each student to make wise, responsible and appropriate choices.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PATHWAYS

To help ensure that all students in Pennsylvania are on track for meaningful postsecondary engagement and success, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has included a measure of students' career exploration, preparation, and readiness as part of Pennsylvania's state and federal accountability system through the Future Ready PA Index. The Career Readiness Indicator recognizes efforts to ensure that all students have career exploration and preparation activities that are standards-aligned and evidence-based, including the development of career plans and portfolios that help students identify pathways and opportunities for postsecondary success aligned to the career education and work standards.

Academic standards for career education and work

- Career awareness and preparation
- Career acquisition (Getting a job)
- Career retention and advancement
- Entrepreneurship

The comprehensive program is reported under the career readiness indicator in the PA Future Ready Index.

Smart Futures will be used to implement these lessons. Students in each grade will be required to complete each of the lessons and required tasks in each grade as part of their graduation requirements. Failure to complete these assignments and required tasks will prohibit student's attendance at prom and other end of year activities.

STANDARDIZED TESTING PROGRAM

Grade 9	Keystone Exams	State Mandated
Grade 10	Keystone Exams PSAT ASVAB	State Mandated Preparation for College Entrance Exams Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
Grade 11	Keystone Exams PSAT/NMSQT ASVAB SAT/ ACT	State Mandated Preparation for College Entrance Exams Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery College Entrance Exams
Grade 12	ASVAB SAT/ ACT	Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery College Entrance Exams

Your child's scores on these tests will be checked carefully and maintained in the school records as long as your child attends school in this school system.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, will follow a progression schedule based on the number of units or credits passed in any one school year. This schedule will improve the student's chance for graduation when he/she reaches 12th grade. Students must have enough cumulative credits to graduate in order to be placed in a senior homeroom.

A student who has not successfully completed state required credits for graduation will not be granted a diploma from Wilmington Area High School. In addition, the student will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The standards for graduation from Wilmington Area High School are set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the local Board of School Directors.

Guidelines represent minimum requirements

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
27 Required Credits	27 Required Credits	27 Required Credits	27 Required Credits
English – 4 Credits	English – 4 Credits	English – 4 Credits	English – 4 Credits
Social Studies – 4 Credits	Social Studies – 4 Credits	Social Studies – 4 Credits	Social Studies – 4 Credits
Math – 3 Credits (at the HS level)	Math – 3 Credits (at the HS level)	Math – 3 Credits (at the HS level)	Math – 3 Credits (at the HS level)
Science – 3.5 Credits (One course must be Chemistry or General Science)	Science – 3.5 Credits (One course must be Chemistry or General Science)	Science – 3.5 Credits (One course must be Chemistry or General Science)	Science – 3.5 Credits (One course must be Chemistry or General Science)
Physical Education 1.5 Credits	Physical Education 1.5 Credits	Physical Education 1.5 Credits	Physical Education 1.5 Credits
Health - .5 Credits	Health - .5 Credits	Health - .5 Credits	Health - .5 Credits
Technology - .5 Credits	Technology - .5 Credits	Technology - .5 Credits	Technology - .5 Credits
	Personal Finance - .5 Credits	Personal Finance - .5 Credits	Personal Finance - .5 Credits
College/Career Readiness Project	College/Career Readiness Project	College/Career Readiness Project	College/Career Readiness Project
Electives – 10 Credits over 4 years	Electives – 9.5 Credits over 4 years	Electives – 9.5 Credits over 4 years	Electives – 9.5 Credits over 4 years

**Technology courses include: Introduction to Computer Science, Web Site Design & Development, Introduction to Computer Programming, Introduction to Engineering*

PROGRESSION SCHEDULE

Credits required to advance to the next grade level:

Sophomore - 7 Credits / Junior - 14 Credits / Senior - 21 Credits

SCHEDULE CHANGE RULES AND INFORMATION

(DROP/ADD/WITHDRAWAL)

All requests for course changes must be initiated in writing using the proper form through the School Counseling Office. Students are responsible for completing the required form and must include all necessary teacher and parent signatures. Approval of any requests will be made based on the advice of teachers, counselor, and principal. No schedule change requests will be considered after May 30, 2024.

The student may be placed in the requested course for the entire school year with the expectation and understanding that the student will complete the course, regardless of the obtained grade.

HONORS AND AP SCHEDULE CHANGES

- Students taking honors or AP level courses may change to a regular level course of the same content with administrative/teacher recommendation and administrative approval.
- Students may drop honors or AP courses for a study hall up through the end of the first nine weeks ONLY if the course is taken as an elective and they do not need the credit to graduate.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

A student who receives a quarter grade of "I" has a maximum of two (2) weeks after the date of report card distribution to fulfill the requirements:

- If the student does satisfy the requirements, the teacher will change the quarter grade to the earned value.
- If the student does not satisfy the requirements, the teacher will change all incomplete assignments to a "0."
- In all instances, the "I" must be removed by the teacher and replaced by a regular letter grade.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Junior and Senior students that maintain a 3.0 or above are permitted to take Dual Enrollment courses at Westminster College. Teacher and Administrative approval to apply for Dual Enrollment courses are necessary. Attendance, Academic History, and Discipline History will be a factor in permitting a student to attend Dual Enrollment courses. Applications for Dual Enrollment are in the Guidance Office. Students who take dual enrollment classes must sign out/in each day in the main office.

WILMINGTON ACADEMY

Students are eligible to enroll in the Wilmington Area High School Cyber Academy based on medical issues, credit recovery, or choosing to attend either full or half time. A meeting is required with the school counselor, principal, and parents/guardians to discuss the expectations of the program. Students may choose their courses to meet graduation requirements. Students that have an IEP or GIEP will have modifications made as necessary to the cyber courses. Applications and expectation forms are available in the High School Office. Students enrolled in Wilmington Academy are required to adhere to all graduation and course requirements outlined in the program of studies.

Ideally, we like students to begin and end a grading period in the same model of education; nonetheless, we understand that circumstances arise making a switch from in-person to cyber education a necessity. If a student transitions to Wilmington Academy after the midpoint of the grading period, he/she will remain in Wilmington Academy for the duration of the current grading period, as well as the entirety of the following grading period as long as the student receives passing grades in all courses. For example, a student transitioning to Wilmington Academy on October 15 (after the midpoint of the first grading period) will remain in Wilmington Academy for the rest of the first grading period and the entire second grading period.

If a student, in collaboration with the parent/guardian, decides to withdraw from the Wilmington Academy, a transition back to the High School building can occur at the end of a grading period.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT LISTS

A student in grades 7 through 12 is recognized for academic performance in the classroom through the publication of the following listings at the end of each evaluation period:

PRINCIPAL'S LIST -- students must earn a GPA of 3.75 or higher.

HIGH HONORS LIST – students must earn a GPA of 3.5 - 3.74.

HONOR ROLL – students must earn a GPA of 3.0 - 3.49.

WORK RELEASE PROGRAM

This program is limited to seniors. They must have a minimum of 21 credits, and must be able to schedule all required courses to meet graduation requirements by the time of the requested release. Students may not leave prior to the end of 5th period or 11:41 a.m. Work release papers must be obtained from the guidance office and approved by administration. Work release is a privilege, which may be revoked at any time. Education always takes precedence over employment. If a student on work release receives a failing grade in any subject, he or she must return to a full day of school schedule and give up work release. Other reasons for discontinuing work release include, but are not limited to, continuous illegal absences or tardiness, discipline problems at school, and not going to the job or habitually late for work.

The following items must be on file before beginning the work experience program: approval form signed by parent/guardian and employer; working papers if under 18 years old; activities notification form. Students who are approved for work release must sign out each day in the main office.

DISSECTION

Students have the right to refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of their course of instruction. Any student making such a request will be required to complete an alternate assignment.

EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES

(WORKING PAPERS)

All employment certificates for minors (under 18 years of age) are issued by the high school office. A minor must have a working permit for each job until he is 18 years of age.

The applicant is given an application for a transferable work permit. This must be filled out and signed by the parent/guardian. When completed, this form must be returned to the issuing officer along with a birth certificate or some other proof of age. A work permit is then issued. This is kept by the minor employee (student). The employer may make a copy for his files

ALMA SIS (STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM)

Alma is a grading software that permits parents/guardians and students to view their grades and check on assignments that have been completed or are due. Grades will be updated weekly by teachers and can be viewed from any computer that has internet access. All students will be given information on how to access and use their Alma grade book accounts. Once you have activated your account, and the teaching staff has posted information, you can use Alma to view up-to-date information on your child's progress. If you do not have internet access, or want to receive information by other means, please contact the Technology Office.

STUDENT SERVICES

HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

When a child is ill, he/she is to report to the nurse. If any child is too ill to remain in school, the parent/guardian will be notified, and, if possible, they should arrange transportation home. Accidents are to be reported by the student to a teacher. Major emergencies are to be cared for as soon as possible by the nurse. The school will not assume responsibility for the treatment of accidents or injuries that occur outside of school hours. A child who shows signs of illness (i.e.temperature above 100, vomiting, diarrhea, uncontrolled cough, etc.) should not be sent to school but referred to the family physician. An emergency file card is kept for each pupil. It is most important that these cards are kept updated. Any change of residence, parent/guardian’s place of employment, or phone number should be reported to the nurse immediately.

Pennsylvania State Mandates:

Exams

Physical

Dental

Screenings

Height/Weight/BMI

Vision

Hearing

Scoliosis

Required in Grades

K or 1, 6, and 11

K or 1, 3, and 7

All Grades

All Grades

K,1,2,3,7, and 11

6 and 7

PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

The Wilmington Area School District recognizes that parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for the health of their children. Although the district strongly recommends that medication be given at home, it realizes that the health of some children requires that they receive medication while at school.

The School Board has adopted an updated policy regarding the administration of medications. An “Authorization for Administration of Medication” form that has been updated to reflect current safe practices for School Health programs is located in any office, from the nurse, or district website.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the updated policy and the “Authorization for Administration of Medication” parent/guardian signature form. The authorization form must be used when your child takes BOTH prescription and over-the-counter medications not covered by Wilmington Area School District standing medication order from the school physician. This form requires the signature of BOTH the parent/guardian AND the physician.

Some of the requirements have changed and/or additions have been made. Please take note of the following requirements.

- “ Parents/Guardians are required to bring medication to school and give it to the appropriate school personnel.
- “ All medications must be in the original labeled pharmacy container or the original over-the-counter medication container.
- “ Medication will not be transported to and from school daily. Medications cannot be transported on the bus (unless otherwise approved).
- “ The parent/guardian shall pick up any unused medication or it will be properly destroyed by the nurse.
- “ The parent/guardian must assume responsibility for any changes in the student’s health or change in medication. A new medication form must be completed by the parent/guardian and physician for each new change in medication.
- “ Acetaminophen(Tylenol) and Ibuprofen will only be given to a student on two instances (different reasons) each month unless a physician’s note is on file in the health office.
- “ Medication can be given at school 30 minutes after school starts (8:15) and stops 30 minutes prior to school ending (2:05). The Nurse Practice Act requires that all medication be administered no later than 30 minutes before a provider leaves
- “ Any prescription drug that is ordered three times a day or less can be given at home unless otherwise specified by the medical provider

“Use of Medications” policy is available at any office or on the district website for review.

“Authorization for Administration of Medication” form is located in any office, from the nurse, or district website.

GUIDELINES FOR ILL CHILDREN

- Your child has a fever greater than 100, please keep them home until fever-free for 24 hours without taking any medication such as Tylenol (Acetaminophen) or Ibuprofen for 24 hours
- When your child is vomiting or has diarrhea please keep them home until symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication
- If your child is taking an antibiotic medication, please keep the child home for 24-hours from the first dose of medication. This includes medication by mouth, drops, and ointments/creams
- When your child is sent home from school due to illness or any other medical problem he/she is not permitted to return to school that day for any reason. This includes parties, athletic events, school programs, and all school-related activities. The only exception is if a medical provider authorizes the students to return. Written documentation from the medical provider must be given to the school nurse upon return to school.

COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Pennsylvania Board of Health regulates the exclusion and readmission of children suspected or diagnosed to have a communicable or infectious disease.

IMMUNIZATIONS

State Law requires that before they enter school, students must have had the following immunizations:

4 doses TD or DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) at least four weeks apart. The fourth dose must be given on or after 4th birthday

4 doses Polio Vaccine (one dose after 4th birthday)

2 doses of MMR (Live Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccine) First dose must be given at 12 months of age or older

3 doses of Hepatitis B. Doses 1 and 2 must be at least 1 month apart. Doses 2 and 3 must be

at least 2 months apart.

2 doses of Varicella (Chicken Pox vaccine) or date of chickenpox illness required (month/year or age of the child).

For Attendance in 7th Grade:

1 dose of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular pertussis) on the first day of 7th grade

1 dose of MCV (Meningococcal conjugate vaccine on the first day of 7th grade

For Attendance in 12th Grade:

1 dose of MCV on the first day of 12th grade. If one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the twelfth-grade dose.

Dates for these immunizations must be presented at the time the child is enrolled in school. If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child must receive that dose within five days of school or risk exclusion.

This policy is now in effect. If you have any questions, please feel free to call either Sarah Vincent, Middle/High school nurse at 724-656-8866, extension 1030, or Anna Daughtery, Elementary school nurse at 724-656-8866, extension 3030.

GUIDE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease:	Incubation:	Period of Communicability:	Control:
Chicken Pox	2-3 weeks	1-4 days before the onset of rash/blisters	Exclude from school until vesicles become dry
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	24-72 hours	Duration of active infection	Exclude from school until 24 hours after the start of appropriate treatment
Fifth Disease	4-20 days	Until rash appears	Not excluded from school since they are not contagious once rash occurs

German Measles	14-23 days	Highly communicable from a few days before to at least four (4) days from the onset of rash	Exclude from school for at least four (4) days from the onset of rash
Head and Body Lice	Eggs will hatch in one-week. Sexual maturity is reached about 8-10 days after hatching	While lice and nits (eggs) are alive	Exclude from school until adequately treated and cleared by the school nurse
Impetigo	Indefinite	Onset until sores are healed	Exclude from school nurse 24 hours after appropriate treatment has begun
Measles	7-18 days	From slightly before onset of symptoms until 4 days after the rash appears	Exclude from school until at least four (4) days after the rash appears
Mumps	12-25 days	6-7 days before swelling occurs until up to 9 days from onset of swelling	Exclude from school for 9 days or swelling is gone
Ringworm	4-10 days	As long as lesions are present	Exclude from school until cleared by a physician
Scabies	2-6 weeks after the first infestation. Re-infestation within 1-4 days	Until adequately treated	Exclude until adequately treated
Scarlet Fever	1-3 days, rarely longer	With adequate treatment—24 hours	Exclude from school until 24 hours after the start of appropriate treatment
Streptococcal Sore Throat	Usually 1-3 days, rarely longer	With adequate treatment—24 hours	Exclude from school until 24 hours after the start of appropriate treatment

CARE (CHILDREN AT RISK EDUCATIONALLY) TEAM

A PROGRAM FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE

In today's society where at least one in every four students is directly affected by social problems such as substance abuse, depression, suicidal behavior, eating disorders, physical/sexual abuse and religious cults, we in the Wilmington Area School District feel these problems must be addressed or they will greatly affect the learning climate in the classroom. We believe that the resolution of these problems can and will improve instruction. Thus, in September of 1989, we began our "CARE" (Children at Risk Educationally) Team to assist with the identification of "high risk" students.

The "CARE" team at Wilmington Area High School is comprised of selected school personnel who have been specially trained to identify and refer "high risk" students who have displayed behaviors which inhibit educational growth, as well as their social, emotional, physical, and mental growth. The primary function of the "CARE" team is to identify the child whose behavior causes reason for concern and begin a positive plan for intervention. This team will also provide faculty in-servicing, prevention programs, and parent/guardian and community agency involvement. A solution to many student problems can be achieved through school, community, and parent/guardian team-work.

Many students are troubled by problems, which not only interfere with their educational performance, but with their physical, mental, social, and emotional development as well. When students are troubled, so are teachers, counselors, administrators, and other school staff. Help is needed for those students having difficulties and for members of the school district staff dealing with these students.

The "CARE" team is a systematic, professional, and realistic response to students' problems in our school.

The "CARE" team, has been designed to:

1. Provide assistance to students troubled by physical, social-emotional, or substance-abuse problems.
2. Collect information/data that could be used in the assessment of student behavior.
3. Assist students in the awareness of the harmful effects of their behaviors.
4. Enlist the support and involvement of all district staff, plus utilize existing community resources when necessary.
5. Provide prevention programs and rewards for non-dependent students.
6. Assist students returning from residential treatment to readjust to the school atmosphere.

STUDENT MEAL PROGRAM

The Wilmington Area Food Service is under a computer Food Service Point-of-Sale System called the “School Café” This technology allows us to provide debit accounts for student meals and will improve meal-tracking capabilities. This is a computerized debit system that will allow you to pay in advance for meals and/or ala carte items. Students may continue to have the option to pay cash on a daily basis, BUT, IT IS PREFERRED for students to place money on their accounts prior to their arrival at school. We discourage students from paying for the meals as they go through the line. THERE IS A **NO CHARGING POLICY FOR ALA CARTE ITEMS**. The identification of students will be with each student’s ID number. This ID number is the same number assigned to student throughout the school system. Students will use a keypad to place their ID number in for identification which in turn brings up their account, along with a student photo. The greatest help would be for students to pay in advance for as many meals as you are comfortable with. Any amount of money will be placed on the student’s account. This is a positive identification system—only that student can access his/her account. The student makes their meal selection, checks out with the cashier and AFTER the cashier’s approval, continues on to eat their meal. Please remember any (debit/credit) balance is carried forward to the next year. The District has made changes to its cafeteria charging policy (Policy 808.1, which you can read at <https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/wasd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BERSVA73C1E5>) Delinquent accounts greater than \$75.00 will be turned over to G.H. Harris, our delinquent account collector. The full policy can be found on the District’s website. This information stored on the “School Café” is for use through software in the food service department only. There are several layers of security built into this software and the school district network.

The middle school/high school cafeteria will be operating under the same menu.

At lunch there are several selections to choose from: main menu, a variety of cold sandwiches (including peanut butter), or a “Salad to Go” Lunch.

The **prices for meals** this year are as follows:

BREAKFAST IS FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

LUNCH PRICE:	\$ 2.10 Daily	\$10.50 Weekly
Reduced:	\$.40 Daily	\$2.00 Weekly
Adult:	\$ 4.00	

STATE GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN CHANGED ON FLUID MILK SUBSTITUTIONS. This system will alert food service employees of any allergies or substitutions required. **A Lactose Free Substitute will now be used as a milk alternative.** ORANGE JUICE WILL NO LONGER BE OFFERED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR MILK. Students with disabilities and/or Special Dietary Needs must now complete a current and new form that is included in the packet sent home with your child or available at the school office. This form will be kept on file, but must be **UPDATED AND CURRENT ON A YEARLY BASIS.**

A complete packet of the Free/Reduced Meal Application can be picked up at any of the school offices. You can also visit the state COMPASS website to apply for social service programs, which include the Free and Reduced Meal Application online. You do not have to complete both!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Food Service Director:

Rebecca Jaros
Food Service Director
The Nutrition Group, Inc.
724-656-8866 Ext. 6075

RESOURCE CENTER PROCEDURES

The resource center is used for classes each period of the school day, as scheduled by the teachers, to continue learning begun in the classroom. Provisions are made for recreational reading during the school day as often as the schedule permits.

RESOURCE CENTER REGULATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **ALL BOOKS** that leave the resource center **MUST** be checked out for class work and leisure reading. No books at any time should ever leave the Resource Center without being first checked out.
2. Students are expected to report any damage to resource center materials before taking them from the resource center. Students will be charged for any damage incurred.
3. Students are responsible for returning Resource Center materials on or before the date due, as shown on the date card in the book.
4. Overdue articles are to be returned directly to the librarian before school or during any recreational reading period.
5. Books not yet overdue may be returned at any time by placing them on the rack at the Resource Center entrance.
6. Lost books should be reported immediately. After one month, a lost book is to be paid for at the cost of replacement. If found later, the money will be refunded.
7. Students must have a student number to check out materials.
9. Students that have books checked out and obligations due to the Resource Center from one year to the next will not be able to check books out of the Resource Center during the next year until all obligations are met, i.e. book returned or paid for.

The Resource Center three warning policy for high school study hall and classroom behaviors in the resource center are as follows:

1st warning: Loss of Resource Center Privileges **for two weeks.**

2nd warning: Loss of Resource Center Privileges **until the end of grading period.**

3rd warning: Loss of Resource Center Privileges **for the year.**

Students may only visit the Resource Center **once per day** from any study hall unless you are with an assigned class in the Resource Center with your teacher.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Social activities, or dances, will be open to all students in grades 9 through 12. The following policies will apply:

1. All dances will be closed to all persons other than Wilmington Area students in grades 9-12. A student will be permitted to bring a guest, as a date, to formal dances sponsored by school clubs or organizations.
2. Students bringing a guest will be asked to complete a form prior to the day of the dance.
3. All school regulations are to be followed by all students and guests attending any school activities.
4. All social activities will be held between 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. for senior high school students (unless otherwise noted).
5. Students attending a school dance or social activity are expected to remain in the activity area. Students will not be permitted to leave a school activity or school property and return except in case of an emergency or special arrangement.
6. No one 21 years of age or older will be permitted at **any** school dance.
7. Students not attending a dance or school activity are not to loiter on school property.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS

Student organizations and clubs will meet during the activity period unless, because of special circumstances, a club meeting is scheduled after school or in the evening.

The following is a listing of clubs that will operate during the upcoming school year: Conservation Club, F.F.A., Future Business Leaders of America, French Club, Library Club, National Honor Society,

Peer Leadership, S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere), Spanish Club, Student Council, and Yearbook.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles of clothing will not be lost if properly placed in the pupil's lockers. This also applies to lunches, if brought from home. Articles such as rings, watches, wallets, and money are considerably safer if kept on the person of the student or if they are entrusted to a teacher if the student has some activity that prevents him from properly caring for them. **It is highly recommended that each student place a lock on his/her locker.** Report the loss of an article to the homeroom teacher, subject teacher or the principal's office. All found articles will be kept in the high school office.

BACKPACKS

Students are permitted to carry backpacks to class but should understand they are subject to search.

STUDENT USE OF AUTOMOBILES

The Wilmington Area School District encourages all students to use the transportation provided by the school district. However, when it is necessary that a student drives to school, he/she shall abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of student automobiles on school property as directed by the Administration. Student drivers must submit an application for the privilege of driving and parking on Wilmington Area High School grounds.

The privilege to park on school grounds may be revoked for any of the following infractions:

ALL STUDENT VEHICLES PARKED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY DURING SCHOOL HOURS MUST DISPLAY A PARKING PERMIT.

1. Failure to produce a driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.
2. No parking tag and/or registration.
3. Parking in a *"NO PARKING ZONE."*
4. Improper parking.
5. Returning to the vehicle during school hours without an administrator's permission.

6. Unsafe driving practices on school property.
7. Excessive tardiness.
8. Truancy.
9. Violations of the student code of conduct at administrative discretion.

The following is the procedure for applying for a parking permit during August:

- A. The Parking Pass Application is on Alma Start. Once this is completed students can bring the \$25 into the office.
- B. Complete the application with the signature of the student, parent/guardian, and the principal, and then return it to the office with a \$25.00 registration fee prior to the beginning of each school year. Checks should be made payable to the District.

School district officials when they have reason to believe weapons, drugs, tobacco products, or objects prohibited by school policy, or state law, are located in student vehicles parked on school district property, may search those vehicles. Students have no expectations of privacy relative to the school district.

SCHOOL PROPERTY/TEXTBOOKS

Every student in our school is entrusted with various supplies for study. These consist of textbooks, Chromebooks, notebooks, workbooks, graphic calculators, etc. The best of care should be given to all these supplies because most of them have to be used for the current school year as well as years to come. These supplies have been provided by the taxpayers and given to the students as a loan. On the inside cover of each book is the school stamp and book number. A record of the book number should be kept in case the book is lost. If a book is lost, the student must reimburse the school for the price of the book.

Except for “normal wear and tear”, students are fully responsible for repair and/or replacement of damage to school district equipment issued to them. It shall be the responsibility of the teacher or activity advisor to determine what constitutes “normal wear or tear.” The student may appeal to the teacher or activity advisor’s decision as to what constitutes “normal wear and tear” to the building principal. The decision of the building principal shall be final.

STUDENT LOCKERS

The school district may permit students to use school district lockers for the storage of their clothing and/or materials. Due to the new locker installation, students are only authorized to decorate the inside of their lockers using magnets. No tape of any kind is allowed on student lockers.

Students are encouraged to use a school-issued lock to secure the locker from other students and outside personnel. However, the student and parents/guardians must understand that the lockers belong to the school district, that the school district may search any and all lockers without notice and without a reason, and THAT THE STUDENT HAS NO EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY RELATIVE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

When searches of lockers occur, whether routine or special, an effort may be made to have the student present. However, the students are informed that the school district may proceed to search, with or without reason. Only school issued locks may be used – these locks can be obtained from the high school office for a \$5 refundable deposit upon graduation.

WILMINGTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT **STUDENT PERSONALLY OWNED ELECTRONIC USE POLICY**

The Wilmington Area School District recognizes the value of using computers and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of the schools. Wilmington Area School District offers students access to district computers, the Internet, and an array of technology resources to promote educational excellence. Learning about and being held accountable for the responsible use of electronic and digital tools is an important part of preparing students to be successful in today's knowledge society. Each student is responsible for his/her use of technology, whether personal or district-provided. While using district and personal technology resources on or near school property, in school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities, as well as using district technology resources via off-campus remote access, each student must act in an appropriate manner consistent with school, district, and legal guidelines. It is the joint responsibility of school personnel and the parent or guardian of each student to educate the student about his/her responsibilities and to establish expectations when using technology.

Student laptops, cellphones, ebooks, iPads, notebooks, personal game devices, and new technologies as they become available (hereafter referred to as electronic devices) are allowed only under the following guidelines and conditions:

1. Electronic equipment is expected to be turned off, and only utilized for educational use after permission has been granted from a teacher
2. The school or district assumes no responsibility for these personal devices if they are lost, loaned, damaged or stolen and cannot guarantee time or resources will be spent trying to locate stolen or lost items.
3. Inappropriate use may result in the electronic device being confiscated and returned to parents/guardians. Failure to turn over the requested device will result in disciplinary action.
4. Connecting non-district equipment to the district network is not allowed at any time without permission.
5. All guidelines for appropriate use must be adhered to, including but not limited to the express prohibition of games without express permission from an administrator or teacher.
6. Any actions or activities that are disruptive in any way will result in immediate termination of the right to bring in electronic devices to school.

CELL PHONES- Grades 7-8

Cell phones are not permitted to be used in the classrooms, hallways, or at lunch.

- Headphones and other Bluetooth enabled devices are not permitted to be worn in the hallways, in classrooms or during lunch. Students are permitted to use headphones with approval from the teacher.
- Chromebook use in lunch is permitted, if used responsibly.
- Cell phones and electronic devices are not to be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites, and other changing areas at any time.
- If a cell phone rings or vibrates, or is used for any non-educational reason, the student will be asked to surrender it.
- Teachers may require students to place cell phones in a designated area during instruction or assessments.

- Refusal to surrender your phone when asked is insubordination which is a Level 2 infraction and grounds for suspension.
- Confiscated cell phones may not be returned to students. In that case, parents/guardians will be required to pick up phones from the principal's office.

If students need to make emergency calls they must be approved by the Principal's office or school nurse(illness). **In case of a family emergency, parents/guardians are encouraged to call the Jr./Sr. High School office and the message will be delivered promptly and discreetly to the student by appropriate staff.**

If a student becomes ill during school hours, they must receive approval from the school nurse or building principal prior to contacting a parent/guardian.

CELL PHONES- Grades 9-12

- Cell phones may only be used in the classroom for educationally supportive applications with approval from the classroom teacher.
- Headphones and other Bluetooth enabled devices are not permitted to be worn in the hallways or in classrooms. Students are permitted to use headphones in class when permitted to do so by a staff member.
- Electronic device use in lunch is permitted, if used responsibly.
- Electronic devices are not to be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites, and other changing areas at any time.
- If a cell phone rings or vibrates, or is used for any non-educational reason, you will be asked to surrender it.
- Teachers may require students to place cell phones in a designated area during instruction or assessments.
- Refusal to surrender your phone when asked is insubordination which is a Level 2 infraction and grounds for suspension.
- Confiscated cell phones may not be returned to students. In that case, parents/guardians will be required to pick up phones from the principal's office.

If students need to make emergency calls they must be approved by the Principal's office or school nurse(illness). **In case of a family emergency, parents/guardians are encouraged to call the high school office and the message will be delivered promptly and discreetly to the student by appropriate staff.**

If a student becomes ill during school hours, they must receive approval from the school nurse or building principal prior to contacting a parent/guardian.

DISCIPLINE FOR VIOLATIONS OF ELECTRONICS/CELL PHONE USE

1st offense: The electronic device will be confiscated by a school employee and given to administration for the remainder of the day.

2nd offense: The electronic device will be confiscated by a school employee and parent/guardian informed and required to pick up at school.

3rd offense: Terminates the student's personally owned electronic device privileges for nine weeks. Parent/Guardian must pick up the device at school. A parent/student conference will be held with building administration and faculty members to implement appropriate interventions.

DRESS CODE

All students are encouraged to be appropriately dressed and groomed in order to promote pride in oneself and the school he/she attends. Each student must be neat, clean, and wear clothing that is not disruptive to the educational process, or that constitutes a threat to the purpose of education, safety, and health. This dress code provides specific expectations for appropriate dress at Wilmington Area School District.

UNACCEPTABLE DRESS

- Untied or unfastened shoes
- Garments with suggestive or questionable language such as designs, wording, or advertising with implications concerning tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, violence, racial/ethnic slurs or symbols and/or sex
- Spaghetti strap tops, see-through tops, tops that expose midriff, chest, or back while sitting or standing, tops that expose undergarments, tops with low necklines which expose cleavage
- Sagging pants or shorts, pants or shorts worn in a manner that exposes undergarments, pants or shorts that inhibit leg mobility, pants with inappropriate holes or tears, pajamas
- Biker shorts, spandex shorts, boxer shorts, swim shorts
- Heavy coats or outerwear designed to be worn outside
- Trench Coats
- Oversized outerwear
- Headgear that includes, but is not limited to hats, caps, scarves, bandanas, sweatbands, hoods, sunglasses.
- Spiked jewelry, exposed chains

For reasons of health and safety, additional restrictions may be required for students participating in certain activities or classes. These restrictions will be determined by the person in charge of the activity or class and reviewed by the principal or another district administrator.

DISCIPLINE FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DRESS CODE	
1st Offense	Warning
2nd Offense	Change or After School Detention
3rd Offense	Change and assigned Detention
Potential consequences beyond the 3rd Offense-Mega Detention.	

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE CODE

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Student Conduct and Discipline Code is designed to codify the responsibilities of the students, the parents/guardians, the administration and the employees of the school district in order to maintain and support a thorough and effective system of public education. Everyone's compliance and support is needed to create an atmosphere conducive to learning and to protect the rights of our students. This Discipline Code is designed to provide a guide which is reasonable in dealing with discipline problems and to establish the parameters for students and staff so that all parties know what is expected. The Discipline Code

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Students share with the administration, faculty, and parents/guardians, the responsibility to develop and maintain a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.

In order to create pupil respect for the educational process and the total school environment, the entire community must accept certain responsibilities.

Parents/Guardians should provide an atmosphere at home that is conducive to learning by:

- Encouraging their children to be enthusiastic about obtaining an education.
- Impressing upon their children the importance of education.
- Encouraging their children to respect the rights and property of others.
- Encouraging their children to respect all school personnel, administrators, teachers, service employees, community leaders, and adults generally.
- Encouraging their children to be regular and prompt in school attendance and to complete their homework assignments and tests in a timely fashion.
- Teaching their children that disciplined behavior is necessary at home, at school, and in the community at large.
- Insisting that their children bring home communications from the school.
- Teaching and encouraging their children to maintain personal cleanliness and a good appearance.
- Teaching their children to respect themselves so they will understand why they must show respect for the law, the rights of others and public property.

PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support)

Wilmington Area School District is implementing PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support). This program is an MTSS **data-driven** decision making **framework** for stakeholders to establish the **climate and culture**, and the multi-tiered social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health supports needed for schools and similar organizations to be **effective** learning environments for **all** students and staff.

LEVELS OF MISCONDUCT

Administration reserves the right to enact further disciplinary or corrective actions that may occur in addition to or as a portion of a discipline for any misconduct level. They may include, but are not limited to: after-school detention, mega detention, restricted schedule assignment, alternative education assignment, parent/guardian conference – involvement, care team referral, counseling referral, outside agency referral, restitution, loss of social or athletic privileges, magistrate notification, law enforcement notification, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion.

LEVEL I- MINOR INFRACTIONS

Level I offenses are misconduct on the part of the student that impedes orderly classroom procedure and/or interferes with the orderly operation of the school. Such misconduct will be handled by the individual staff member but sometimes may require the intervention of other school personnel.

Level I offenses will include but are not limited to the following:

- Unexcused lateness to class
- Non-defiant failure to carry out a reasonable direction
- Inappropriate language/profanity
- Disruptive behavior
- Disrespect to peer
- Hall-pass violation
- Violation of school/class rules
- Public displays of affection
- Failure to bring required materials to class
- Sleeping in class
- Pushing / Shoving

Potential Consequences:

- Administrative record will be maintained
- Verbal reprimand
- Parent/Guardian contact
- Detention

LEVEL II- MAJOR INFRACTION

Level II offenses are defined as misbehavior that, because of “frequency” or “seriousness” tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school. Infractions at this level could involve the welfare of others. Misbehavior at this level will always require intervention by an administrator.

Level II offenses will include but are not limited to the following:

- Continuation of previous level I behavior
- Bus violation
- Not reporting to an assigned area
- Bullying, intimidation, hazing, or harassment
- Forgery
- Trespass
- Truancy
- Disrespect
- Persistent disobedience
- Destruction of School Property (minor)
- Vandalism / Theft (minor)
- Skipping class
- Inappropriate Physical Contact

Potential Consequences:

- One (1) day suspension
- Parent/Guardian Contact

LEVEL III- MAJOR INFRACTION

Level III offenses are defined as acts directed against persons or property but whose consequences do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others in the school. In some cases, it may be necessary to involve the proper law enforcement agency, but in most cases, these infractions can be handled by the disciplinary mechanism within the school.

Level III offenses will include but are not limited to the following:

- Continuation of previous level II misconduct
- Intentional acts that cause bodily harm
- Fighting
- Inciting a disturbance
- Verbal or written threat of bodily harm to another person
- Acts that endanger the safety of another person
- Gross misconduct
- Sexual Harassment
- Theft, possession, or sale of school district, staff or student property

Vandalism
Extortion
Use/Possession of tobacco/nicotine or other vaping products while on school district property or drug-free zones
Profanity toward a faculty member
Leaving school grounds without permission
Insubordination or profanity to faculty or staff
False accusations or slander against faculty or staff

Potential Consequences:

Three (3) days suspension
Notification of law enforcement authorities – fines, if applicable
Liability and restitution for damages, if applicable

LEVEL IV- MAJOR INFRACTION

Level IV offenses are defined as acts which result in violence to another person or property, or which pose a direct threat to the safety of others within the school. These acts are usually criminal and are so serious that they could result in the immediate removal of the student from school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and possible action by the Board of School Directors.

Level IV offenses will include but are not limited to the following:

Continuation of level III misconduct
Possession of a look-a-like weapon
Possession of small fireworks
Use/Possession of intoxicating beverages, drugs, look-alike drugs, or drug paraphernalia while on school district property or drug-free zones or at a school function/activity
Possession of “drug look-alikes” while on school district property
Physical assault or battery of another person

Potential Consequences:

Five (5) days suspension
Notification of law enforcement authorities – fines if applicable
Parent/Guardian Conference within three (3) days of suspension
Restitution for damages if applicable.

LEVEL V- MAJOR INFRACTION

Level V offenses are defined as acts of the most serious nature that will not be tolerated by the school district. These acts are criminal and are so serious that they require the immediate removal of the student from school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and a recommendation to the Board of School Directors for expulsion.

Level V offenses will include but are not limited to the following:

Continuation of Level IV misconduct:

- Arson
- Placement of false alarm
- Bomb threat
- Terroristic threat
- Possession or transfer of a weapon
- Possession of explosives, or explosive devices
- Use of a weapon or look-a-like weapon to threaten or intimidate another person
- Theft or vandalism resulting in formal charges
- Distribution of intoxicating beverage(s), drugs, and or drug look-alikes while on school district property or at a school function/activity
- Under the influence of intoxicating beverage(s), drugs, and or drug look-alikes while on school district property or at a school function/activity

Potential Consequences:

Immediate removal from school
Up to ten (10) days suspension
Notification of law enforcement authorities
Restitution for damages if applicable
Referral for expulsion is possible

Mandated assessment/treatment by a Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor is required before returning to school for all drug and alcohol use/possession offenses.

PBIS - Defined Behaviors

Staff/Classroom Managed		Office Managed	
Behavior	Minor Definition	Behavior	Major Definition
Academic Dishonesty (Acad Dis)	Non-serious use (as defined by the school/district) of another person's work as their own, or engaging in unauthorized use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices, or communication during an academic exercise.	Abusive Language/Inappropriate Language/Profanity (Inapp Lan)	Harmful verbal messages.
Defiance/Insubordination/Non-compliance (m-Defiance)	Brief or low-intensity failure to follow directions or talking back.	Academic Dishonesty (Acad Dis)	Intentionally using another person's work as their own, or engaging in unauthorized use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices or communication during an academic exercise.
Disrespect (m-Disrespect)	Low-intensity, rude or dismissive messages to adults or students.	Arson (Arson)	Plans to and/or participation in burning of property.
Disruption (m-Disruption)	Low-intensity interruption of class or school activities.	Bomb Threat/False Alarm (Bomb)	A message of impending explosive materials on campus or near campus.
Dress Code Violation (m-Dress)	Clothing that is near, but not within, the school/district dress code guidelines.	Bullying (Bullying)	Repeated, unwanted interactions in which there is a power imbalance.
Gang Affiliation Display	Gesture, dress, and/or speech to show affiliation with a gang, and the behavior is managed by the referring staff member.	Defiance/Insubordination/Non-compliance (Defiance)	Refusal to follow directions or talking back.
Inappropriate Display of Affection	Low-intensity, inappropriate (as defined by school/district), consensual verbal and/or physical gestures or contact of a sexual nature to another person.	Disrespect (Disrespect)	Rude or dismissive messages to adults or students.
Inappropriate Language (m-Inapp Lan)	Low-intensity harmful language.	Disruption (Disruption)	An interruption in a class or school activity.
Inappropriate Location	In an area outside of the classroom or activity boundaries (as defined by the school/staff), and the behavior is managed by the referring staff member.	Dress Code Violation (Dress)	Clothing that does not fit within the school/district dress code guidelines.
Lying	Non-serious, untrue message which violates rules.	Fighting (Fight)	Mutual participation in physical violence.
Other (m-Other)	Any staff-managed behavior not otherwise listed.	Gang Affiliation Display (Gang Display)	Gesture, dress, and/or speech to show affiliation with a gang.
Material/Property Misuse (mPrprty Misuse)	Low-intensity incorrect use of materials or property.	Harassment * (Harass)	Disrespectful messages in any format based on a protected class such as gender, ethnicity, sexual, race, religion, disability, physical characteristics, or other protected class. These subtypes are based on documentation from the U.S. Office of Civil Rights.
Physical Contact/Physical Aggression (m-Contact)	Non-serious, physical contact that violates school guidelines.	Inappropriate Display of Affection (Inapp Affection)	Inappropriate (as defined by school/district), consensual verbal and/or physical gestures or contact of a sexual nature to another person.
Skip Class	Leaving or missing class without permission and the behavior is managed by the referring staff member.	Inappropriate Location/Out of Bounds Area (Out Bounds)	In an area outside of the school or activity boundaries (as defined by school).
Tardy (m-Tardy)	Arrival to class after the signal that class has started.	Lying (Lying)	An untrue message which violates rules.
Technology Violation (m-Tech)	Non-serious use of an electronic device that violates school guidelines.	Other Behavior (Other)	An administrator-managed behavior not otherwise listed.
Theft	In possession of, has passed on, or is responsible for non-serious removal of property that is not their own without permission.	Physical Aggression (PAgg)	Physical contact where injury may occur
Threatening Behavior	Low intensity behavior causing fear of injury or harm to people or property.	Property Damage/Vandalism (Prop Dam)	Destruction or disfigurement of property.
		Skip Class (Skip)	Leaving or missing class without permission.
		Tardy (Tardy)	Late (as defined by the school) to class or the start of the school day, and Tardy is not considered a staff-Inappropriate (as defined by school) use of an electronic device.
		Technology Violation * (Tech)	In possession of, has passed on, or is responsible for removing property that is not their own without permission.
		Theft (Theft)	Causing fear of injury or harm to people or property.
		Threatening Behavior (Threat)	An unexcused absence for 1 day or more.
		Truancy (Truancy)	Possession or use of alcohol.
		Use/Possession of Alcohol (Alcohol)	Possession or use of substances or objects capable of setting fire to or burning something
		Use/Possession of Combustibles (Combust)	Possession or use of drugs, medications, or other substances that are limited, controlled, or banned; misuse of allowed substances in an unapproved way.
		Use/Possession of Restricted Substances (Drugs)	Possession or use of tobacco or nicotine products.
		Use/Possession of Tobacco/Nicotine (Tobacco)	Possession or use of knives, guns, or other objects readily capable of causing bodily harm.
		Use/Possession of Weapons * (Weapons)	

PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIANS ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S MISDEEDS.

Keep in mind that parental attitudes and opinions often are adopted by their children.

If a parent and/or guardian feels that their rights and/or the rights of their child have been aggrieved, they should follow the steps below until their concerns are resolved:

Step 1. Contact the teacher via email or voicemail to schedule an appointment to discuss the problem with the teacher or the individual involved. *If no response is received from the teacher within 2 school days, the principal should be contacted to assist with communication.*

Step 2. Make an appointment and discuss the problem with the principal.

Step 3. Make an appointment and discuss the problem with the superintendent.

Step 4. Write a letter and request to be placed on the agenda of the Wilmington Area Board of Education.

Students should be accountable for their actions by:

- Respecting the rights of others.
- Recognizing that school teachers and administrators assume the authority of parents/guardians to all school children during school hours and at all school functions requiring supervision.
- Attending school regularly.
- Being prompt to all classes.
- Maintaining habits of personal cleanliness and appropriate dress.
- Obeying the school's regulations.
- Obeying the directions and instructions of the administration, teachers, and other school personnel.
- Accepting responsibility for their personal property.
- Respecting school property and the property of others.
- Respecting the right of other students to pursue their education without distraction.
- Being honest, fair, and understanding with fellow students, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel.

MISCONDUCT DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES AND ACTIONS CON'T

Violations of these standards will be dealt with through discipline that takes into consideration:

- The nature of the misconduct involved
- The age of the student
- The cumulative misconduct of the student
- Available alternative disciplinary measures

Cooperation with an investigation may result in a reduction of disciplinary action. Failure to cooperate with an investigation may result in more serious disciplinary action.

While the following list identifies types of misconduct and explains the standard discipline for the violations, **the school reserves the right to impose any other available disciplinary or corrective action.**

Physical retaliation may result in disciplinary action.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE RECORDS

Student discipline records shall be maintained in a separate file and not be made part of a student's permanent record. Student discipline records will be maintained until the student graduates and will then be destroyed.

CAFETERIA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eating in the cafeteria is a privilege, not a right, and may be lost for violations of the following regulations:

1. No student will be permitted to leave the school grounds at lunchtime, except in special cases approved by the principal.

- 2.** Students may purchase lunch in the school cafeteria or carry lunch from home. It is recommended that students purchase their lunches at the school in order to provide a warm lunch.
- 3.** Those students who bring their lunches but want to buy something additional in the cafeteria are expected to go through the line.
- 4.** Students must walk to lunch in an orderly fashion. Running will not be permitted.
- 5.** Line cutting is strictly prohibited. Teachers will send such violators to the rear of the line.
- 6.** Pupils are urged to pass through the serving area as rapidly as possible. Present student ID number or have the exact change ready for the cashier.
- 7.** Food should not be handled unless pupils intend to purchase it.
- 8.** If a dish is not on the counter, pupils should ask for it. Do not reach over other foods.
- 9.** Eat as though you were at home; be sure to observe good table manners.
- 10.** Tables are to be left perfectly clean for the next period.
- 11.** No food or drinks are to be taken out of the cafeteria.
- 12.** Good behavior is required or the privilege of eating in the cafeteria will be withdrawn. In this case, the students will bring their lunch and eat in a designated area for a specified period of time. In place of the above action, the principal may designate other appropriate penalties.
- 13.** Lavatories are located near the cafeteria. All other areas of the corridors and school are closed to students during their lunch.
- 14.** Students are not to order food (pizza, etc.) and have it delivered.
- 15.** Students are to show respect to the Food Service Personnel.

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

School buses are extensions of regular school facilities and students are expected to conduct themselves on the buses as they do when they are in the school building. School bus drivers have the same responsibility and authority as the classroom teachers to enforce rules and regulations. Students who do not obey the bus driver will be referred to the principal for further action. Remember, transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right, and this privilege can be suspended for any student who violates the rules. Cameras may be utilized on buses transporting Wilmington Area students to help ensure student safety. These cameras can record both audio and video, and may be used by administration for security purposes and assisting with disciplinary actions where applicable.

Students who ride Wilmington Area buses are expected to:

- 1.** Demonstrate proper respect for the bus driver and to obey all of the driver's rules, regulations, and instructions.
- 2.** Be on time at the designated school bus stop and walk in front of the bus within the bus driver's field of vision when crossing the road.
- 3.** File onto the bus, be seated immediately in seats assigned by the driver, conduct themselves properly, and exit from the bus in an orderly and well-disciplined manner.
- 4.** Remain seated while the bus is moving and stay seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- 5.** Maintain their voices at a moderate level of volume.
- 6.** Operate the emergency doors at the rear of the bus only when it is necessary to vacate the bus during an emergency or at the direction of the driver.
- 7.** Not litter or throw objects while at the bus stop or while on or outside of the buses.
- 8.** Practice good safety rules, keeping hands and heads inside the bus, and avoiding possession of any device that could impair the safety of the riders or the safe operation of the bus.
- 9.** Not fight, use profane or obscene language, act in an immoral manner, or be insubordinate to the bus driver.
- 10.** Remain in the bus unless otherwise directed by the driver in case of road emergencies.
- 11.** Not consume any type of food or beverages on the bus.
- 12.** Not use any type of aerosol spray products on the bus.
- 13.** Not bring pets or animals on the bus.
- 14.** Take proper care of the school bus vehicle.

PENALTIES

The following consequences may be used for minor infractions of the bus policy. More serious infractions may result in a suspension of bus riding privileges as determined by the building principal.

First Offense – Student will be corrected by the bus driver, student's parent/guardian will be contacted by the contractor, and a bus discipline report filed by the driver.

Second Offense – Student will be corrected by the building principal, student's parent/guardian will be contacted by the contractor and a bus discipline report filed by the driver.

Third Offense – Student will lose his/her bus riding privileges for one (1) day, student's parent/guardian will be contacted by the contractor and building principal, and a bus discipline report filed by the driver.

Fourth Offense – Student will lose his/her bus riding privileges for three (3) days, student's parent/guardian will be contacted by the contractor and building principal, and a bus discipline report filed by the driver.

Fifth Offense – Student will lose his/her bus riding privileges for five (5) days, student's parent/guardian will be contacted by the contractor and the building principal, and a bus discipline report filed by the driver.

Sixth Offense – Student will lose his/her bus riding privileges for ten (10) days, student's parent/guardian will be contacted by the contractor and building principal, and a bus discipline report filed by the driver.

Seventh Offense – Student will lose his/her bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year, student's parent/guardian will be contacted by the contractor and building principal, and a bus discipline report filed by the driver.

More serious infractions may include, but are not limited to: fighting, vandalism, insubordination, and any other acts which in the opinion of the bus driver and building principal constitute a serious act of misconduct will be initiated at an offense level as determined by the building principal.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Public displays of affection in our school are prohibited. In order to attempt to terminate such behavior the following procedure will be implemented:

First Observance:

Students will be told that their behavior is inappropriate and a second observation of this behavior will result in a discipline referral to the office.

Second Observance:

Discipline form will be sent to the Principal's Office; the Principal will talk to both students.

Third Observance:

The Principal will call the student's parents/guardians and ask them to correct the problem.

Continued Reports:

The Principal will implement the Discipline Code starting at Level I.

SMOKE-FREE/TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT

In order to establish a tobacco-free and smoke-free environment and to protect the students and staff from an environment that may be noxious, unpleasant and harmful to them, the Board prohibits smoking or other uses of tobacco/nicotine in any school district building, in school buses or other school vehicles when school is in session or out of session, and on school grounds. For purposes of this policy, any private vehicle used for a school-sponsored/sanctioned event is also subject to these restrictions if students are riding in the vehicle. In addition, smoking or other tobacco/nicotine use is prohibited in any school building or on school grounds when in use for public assemblies (parent-teacher conferences, PTO/PTA meetings, open houses, athletic events, concerts, adult education classes, elections, etc.) or any other event not mentioned in this policy.

The public-at-large is respectfully requested to honor this policy and not use tobacco/nicotine products of any kind while on school property for any purpose. The Board desires to make the school district a completely smoke-free/tobacco/nicotine-free environment at all times and at all events.

WEAPONS POLICY

The Wilmington Area School District has adopted a weapons policy in an attempt to safeguard the school community and in an attempt to provide safer schools. In doing so, students are prohibited from possessing any type of weapon while under the jurisdiction of the school.

Weapons will include, but are not limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchucks, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting bodily injury. State law, and school district policy, call for a mandatory one-year expulsion from school and law enforcement notification of any student possession of a weapon.

DETENTION

1. After school detention will be held from 2:40 to 3:10 p.m. This detention will be under the supervision of one of the staff members.
2. Students will be given a twenty-four hour notice before serving detention.
3. All detentions must be served on the date indicated on the slip.
4. Students are to take an assigned seat and remain silent for the detention assignment. No talking, no sleeping, or being excused from the room.
5. The parents/guardians of the students who are assigned detention must arrange their transportation.
6. Students will be required to serve their detention regardless of outside jobs or extracurricular commitments.
7. Individual staff members may require the student who has been issued a detention to serve the detention with them. In this case, the detention can be served any night after school provided a twenty-four hour notice is given and the rules and regulations associated with detention are followed.

FAILURE TO SERVE AN ASSIGNED DETENTION WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AS DETERMINED BY ADMINISTRATION.

BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING POLICY

The Board of School Directors for the Wilmington Area School District is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes cyberbullying. The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students. The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee. The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying. Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:

- Counseling within the school
- Parent/Guardian conference
- Loss of school privileges
- Transfer to another school building, classroom, school bus, or alternative school setting
- Exclusion from school-sponsored activities
- Detention
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Counseling/Therapy outside of school
- Referral to law enforcement officials

Reporting Bullying We expect all students to treat each other with respect, help those who are bullied/harassed, include students who are left out, and report incidents of bullying to teachers and administration.

Complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/MISCONDUCT POLICY

Sexual harassment, abuse, and misconduct is counter-productive to an appropriate learning environment because it is degrading, humiliating, offensive and unpleasant; moreover it produces adverse physical manifestations and it adversely affects everyone's performance.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Wilmington Area School District to prohibit any person, including but not limited to, administrators, professional employees, staff members, visitors, parents/guardians, independent contractors, and students, from sexually harassing or abusing another.

The authority for this policy is the United States Constitution, the Pennsylvania Constitution, Title IX and Title VII of the United States Code, The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Human Rights Commission, and the Amendments and Regulations pursuant to those laws.

It is the policy of the Wilmington Area School District that sexual abuse and harassment will not be tolerated and such conduct will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal and/or expulsion.

The Administration, the Professional Employees, the Staff and the Students of the Wilmington Area School District are charged with maintaining an environment free from sexual harassment and abuse. Therefore, any administrator, professional employee, staff employee, student, volunteer, or parent/guardian who has any knowledge of any sexual harassment, abuse or misconduct is charged with reporting that knowledge consistent with this policy.

Sexual harassment and abuse is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, inappropriate oral comments, inappropriate written or printed material, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- a. submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's employment, continued employment, grade, evaluation, recommendation, or other term or condition of one's employment or education; or
- b. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or professional performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Sexual harassment and abuse, as defined above, may include but is not limited to the following: verbal harassment or abuse, including jokes, name calling, sexual rumors; pressure for sexual activities; remarks with sexual or demeaning implications; unwelcomed touching; pulling clothes;

pictures; suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, job, evaluation, etc.

At the option of the victim, or any party who has knowledge of sexual harassment, abuse or misconduct, the report/complaint may be submitted to the building Principal, the Guidance Counselor, or the Curriculum Coordinator for the School District.

If appropriate, that person will attempt to resolve the situation informally, provided all parties involved agree.

In the event the first level Administrator is unable to resolve the problem informally, or, in the alternative, in the event the situation is too serious to resolve, it shall be reported to the Superintendent of the School District, unless the Superintendent is the accused. In such case, it shall be reported to the High School Principal, who shall perform the duties of the Superintendent.

The first level Administrator or the Superintendent as the case may be, shall investigate the accusations in a prompt, confidential, and unbiased manner. In doing so, the investigation shall comply with the following:

- 1.** The School Solicitor shall immediately be consulted;
- 2.** All parties and cooperating witnesses will be interviewed and statements secured;
- 3.** When at all possible, the investigator shall include a second administrator in all interviews;
- 4.** The investigator shall, so far as possible, provide an atmosphere designed to make the victim comfortable including the permitting of a parent/guardian, or friend to attend interviews;
- 5.** Appropriate steps will be taken to ensure all allegations are heard and investigated;
- 6.** Parents/Guardians will be notified when appropriate;
- 7.** Police will be notified when appropriate;
- 8.** When appropriate, the disciplinary procedure will be explained to the victim, taking care not to discourage the victim from proceeding;
- 9.** The victim will be informed that the failure to proceed may endanger the victim and/or future victims to further harassment/abuse;
- 10.** The accused will be informed of his/her right to counsel, including union/association representation;
- 11.** If possible, the complaint shall be resolved informally;
- 12.** A complete investigation will ensue even if the victim recants his/her statement;
- 13.** The victim will be counseled as to how to respond in the event of any future sexual harassment/abuse;

14. If appropriate and necessary, the administration shall discipline consistent with any applicable discipline code, contracts and/or State law;
15. Every step shall be documented in detail.

The Administration is charged with informing professional employees, staff, students, and parents/guardians with the content of this policy. Such publication may include, but is not limited to, the providing of a copy of this policy to all employees, including new employees.

The Administration shall encourage victims of sexual harassment and abuse to report those instances.

The investigator of any allegation shall inform the School Board on a regular basis as to the progress of the investigation/disciplinary proceeding, although said information need not include proper names.

No party shall suffer retaliation/retribution for truthfully reporting any act of sexual harassment or abuse. A false report of sexual harassment/abuse shall, however, be subject to discipline.

Recognizing that such situations attract the media, only the Superintendent or his/her designee shall discuss any such situation with the media.

In the event the accused is an employee of the Wilmington Area School District and, in the further event that said employee submits his/her resignation during the pendency of any investigation or discipline procedure, said file shall be sealed and shall remain confidential except as required by law, except as required by the Wilmington Area School District to contest unemployment compensation actions and except as required by the Wilmington Area School District to defend itself. In the event the Wilmington Area School District receives a request for reference for said employee, the response will include a statement that certain allegations of misconduct were submitted regarding said employee and that the employee resigned before any determination was made as to the truth of said allegations.

HAZING POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.

For purposes of this policy, **hazing** is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization whether official or unofficial.

Endanger the physical health shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

Endanger the mental health shall include any activity that would subject an individual to mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.

The Board does not condone any form of initiation of harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity.

The Board directs that no administration, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing.

The district will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.

The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal.

District administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.

Students, administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal.

The district shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district staff by means of publication in handbooks, presentation of an assembly, verbal instructions by

the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program, that hazing of district students is prohibited.

Complaint Procedure

- 1.** When a student believes that she/he has been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal.
- 2.** The principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing.
- 3.** The principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint.
- 4.** If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

The following interscholastic sports are available to student(s) at Wilmington Area High School:

Activity	Grades	Boys	Girls
Baseball	9-12	X	
Basketball	9-12	X	X
Cross Country	9-12	X	X
Softball	9-12		X
Football	9-12	X	
Golf	9-12	X	X
Soccer	9-12	X	X
Tennis	9-12		X
Track	9-12	X	X
Volleyball	9-12		X

ELIGIBILITY

Weekly eligibility shall be posted and the head coach shall be notified if a player becomes ineligible to compete. Ineligible students may not compete but should continue to practice until it becomes impossible for that student to become eligible.

Athletes are not permitted to practice or play in a game if he/she has not been in attendance a full day of school. (This includes unexcused tardiness, beyond homeroom period, to school)

A one-week probation period shall be afforded the athlete one time during each athletic season. This results from a failing grade in any subject, reported on the weekly eligibility list. Failure in two (2) or more courses automatically disqualifies an athlete from competition. Any student assigned to an Alternative Education Program will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity or event.

USE OF STEROIDS

The Wilmington Area School District recognizes that the use of anabolic steroids by students and especially student athletes is a serious problem with legal, physical, and social implications not only for the student but also for the whole school community. This policy, including its regulations and guidelines, is a coordinated effort to openly and effectively respond to the potential and current use of anabolic steroids by students.

Through the use of an anabolic steroids curriculum in service programs for the coaching staff, a strong and consistent administrative and faculty effort, and disciplinary procedures, the Wilmington Area School District will strive to educate, prevent and intervene in the use of anabolic steroids by any district student.

The Board prohibits the use of anabolic steroids including human growth hormones (HGH), except for a valid medical purpose, by any student. Body building, muscle enhancement, increased muscle bulk or strength for the enhancement of athletic ability is not a valid medical purpose for the use of anabolic steroids.*

Any student involved in school-related activities who is found to be using anabolic steroids shall incur the following prescribed penalties in addition to regular disciplinary actions:

1. For a **first violation**, suspension from all school activities for the remainder of the season or school year.
2. For a **second violation**, suspension from all activities for the remainder of the season or school year and for the following season or school year.
3. For a **third violation**, permanent suspension from all school activities.

No student found in violation of this policy shall be eligible to resume participation in school activities unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of steroids exists. The student must also participate in a prescribed program of drug counseling conducted by a certified agency or substance abuse counselor prior to a return to active participation in school athletics.

***It should be noted that all vitamin supplements, and/or performance enhancers, including pills and powders, are not permitted on school district property at any time. Examples of these include, but are not limited to Creatine products, protein supplements, etc. Penalties for violating this will follow those outlined in the school district Drug and Alcohol Policy.**

STUDENT SEARCHES

STUDENT & LOCKER SEARCHES

If “reasonable suspicion” exists that a student may be in possession of anything that is in violation of school rules and/or policies, local and/or state laws, the school reserves the right to search that student, that student’s possessions, locker and/or vehicles on school property. Parents will be notified if the search results in the discovery of an illegal object and/or substance. At any given time throughout the school year, state police trained dogs will search the building and parking lot for illegal substances that may be stored in student lockers or vehicles. If the dogs indicate a locker or vehicle may contain an illegal substance, that locker or vehicle will be searched. Dogs will not be used to sniff individual students without suspicion.

RANDOM SEARCHES

In an attempt to maintain a safe school environment, including being free of any drugs, alcohol or weapons, the school district may conduct random searches as students enter the building. Searches will consist of selecting all students or a number of students in a random manner (ie. every 7th student) that enters the building. When a student is selected, a metal detecting wand is passed over a student’s body checking for metallic objects. At the same time, another school official will search the student’s book bag, belongings and/or purse. Parents will be notified if the search results in the discovery of an illegal object and/or substance.

Refusal to be searched: A student who refuses the request for a search by an administrator that is proper and reasonable may be disciplined under the district’s disciplinary policy. Action may include suspension or referral to the board for an expulsion hearing.

Expulsion Exception: The Chief School Officer (or his/her designee), on an individualized case basis, may appeal to the board in writing, requesting that the action called for in the Wilmington Area School District’s discipline policy may be changed or adjusted based on extenuating and mitigating factors of the individual case directly related to the policy.

ASSURANCE STATEMENTS

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Wilmington Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, ancestry or disability in employment or in the administration of any of its educational programs and activities in accordance with applicable federal statutes and regulations. For information about your rights and grievance procedure, contact Dr. Terence Meehan, Superintendent, Wilmington Area School District, 300 Wood Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142 Phone (724) 656-8866.

RECORDS POLICY-FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides parents/guardians and some students with the right to review and correct educational records and protects the privacy of those records by limiting disclosure. No individual or agency outside the school system will be permitted to inspect your child's school records without parental/guardian permission. Should you wish to examine your child's record file at anytime, you may arrange to do so by scheduling an appointment with the principal or guidance counselor.

The district is also required by the No Child Left Behind Act to disclose "directory information", names, addresses, and telephone numbers, to military recruiters upon request. Parents/Guardians have the right to opt out of release of this information by informing the district in writing by June 30th, prior to the student's senior year.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED IN THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Parent Right to Know Information as Required by The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) [Section 1112(e)(1)(A)] and the Every Student Succeeds Act [Section 1112(e)(1)(A)]

August 1, 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):

Your child attends Wilmington Area High School, which receives Federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Throughout the school year, we will be providing you with important information about this law and your child's education. This letter lets you know about your right to request information about the qualifications of the classroom staff working with your child.

At Wilmington Area High School, we are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for the coming school year and are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined in ESEA. These regulations allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law in December 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1956 (ESEA) includes additional right-to-know requests. At any time, parents and family members can request:

- Information on policies regarding student participation in assessments and procedures for opting out, and
- Information on required assessments that include
 - subject matter tested,
 - purpose of the test,
 - source of the requirement (if applicable),
 - amount of time it takes students to complete the test, and
 - time and format of disseminating results.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals meet applicable Pennsylvania state requirements.

If you have any questions about your child's assignment to a teacher or paraprofessional, please contact Mr. Brendan Hathaway at Wilmington Area High School at 724-656-8866 or email me at bhathaway@wasd.school

Sincerely,

Brendan Hathaway
Wilmington Area High School Principal

------(SPANISH VERSION)-----

Padres derecho a conocer la información requerida por la escuela primaria y secundaria Education Act (ESEA) [sección 1112(e)(1)(A)] y cada estudiante tiene éxito ley [sección 1112(e)(1)(A)]

August 1, 2018

Estimado Padre Legal / tutor:

Su hijo asiste a Wilmington Area High School, que recibe Federal título financia para ayudar a los estudiantes en el cumplimiento de normas estatales de desempeño. Durante el año escolar, nos se se le proporciona información importante sobre esta ley y la educación de su hijo. Esta carta le permite saber acerca de su derecho a solicitar información sobre las calificaciones del personal de aula trabajan con su hijo.

En Wilmington Area High School, estamos muy orgullosos de nuestros maestros y sienten que están listos para el próximo año escolar y están dispuestos a darle a su hijo una educación de alta calidad. Como una escuela de título I, debemos satisfacer las regulaciones federales relacionadas con las calificaciones de un maestro como se define en ESEA. Estas regulaciones le permiten obtener más información sobre formación y credenciales de los maestros de su hijo. Estamos encantados de proporcionar esta información a usted. En cualquier momento, usted puede preguntar:

- Si el maestro cumple estado calificaciones y requisitos de certificación para el grado y el tema está enseñando,
- Si el profesor recibió un certificado de emergencia o condicional a través del cual fueron renunciados la calificación de estado, y
- Qué licenciatura o postgrado el profesor sostiene, incluyendo certificados de postgrado y grados adicionales y mayor(s) o áreas de concentración.

También puede preguntar si su hijo recibe ayuda de un paraprofesional. Si su niño recibe esta ayuda, podemos proporcionarle información sobre calificaciones de paraprofesionales.

El cada estudiante logra la ley (ESSA) que fue firmada en ley en diciembre de 2015 y reautoriza la ley primaria y secundaria Educación de 1956 (ESEA) incluye además derecho a conocer las peticiones. En cualquier momento, los padres y miembros de la familia pueden solicitar:

- Información sobre las políticas relativas a la participación de los estudiantes en las evaluaciones y procedimientos para optar hacia fuera, y
- Información sobre las evaluaciones necesarias que incluyen
 - materia de prueba,

- propósito de la prueba,
- fuente de la obligación (si corresponde),
- cantidad de tiempo que tardan los alumnos para completar la prueba, y
- tiempo y el formato de difusión de resultados.

Nuestro personal está comprometido a ayudar a su niño a desarrollar el conocimiento académico y el pensamiento crítico que necesita para tener éxito en la escuela y más allá. Ese compromiso incluye asegurarse de que todos nuestros profesores y paraprofesionales cumplen requisitos de estado de Pennsylvania aplicables.

Si tienes cualquier duda sobre la asignación de su hijo a un maestro o ayudante, por favor póngase en contacto con Brendan Hathaway en Wilmington Area High School en 724-656-8866 o envíeme un correo electrónico en bhathaway@wasd.school.

Atentamente,

Brendan Hathaway
Wilmington Area High School Principal

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

It is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure that all children with disabilities residing in the Commonwealth, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. This responsibility is required by a federal law called the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The IDEA requires each state educational agency to publish a notice to parents in newspapers or other media before any major identification location or evaluation activity. The IDEA requires this notice to contain certain information. Pennsylvania law requires each school district to fulfill this notice requirement by providing an annual public notice.

The school district is required by the IDEA to provide a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities who need special education and related services. Pennsylvania has adopted state laws which conform with the IDEA and which school districts must follow. In Pennsylvania a school age child with disabilities who needs special education and related services is identified as a child with a disability. Students are exceptional if they need specially designed instruction and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities:

<i>Autism/Pervasive Development Disorder</i>	<i>Orthopedic Impairment</i>
<i>Deaf-Blindness</i>	<i>Other Health Impairment</i>
<i>Deafness</i>	<i>Specific Learning Disability</i>
<i>Emotional Disturbance</i>	<i>Speech or Language Impairment</i>
<i>Hearing Impairment</i>	<i>Traumatic Brain Injury</i>
<i>Intellectual Disabilities</i>	<i>Visual Impairment Including Blindness</i>
<i>Multiple Disabilities</i>	

In Pennsylvania, students also qualify as exceptional if they require specially designed instruction and are determined to be mentally gifted. Also, school districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding gifted services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

EARLY INTERVENTION

IDEA requires the provisions of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities between 3 years of age and the school district’s age of beginners. In Pennsylvania, a child between 3 years of age and the school district’s age of beginners who has a developmental delay or one or more of the physical or mental disabilities listed above is identified as a child with a disability. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) the child’s score, on a developmental assessment device, an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child’s chronological age in one or more developmental areas, or (ii) the child is delayed in one or more of the developmental area, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help. For additional information you may contact the Early Intervention Program Supervisor at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, 453 Maple Street, Grove City, PA 16127 or (724) 458-6700.

SCREENING

Each school district must establish and implement procedures to locate, identify, and evaluate students suspected of being exceptional. These procedures include screening activities, which include but are not limited to: review of group-based data (cumulative record, enrollment records, health records, and report cards); hearing screening (at a minimum of kindergarten, special ungraded class, first, second, third, seventh, and eleventh grades); vision screening (every grade level); motor screening; and speech and language screening.

In schools which have an Instructional Support Team (IST) or child study team or Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS), the above screening activities may be a consideration used by these teams as another level of screening. Parents and members of the professional staff of the student's school have the right to request screening by the IST or child study team.

Except as indicated above or otherwise announced publicly, screening activities take place in an ongoing fashion throughout the school year. Screening is conducted in the student's home school unless other arrangements are necessary. Telephone numbers and addresses can be found at the end of this notice for more information.

EVALUATION

When screening indicates that a student may be exceptional, the school district will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation. "Evaluation" means procedures used to determine whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services that meet the child's needs. The term means procedures used selectively with an individual child and does not mean basic tests administered to or procedures used with all children.

In Pennsylvania, this evaluation is called a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE). It is conducted by a multidisciplinary team (MDT), which must include a school psychologist, a teacher and the parents. The MDE process must be conducted in accordance with specific timelines and use procedural safeguard procedures. For example, tests and procedures used as part of the multidisciplinary evaluation may not be racially and culturally biased.

The MDE process results in a written evaluation report called an (ER). This report makes recommendations about a student's eligibility for special education based on the presence of a disability and the need for specially designed instruction. The evaluation report also makes recommendations for educational programming regardless of whether or not the team recommends

that the student is exceptional. Once parental consent for an evaluation is obtained, the school district has timelines and procedures specified by law, which it must follow.

Parents who think their child is a child with a disability may request, at any time that the school district conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation. This request should be made in writing to the Coordinator of Special Education Office. If a parent makes an oral request for a multidisciplinary evaluation the school district shall provide the parent with a form for written permission. Instructional Support (IS) activities or MTSS do not serve as a bar to the right of a parent to request, at any time, including prior to or during the provision of instructional support activities, a multidisciplinary evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child, contact the school which your child attends. Telephone numbers and addresses can be found at the end of this notice. Parents of preschool age children three through five may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Early Intervention Program Supervisor at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, 453 Maple Street, Grove City, PA 16127 or by contacting the Preschool Connection at 1-800-345-0033.

Parents also have the right to obtain an independent educational evaluation. The school district must provide to parents, on request, information about where an independent educational evaluation may be obtained.

CONSENT

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation, or with the initial provision of special education and related services, without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website at www.pattan.net. Once written parental consent is obtained, the school district, intermediate unit or charter school will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and the parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program, and determines the educational placement, school district staff, intermediate unit staff, or charter school staff will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice. Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT

A single test or procedure may not be the sole factor in determining that a child is exceptional. The IEP team must include a district representative, the student's teacher, special education teacher and the parents. If the student is determined to be exceptional an IEP will be developed.

An IEP describes a student's current educational levels, goals, and objectives, and the individual programs and services, which the student will receive. IEP's are reviewed on an annual basis. The IEP team will make decisions about the type of services, the level of intervention and the location of intervention.

Placement must be made in the least restrictive environment in which the student's needs can be met with special education and related services. All students with disabilities must be educated to the maximum extent appropriate with children who are not disabled.

SERVICES

Students who are not eligible to receive special education programs and services may qualify as protected handicapped students and therefore be protected by other federal and state laws intended to prevent discrimination. The school district must ensure that protected handicapped students have equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

In compliance with state and federal law, the school district will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

These services and protections for protected handicapped students are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs. The school district or parent may initiate an evaluation of a student under the laws, which protect handicapped students. Parents who wish to have a child evaluated should contact the building principal or the Office of Special Education.

CONFIDENTIALLY

Each school district protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information regarding its exceptional and protected handicapped students in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and other applicable federal and state laws.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make

arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of a student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

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

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her task.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

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

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

The school district maintains its education records in compliance with the guidelines for the collection, maintenance and dissemination of pupil records. Category "A" data which includes the minimal personal data necessary for operation of the school district will be maintained for a minimum time period of a 100 years. Category "B" data which includes verified information of clear importance, but not absolutely necessary to the school, over time, in helping the child or in protecting others will be maintained until the child leaves school. Category "C" data which includes potentially useful information, but not yet verified or clearly needed beyond the immediate present, will be reviewed at least once a year and destroyed as soon as its usefulness has ended.

In addition, the school district may release “directory information” without parental consent unless a prior written objection to the release of such information is provided to the school district by the parent(s). “Directory information” includes the following: student’s name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, photographs, videotapes, major fields of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, duties of attendance, honors and awards received. If you object to the disclosure of this information, you must submit a written letter of objection to the school district. Written objections for students 3-5 years old should be mailed to Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV at 453 Maple Street, Grove City, PA 16127.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the FERPA at the following url: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/quid/fpc/ferpa/index.html>

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

Procedural safeguards protect the rights of parents and students. These safeguards include the following:

- Parent’s consent is always required prior to:
- Conducting an initial (for the first time) evaluation or a reevaluation,
- Initially placing a child with a disability in a special education program,
- Disclosing to unauthorized persons personally identifiable information.

The school district must notify parents in writing whenever it wants to begin, change, or discontinue special education and related services. Along with this notification, the school district will provide the parents with a comprehensive, written description of their rights.

Parents who disagree with such actions proposed or refused by the school district have the right to request a hearing by an impartial third party using a procedure called due process.

Before a due process hearing will take place, the district must convene a preliminary meeting with the parent and the relevant member(s) of the IEP team in an attempt to resolve issues without the need for a due process hearing.

Pennsylvania has also made mediation services available throughout the Commonwealth at Commonwealth expense. Mediation services help parents and agencies involved in a dispute over special education to attempt to reach a mutually agreeable settlement with the assistance of an

impartial mediator. Mediation is completely voluntary. Mediation does not deny or delay a party's right to a due process hearing.

School districts also have the right to initiate due process in certain situations. During a due process procedure, a student must remain in the last agreed upon educational placement (a status called pendency). Due process procedures are governed by timelines and procedures in Pennsylvania law. Throughout due process, an attorney may represent parents.

Due process hearings are oral personal hearings and are open to the public, unless the parents request a closed hearing. The decision of the hearing officer shall include findings of fact, a discussion, and conclusions of law. The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed to the appropriate court.

Each school district must make available, upon request, printed information regarding special education programs and services and parent due process rights. This printed information is available from each building principal and/or the Office of Special Education.

MODE OF COMMUNICATION

The content of this notice has been written in a straightforward, simple language. If a person does not understand any of this notice, he or she should contact the school district or IU and request an explanation. The school district or IU will arrange for an interpreter for a parent with limited English proficiency. If a parent is deaf or blind or has no written language, the school district or IU will arrange for communication of this notice in the mode normally used by the parent (e.g. sign language, Braille, or oral communication).

For further information contact:

Wilmington Area School District
Michael Conglose
450 Wood St.
New Wilmington, PA 16142
724.656.8866 ext. 6502

The school district, intermediate unit or charter school will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry, or any other legally protected classification. Announcements of this policy are in accordance with the state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1966. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the

Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information regarding grievance procedures, services, activities, programs and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons or, for inquiries regarding compliance with the above nondiscriminatory policies, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at your local school district, or Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, 453 Maple Street, Grove City, PA 16127 (724-458-6700). The school district will make reasonable accommodations to its programs and services to assure access to all persons. If, because of a disability, you require an accommodation please contact the Superintendent of Schools, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at the school district in which you reside listed above or the Director of Special Education at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV at (724)458-6700.

HOMELESSNESS

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act- Ensuring homeless children and youth have access to free and appropriate public education on an equal basis with their peers.

Brandon Phillian
Wilmington Area School District Homeless Liaison
300 Wood Street
New Wilmington, PA 6142
724-656-8866 x6600
phillian@wasd.school

DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

Children who:

- Reside in a public or private shelter
- Reside in a place not designated for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping or living accommodations (vehicles, campers, motels)
- Reside with the family in a residence of relatives or friends due to lack of housing “doubling up”.
- Are runaways
- Are children of migrant workers who lack adequate housing.
- Have been abandoned or are awaiting foster care.
- Are considered “Unaccompanied Youth” – teens living with friends or relatives who do not have guardianship of the student.

Homeless circumstances are usually the result of a: house fire, eviction, domestic violence, divorce, etc.

The Wilmington Area School District makes efforts to identify students who meet the definition of homeless. Families and students experiencing homelessness are encouraged to contact the Homeless Liaison to discuss supports the District can provide to the student and family.

McKinney-Vento Act

- Schools are to immediately enroll homeless children, even if unable to produce record normally required for enrollment. (medical, academic, proof of residency, etc.)
- Homeless children have the right to attend either their original school (within reasonable distance) or the school in the area in which the student currently resides for the duration of their homelessness or until the end of the school year.
- In a case where the educating district is different than the district where the student is currently residing, both school districts are responsible for the facilitation and cost of transportation.
- Immediately upon enrollment, homeless children are entitled to a free school breakfast and lunch.
- Schools are to assist with education needs including school clothing, as well as the facilitation of tutoring, after school programs, and participation in extracurricular activities.

*** Please note that we reserve the right to amend the student handbook based on health and safety procedures and policies.