



DCS STUDENT HANDBOOK*

*We will provide special procedures around our 2021-2022 school year in additional communications.

WELCOME TO DAVIE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Davie County Schools (DCS) is home to 13 schools and more than 400 teachers who are focused on meeting the diverse learning needs of nearly 6,000 students. We are pleased to be a part of your student's educational journey. Our mission is to engage, equip, and empower our students!

Research indicates there are multiple factors that influence student success. The partnership between parents and educators has a significant effect on the success of our students. The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the policies and procedures that guide our administrators and staff to help keep our schools safe and efficient places for teaching and learning. We are providing this handbook to DCS families, so we can work together to support school safety and success for all students. If you ever have a question about any board policy or procedure in the school district, please feel free to contact a school principal, or the superintendent's office at 336-751-5921.

ACCESS TO POLICIES

Students and families are encouraged to review and discuss the material contained in this handbook, which summarizes several important policies. **Please note that this document is not a comprehensive list of all district policies and that these summaries are not a substitute for the policies themselves. Full copies of all of the policies referenced in this handbook are available online at www.godavie.org and at the school system's central administrative offices at 220 Cherry Street in Mocksville. All other policies and procedures are available online at www.godavie.org.** Students and their families are urged to review the actual language of these policies and procedures, which include important information about student rights and responsibilities.

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

IMPORTANT TOPICS Access to Rigor, Acceleration and Advanced Courses

Our district provides opportunities for all students to expand their learning through academically challenging coursework and acceleration. See [Board Policy 3000, Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program](#).

Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs

A healthy learning environment is free of alcohol, tobacco products and drugs. The possession, use, distribution or sale of these substances in any form is prohibited on school property. The term "tobacco product" means any product that contains or that is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, JUULs, MODs, and other electronic smoking devices even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine. See [Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies](#), [Board Policy 4320, Tobacco Products - Students](#), [Board Policy 4325, Drugs and Alcohol](#), [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Assault, Fighting, Threats

Students who become angry or upset with anyone are encouraged to resolve conflicts peacefully. Teachers, counselors and other school personnel can help students find civil ways to handle disagreements. A student who threatens to harm, attempts to harm, or harms another student, staff member, school volunteer or visitor is subject to consequences. See [Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies](#), [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Attendance

Coming to school every day ready to learn is important for your child's success—and it's required by state law for children between the ages of 7 and 16. Being tardy to class, skipping class or school, leaving campus without permission, or being in an unauthorized area is prohibited. Excused absences include: illness or injury, a death in the family, health care appointments, court appearances and religious observance. Absences will only be excused when a note is provided. Parent notes can excuse up to ten (10) days of absences per school year. Outside educational opportunities may be approved with advance notice. See [Board Policy 4400, Attendance](#).

A student that has been present every day of the school year and has not exceeded the limit for tardies and/or early departures will receive a perfect attendance award at the end of the school year. A student is considered present for

school if they attend school at least 50% of the school day. A student who accumulates 10 tardies and/or early departures in a school year will not be eligible for perfect attendance.

Bullying and Harassment

Bullying and harassment are unacceptable behaviors that should be immediately reported to an administrator. Bullying behavior or harassment is deliberate conduct intended to harm another person or group of persons. Such conduct violates this policy when any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication that: (1) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or (2) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits.

Bullying and harassment include, but are not limited to, behavior described above that is reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic or motivated by an individual's association with a person who has or is perceived to have a differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability.

Examples of behavior that may constitute bullying or harassment include, but are not limited to, acts of disrespect, intimidation or threats, such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, epithets, derogatory comments or slurs, lewd propositions, exclusion from peer groups, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, assault, impeding or blocking movement, offensive touching or any physical interference with normal work or movement, and visual insults, such as derogatory posters or cartoons. Bullying and harassment may occur through electronic means ("cyberbullying"), such as through the Internet, emailing or text messaging, or by use of personal websites to support deliberate and repeated behavior intended to cause harm to persons or groups.

If bullying or harassment is suspected, parents should contact their child's school for help. Parents and students also can share safety concerns via the DCS School Hotline, 1-866-719-5890. See [Board Policy 1710, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying](#) and [Board Policy 1720, Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure](#).

Bus Conduct

Bus transportation is an extension of the school day, and the same student behavior standards that apply in the classroom also apply on the bus and at the bus stop. A driver will report to the school administrator any misconduct or violation of the driver's instructions. Buses also have cameras on board to provide video and audio that school leaders may use to monitor student behavior. See [Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies, Code of Student Conduct](#).

Cheating, Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism, including giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on academic work or copying and representing another's work as one's own, is prohibited. See [Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies, Code of Student Conduct](#).

Character Education and Respect

Every school has programs and activities to help students develop good character, including programs to help students understand, assess and take responsibility for their behavior and learning, as well as how to act responsibly toward others. School staff members ensure that positive behavior is practiced, demonstrated, modeled and reinforced within an environment of mutual respect, caring and dignity. See [Board Policy 3530, Citizenship and Character Education](#).

Complaint Procedures

A student or parent may question a school-based decision by using the procedures outlined in the [Board Policy 1742 Responding to Complaints](#).

Child Find for Students with Disabilities

We are required to locate and identify young people with physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services. Parents of children aged two years old or younger who may be in need of such services should contact the Children's Development Services Agency at 336-713-7412. Parents of children aged three or older who are not yet eligible to enter kindergarten should call the DCS Child Find Office at 336-751-2491. Parents of children in kindergarten through 12th grade should contact their child's school.

Disability Accommodations

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, prohibits discrimination against students with diagnosed physical or mental impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activities. Major life activities include, but are not limited to, learning, concentration, walking, seeing, breathing, hearing, lifting, bending, performing manual tasks, and the operation of major bodily functions/systems such as the immune, neurological or respiratory systems. For more information, including complaint procedures, please see [Board Policy 1730](#).

[Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities.](#)

Dress Code

To help keep our students focused on learning without distractions, we expect students and staff to dress appropriately. Our Code of Student Conduct prohibits disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive, obscene or unsafe clothing or bodily appearances. See [Board Policy 4300](#), [Student Behavior Policies](#), [Board Policy 4316](#), [Student Dress Code](#), [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Driver's License Legislation

North Carolina has legislation that motivates and encourages students to complete their high school education. The law requires the revocation of the student's driving permit or license if the student does not maintain adequate academic progress or drops out of school. Adequate academic progress is defined as passing 70% of the courses they are enrolled in during the semester. Student grades are reviewed at the end of each semester to determine their eligibility to maintain their driving privileges. The law became effective August 1, 1998. This law applies to all North Carolina students under the age of 18 who are eligible for a driving permit or license.

The legislation requires a student to present a Driving Eligibility Certificate, issued by the school. The certificate is good for only 30 days and must be presented to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Other documents needed to obtain a permit or license include a birth certificate, social security card, and Driver Education Completion Certificate.

The Driving Eligibility Certificate will only be issued to students making adequate academic progress. Students holding an active permit or license who do not meet the academic progress requirements will be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles and their permit or license will be revoked by the Department of Motor Vehicles. There is a provision for a request for a review of the student's situation based on hardship considerations. Students may regain academic eligibility at the end of each semester.

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

- The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property;
- The possession or use on school property of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under

N.C. General Statute 115C-391 (d1) or that could have resulted in that disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school;

- The physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel on school property.

Electronic Devices

Except when authorized for instructional purposes, no student may use a wireless communication device or personal entertainment device during instructional hours. Any device used in violation of this policy will be confiscated and returned to the student's parent/guardian. See [Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies](#).

Food in School

Student wellness and proper nutrition are related to a student's physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn. All meals and other items available for students to purchase from Child Nutrition Services meet strict nutritional requirements. All foods and beverages that are offered to students during the school day should support a school environment that promotes student health and wellness. See [Board Policy, 6140 Wellness Policy](#).

Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

If your family meets income eligibility requirements, your child may be able to receive free or reduced-price meals from the school cafeteria. All parents receive an application for this program in the mail. Applications also are available at your child's school. Visit [DCS Child Nutrition Meal Applications](#) for more information.

Grading Scale and Class Rank

North Carolina State Board of Education Policy GCS-L-004 established a 10-point grading scale for high school students statewide. For consistency, Davie County Schools uses the standard 10-point grading scale for students in grades 3-13 shown below:

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points (for high schools only)
A	90-100	4.0
B	80-89	3.0
C	70-79	2.0
D	60-69	1.0
F	59 and Below	0.0

In addition, the conversion of grades to quality points for grade point average (GPA) and student ranking is standardized for high school students across the state by GCS-L-004. Academic course levels and associated weights are defined as follows:

	Freshman Class of 2015-16 and Beyond		Freshmen Prior to 2015-16	
Course Level	Additional Weight	Quality Points/Scale	Additional Weight	Quality Points/Scale
Standard	(none)	4.0	(none)	4.0
Honors	0.5	4.5	1.0	5.0

Advanced Placement (AP)	1.0	5.0	2.0	6.0
College/Dual Enrollment	1.0	5.0	1.0	5.0

The official class rank is calculated using the weighted grade point average in which quality points are provided for grades according to course level and the weighting system shown above. See [Board Policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability](#), [Board Policy 3450, Class Rankings](#), [Board Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements](#), [Board Policy 3460-A Davie County Early College High School Graduation Requirements for High School Diploma](#), and specific school procedures for more details about Special Academic Recognitions.

Homeless Students

The [McKinney-Vento Program](#) is federal legislation that provides legal protection to children and youth experiencing a housing crisis. Please contact the McKinney-Vento liaison at your child's school for more information.

Honor Roll

DCS has many students who are to be applauded for their efforts, hard work, and dedication in maintaining high grades. Each quarter, students in grades 3-12 are eligible for participation in the DCS Honor Roll program when all grades/indicators on their report cards are:

- **A and/or B** when using the A-F grading scale;
- **E or S** when using the grading scale of E-Excellent, S-Satisfactory, N-Needs Improvement, U-Unsatisfactory; • **P** when using the grading scale of P-Pass, F-Fail, INC-Incomplete.

Students who have earned the grades noted above are issued an Honor Roll Card, which entitles them to receive discounts from local businesses. These discounts may be found on the DCS' website by selecting the Students link, then the [Honor Roll](#) link.

Inclement Weather

DCS may make the decision to close early, to delay, or to cancel school when winter weather makes driving conditions hazardous. We will make every reasonable effort to make announcements by 6:00 AM. If a decision can be made in the evening, we will do so. **If no announcement is made, schools will operate on a normal schedule. If an announcement is made, it is applicable to those students and staff scheduled to report that day.**

To communicate how inclement weather has affected our normal school operation, the School Messenger telephone notification system will be used to announce schedule changes to all parents, students, and staff. School Messenger will begin calling parents and students at 6:00 AM, but it takes some time for the system to call the homes. The message will also be available on the DCS Message Line (336-753-1797 for English; 336-753-1798 for Spanish). In addition, announcements will be made on the local radio and television stations listed on our website and communicated through the DCS' website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

Non-Discrimination

We are committed to providing a non-discriminatory, inviting and inclusive school environment for all students. We have broad protections against discrimination as set forth in multiple Board policies, including Policy [1710](#) and [1720](#). Parents and students who perceive any form of discrimination should report it to the school principal. Parents and students also should contact the principal to request assistance or accommodations to assure a non-discriminatory, inviting and inclusive school environment. See [Board Policy 1710, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying](#).

Parental Right to Withhold Consent and Opt Out

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

- Release of the student's directory information (see [Board Policy 4700, Student Records](#))
- Release of the student's name, address and telephone number to military recruiters or colleges/universities (see [Board Policy 4700, Student Records](#))
- The student's participation in certain instructional activities related to reproductive health and safety (see [Board Policy 3540, Family Life Education](#))
- The student's participation in academic or career guidance or personal or social counseling services of a generic nature offered to groups of students (see [Board Policy 3610, Counseling Program](#))
- The student's participation in certain types of surveys (see [Board Policy 4720, Survey of Students](#))
- The child's participation in certain non-emergency physical exams or screenings
- The collection, disclosure or use of the child's personal information for marketing purposes. The school system generally will not conduct such activities; however, the school system may collect such information from students if the information is used for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students or educational institutions (see [Board Policy 4720, Survey of Students](#))
- The release of the child's free and reduced-price meal information to State Medicaid or State Children's Health Program (SCHIP)

School Assignment

Students are assigned to a school based on where they are domiciled. Parents may request reassignment upon enrollment or by June 1 of the previous school year if already enrolled. Schools may ask for this information earlier. Final reassignment decisions will be made by June 30. A transfer or reassignment is valid for no more than one school year. In determining reassignments, the superintendent considers and makes a determination based upon the best interest of the child, the orderly and efficient administration of the public schools, health and safety of students, and the academic, discipline, and attendance standing of the student. The student must continue to be in good standing in terms of academics, discipline, attendance, and receive a recommendation from the principal for a reassignment to be renewed. See [Board Policy 4150, School Assignment](#), [Board Policy 4115, Behavior Standards for Transfer Students](#), and [Board Policy 4130, Discretionary Admission](#).

School Meal Charges

Students must pay for school meals in a timely manner. We do not permit any meal purchase that will result in a negative account balance. If a student forgets or loses their meal money, we will provide an alternate meal at no cost. Parents are notified of low balances in a child's meal account at regular intervals during the school year. See [Board Policy, 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services](#).

Search, Seizure

Schools must be safe and free of weapons, drugs and other contraband. School officials may search a student, student lockers, student automobiles or school computers under the circumstances outlined in Board Policy, and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered during the search. See [Board Policy 4342, Student Searches](#).

Seclusion, Restraint and Reasonable Force

The use of seclusion, restraint and isolation of students is governed by N.C. General Statute 115C-391.1, Board Policy and Regulation & Procedures. To the extent allowed by these laws, policies and procedures, N.C. General Statute 115C-390.3 authorizes school personnel to use reasonable force to control behavior or remove a person from the scene when necessary to correct students, quell a disturbance threatening injury to others, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person or within the control of a student, act in self-defense or to protect other persons or property, or to maintain order on educational property, in the classroom, or at a school-related activity on or off educational property. Also, see [Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies](#), [Board Policy 4302 School Plan for Management of Student Behavior](#) and [Regulation Code 4302-R Rules for Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Schools](#).

Special Education

We provide special education and related services to students identified with a disability according to the Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and N.C. Public School Law, Article 9. Parents of children who are ages three to those who are eligible to enter kindergarten should contact Peggy Nuckolls, Director of Preschools, at 336-751-0016 for more information. Parents of children in kindergarten through 12th grade should contact their child's school. They can also contact the district at 336-751-2491 or Jennifer Custer, Director of Exceptional Children's Programs at custerj@davie.k12.nc.us.

Student Discipline and Code of Student Conduct

All decisions related to student behavior are guided by the Davie Board of Education's commitment to create safe, orderly and inviting schools. Each student has the right to a wholesome and supportive learning atmosphere, and no student has the right to disrupt or interfere in the learning process of fellow students. DCS recognizes that establishing order and maintaining discipline in the school setting can be achieved only through the cooperative efforts of school personnel, students and parents/guardians.

To facilitate and promote cooperation among students, parents, and school personnel, the administration has established system-wide standards for the proper conduct and behavior of students in Davie County Schools called the Code of Student Conduct. The detailed [Code of Student Conduct](#) is available online.

The principal has the authority and responsibility to take appropriate action regarding any prohibited or criminal student behavior. The principal is responsible for informing students and parents of any standards or rules that, if violated, could result in short-term or long-term suspension or expulsion.

The teacher has the responsibility to manage student behavior in the classroom and while students are under his/her supervision. Teachers and other school personnel have the authority to remove disruptive students using reasonable force in situations when necessary:

- 1) to quell a disturbance threatening injury to others;
- 2) to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object
- 3) for self-defense
- 4) for the protection of persons or property; or
- 5) to maintain order on school property or a school-related activity on or off school property.

The Board of Education prohibits corporal punishment, believing that other consequences are more appropriate and effective for teaching self control. Reasonable force necessary to protect oneself or others is not considered corporal punishment.

Disciplinary actions for students identified as exceptional children according to North Carolina guidelines will conform to Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities as adopted by the State Board of Education.

See [Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies](#), [Board Policy 4302 School Plan for Management of Student Behavior](#) and [Regulation Code 4302-R Rules for Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Schools](#), [Code of Student Conduct](#). **The Student/Parent Handbook does NOT include all DCS discipline policies. Additional policies and information may be found online at www.godavie.org.**

Student Information in PowerSchool

PowerSchool is a statewide student information system that gives parents access to real-time information including attendance and grades (for grades 3 and up). All parents have access to PowerSchool through the [Parent Portal](#).

Student Records and Directory Information

A federal law known as “FERPA” provides parents and eligible students with rights to inspect and review the student’s education records, to request amendments to such records, and to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged FERPA violation.

FERPA also provides that student records and personally identifiable information contained in those records generally may be released to third parties only if the parents or eligible students provide written consent. One of those exceptions to this requirement is that “Directory Information” about a student may be released to anyone upon request unless the parent or eligible student has opted out of the disclosure of such information. “Directory Information” includes the student’s name, grade, school most recently attended, dates of attendance, date of graduation, awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, address, email address, telephone number, and photograph. **Any parent, guardian or eligible student who does not want directory information released must notify the school in writing at the beginning of each year or upon enrollment.**

For additional information relating to FERPA and student records, please see [Board Policy 4700, Student Records](#).

Student Responsible Use Agreement

The Responsible Use Agreement (RUA) is intended to set forth the specific obligations and responsibilities for DCS students who use school owned or personal equipment and access the school system’s network. The network must be used for educational purposes. Access to equipment and the network is a privilege, not a right. Users of the network are responsible for their behavior and communications. There should be no expectation of privacy when using the school network. Access will be provided only to those students who agree to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner. See [Board Policy 3225, Technology Responsible Use](#).

Student Support Services

Our school counseling programs support students in their personal and social development and help them transition from school to higher education or a career. See Board Policy regarding the Counseling Program.

Student Surveys

Our district sometimes partners with individuals and agencies conducting research. We review and approve or deny requests from individuals or agencies for any research project. Research can include surveys of staff or students. See [Board Policy 4720, Survey of Students](#).

Volunteering in Your Child’s School

State law (N.C. General Statute 95-28.3) provides parents up to four hours of unpaid leave each year to volunteer in your child’s school. Volunteers provide our students and staff with invaluable services that better the education experience. To learn more about volunteering, please review the Volunteer Handbook that can be found on the DCS’ website, select the Parents/Community link, select the [Volunteer](#) link. See [Board Policy 5015, School Volunteers](#).

Weapons

Students are not permitted to possess, handle or transmit any weapon, facsimile of a weapon, dangerous instrument/ substance or other object that can reasonably be considered or used as a weapon or dangerous instrument/ substance. See [Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies](#); [Board Policy 4333, Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety](#), [Code of Student Conduct](#).

OTHER BOARD POLICIES OF INTEREST

[1330, Civility](#)

[3320, School Trips](#)

[3470, Alternative Learning Programs/Schools](#)

[3620, Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations](#)

4001, Equal Educational Opportunities
4220, Student Insurance Program
4260, Student Sex Offenders
4310, Integrity and Civility
4315, Disruptive Behavior
4331, Assaults, Threats and Harassment 5020,
Visitors to Schools

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY Asbestos

As required by federal and state laws, this notice is to inform all workers and building occupants and/or their legal guardians about asbestos in school buildings. Anyone who wishes to see the asbestos files may contact the school or call Michael Spillman, DCS Maintenance Department, 336-751-1991.

Cervical Cancer, Cervical Dysplasia and Human Papillomavirus

State law, N.C. General Statute 115C-47(51), requires school districts to provide information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia and human papillomavirus to parents and guardians of students in grades 5 through 12. HPV (Human Papillomavirus) is a common virus that is spread from one person to another through intimate contact. Some types of HPV can cause cervical cancer in women and genital warts in men. Most men and women who have HPV do not know they are infected. A vaccine is now available to protect females (ages 9 to 26) from some major types of HPV. For more information, please contact your doctor or local health department. Additional information is available from the NC Immunization Branch's website www.immunizenc.nc.gov or from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) www.cdc.gov/std/hp or 1-800-232-4636. (NC G.S. 115C-47 #51)

Influenza

Influenza (the flu) is a viral infection that can cause severe illness and life-threatening complications in many people. Symptoms of the flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, muscle aches, dry cough, sore throat and runny, stuffy nose. Children sometimes also have nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Flu is spread through respiratory droplets from a cough or sneeze, or from droplets on unwashed hands. Vaccine against the Flu is usually available every year beginning in October through private physicians and the Davie County Health Department. The vaccine is recommended for people at high risk for complications of the flu, (the elderly and those with chronic illnesses) and people in close contact with them (this includes household contacts). (NC G.S. 115C-375.4)

Medications at School

The Davie County Board of Education recognizes that students may need to take medication during school hours. School personnel may administer drugs or medication prescribed by a doctor upon the written request of the parents. To minimize disruptions to the school day, medicines should be taken at home rather than at school whenever feasible. School personnel should not agree to administer any medication that could be taken at home.

A physician has prescribed the drug or medication for use by the student (for over-the-counter medications as well as medications available only by a physician's prescription); and has completed a Medication Authorization Form signed by the physician and parent. This form must be completed yearly.

Consistent with the above requirements, over-the-counter medications and prescription medicine will only be given during school hours by school personnel if they are provided in the original container or labeled by a pharmacist, complete with instructions (like a prescription drug). See Board Policy 6125, Administering Medication to Students. For more information, visit <https://www.godavie.org/departments/student-services>.

Meningitis

Meningitis is an infection of the fluids and covering of the brain or spinal cord that can be caused by bacteria. While viral meningitis is fairly common, and people usually recover fully, bacterial meningitis is very rare, but much more serious. Meningitis is spread by close exchange of saliva and respiratory secretions through sharing of drinking glasses, cigarettes or kissing. Symptoms of bacterial meningitis include severe headache, high fever, and stiff neck. Symptoms can worsen

very quickly, leading to unconsciousness, and even death. Children with any of these symptoms should be checked by a doctor right away. A vaccine against meningitis is available through private physicians and is recommended for students entering college. (NC G.S. 115C-375.4)

MRSA

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is an infection, caused by skin bacteria, “staph” that usually starts as a pimple or boil on the skin and must be treated with special antibiotics. MRSA has become a growing problem in students, especially athletes who are involved in contact sports, but anyone can become infected. Important tips about MRSA include:

- Everyone should wash hands frequently with water and soap.
- All athletes should shower thoroughly with antibacterial soap immediately after work-out or practice.
- Athletes should wash all athletic clothing and towels after each use. Do not share personal items.
- Carefully self check all skin daily for rashes, pimples or boils that get worse instead of better.
- Report rashes, open sores, pimples and boils to the team trainer or school nurse.
- Any suspicious rashes, boils or pimples should be checked by the student’s health care provider to determine proper treatment.
- Avoid body contact with others or with share equipment if rash or pustules are present. • All skin sores should be covered with an adhesive bandage and clothing for athletes.
- Students with MRSA should not participate in contact sports until released by a doctor.

NC Safe Haven Law (G.S. 7B-500)

A parent cannot be charged with a crime for voluntarily leaving an unharmed infant under 7 days old with a Safe Haven. Parents leaving the infant do NOT have to provide any information or name. They can be asked for this, but must be told they are not required to give it. Safe Havens that MUST accept the infant include: a hospital, health department, nonprofit health center, law enforcement officer (sheriff or police), social services worker, or certified EMS worker for a fire or EMS station. Any other adult CAN accept such infant, but is under no requirement to do so. (NC G.S. 115C-47 #52)

Notification of Health Conditions

It is the parent’s responsibility at the beginning of each school year to inform their child’s teacher and school nurse if there are medical conditions that require special measures during the school day. School nurses are available for health consultation, but are not present at every school on a daily basis.

Pesticide Use by Schools

Parents, guardians, custodians, and school staff are to receive annual notification on the scheduled pesticide use on school property.

North Carolina state law gives you the right to be notified annually of our school system’s pesticide application schedule, and 72 hours in advance of pesticide applications made outside that schedule, but the latter only if you request notification ahead of time using the [request form](#).

Certain relatively low-risk pesticides are exempted from these notification requirements, including antimicrobial cleansers, disinfectants, self-contained baits and crack-and-crevice treatments, and any pesticide products classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as belonging to the US EPA’s Toxicity Class IV, “relatively nontoxic” (no signal word required on the product’s label). Your right to be notified extends to all non-exempt pesticide applications at your school or other non-school site (office building, garage, workshop, etc.), both indoor and outdoor pesticide applications, and including applications that take place over summer recess, holidays, weekends, or after school hours.

School Violence Prevention Act

School Violence Prevention Act requires that notice of the local policy shall appear in any school unit publication that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for schools within the school. See [Board Policy 1710, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying](#) and [Board Policy 1720, Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure](#).

Screenings

Screenings are provided to students at certain grade levels or schools. Students at any grade with evidence of problems related to hearing, vision, dental, communicable disease or other learning issues will be screened or re-screened upon request. See Board Policy 6100, Goals of Student Health Services.

Visit GoDavie.org for
more information!