



NEWPORT COAST ELEMENTARY

Parent and Student Handbook 2023-2024

Revised July 10, 2023



Newport-Mesa
Unified School District

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Newport Coast Elementary

6655 Ridge Park Rd, Newport Coast, CA 92657

Campus Contact Information

Main Telephone:	(949) 515-6975
Attendance Line (24/7):	(949) 515-6882
Principal:	Heather Darrow
Office Staff:	Patricia Pham (Administrative Assistant) Lisa Benard (Office Assistant)
Nurse:	(949) 515-6887
Website:	nce.nmusd.us

Emergency Communications

In the case of an emergency at our schools, we ask that you please remember to look for official information from the school or district. We deliver messages via school and district websites, email, phone, text, and district social media accounts - [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#).

Parent Emergency Contact Information

Please ensure that we have your most accurate contact information on file in order to be able to effectively communicate with you during an emergency.

In the event that you move, you must verify your new address with your school's front office.

Student and parent contact information can be updated throughout the year via the [Aeries Parent Portal](#). The school office cannot be responsible for making those changes.

Please contact your school to receive your student's confidential account information so that you may sign up for a portal account. If you are unable to create a portal account, please visit your child's school to update contact information.

Welcome to Newport Coast Elementary School!

Mission Statement

At Newport Coast we build leaders who will change the world!

Vision

1. Every teacher, parent, and student is clear on the knowledge, skills, and dispositions students are expected to acquire in each course, grade level, and unit of instruction.
2. The learning and behavior of each student is monitored on a timely basis. When students experience difficulty, the school has systems in place to ensure they receive additional time and support for learning.
3. There is a climate of high expectations for student success and staff members communicate their high expectations to students, parents, and one another.
4. A collaborative culture ensures staff members work together interdependently to better meet the needs of their students and to analyze and improve their professional practice.
5. Frequent reporting of student progress toward explicit learning outcomes helps staff members and parents take collective responsibility for student learning.
6. Leadership is the shared responsibility of staff members to respect all opinions and reach a consensus to benefit students' learning.
7. All staff members continually grow in their professional expertise because structures to support their ongoing, job-embedded learning and continuous improvement are built into the school day and school year.
8. Students know their academic and social efforts, improvements, and achievements will be recognized and celebrated.
9. Communication among teachers will be done with respect and support for individual differences in a professional manner.
10. There is a safe and orderly environment.

2023-24 Schedule Of School Activities

TK-12+ First Duty Day for TK-12+ Teachers/TK-12+ Staff Development Day	(Mon) August 14, 2023
TK-12+ Staff Development Day	(Tues) August 15, 2023
TK-12+ Teacher Prep Day	(Wed) August 16, 2023
TK-12+ Staff Development Day	(Thur) August 17, 2023
TK-12+ Teacher Prep Day	(Fri) August 18, 2023
First Day of School for TK-12+ Students	(Mon) August 21, 2023
*Alternate Elementary Conference Day TK-6 Teachers (TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	(Wed) September 27, 2023
Elementary Conference Day TK-6 Teachers (TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	(Wed) October 25, 2023
TK-12+ Staff Development Day for Teachers (TK-12+ - Local Non-Student Day)	(Wed) November 1, 2023
Secondary Preparation Day for Teachers (7-12+ Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	(Fri) December 22, 2023
Elementary Conference Day TK-6 Teachers (TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	(Wed) March 13, 2024
Last Day of School 7-12+ Students	(Thur) June 6, 2024
Last Day of School TK-6 Students	(Fri) June 7, 2024
Last Day of Service TK-12+ Teachers	(Fri) June 7, 2024

<u>Instructional Staff</u>	<u>Legal/Local Non-Student Days</u>	<u>Classified Staff Holidays</u>
	Independence Day	July 4, 2023
September 4, 2023	Labor Day	September 4, 2023
September 27, 2023	*Alternate Day Conference Day TK-6 Teacher (Local Non-Student Day for TK-6 Students *Alternate)	
October 25, 2023	Conference Day TK-6 Teachers (Local Non-Student Day for TK-6 Students)	
November 1, 2023	Staff Development Day TK-12+ Teachers (Local Non-Student Day for TK-12+ Students)	
November 10, 2023	Veterans' Day Observed	November 10, 2023
November 22-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Recess	November 23-24, 2023
December 22, 2023	Preparation Day 7-12+ Teachers (Local Non-Student Day for 7-12+ Students)	
December 25, 2023	Winter Recess	December 25-26, 2023
January 5, 2024		January 1-2, 2024
January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 15, 2024
February 19-23, 2024 (5 Days)	Presidents' Recess Presidents' Day Lincoln's Birthday Observed	February 19, 2024 February 20, 2024
March 13, 2024	Admission Day Observed Conference Day TK-6 Teachers (Local Non-Student Day for TK-6 Students)	February 21, 2024
April 8-12, 2024	Spring Recess	
May 27, 2024	Memorial Day	May 27, 2024

ELEMENTARY TRIMESTER DATES

October 20, 2023 (44 Days)	End of First Trimester
March 8, 2024 (78 Days)	End of Second Trimester
June 7, 2024 (58 Days)	End of Third Trimester

SECONDARY QUARTER DATES

October 13, 2023 (39 Days)	End of First Quarter
December 21, 2023 (44 Days)	End of Second Quarter/First Semester
March 22, 2024 (49 Days)	End of Third Quarter
June 6, 2024 (48 Days)	End of Fourth Quarter/Second Semester

Campus Specific Dates

Please note the following important dates for the school year.

Back to School Nights:

Monday, August 28 @ 5 pm - TK, Kindergarten, 1st grade

Tuesday, August 29 @ 5 pm - 3rd and 4th grades

Wednesday, August 30 @ 5 pm - 2nd grade

Thursday, August 31 @ 5 pm - 5th and 6th grades

Open House - Thursday, May 30, 5:30-6:30 PM (Modified Release at 2:10)

6th grade Promotion - Wednesday, June 5 - 9:30 AM

Last Day of School - Friday, June 7 (Modified Release at 2:10)

Daily Bell Schedule

Regular Day Schedule

Preschool 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Grades K-6 8:35 AM - 2:50 PM

Modified Release Schedule - Every Wednesday

Preschool 8:00 AM - 1:20 PM

Grades K-6 8:35 AM - 2:10 PM

Recess

Kindergarten 9:50 AM - 10:15 AM

Grades 1-3 10:45 AM - 11:05 AM

Grades 4-6 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Lunch

Preschool 11:30 AM -12:00 PM

Kindergarten 12:25 - 1:05 PM

Grades 1-3 (45 minutes)

1st Grade 11:55-12:40

2nd Grade 12:00-12:45

3rd Grade 12:00-12:45

Grades 4-6 (35 minutes)

4th grade 12:50-1:25

5th Grade 12:55-1:30

6th Grade 12:55-1:30

Parking Lot

The Newport Coast staff is committed to the creation of a safe and orderly environment for our students. Given the design of our parking lot, we must be incredibly thoughtful about our processes and how to best facilitate pick-up and drop off. We and your neighbors thank you for your commitment to follow the expectations listed below.

The Loop Road

When dropping off and picking up by car, only enter the campus via the “Loop Road” entrance on Newport Coast Drive in a single file line, RIGHT SIDE ONLY. This allows for emergency vehicles and staff access in THE LEFT LANE. The visitor parking spaces are not to be used for drop-off or pick-up. Crossing traffic lanes with children between 8:05 and 8:35 AM and 2:50 to 3:15 PM is extremely dangerous and therefore prohibited. While dropping off in the Loop Road line, please remain in your vehicle. If you need assistance unloading items, adults are available to help.

Drop-off for students begins at 8:10 AM and continues to 8:32 AM, when the first bell rings. The best time to drop off your child is between 8:10 and 8:20 when there is little congestion. Reminder - there is NO supervision for students prior to 8:10 AM.

Given the inherent busyness in the school parking lot, please drive at a very slow speed and remain highly cautious. No vehicles are allowed in the yellow-striped area near the kindergarten gate. Reference to California State law, hand-held cell phones are not permitted while driving on campus. Cell phone use should be hands-free only on the Loop Road, drop off zone and parking lot.

It is against the law to park along the red-painted curbs. These are fire lanes that need to remain open.

Please pull your car all the way forward when picking up or dropping off.

Additionally, per city ordinance, cars may not turn right or left into the school from Ridge Park Road from 7:30-8:50 AM and again from 2:30-4:00 PM. Police will issue tickets for these offenses.

Parking

Parking During School Hours

Parking is occasionally allowed on the Loop Road for special school events. To allow for parking, the gate at the Loop Road will be open and students will not have access to the field during that time. Parking is never permitted in the driveways, along red-painted curbs, or in staff parking spaces. All cars must be removed prior to the K-6 dismissal (by 1:50 p.m. on Modified Release days and by 2:30 PM on regular dismissal days).

Off-Site Parking

Parking is permitted by the city on the south side (downhill) of Ridge Park Road from 9:00 AM-1:30 PM; additional parking is available on Ridge Park Road by the Fire Station.

We thank all of you for following our procedures and making our campus a courteous and safe experience especially during arrival and dismissal, as well as at all other times for everyone.

Bicycles

Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 will be permitted to ride their bicycles to and from school. State law requires these students to wear bicycle helmets. Per section 21212 (a) of the Vehicle Code “A person under 18 years of age shall not operate a bicycle unless wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet.” All traffic laws must be obeyed by students at all times. Class 3 e-bikes are not allowed on our campus since they can only be legally ridden by individuals 16 years of age or older.

Be sure to park your bike in the bicycle racks and keep it individually locked. The bike area is off limits (during school hours) to students not riding bicycles. No bicycle riding within the school perimeter.

Bicycles are not to be left at school overnight. Students who refuse to follow bicycle standards will have to find other means of transportation to school. The school is not responsible for bicycles. Unlocked bicycles invite theft and vandalism.

Bicycles (Including eBikes), Scooters, And Skateboards

Students may use bicycles (including eBikes*), scooters or skateboards to come to or leave school, under the following conditions:

1. Walk your eBike, scooter, skateboard, and bike at all times on campus.
2. With your own lock, secure your eBike, scooter, skateboard, and bike locked in the designated lock up area.
3. Do not leave your eBike, scooter, skateboard, or bike in the designated lock up area overnight.
4. Secured helmets are mandatory when riding your eBike, scooter, skateboard, and bike.
5. The school is not responsible for any damage, theft, or personal injury.
6. Must not be parked in a manner that blocks any ingress or egress areas of the campus.
7. Must be parked in designated area(s).
8. Any of these items left in undesignated areas may be moved and/or subject to confiscation and parent pick-up.
9. School is not responsible for property damage resulting in the necessity to move items that are posing a safety concern and/or not parked in designated areas.

Use of hoverboards, Class 3 eBikes (Per CA AB1096), and any other motorized vehicle are prohibited on campus by students.

*Use of Class 3 eBikes (Per CA AB1096) requires the operator to be a minimum of 16 years old.

eBikes

For the safety of all, anyone using an eBike, must only park in designated areas. When arriving at, or on any part of the school campus, all traffic signs, site procedures, and protocols for community safety should be followed. All are expected to abide by all traffic rules and follow directions of school personnel, as safety is our top priority.

Reckless driving, failure to follow the direction of school personnel, or other serious driving violations will be decided by the school's administrator and may result in consequences. In some circumstances, law enforcement may be called and may elect to issue additional consequences.

Elementary Schools — Class 3 eBikes (Per CA AB1096), and any other motorized vehicle are prohibited on campus by elementary and middle school students. Any students with a Class 3 eBike on campus will have the eBike confiscated and parent pick-up will be required*.

Skateboards

Skateboarding is not allowed on the school campus at any time. Motorized skateboards are not allowed on campus at any time. Skateboarding is a reasonable form of transportation for many students; however, the school may have no facilities to store skateboards. Furthermore, skateboarding on campus represents a dangerous risk of injury and damage to property. The school is not responsible for any damage or loss of skateboards, or personal injury from skateboarding.

Transportation Not Allowed on Campus

The following items are not allowed on campus at any time.

- Skateboards
- Rollerblades
- Razor Scooters
- Roller Skates/Roller Shoes

Attendance

Students should arrive at school each day on time in order to maximize learning. Regular, punctual, and full-day attendance is an important prerequisite for a student to make reasonable educational progress. This District recognizes the importance of regular attendance and requires the reason for each student absence to be verified by the school.

Absence(s) - How to Report

If a student is absent, parents must notify the school by telephone using the 24-hour Attendance Hotline (949) 515-6975, then press 2; or complete the google form via the link on our website to "Report an Absence Online". In the alternative, you can call the school office at (949) 515-6975 before 9 a.m. on the day of the absence. This is for the protection and safety of your child. Please leave the following information when calling the hotline:

- Your name and relationship to the child
- Your child's name (first and last)
- Child's grade and teacher's name
- Date of absence(s)
- Reason for absence(s)

Whenever a student is absent from school or class, the actual reason for the absence shall be determined by a qualified school employee. All absences must be verified to the office no later than three (3) school days after the absence. If the absence is not verified, it will automatically be converted to a truancy ("cut"). A medical release for school re-entry may be required following an illness, chronic medical condition, surgery, possible contagious infection, or referral by the health office. Please also inform the classroom teacher and health office of any limitations or restrictions following an illness, surgery, broken bone, or other medical condition. Additionally, it is requested that any planned absences be communicated to the office and teacher in advance, when possible.

Tardiness

Students should arrive at school before the 8:32 a.m. bell. Students are considered tardy if they are not in their designated line up area by the 8:35 a.m. bell. This is critical as important learning takes place from the first minute of the school day. Punctuality is also an important life skill to teach children. Students arriving at school on time also cut down on disruptions to the class that result from students entering the classroom late. Should your child arrive at school after the 8:35 a.m. bell has rung, he/she should proceed to the office to receive a tardy slip to give to the classroom teacher. Please have your student provide a doctor's note or dental appointment slip for the tardy to be excused.

Doctor Appointments or Dental Appointments

Appointments should be scheduled after school whenever possible. If you need to pick-up your child during the school day for a scheduled medical or dental appointment, please arrive early to give enough time to sign your child out and call them to the office. When you arrive, please fill out the early sign out book in the office.

Early Departure

1. Early dismissal is discouraged. Every effort should be made to make appointments after school in order for students to complete their day. Instructional minutes should never be disrupted.
2. All students shall be released from school grounds under the supervision of school personnel through the school office.
3. Students will only be released to the parent(s) or emergency contacts indicated in the student's Aeries contacts list.
4. The person checking the student out must fill out the early sign out book and be prepared to show proper ID.
5. In emergency situations when a parent needs a child to be released to someone other than the persons listed in the contact list, the parent must do the following:
 - a. Phone the school office to notify of the situation.
 - b. Give the name and description of the person to pick up the child. (This person will be required to show proper identification.)
 - c. Whenever possible, send a written request with the person who is picking up the child, signed by the requesting parent.
 - d. Instances where these steps are not followed will result in the student being released at the end of the school day per the usual release procedures.
6. Parents are asked to make every effort not to involve school sites in custody matters.
7. Any student release situation that leaves the student's welfare in question shall be handled at the discretion of the site administrator or designee. If such a situation becomes a disruption to the school, the NBPd office will be called and an officer will be requested to intervene.
8. Students are released to the bus driver or directly to a designated adult. If there is no one at the bus stop the child will be brought back to school unless there is written notification to do so.

Dismissal from School

After school is dismissed, students should either be picked-up by a parent/guardian/authorized delegate or proceed to after school class. There is no school sponsored supervision available on the playground or in the office.

Unexcused Absences / Vacations

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District is committed to providing each student a world-class education. This commitment can only be realized if all stakeholders, parents, students, and the school participate fully in the educational process. The academic school year consists of 180 days of instruction for students. In addition there are 30 student holidays during the 2023-24 school year. They are listed below for your reference.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • September 4, 2023 | Labor Day |
| • October 25, 2023 | Conference Day (TK-6) |
| • November 1, 2023 | Staff Development Day |
| • November 10, 2023 | Veterans' Day |
| • November 22 - 24, 2023 | Thanksgiving Recess |
| • December 25, 2023 - January 5, 2024
(School resumes Monday, January 8, 2024) | Winter Recess |
| • January 15, 2024 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| • February 19 - 23, 2024 | President's Recess |
| • March 13, 2024 | Conference Day (TK-6) |
| • April 8 - 12, 2024 | Spring Recess |
| • May 27, 2024 | Memorial Day |

We encourage families to plan their vacations on the dates listed above. A vacation absence is considered to be an unexcused absence. If you choose to take vacation on days other than school holidays and are absent for five consecutive days (unexcused absence), your child may not be guaranteed the same classroom assignment and/or school. This administrative practice would only be implemented if the classroom seat is needed for a new student. Each individual school site will determine the academic responsibility of students absent due to vacation and will assign student work as appropriate, but the school cannot be responsible for providing a full, independent study course during the absence.

Excused Absences (EC §§48205, 48980)

The California State Education Code Section 48205 outlines when a child shall be excused from school. This Section of the Education Code includes illness, medical or dental services, attendance at a funeral service, the illness or medical appointment of a parent, and for justifiable personal reasons approved by the principal. Your child will be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during such an excused absence. Students would not be in jeopardy of losing their seat at a school due to an excused absence.

Absences For Religious Purposes (EC §§46014, 48980)

With your written consent, your child may be excused from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at your child's place of worship or at other suitable place or places away from school property designated by the religious group. Your child may not be excused from school for this purpose on more than four days per school month.

Education Code §48205

(a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

- (1) Due to the pupil's illness, including an absence for the benefit of the pupil's mental or behavioral health.
- (2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
- (3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered.
- (4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of the pupil's immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
- (5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
- (6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent, including absences to care for a sick child, for which the school shall not require a note from a doctor.
- (7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of the pupil's religion, attendance at a religious retreat, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization, when the

pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board of the school district.

- (8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.
 - (9) For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Section 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the superintendent of the school district.
 - (10) For the purpose of attending the pupil's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen.
 - (11) For the purpose of participating in a cultural ceremony or event.
 - (12) (A) For the purpose of a middle school or high school pupil engaging in a civic or political event, as provided in subparagraph (B), provided that the pupil notifies the school ahead of the absence.
 - (B) (i) A middle school or high school pupil who is absent pursuant to subparagraph (A) is required to be excused for only one schoolday-long absence per school year.
 - (ii) A middle school or high school pupil who is absent pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be permitted additional excused absences in the discretion of a school administrator, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 48260.
 - (13) Authorized at the discretion of a school administrator, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 48260.
- (b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefor. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.
- (c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.
- (d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.
- (e) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
- (1) A "civic or political event" includes, but is not limited to, voting, poll working, strikes, public commenting, candidate speeches, political or civic forums, and town halls.
 - (2) "Cultural" means relating to the habits, practices, beliefs, and traditions of a certain group of people.
 - (3) "Immediate family" means the parent or guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the household of the pupil.

Amended by Stats. 2022, c. 921 (S.B.955), § 1, eff. Jan. 1, 2023.)

Emergency Procedures

Our school has emergency procedures in our comprehensive school safety plan and conducts training with staff on a regular basis. We conduct monthly fire drills on our campus for students and staff to practice safety evacuation procedures. Additionally, we include earthquake preparedness drills, disaster drills, and intruder lockdown drills throughout the year.

We have implemented the "I Love U Guys" Standard Response Protocol (SRP), which is a uniform, planned and practiced response to an incident. It defines the five actions to take in an emergency: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter. Staff and student trainings are conducted annually at the start of the school year to familiarize ourselves with the emergency actions, and fire, lockdown, secure, earthquake, and disaster drills are conducted throughout the year. In collaboration with local law enforcement and school resource officers (SROs), safety drills utilize the common language defined in the SRP. Please familiarize yourself with the five SRP actions so that in the event of an emergency, you have a clear understanding of the action being taken to support immediate safety efforts. Corresponding signage with descriptions of the five actions are displayed throughout our schools.

In the event of an earthquake or disaster, we have established the following procedures for the safety of all school occupants:

- Absolutely no parking in the parking lot to allow emergency vehicles access.
- Do not enter the school building. Rescue teams are equipped for this purpose.
- Report to the Reunification Center in front of the school office to pick-up your child.
- Reinforce the necessity of your child remaining at school until an adult listed as an emergency contact in Aeries arrives to pick them up.

Student Behavior Expectations

Please refer to our school website's page of "Signature Programs" for our [HOWL Campus and Classroom Behavior expectations](#).

Playground Rules

For the safety of our students and staff, we have rules in place for the playground. Rules will be taught to all students at the beginning of the year by teachers and the duty aides.

Playground: Restricted Areas

The following areas are off-limits to playing during recess and at all times.

- Quads (students may not walk or play in the Quads during recess or lunch)
- Hallways
- Classroom Areas
- Bathrooms
- Near the neighboring fences
- Behind buildings

Bell Rules

When the bell rings:

- Stop playing
- FREEZE
- Listen for the whistle
- Walk directly to your line

School Rules

At Newport Coast Elementary, we have rules to ensure proper behavior at all times.

Treat others with courtesy and respect

- Take turns and share
- Try to solve problems using "rock it, talk it, walk it"
- Get an adult to help if a problem cannot be resolved
- Keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself at all times
- Respect others' belongings
- No bullying allowed

Walk - don't run!

For the safety of our staff and students no running in the hallways, walk areas, classrooms, or office area. Walk at all times.

Visitors/Volunteers

We encourage members of the community, as well as other interested persons to visit our school for events and volunteering. All visitors to NMUSD school sites must check in at the school front office and will be required to be cleared through the Raptor visitor management system.

A volunteer is a parent, community member or other adult who is assisting at a school site or program before, during or after school hours. To be considered as a volunteer, you will need to submit an application for review. The application and more details on this process can be found at: www.nmusd.us/volunteers.

Volunteers must renew their volunteer clearance every school year during the renewal period (June 1st - June 30th).

For safety reasons, we do not allow non-student minors (children under the age of 18) on campus during school hours. Exceptions would be events that occur exclusively in the MPR, or district students who are fulfilling volunteer duties.

Forgotten items

The school will not disrupt a class for forgotten items such as homework or lunch. Accordingly, if you choose to bring these items to school, they will be placed on the back counter in the school office. The office will not call the classroom to say that these items have been delivered.

Recess and lunchtime are the only times your child will be allowed to enter the school office to check for forgotten items. As a result, it is important that you instruct them where they should go should these situations occur.

If your child forgets their lunch or lunch money, the cafeteria will always serve him/her a lunch anticipating that you'll reimburse the cafeteria the next day.

Lunch/Cafeteria

Each day, a well-balanced lunch is available in the cafeteria. Students may bring a sack lunch and purchase only a carton of milk. Sodas are highly discouraged.

When students arrive in the cafeteria they should be seated immediately at their designated tables. Students are required to show courtesy and excellent table manners at all times. Our school has a policy of encouraging and reminding students to NOT share food with other students during snack and lunch times. This policy is in place for safety and health reasons, including concerns regarding students with severe allergies. All students will remain in the cafeteria for at least the first 10 minutes of their lunch period.

Cell Phone/Smart Device Policy

Students in elementary school may not use cell phones, smartphones, smart watches or other mobile communication devices while on campus. Devices must be turned off and placed out of sight during the school day. Students who need to call parents may use phones located in the administrative office.

Please review [Board Policy 5131.8](http://www.nmusd.us) at www.nmusd.us.

Students may use their cell phone or other smart device (such as Apple Watches and tablets) during a school wide emergency affecting the entire school or community or during school activities outside of the school day. During a regular school day, if a student has a device in their possession, they may not use it until they have exited school property. It is to be OFF other than for the reasons described above.

We are fortunate at our site that our students have access to telephones in every classroom and through the office. Students are to ask their teacher or the office staff if they need to use the telephone. Therefore, there is no reason, other than the ones described above for students to use a cell phone.

Loss of the privilege of possession of these devices may occur should staff determine that the device has been used for an illegal purpose or it has caused a disruption. No use of cell phones to take pictures of students, or any postings to social media.

In permitting student possession of such devices for the reasons described above, the district assumes no liability for the loss or misuse of these devices.

Dress Code

In an effort to foster an academic school climate, Newport Coast Elementary School implemented a Uniform Dress Code for over 20 years. In the 2021-22 school year, this policy was reevaluated and had overwhelming support of the community. A formal process was undertaken to renew our commitment to a Uniform Dress Code with support from our PTA, Foundation and School Site Council. Our PTA is involved in offering an exchange program for our families to participate in.

This program has contributed to a positive learning atmosphere with a focus on teaching and learning. It is hoped that when the children dress in the morning for school they leave the house feeling dressed for success and ready to learn.

Research indicates that schools implementing uniform policies enjoy better student behavior and attitude. The U.S. Department of Education, which provides tracking software to schools implementing uniform policies, has seen consistently improved attendance and fewer classroom disruptions in schools with uniform policies.

To date, Newport Coast families have supported our uniform policy in order to provide the best learning environment for our students. However, pursuant to Education Code Section 35183, those parents who are strongly opposed may sign a Waiver Form exempting their student(s) from the adopted uniform policy (see Waiver Process).

Therefore, it is our hope that the spirit of support that has been demonstrated for the Uniform Dress Code continues at our school. Monitoring what children wear to school is not a productive use of staff's time. All energy will be focused on moving the school towards excellence in the core academic areas and enrichment programs.

The office can assist you with where to purchase the uniform. All of the options are included on the Dennis Uniform website. A link to Dennis Uniforms is included on the school website.

Dress and Cleanliness:

Students are expected to dress in a manner that is conducive to a positive school climate and to an orderly educational program.

The guidance of students in appropriate dress for school is the shared responsibility of home and school. The principal or principal's designee may send a student home to prepare properly for school if the student attire is deemed unsafe, or potentially disruptive to the educational process. California Administrative Code 5, Education, Section 302 states: "A pupil who goes to school without proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness or neatness of dress may be sent home to be properly prepared for school or shall be required to prepare himself for school before entering."

Pupils are forbidden to be attired in a manner that is hostile to or constitutes a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of themselves or other pupils. This includes attire or apparel associated with youth gangs or adverse groups.

For safety reasons, students must wear shoes at all times. Open toe shoes or sandals without backstraps are not allowed. Students must wear clothing that can be worn during physical education.

Cut-off jeans must be hemmed and to the length of tips of the fingers. Tube tops, spaghetti straps and sleeveless shirts should not be worn. Cut-off and midriff shirts are not permitted. If arms raised over the head reveal any midriff, the shirt is too short.

Clothing which distracts from a productive learning environment, such as gang related attire, shirts advertising alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, or containing inappropriate language will result in the student calling home for a change of clothing.

For safety reasons, it is strongly recommended that long dangling earrings or long fingernails not be worn to school.

CLOTHING THAT IS EXCESSIVELY LONG, BAGGY OR TIGHT FITTING IS NOT ALLOWED INCLUDING OVERSIZE SHIRTS, SHORTS OR PANTS. SHORTS AND SKIRTS SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE LENGTH FOR MODESTY (NO SHORTER THAN EXTENDED FINGERS DOWN THE SIDE).

Personal Belongings/Lost and Found

All personal belongings should be clearly marked with your child's first and last names. Lost clothing will be placed in the Lost and Found racks inside the MPR. Small articles such as purses and wallets, eyeglasses, jewelry, etc., are kept in the office. Students may claim their lost articles before school, during lunch, or after school. Because of the quantity of items that can accumulate, we will donate any unclaimed items to local charities at least three times a year. As we are a uniform school, it is essential that all clothing pieces be clearly marked with your child's name. Please do not remove anything from Lost and Found that does not belong to you.

Students should not bring unnecessary valuables to school. The school cannot assume responsibility for a child's personal items. Toys are not to be brought to school. Please clearly label coats and backpacks in an inconspicuous (secret) area for identification. It is also recommended that students only bring the amount of money they need for school purchases and never carry large amounts of cash to school. Items that are distracting to the educational program and that disrupt others are to be left at home.

A Message from the Nurse

The Health Office

The school nurse is the health expert at school and uses professional skills to promote the well-being and success of students. The health assistant also provides support to students under the direction of the school nurse. Please contact the school for more information or if your student has a health concern and you would like to consult with the school nurse. Check <http://web.nmusd.us/healthservices> for more information.

Immunizations

The district follows State immunization laws which indicate specific immunizations that are required prior to school entry and for school participation through verification of a valid vaccine record. Personal or religious beliefs exemptions are no longer accepted in place of required vaccines. Personal/religious beliefs exemptions already on file for a continuing student enrolled in the district will remain valid until the student reaches an immunization checkpoint or grade span. Grade spans are: birth to preschool, kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten), grades 1-6, and grades 7-12.

Please let your school nurse know when your child's immunizations are updated and if you have questions.

Medical Exemptions for Immunization Requirements

Under current California law, a doctor may issue a medical exemption for students whose medical circumstances are such that immunization is not considered safe under the standard of medical care. Medical exemptions can only be issued through the California Immunization Registry - Medical Exemption (CAIR-ME) website <https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions> by physicians licensed in California. An existing medical exemption on file at school will remain valid until the earliest of:

- When the student enrolls in the next grade span (Pre-K, TK/K-6th grade, 7th-12th grade)
- Revocation of the exemption by the appropriate authority

Physical Exams and Oral Health Assessment

Physical exams and oral health assessments are required at specified grade levels. Please refer to student enrollment information located on the website <http://web.nmusd.us/healthservices> or school for information about school health requirements.

Medication and Medical Procedures

Medication and medical procedures at school require written authorization from the parent and the prescribing physician. Forms are available from the school or Health Services website <http://web.nmusd.us/healthservices>. Medication must be in a pharmacy labeled container for the medication to be given at school. Over-the-counter medication and products also require written physician orders. Please provide the school with extra medication for disaster preparation.

Illness Prevention and Health Checks Prior to School

School nurses work collaboratively with the Orange County Health Care Agency regarding communicable disease concerns at school. For the health and safety of students, and to minimize the potential spread of illness to students and staff, parents are asked to conduct a health check at home prior to sending students to school. If your student is

ill, please keep your student home, contact your doctor, and notify the school and school nurse. We ask you to keep your student home if the following symptoms are present:

- Fever of a 100.4°F degrees or higher
- New cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
- Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Unusual rash, rash, and fever
- Body Aches
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Unusual fatigue or irritability

This list is not a comprehensive list of symptoms. Always consult your healthcare provider for health concerns. Students must be fever-free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school and symptoms should be resolving.

Current Health and Contact Information

Up-to-date health information, phone and cell numbers are essential in case your student becomes ill or injured at school or if there is a disaster. We strive to maintain confidentiality of all health records. Health information may be shared with appropriate staff as necessary.

911 Calls

A School Emergency 911 call may incur paramedic and ambulance fees to the family. Accident or health insurance may mitigate these costs.

Health Screenings

Health screenings are provided according to State requirements and when students are referred to the nurse. Vision and hearing screening are done at State required grade levels and when concerns are noted. Dental, nutrition, height and weight screening may also be done as the school nurse deems appropriate. The parent/guardian will be notified if areas of concern are found. Parents/guardians are invited to notify the nurse if they have concerns and may “opt” out of health screenings by sending a written note to the school nurse.

Medi-Cal Program for Local Education Agencies

The school district participates in the California Medi-Cal Program for Local Education Agencies. This allows reimbursement to the district with federal Medi-Caid funds for select medically necessary services provided to eligible students at school. These services may include speech and language therapy, occupational/physical therapy, transportation, mental health, and specialized physical health care services. In accordance with the local educational agency rules and guidelines, eligible student health data may be forwarded to the school district's billing agency, in accordance with confidentiality laws and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance. Services currently provided to all students will not be changed by this program. Students will not be denied services they require to attend school, and parents will not be billed for services by the school district.

The School Nurse

Newport Coast Elementary has a full-time Health Assistant from the hours of 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. The School Nurse is on duty one day a week from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Nutrition

Newport-Mesa Unified School District takes part in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Students may bring a lunch to school or receive a breakfast and/or lunch from the cafeteria at no cost. Visit our website to view menus and nutrition information: <https://web.nmusd.us/departments/nutrition-services>.

Contact Information:

Nutrition Services
2985 Bear Street, #B
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(714) 424-5090

Copies of AR [3550](#) and [5141.27](#) are available at www.nmusd.us.

Cafeteria Manager: Ashley Saligan
Cafeteria Assistant: TBD

Forgotten Lunches/Lunch Money

Please label lunches and put lunch money in an envelope clearly marked with the students' name and teacher's name, and leave in the office for students to pick-up during recess or lunch time. Parents may not interrupt classes to drop off lunches or money; nor deliver to students in the MPR.

After School Programs

We are proud to work with the City of Newport Beach's A.C.E. (After Class Enrichment) program. Flyers and digital communications will be distributed prior to each session for information on class options and registration.

Other School Programs

Students have various opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities such as orchestra and Student Leadership. Information will be provided throughout the year on these programs.

Parent and Family Engagement

Newport Coast Elementary School promotes a shared responsibility among parents, school staff and students for the intellectual, physical, emotional and social development and well-being of students.

Newport Coast Elementary School promotes student academic achievement on state standards and will assist parents with the manner in which they may support achievement and the learning environment of their children including:

- a. Monitoring attendance of their children. Chronic truancy is defined as 10% or higher absenteeism. Parents are made aware of the importance of attendance through communication from the teacher(s), from the principal, and N-MUSD Student Services, both written and electronic communication. Notifications are sent to families in cases where there are attendance concerns, and meetings are held with the principal and additional staff members if attendance issues continue.
- b. Ensuring that homework is completed and turned in on a timely basis.
The school homework policy is well communicated to parents and students.
- c. Encouraging and facilitating the participation of children in extracurricular activities.
In conjunction with the community, outside organizations and the school, we make available and encourage extracurricular activities.
- d. Monitoring and regulating the television viewed by their children.
NCE communicates a strong message that children should read and spend family time together. Written and electronic communication support parents in support of their child's reading.
- e. Working with their children at home in learning activities that extend classroom learning.
Through the website, Blackboard messages, and the PTA newsletter, students and families are provided suggestions as to how to extend both academic and social-emotional development at home. Our SAIL team provide monthly newsletters that support healthy social-emotional strategies for families.
- f. Volunteering in their children's classrooms or for other activities at home. Parents are active in volunteering in classrooms.
- g. Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their own children in the total school program. Communication and collaboration among school stakeholders is a core value for NCE.

To implement an effective Parent Involvement Policy to support students' academic success, Newport Coast Elementary School will involve parents in decision-making and in programs that support student academic achievement.

1. School will provide parents with information about school programs at Back-to-School Night.
2. Parents will participate in School Site Council/English Learner Advisory Committee (SSC/ELAC), the NCE PTA, and the NCE School Foundation.
3. The school will use a variety of communication channels to educate stakeholders about the school and invite them to events. Communication occurs through the PTA's NCE Weekly email, Room Parent weekly communications, NCE School Foundation emails, Blackboard communications, social media and flyers.
4. School will reach out to parents to encourage participation in school as a classroom or library volunteer.
5. School and district staff will provide interpretation and/or translation for select school activities, events, or publications (to the extent practicable).

Educational Rights & Required Notices

Bullying Policy

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District is committed to providing a safe school and working environment that is free from harassment, discrimination, intimidation and bullying. The Board of Education prohibits bullying and intimidation of students, employees and others at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. Education Code [48900\(r\)](#), Board Policies (BP) [5131](#), [5131.2](#), [5137](#), [5144](#), [5145.3](#) and [1312.3](#) and Administrative Regulations (AR) [5144](#), [5145.3](#) and [1312.3](#) define and govern bullying and intimidation.

- (1) Bullying includes discrimination, harassment and intimidation based on the actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Penal Code 422.55 and Education Code 220, which includes race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.
- (2) No student or group of students shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any other student or school personnel.
 - Cyberbullying includes the transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account/device and/or assuming a person's identity in order to damage a person's reputation or cause any other harm.
- (3) School personnel shall immediately intervene if they witness an act of harassment, discrimination, intimidation or bullying, provided it is safe to do so.
- (4) Acts of harassment, discrimination, intimidation and bullying should be brought to the attention of the principal. You may also make an anonymous complaint by contacting the principal.
- (5) Complaints of harassment, discrimination, intimidation and bullying will be considered confidential. However, it may be necessary to disclose certain information in order to investigate.
- (6) Students who violate the District's policies on these matters may be subject to discipline, including suspension and/or expulsion.
- (7) The District prohibits retaliation against individuals who make or provide information related to complaints of harassment, discrimination, intimidation and bullying.

Anyone who feels that he/she is being or has been bullied or intimidated on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity is encouraged to immediately contact his/her teacher, the principal, or any other available school employee. All allegations of bullying and intimidation will be investigated in accordance with the law and District procedures.

Violations of this policy may be reported to a teacher, supervisor, or directly to the District's Uniform Complaint Officer:

Sarah Coley
Administrative Director I, Student Services
Title IX Coordinator & Compliance Officer
714-424-5016 scoley@nmusd.us

Civility Policy

It is the intent of the Board of Education to provide an orderly and safe learning environment in which students and adults feel comfortable, share the responsibility for maintaining a positive school climate, and take pride in their school, its achievements, and its environment.

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among members of the school community including all employees, parents/guardians, students, and the public at all schools, district facilities, and at athletic and extracurricular events. This policy is not intended to deprive any person of his/her right to freedom of expression that

is protected from governmental restriction on school grounds and district facilities/activities. Uncivil conduct does not include the expression of controversial or differing viewpoints.

The basic purpose of this policy is three-fold:

1. To promote a work and learning environment that is safe, productive, and nurturing for all staff and students, and to encourage the free flow of ideas without fear or intimidation
2. To provide our students with appropriate models for respectful problem-solving and conflict resolution
3. To reduce the potential triggers for violent conduct, such as fear, anger, frustration, and alienation, especially by making problem-solving procedures and alternatives to violence readily accessible to both students and adults

For purposes of this policy, uncivil conduct includes the following:

1. Directing vulgar, obscene, threatening, or profane gestures or verbal and/or written communications at another person.
2. Taunting, jeering, inciting others to taunt or jeer at a person.
3. Yelling at another person during a meeting or conference.
4. Repeatedly interrupting another person who is speaking at an appropriate time and place.
5. Imposing personal demands at times or in settings where they conflict with another's assigned duties, supervision responsibilities, and established practices.
6. Using racial/ethnic, religious, religion, gender, color, sexual, sexuality, or disability epithets.
7. Gesturing in a manner that would put a reasonable person in fear for his/her personal safety.
8. Invading the personal space of a person after being directed to move away.
9. Physically blocking a person's entrance to or exit from a room or location.
10. Remaining in a classroom or school area after a teacher or administrator in authority has directed one to leave.
11. Conduct which is likely to interfere with the peaceful conduct of the activities of the campus or facility.

Persons who perceive they have been subjected to uncivil conduct will be urged to resolve their concerns through simple, direct, or assisted communication with the person(s) at the source of the concern. When this is not possible or appropriate, any person who needs help identifying and/or using appropriate problem-solving procedures may seek assistance from the school administrator. Persons are encouraged to work out issues of concern promptly, and preferably, no later than two days after an incident has occurred. No retaliation will be permitted against persons for working in good faith under this policy and its related administrative regulation to resolve concerns.

This policy seeks to promote a school and workplace culture of respect and civility. Severe or persistent acts of uncivil conduct may, however, violate other school rules, such as the district's policies against harassment and sexual harassment or specific conduct codes. Violation of such policies may result in discipline, removal from district facilities and events, adverse employment action, or criminal charges as applicable. Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the ability of school officials to maintain order and discipline in the schools or to enforce school rules and applicable laws.

Copies of BP [1313](#) and AR [1313](#) are available at www.nmusd.us.

Dangerous Objects/Weapons

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District is committed to providing a safe school and working environment. Both California State Education Code and Newport Mesa Unified School District Board policy (BP [3515.7](#), [5131.7](#), AR [5131.7](#)) state that possession of a firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to students is grounds for expulsion.

Please be aware that all District schools will vigorously prosecute any student found to have a dangerous weapon or object in his/her possession while on school grounds or while attending an authorized school activity. Such prosecution will normally involve the applicable law enforcement agency and end with the student facing expulsion from the District.

Weapons and dangerous objects include, but are not limited to any firearm, stun gun, air gun, spring activated gun, toy guns (imitation firearms), slingshots, bludgeons, brass knuckles, any knife (including pocket knives and cutting blades),

chains, clubs, stars, explosives, fireworks, etc. Also included are articles designed for other purposes but which could easily be used to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate (examples are belts, files, compasses, Scissors, bats, etc.). The Federal Gun Free Schools Act requires that any student bringing a firearm to school is subject to one calendar year of expulsion and referral of the student to law enforcement.

Administrators or other delegated school officials will confiscate any article, when in their professional judgment such article may, in a given circumstance, be utilized as weapon or dangerous object.

When reasonable suspicion arises that use or possession of a pupil's property is illegal, illicit, disruptive, or a danger to the general welfare of pupils and staff, a search may be conducted of the pupil's person or personal property. Student lockers and desks are the property of the school and are subject to search.

Anyone who knows of a weapon on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity is encouraged to immediately contact his/her teacher, the principal or any other available school employee.

For more information, please contact any assistant principal or principal of any school.

Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Controlled Substances

Students possessing, using or selling alcohol or other drugs or related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures including suspension or expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation. In addition, such students may be referred to an appropriate counseling program, transferred to an alternative placement, and/or be restricted from extracurricular activities, including athletics.

Students shall not possess, smoke, or use tobacco or any product containing tobacco or nicotine while on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of district employees.

Copies of BP [5131.6](#), [5131.62](#) and AR [5144.11](#), [5144.1](#) are available at www.nmusd.us.

English Learner Supports/Reclassification

Language Acquisition Programs

NMUSD is required to provide a Structured English Immersion (SEI) program option for our English Learner Students. This is a language acquisition program for English learners in which nearly all classroom instruction is provided in English, but with curriculum and a presentation designed for pupils who are learning English. At minimum, students are offered ELD and access to grade level academic subject matter content.

Newport-Mesa also offers two Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Programs: Mandarin Dual Immersion at College Park Elementary School/Costa Mesa Middle School, and Spanish Dual-Immersion at Whittier Elementary School/Ensign Intermediate School. To learn more about NMUSD dual immersion programs, please visit the NMUSD Dual Immersion webpage: <https://web.nmusd.us/dualimmersion>.

Requesting a Language Acquisition Program

Language acquisition programs are educational programs designed to ensure English acquisition occurs as rapidly and effectively as possible and provide instruction to English learners based on the state-adopted academic content standards, including English language development (ELD) standards.

Parents/Guardians may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child. Schools in which the parents or legal guardians of 30 pupils or more per school or the parents or legal guardians of 20 pupils or more in any grade request a language acquisition program that is designed to provide language instruction shall be required to offer such a program to the extent possible.

Parents may provide input regarding language acquisition programs during the development of the Local Control Accountability Plan. If interested in a different program from those listed above, please contact the Director of Multilingual Programs at 949-515-6701 to ask about the process.

Parents of English learners have a right to decline or opt their children out of the school district's language acquisition program or opt out of particular English learner service(s) within a language acquisition program. However, districts

remain obligated to provide the student meaningful instruction until the student is reclassified, inform the parent when progress is not made, and offer the parent programs and services to consider at that time.

Language Assessment

Every spring (February - May), English Learner students take a test called the Summative English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC). This test is part of the California assessment system and is aligned with California's English Language Development Standards.

These standards make sure English learners have a high-quality program that will enable them to attain proficiency in English—developing the necessary skills and confidence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing— so they can be successful in the classroom. The ELPAC helps teachers across the state see how well students are doing with those skills.

Your child's student score report shows an overall score/performance level, consisting of oral language skills (speaking, listening) and written language skills (reading, writing).

The ELPAC Web site at <https://web.nmusd.us/elpac> has the following materials to help parents understand the ELPAC. These materials include:

- Sample ELPAC Student Score Report
- ELPAC Parent Guide
- ELPAC Starting Smarter Resources

Reclassification (Exit) Criteria

How can my child qualify to reclassify as Fluent English Proficient (RFEP)? The goal of language acquisition programs is for students to become proficient in English as rapidly and effectively as possible and to meet state academic achievement measures. The district's reclassification criteria are listed below.

GRADE	1. PROFICIENCY ON LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT	2. DEMONSTRATION OF "BASIC SKILLS"			3. TEACHER EVALUATION & EL COORDINATOR RECOMMENDATION
		OTHER MEASURES	REQUIRED SCORE (Aug-Dec)	REQUIRED SCORE (Jan–Jun)	
Kinder	ELPAC: Overall Performance Level 4	Acadience Composite	26	122	A. Students will qualify on the teacher evaluation criterion based on grades: ELA Report card grades of mostly 3s or 4s, with some 2s (and no 1s). B. If grades are lower than above, teacher may complete a "Teacher Evaluation" form to determine if the student's grade is not due to language acquisition issues in order to satisfy this requirement.
1	Same as Above	Acadience Composite	113	130	Same as Above
2	Same as Above	STAR IRL <u>or</u>	1.0	1.6	Same as Above
		Acadience Composite	141	190	
3	Same as Above	STAR IRL <u>or</u>	2.9	3.5	Same as Above
		Acadience Composite	220	285	
4	Same as Above	CAASPP ELA <u>or</u>	3 or 4		Same as Above
		STAR IRL <u>or</u>	3.8	4.4	
		Acadience Composite	290	330	
5	Same as Above	CAASPP ELA <u>or</u>	3 or 4		Same as Above
		STAR IRL <u>or</u>	4.4	4.9	
		Acadience Composite	357	372	
6	Same as Above	CAASPP ELA <u>or</u>	3 or 4		Same as Above
		STAR IRL <u>or</u>	4.9	5.5	
		Acadience Composite	344	358	

Homeless Liaison/McKinney Vento

Homeless Liaison

Homeless pupils have certain rights under California and United States law. For information concerning these rights, please contact the District's liaison for homeless children and youths, Christy Flores, who may be contacted at 714-424-3691.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal legislation that ensures the educational rights and protections of children and youth experiencing homelessness. It requires all local educational agencies (LEAs) to ensure that homeless students have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschools, as provided to other children and youth.

Does your living situation meet the definition of homelessness?

The McKinney-Vento Act defines the term "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. You may be considered homeless if you are:

- Temporarily staying with other people, often called "doubled up", because you cannot afford to live alone. This can include sharing another person's house, such as a friend or relative, because you lost your housing or don't have another safe place to go.

- Staying in emergency housing, like emergency or transitional shelters. This can include domestic violence shelters, trailers provided by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), housing paid for by programs such as Rapid Re-Housing, transitional living facilities, etc.
- Staying in a hotel/motel, cars, parks or any public or private places not designed for humans to live in. This can include camping grounds, cars, or any place outside/not meant for human habitation (abandoned buildings, bus or train station).
- Staying in substandard housing or housing with inadequate space for the number of occupants.

Additional Definition:

If you are not living with your parent or guardian, you may be considered an Unaccompanied Youth.

Unsure if you are eligible? Contact the district McKinney-Vento liaison to see what services and supports may be available.

For more information, including rights and services, visit the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program website at www.nmusd.us/homeless or contact the district's McKinney-Vento liaison Christy Flores at cflores@nmusd.us or 714-424-3691.

Immigration Status of Pupils

Your Child has the Right to a Free Public Education

- All children in the United States have a Constitutional right to equal access to free public education, regardless of immigration status and regardless of the immigration status of the students' parents or guardians.
- In California:
 - All children have the right to a free public education.
 - All children ages 6 to 18 years must be enrolled in school.
 - All students and staff have the right to attend safe, secure, and peaceful schools.
 - All students have a right to be in a public school learning environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, violence, and intimidation.
 - All students have equal opportunity to participate in any program or activity offered by the school, and cannot be discriminated against based on their race, nationality, gender, religion, or immigration status, among other characteristics.

Information Required for School Enrollment

- When enrolling a child, schools must accept a variety of documents from the student's parent or guardian to demonstrate proof of child's age or residency.
- You never have to provide information about citizenship/immigration status to have your child enrolled in school. Also, you never have to provide a Social Security number to have your child enrolled in school.

Confidentiality of Personal Information

- Federal and state laws protect student education records and personal information. These laws generally require that schools get written consent from parents or guardians before releasing student information, unless the release of information is for educational purposes, is already public, or is in response to a court order or subpoena.
- Some schools collect and provide publicly basic student "directory information." If they do, then each year, your child's school district must provide parents/guardians with written notice of the school's directory information policy, and let you know of your option to refuse release of your child's information in the directory.

Family Safety Plans if You Are Detained or Deported

You have the option to provide your child's school with emergency contact information, including the information of secondary contacts, to identify a trusted adult guardian who can care for your child in the event you are detained or deported. You have the option to complete a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit or a Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian of the Person, which may enable a trusted adult the authority to make educational and medical decisions for your child.

Right to File a Complaint

Your child has the right to report a hate crime or file a complaint to the school district if he or she is discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or bullied on the basis of his or her actual or perceived nationality, ethnicity, or immigration status.

Mental Health and Wellness

In an effort to continuously support our commitment to promoting the health, safety, and well-being of students, parents, and staff, the Newport-Mesa Unified School District has a variety of resources available both at your school site as well as within the community. To access these supports and for more information about the services available, please contact your school mental health provider (school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker) or your school's administrator.

The district has partnered with Care Solace. Care Solace is an online resource with a live 24/7 concierge meant to assist individuals in finding local mental health related programs and counseling services. For more information, visit the [NMUSD Care Solace website](#).

Additional resources, including Suicide Prevention, can be found on the [NMUSD Mental Health and Wellness website](#) and the [NMUSD Family Resources website](#).

For all other information, please contact Student Services at 714-424-5020.

NMUSD Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Board of Education recognizes that parents/guardians are their children's first and most influential teachers and that sustained parent/guardian and family engagement in the education of their children contributes greatly to student achievement and a positive school environment. The Superintendent or designee shall consult with parents/guardians to develop meaningful opportunities for parents/guardians and to be involved in district and school activities; advisory, decision-making, and advocacy roles; and activities to support learning at home.

Parents/guardians shall be notified of their rights to be informed about and to participate in their children's education and of the opportunities available to them to do so.

The district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) shall include goals for parent/guardian involvement, as well as the actions, and services that support those goals. This includes district efforts to seek parent/guardian input in district and school site decision making and to promote parent/guardian participation in programs for English learners, foster youth, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and students with disabilities. (Education Code 42238.02, 52060)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly evaluate and report to the Board on the effectiveness of the district's parent/guardian and family engagement efforts, including, but not limited to, input from parents/guardians, and school staff on the adequacy of parent involvement opportunities and barriers that may inhibit parent/guardian participation.

Title I Schools

The Superintendent or designee shall involve parents/guardians in establishing district expectations and objectives for meaningful parent/guardian and family engagement in schools supported by Title I funding, developing strategies that describe how the district will carry out each activity listed in 20 USC 6318, as contained in the accompanying administrative regulation, and implementing and evaluating such programs, activities, and procedures. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct outreach to all parents/guardians. (Education Code 11503; 20 USC 6318)

When the district's Title I, Part A allocation exceeds the amount specified in 20 USC 6318, the Board shall reserve at least one percent of the funding to implement parent/guardian and family engagement activities. The Superintendent or designee shall involve parents/guardians and family members of participating students in decisions regarding how the district's Title I funds will be allotted for parent/guardian and family engagement activities and shall ensure that priority is given to schools in high poverty areas in accordance with law. (20 USC 6318, 6631)

Expenditures of such funds shall be consistent with the activities specified in this policy and shall include at least one of the following: (20 USC 6318)

1. Support for schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for district and school staff regarding parent/guardian and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents/guardians
2. Support for programs that reach parents/guardians at home, in the community, and at school
3. Dissemination of information on best practices focused on parent/guardian and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents/guardians
4. Collaboration with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement
5. Any other activities and strategies that the district determines are appropriate and consistent with this policy

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school receiving Title I funds develops a school-level parent/guardian and family engagement policy in accordance with 20 USC 6318.

Non-Title I Schools

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies applicable to each school that does not receive federal Title I funds to encourage the involvement and support of parents/guardians in the education of their children, including, but not limited to, strategies describing how the district and schools will address the purposes and goals described in Education Code 11502. (Education Code 11504)

A copy of BP [6020](#) is available at www.nmusd.us.

Non-Discrimination

The Newport Mesa Unified School District Board of Education is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs, activities, practices, and employment shall be free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. This policy applies to all acts related to school activity or school attendance within a school under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent. Any school employee who witnesses an incident of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so.

The Board designates the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources as the Compliance Officer designated to receive and investigate complaints and ensure District compliance with state and federal laws and regulations including Title IX. The Compliance Officer may designate another District administrator to investigate complaints. If you have a complaint, you are to submit it in writing to:

Sarah Coley
Administrative Director I, Student Services
Title IX Coordinator & Compliance Officer
714-424-5016 scoley@nmusd.us

If you have any additional questions regarding the process, please contact Student Services at 714-424-5016.

Copies of BP [0410](#), [5145.3](#), and AR [5145.3](#) are available at www.nmusd.us.

Professional Qualifications of Teachers

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) grants parents the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of the children's classroom teachers, including the following:

- (1) whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;

- (2) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- (3) the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- (4) whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

The District will provide timely notice if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

If you would like to request information about the professional qualifications your child's teacher and/or paraprofessionals, please contact the principal at your child's school of attendance or Human Resources at 714-424-7550.

Pupil Fees

A pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.

A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

1. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
2. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
3. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.

A number of laws do authorize specific fees a school or district may charge. Please note the law does not prohibit a school district or its programs from requesting voluntary donations or engaging in fundraising activities and programs. These donations and fundraising financial contributions are voluntary, and all students will be allowed to participate in school activities and extracurricular activities regardless of whether the parent or legal guardian makes a donation or contribution.

Allegations of unlawful pupil fees are addressed through Board Policy [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures. Complaints regarding pupil fees may be filed anonymously if the complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support the complaint. A pupil fees complaint may be filed with the school site principal.

Copies of BP [3260](#) and AR [3260](#) are available at www.nmusd.us.

School Accountability Report Card

A School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is produced for every school in NMUSD. You can view each School Accountability Report Card at this website: <http://web.nmusd.us/sarc>. If you would like to read a printed version, hard copies are available upon request. Please visit your school's office for more information.

Sexual Harassment

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District Board of Education is committed to maintaining a safe school and working environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits sexual harassment of students, employees and others at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. Board Policies (BP) [5145.7](#), [4119.11](#), [4219.11](#), and [4319.11](#) define sexual harassment to include, but is not limited to:

Unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the educational setting, under any of the following conditions:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress or an employee's term or condition of employment;

- (2) Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by the individual is used as the basis for an academic or employment decision affecting that person;
- (3) The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic or work performance or has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or learning environment;
- (4) Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the student or employee regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through any District program or activity.

Any student who believes that he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment or who has witnessed sexual harassment on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity is strongly encouraged to report the incident to his/her teacher, the principal, or any other available school employee. Any district employee or job applicant who feels that he/she has been sexually harassed or who has knowledge of an incident of sexual harassment by or against another employee, a job applicant or a student, shall immediately report the incident to his/her supervisor, the principal, district administrator or Superintendent.

All allegations of sexual harassment will be investigated in accordance with the law and District procedures outlined in Administrative Regulations (AR) [5145.7](#), [4119.11](#), [4219.11](#), [4319.11](#) and AR [1312.3](#).

Violations of this policy may be reported to a teacher, the principal, supervisor, or directly to the District's Uniform Complaint Officer:

Sarah Coley
Administrative Director I, Student Services
Title IX Coordinator & Compliance Officer
714-424-5016 scoley@nmusd.us

State Testing/Level of Achievement

The District will provide timely information on the level of achievement of your child in each of the state academic assessments.

More information regarding state testing results is available at <https://web.nmusd.us/departments/education-services/assessment/state-testing-results>.

Student Use of Technology

Every student in NMUSD participates in a digital learning environment with 1:1 Chromebooks. Parents and students are presented with an Acceptable Use Agreement and other agreements relating to ethical and responsible use of technology. Fees have been established for replacement of damaged or lost equipment and are included in the Acceptable Use Agreement. Parents/guardians may review the agreement on the NMUSD webpage: www.nmusd.us/etua

Per CA Education Code [51512](#), the use of any electronic listening or recording device in any classroom without the prior consent of the teacher or principal is prohibited.

NMUSD utilizes *GoGuardian* to monitor students' online activity during class when using their district-issued Chromebook. *GoGuardian Parent* is a mobile app designed to provide parents/guardians with insight and control over their student's online activity when on school-managed devices and accounts. For more information, please review the [Getting Started Guide](#).

Copies of BP [6163.4](#) and AR [6163.4](#) are available at www.nmusd.us.

Uniform Complaint Procedure

The Newport-Mesa unified School District has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The Board encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints whenever possible and appropriate. Board Policy (BP) [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) has been adopted to resolve complaints which cannot be resolved through the informal process. BP [1312.3](#) outlines how complaints alleging violation of state or federal laws governing educational programs, allegations of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, the charging of unlawful pupil fees and the non-compliance of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) are addressed.

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals. The UCP shall be used when addressing complaints alleging failure to comply with state and/or federal laws in:

- Accommodations for pregnant and parenting students
- Adult education programs
- After School Education and Safety programs
- Agricultural career technical education
- Career technical education
- Childcare and development programs
- Compensatory education
- Consolidated categorical aid programs
- Course periods without educational content
- Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying in district programs and activities
- Educational and graduation requirements for students in foster care, homeless students, students from military families, and students formerly in a juvenile court school
- Every Student Succeeds Act
- Local Control Accountability Plan
- Migrant education
- Physical education instructional minutes
- Student fees
- Reasonable accommodations to a lactating student
- Regional occupational centers and programs
- School plans for student achievement as required for the consolidated application for specified federal and/or state categorical funding
- School safety plans
- School site councils as required for the consolidated application for specified federal and/or state categorical funding
- State preschool programs
- State preschool health and safety issues in license-exempt programs
- Any complaint alleging retaliation against a complainant or other participant in the complaint process or anyone who has acted to uncover or report a violation subject to this policy
- Any other state or federal educational program the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee deems appropriate

Complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must be filed within six (6) months from the date the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying occurred, or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, unless the time for filing is extended by the superintendent or his or her designee. A pupil fee complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred. Complaints, other than issues relating to pupil fees, must be filed in writing with the following designated Uniform Complaint Officer:

Sarah Coley
Administrative Director I, Student Services
Title IX Coordinator & Compliance Officer
714-424-5016 scoley@nmusd.us

A pupil fees and/or LCAP complaint may be filed anonymously if the complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support the complaint. A pupil fees complaint may be filed with the school site principal.

If you have any additional questions regarding the process, please contact Student Services at 714-424-5016.

A copy of BP [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures and the complaint forms are available at www.nmusd.us or at any school site free of charge.

Investigation of Complaint: The compliance officer shall hold an investigative meeting within five (5) days of receipt of the complaint or within five (5) days of an unsuccessful mediation in which the impartial compliance officer collects information from each party and from witnesses identified by the parties separately in private interviews and then analyzes it to reach a determination. To ensure that all pertinent facts are made available, the compliance officer and the complainant may ask other individuals to attend this meeting and provide additional information.

Written Decision: Within sixty (60) days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report of the District's investigation and decision.

Appeals to the California Department of Education: If the complainant is dissatisfied with the District decision may appeal in writing to the California Department of Education within fifteen (15) days of receiving the District's decision. When appealing to the California Department of Education, the complainant must specify the reason(s) for appealing the district's decision and must include copies of the complaint and the District's decision. In addition, the complainant has the right to contact the Office of Civil Rights or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to file a claim. A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the District's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/ private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders. For discrimination complaints, however, a complainant must wait until 60 days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the California Department of Education before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if the District has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of his/her rights to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR 4622. (EC Section 262.3)

Copies of the District's full Uniform Complaint procedures are available at the District's Student Services Office and at each school site. Complaints alleging non-compliance or alleging unlawful discrimination should be directed to the school principal and/or the Director of Student Services:

Sarah Coley
Administrative Director I, Student Services
Title IX Coordinator & Compliance Officer
714-424-5016 scoley@nmusd.us

Williams Complaint Classroom Notice

Notice to Parents, Guardians, Pupils, and Teachers

Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 35186, you are hereby notified that:

1. There should be sufficient textbooks and instructional materials. That means each pupil, including English learners, must have a textbook or instructional materials, or both, to use in class and to take home.
2. School facilities must be clean, safe, and maintained in good repair.
3. There should be no teacher vacancies or mis-assignments. There should be a teacher assigned to each class and not a series of substitutes or other temporary teachers. The teacher should have the proper credential to teach the class, including the certification required to teach English learners if present.

Teacher vacancy means a position to which a single designated certificated employee has not been assigned at the beginning of the year for an entire year or, if the position is for a one-semester course, a position to which a single designated certificated employee has not been assigned at the beginning of a semester for an entire semester.

Mis-assignment means the placement of a certificated employee in a teaching or services position for which the employee does not hold a legally recognized certificate or credential or the placement of a certificated employee in a teaching or services position that the employee is not otherwise authorized by statute to hold.

4. A complaint form may be obtained at the school office, district office, or downloaded from the NMUSD District Web site at www.nmusd.us/complaints. You may also download a copy of the California Department of Education complaint form from the following Web site: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc>.