



WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent and Student Handbook 2023-2024

Revised July 10, 2023



Newport-Mesa
Unified School District

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Whittier Elementary School

1800 Whittier Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Campus Contact Information

Main Telephone:	(949) 515-6990
Attendance Line (24/7):	(949) 515-6990 ext 2
Principal:	Randy Lempert
Assistant Principal:	
Office Manager:	Tania Anguiano
Nurse:	Julia Smiley
School Community Facilitator:	Alfonso Bravo
Website:	whittier.nmusd.us
Instagram:	WhittierDolphins
Twitter:	WhittierDolphin

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 Whittier Elementary School!

Whittier Elementary's Vision

Whittier - Learning for All, Whatever It Takes

Whittier Elementary's Mission Statement

In a safe and orderly environment, all students at Whittier School will receive continuous support in learning so they can access the core curriculum and become successful students. They will leave Whittier School with a solid foundation in reading, writing, mathematics, and citizenship. Our families will understand the important role they serve as a partner in their child's education and how they can work as a team member in helping their child reach his or her full potential.

Whittier Elementary's Beliefs

Whittier staff believes that each student belongs to us all. We work together to support students in developing as healthy, confident, life-long learners.

Whittier Creed

As a Whittier Student, I am respectful of people and things. I am responsible for my words and actions. I am an enthusiastic learner and always work with excellence. My personal best will lead to success.

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	(Wed) September 27, 2023
(TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	
Elementary Conference Day TK-6 Teachers.....	(Wed) October 25, 2023
(TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	
TK-12+ Staff Development Day for Teachers	(Wed) November 1, 2023
(TK-12+ - Local Non-Student Day)	
Secondary Preparation Day for Teachers.....	(Fri) December 22, 2023
(7-12+ Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	
Elementary Conference Day TK-6 Teachers.....	(Wed) March 13, 2024
(TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	
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

Instructional Staff

Legal/Local Non-Student Days

Classified Staff Holidays

	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.....	February 19, 2024
	Lincoln's Birthday Observed.....	February 20, 2024
	Admission Day Observed	February 21, 2024
March 13, 2024.....	Conference Day TK-6 Teachers	
	(Local Non-Student Day for TK-6 Students).....	
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 refer to our school website for a comprehensive schedule of events at Whittier Elementary School:
<https://whittier.nmusd.us/>

Back-to-School Night

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Open House

Thursday, May 30th, 2024

Modified Days

In addition to our regularly scheduled Wednesday modified days (see Bell Schedule on page 6), we also have modified days on the following dates:

- Thursday, August 31^t (Back-to-School Night)
- Monday/Tuesday, Thursday/Friday October 23rd-27th (Parent-Teacher Conference Week)
- Monday/Tuesday, Thursday/Friday March 11^h -15th (Parent-Teacher Conference Week)
- Thursday, May 30th (Open House)
- Friday, June 7th (Last Day of School)

Daily Bell Schedule

START TIME

Breakfast (Optional)	7:30 - 7:50 AM
Start time	7:55 AM

RECESS

TK & Kinder Recess	9:35 - 9:55 AM
Grade 1, 2, & 3	10:00 - 10:20 AM
Grade 4, 5, & 6	10:25 - 10:40 AM

LUNCH

Tk & Kinder	11:20 - 12:00 PM
Grade 1	11:30 - 12:10 PM
Grade 2	11:40 - 12:20 PM
Grade 3	11:50 - 12:30 PM
Grade 4	12:00 - 12:35 PM
Grade 5	12:10 - 12:45 PM
Grade 6	12:20 - 12:55 PM

DISMISSAL

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY	2:15 PM - Grades TK - 3 2:20 PM - Grade 4-6
WEDNESDAY (Modified Day)	12:57 PM - Grades TK - 3 1:02 PM - Grades 4. 6

PRESCHOOL SCHEDULE

Start Time	8:00 AM
Lunch	12:30 - 12:50 PM
Dismissal	2:45 PM

School Office

The office staff works diligently to provide the best possible services for students, staff, and parents. The school office is open from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday during the school year.

Arrival and Dismissal

Before School

7:30 AM Breakfast service begins. Staff supervision is provided only for students eating breakfast.
7:40 AM Staff supervision begins on playground

Students should not be dropped off at school prior to staff supervision at 7:40 am
Students and/or guardians are not permitted in classrooms or hallways before school starts, unless previously scheduled with a teacher or staff member.

7:53 AM Warning Bell - all students should line up at their designated spot on the blacktop
7:55 AM Instruction Begins - Students that are late should get a tardy slip from the office

Parents/guardians should say goodbye at the arrival lines. Teachers will walk their students to the classrooms. Parents/guardians are not permitted to walk with students back to the classrooms after the 7:55 am bell. Any adult who is volunteering first thing in the morning must follow the Volunteering Guidelines and check in at the office.

After School

- NMUSD offers after-school care through Project Kidz Connect.
- All younger siblings and/or non-students must be accompanied by and supervised by an adult at all times.
- Guardians must make arrangements for pick-up and transportation immediately after dismissal. Habitual lateness in picking up a student will result in a conference to develop an afterschool plan. Students may NOT stay at school unsupervised, students must leave campus as soon as dismissed unless participating in an after-school program.
- Kindergarten and 1st grade students must be met by an adult.

Pedestrians

- Students who walk to and from school should use the safest route to school and cross the street only at designated crosswalks where crossing guards are stationed. Guardians and students should agree on the route the student will walk to and from school. Students may enter and/or exit campus through the front gates only.

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 Permitted on Campus

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

- Rollerblades
- Roller Skates/Roller Shoes
- Motorized Scooters or Bicycles

Before and After School Programs

We understand that many parents work and are unable to pick-up their children when school is dismissed. We are excited that we have two amazing after-school programs available:

R.O.C.K.S.

The City of Costa Mesa Recreation Division offers an after-school recreation program on our campus. This program is available every school day for grades kindergarten through sixth. It begins as soon as school is out for the day, including all modified days, and remains until 6:00 pm. A free snack is provided to students. Pre-registration is required. You may contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 714-754-5013. To register online, go to <https://apm.activecommunities.com/costamesarec>.

Project Kidz Connect

Project Kidz Connect is a Newport-Mesa Unified School District program, paid for by a grant. The curriculum includes academics, arts, nutrition, recreation, and character education. Applications are available in the school office. For the 2023-24 school year, Whittier will have before school care. The before school care will begin at 6:45 AM. After school care begins at the end of the school day, including all modified early-out days. The program ends at 6:00 PM. A free snack is provided. For more information, contact Project Kidz Connect at 949-515-6786 or contact Whittier's Project Kidz Connect, Rain Vanderoef, at rvanderoef@nmusd.us

Parking

We have limited parking available in the Whittier Elementary School parking lot. We have designated drop-off and pick-up areas that are supervised by a staff member. Please allow extra time during rainy weather. We ask that you do not double park or park in the red zones. This is for the safety of our students and staff and we must keep these areas clear for emergency personnel, district buses, and delivery services. Please respect the neighbors/community and do not block driveway access. Obey all parking signs.

Parking Lot

- The spots in the parking lot are provided for Whittier staff members.
- Red and blue curbs are illegal for stopping or parking. Please do not pull over or park in the bus loading and unloading areas. Parking in the handicapped parking zone is against the law and can result in ticketing. It is reserved for students, families, and guests with disabilities who have the appropriate permit.

For the safe daily drop-off of all students during the school year, please observe the following safety procedures:

- Please drive through the parking lot and stop to drop your student at the designated sign: “Student Drop Off.”
- Please be mindful of your timing as you drop off your student; taking time to converse may cause cars behind you to back up, resulting in congestion.
- If you need to leave your car, please find parking on the street.
- Children that are not picked up promptly will be escorted to the office area until their guardian comes in to check them out. If you know you are going to be late, please contact the office.
- Do not double park and release or pick up your child on any adjacent street near school.
- The school parking lot is closed from 1:45-2:25 PM to ensure the safety of all students.
- The preschool parking lot is reserved to parents of preschool students

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 be career and college ready. Whittier recognizes the importance of regular attendance and requires the reason for each student absence to be verified by the school.

A child cannot learn if they are not in school receiving the instruction that takes place every day. **Research shows that poor attendance patterns begin early and are a strong contributing factor to significant concerns with behavior and achievement in middle and high school.** Positive patterns established early will contribute to what kind of student your child will be and will contribute to how they perform in all future endeavors. Attendance problems in elementary school are rarely because of a child, but rather a family issue. Families that find themselves always late to school will need to review their morning routines. Our team at Whittier is committed to supporting you. If you have challenges having your child come to school, please work with our team at Whittier.

California State law requires that students attend school regularly and punctually. **Punctual and regular attendance** is critical. Academic success and a positive attitude towards school can usually be linked with good attendance. We recognize that there may be situations that result in a student’s absence.

To be eligible for the end-of-year Perfect Attendance Award, students must be present for the entire day and on-time each school day. Tardies or early pick-ups will disqualify students for perfect attendance.

Please ensure your students are at school every day, on-time.

Absence(s) - How to Report

If a student is absent, guardians must notify the school by telephone using the 24-hour Attendance Hotline (949) 515-6816. In the alternative, you can call the school office at (949) 515-6990 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 student
- Your student’s name (first and last), grade, and teacher’s name
- Date of absence(s)
- Reason for absence(s)

If for some reason you are unable to notify the school of any absence, please send a note with your student when he/she returns to school.

In the event of a planned absence, it is preferred that you call the school or send a note with the dates of the intended absence.

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 benefit from an easy and predictable morning routine. They enjoy starting their day in a calm manner, walking into the classroom with their friends and enjoying a greeting from their teacher. When they are rushed, late, and have a chaotic start to their day, they may not recover until after recess when they get the reset that allows them to start again, in a predictable pattern. There is a great loss of instructional minutes all morning, much more than the few minutes lost by being late to school. Please create a family routine that allows children to start school on time and ready to learn.

Students should arrive at school by the 7:53 AM warning bell. Students are considered tardy if they are not in line, at flag deck, **or in their classroom by the 7:55 AM 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 student arrive at school after the bell has rung, he/she should proceed to the office to receive a tardy slip.

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 send a note to your child’s teacher on the date of the appointment including the pick-up time. When you arrive, please use the sign-out sheet in the office to indicate your child’s departure time. Students arriving at school late due to medical or dental appointments should provide a doctor’s note to excuse the tardy.

Early Departure

For the safety and protection of the students, no students are permitted to leave the school grounds at any time during the day unless they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or their delegate. Students will only be released to adults listed in the Aeries Database as authorized Emergency Contacts. Please keep this information up-to-date.

Please make every effort to make appointments after school so that students can complete their day at school. For those times that a student must be picked up early and in order to facilitate your student’s dismissal, please consider the following:

1. Students will be marked “Parent Pick Up” which is considered the same as a tardy.
2. A parent, legal guardian, or anyone listed on the emergency card must check the child out through the office. Students should never be retrieved directly from the classroom.
3. Students will be called to the office to meet the person checking him/her out.
4. Parents may be asked for identification if not recognized by school staff to ensure the safety of students.
5. Students need to be signed-out in the office on the sign-out list.
6. If a designated adult is to pick up a child, please notify the office in writing.

Dismissal from School

After school is dismissed students should either be picked-up by a parent/guardian/authorized delegate or proceed to after-school care or program (ROCKS or Project Kidz Connect). There is no school sponsored supervision available on the playground or in the office. If you would like additional information about after school care, please visit our 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

Each month, we conduct fire drills at our campus. The students and staff practice safe evacuation procedures. 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.

Emergency Information

Occasionally an emergency arises when it is imperative that the school gets in touch with you or a designated adult. Your cooperation in giving complete information and keeping the school up to date will ensure the promptest and safe response to the emergency. Besides information regarding contacting guardians, it is essential that we:

1. Have the phone numbers (home and/or cell) of at least three additional family members or friends in case of an emergency.
2. Have accurate information that is updated with any changes that may occur during the school year.

Prior to the start of the school year, parents are required to go onto the Aeries Parent Portal. Parents are required to review all district/school policies as well as update emergency information. Throughout the school year, parents may update their emergency information as necessary.

We can only release to those listed on the emergency card or civil authorities (police, social workers etc.). List people that are family, friends, neighbors, etc.

New Emergency Contacts/Authorized Pick-up and Drop-off

Please update your child's emergency contact information and authorized pick-up individuals in the Aeries account. If you do not have access to a computer, please see a member of our office staff for assistance.

Communications

The best source and most updated communication between Whittier Elementary School and families is our school website: <http://whittier.nmusd.us>.

Our school office and administration will also send emails or voice messages out to student guardians, please ensure your email and phone contact information is current in the Aeries Parent Portal. Our goal is to become paperless. Occasional printed fliers may also be sent home with students, please be sure to check their folders, binders, and/or backpacks for school communication.

Guardians are encouraged to email or send notes to teachers and staff with questions, concerns, etc. Email addresses are found on our school website. If you do not have access to the Internet, and you need to contact your child's teacher, you may also call the office, 949-515-6990, and ask to leave a message. The teacher will return your call at his/her earliest convenience.

Calling the School/Concerns

Messages for students will be delivered to their classroom teacher. We discourage students or teachers being disturbed in the classroom during instruction. We want to maintain the integrity of instructional time in the class by reducing, as much as possible, unnecessary disruptions. Please try to finalize plans and communication with students prior to the start of the school day when possible.

Effective education is built upon open communication and trust between families and educators. Guardians are encouraged to communicate concerns about their child's experience at Whittier by making an appointment with their

child's teacher. The teacher is the first point of contact. All teachers at Whittier have email. Teachers check their email messages throughout the day and will respond to you as soon as possible. If the concern is not resolved at this level, you may want to contact the principal or assistant principal.

Conferences

Conferences with your student's teacher are an important part of his or her education. There is nothing that can substitute for a face-to-face conference with the teacher to hear and share about the progress of your student. Fall (November) and Spring (March) conferences are scheduled, but additional conferences may be arranged. Please make every effort to attend both Parent/Teacher Conferences. Please communicate to your teacher should you need a translator.

Special conferences may be requested at any time. Please make appointments with the teacher regarding your student's progress or any other concerns. These discussions need to take place when the teacher is not supervising his or her class or performing other school duties.

Report Cards and Grades

Report cards are issued three times each year and based on student performance on the standards listed. If you have concerns about your child's academic progress, you are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with the teacher to develop an improvement plan to bring up the grades before the end of the reporting period.

Homework

At Whittier Elementary, homework assignments can be an integral part of the learning process and are a shared responsibility of school and home. Students should be responsible for writing down the assignment or bringing home the prepared homework instructions, understanding what is expected, completing the work, and turning assignments in at the deadline. Guardians should make inquiries of the child and/or teacher if there are questions. Homework is to be used as an extension of classroom experience to practice and reinforce what has been previously taught.

College Starts now. Homework helps prepare your student.

Homework Request for Absent Students

Following an illness, teachers will give reasonable help to the student in making up missed work. Parents may request assignments on the second day of absence. Requests should be directed to the school office. Teachers will make every effort to get assignments to you as soon as possible. Please do not interrupt classroom instruction to gather assignments. Requested homework will be left in the office for pickup.

Library and Textbook Fees

Library and textbooks are loaned to students each year; students are expected to take appropriate care of them. If the books are lost or damaged, the student/guardian is responsible and will be charged a fee for the replacement.

Volunteering at School

Volunteering is welcomed and encouraged at Whittier Elementary. As partners in your student's education, we all share the responsibility for meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students. Check with your student's teacher and see what you can do to help meet the classroom needs. Younger children/siblings are not permitted on campus while volunteering in classrooms. Whittier Elementary also welcomes volunteers in our Parent Center, please check with our School Community Facilitator for more information.

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).

Campus Visits

For the safety of our students and staff, all visitors must present identification at the office and be cleared through the Raptor system. Please schedule classroom visits with the classroom teacher. Formal classroom observations/student monitoring are by arrangement with the principal and will be limited to 30 minutes, accompanied by staff, so as not to be disruptive to the learning environment.

Safe and Secure Campus

We have a closed and locked campus to ensure the safety and security of students and staff. All visitors must check in at the office and wear appropriate identification while on campus. All outside gates are closed and locked during the school day.


Student Behavior Expectations

Whittier Elementary students are expected to display Whittier P.R.I.D.E. each and every day, in every setting. Students are asked to exemplify: Personal Best, Respect, I am Career and College Bound, Determination, and Excellence.

These character traits guide the development of our positive, school-wide behavior support systems and student expectations. We have adopted a unified set of school wide rules and a correspondent incentive program. These rules define our expectations for behavior in our school. We explicitly teach these expectations in the first days of school each year and after long breaks. Additionally, we remind students throughout the year during our Whittier P.R.I.D.E. assemblies. Teachers and other staff members use evidence-based practices to increase student learning and nurture positive behavior among students. Some of these strategies include:

- Constantly teach and refer to our school-wide expectations.
- Provide students with more praise than correction.
- Talk to students with respect using positive voice tone.
- Reinforce positive behavior through our Whittier P.R.I.D.E. incentive program and awards.

Our Positive Behavior Matrix is evident all throughout the campus for students to review what the expectations are for behavior across all settings.



Whittier Elementary

Positive Behavioral Expectations Matrix

	P Personal Best	R Respect	I Determination	D Excellence	
Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrive on time and ready to learn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk as you enter the gates. 	I am college and career ready!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk bikes and scooters when on campus. Put equipment away neatly. Show sportsmanship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter school prepared to learn. Dress like a scholar.
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run on the grass area only. Take turns when playing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be fair and use kind words. Keep hands to yourself. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try new foods with an open mind. Finish your food in a timely manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share and include everyone. Line up quickly when the bell rings.
Cafeteria & Lunch Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter and exit quietly. Talk quietly to your friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say "please" and "thank you." Clean up your mess. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get to your destination in a timely manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate your meal. Walk quietly to the playground.
Learning Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk with a purpose. Keep hands and feet to yourself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay on the concrete, respecting plants, and grass areas. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Troubleshoot and try to fix issues calmly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay silent. Be considerate of students learning.
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be responsible with your device. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use device for schoolwork only. Bring your fully charged device to school. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the restroom for its intended purpose only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a good digital citizen.
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash your hands with soap and turn off the water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect everyone's privacy. Use quiet voices. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the speaker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put paper towels in the trashcan and leave promptly.
Flag Deck & Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay alert. Be an active listener. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen and watch silently. Participate and applaud when appropriate. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know your after-school plan and go there quickly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter and leave quietly. Show Whittier pride.
Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate voice volume. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk as you exit the gates. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure you have everything you need to take home. 	

Student Conduct

Appropriate student conduct is essential if effective learning is to take place at Whittier Elementary. Students who misbehave or make poor choices take up valuable instructional time from themselves, the teacher, and from fellow classmates. Our teachers and staff are committed to providing an environment where all students can learn with minimal disruption.

Whittier Elementary is committed to helping students take ownership of their choices, learn how their choices may affect others, right their wrong, and make a plan for better choices in the future through Restorative Justice practices.

Our goal is to support all of our students to learn at high levels.

Student Conduct at Community Events

Students will remember that their conduct directly reflects upon our school community and will conduct themselves in a way that represents our school in a positive light. The same behaviors that are expected during the school day, should be displayed by students at all times during community events such as Holiday and Spring Performances, Pilot Cup, Parks and Recreation classes and groups, school community events sponsored by our PTA, etc. (not a comprehensive list).

Playground Rules

For the safety of our students and staff, students will follow the playground rules set by the teachers and playground supervisors. Students learn about specific playground equipment, playground areas, and game rules each year.

Restricted Areas

Students need to stay within the painted lines of the playground area. The following areas are off-limits to playing during recesses:

- Hallways
- Classroom Areas
- Lunch Tables (on or near)
- Bathrooms
- On or around railings
- Behind buildings

School Rules

At Whittier Elementary School, we have school rules to ensure a positive and safe experience for all students.

Always show your Whittier P.R.I.D.E.

- Personal Best
- Respect
- I Am Career and College Ready!
- Determination
- Excellence

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.

Classroom Doors

For the safety of our students, we have marked the classroom door swing areas with yellow paint. Students should walk around these painted lines, not through them.

Snack/Lunch

Food may only be eaten at the lunch tables and is not permitted on the playground. Please discard all trash. Wait to be excused by a member of our staff. Students are encouraged to bring a nourishing snack to eat. Snacks should be nutritious to help sustain our children's energy toward an uphill learning curve. Select healthy snacks, such as, fresh fruit or vegetables, dried fruit snacks, low sugar granola bars, graham crackers, goldfish crackers, baked chips, or yogurt.

Snacks for Celebrations

We understand the importance of children celebrating special occasions, such as birthdays and holidays. Our school encourages ways for students to celebrate without food, or through healthier food options that reinforce good nutrition. Please help us model lifelong healthy habits with our children. If you wish to send a healthy snack for your child's birthday, you must coordinate the time with the teacher ahead of time to be a time that does not impact instruction for students.

School Property

We ask that students treat school property with respect.

- Graffiti - no drawing on anything including books, desks, walls, and playground equipment.
- Bathrooms - no playing in the bathrooms at any time.

Cell Phone Policy - Off and Away Throughout the Day

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.

We understand the importance for some of our students to carry cell phones for emergency use after school. During school hours, students are asked to be responsible for keeping cell phones in a safe place in their backpacks and in the off position to avoid classroom disruptions.

Students may use phones in the school office (with teacher permission) to contact their parents if they have an emergency during the school day. Should you need to reach your child, please contact the school office and a message will be given to your child or teacher. Please discuss after-school arrangements with your children prior to leaving home for the day to avoid classroom interruptions. We will be happy to assist you should there be last minute changes.

To ensure the safety of our students, Whittier Elementary has policies in place to monitor the internet content to which your child has access on our school computers. We cannot control the content they may have downloaded at home to their cell phones or music players. For this reason, students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices anywhere on our campus during the school day. If students are observed using cell phones or other electronic devices during school hours, the items will be kept in the school office and we will ask you to make arrangements to pick them up. We thank you for your support of our Cell Phone policy.

Access to Classrooms

Students are only allowed in a classroom if the teacher is present. If personal belongings are left in the classroom, and the teacher is not present, please wait until the next day to get the homework or items.

Pets and Animals

District policy does not allow dogs or pets on campus. Special and prior arrangements must be made through the classroom teacher before any pet or other live animal may be brought to school. All service animal owners must show current records before bringing your pet onto campus.

Toys and Money

Toys and electronic games/devices are not permitted at school. They can become distracting and the staff cannot be responsible for the loss or theft of such items. The same guidelines pertain to money. Students should not bring excessive amounts of money to school.

Personal Belongings/Lost and Found

All personal belongings should be clearly marked with your child's first and last names. Lost articles of clothing, lunch bags, and backpacks may be retrieved from the Lost and Found racks near the office. Guardians are always welcome and encouraged to visit the Lost and Found area near the office to claim misplaced items. Lost wallets, glasses and other small items are kept in the school office. At the end of each month, all items unclaimed will be donated.

Dress Policy

Whittier school recommends students participation in the Whittier Elementary uniform:

- Red or white collared shirt
- Navy blue pants, skirts or shorts

The following minimum standards of dress and grooming shall apply to all students:

1. Students are at school to learn and their dress should reflect their determination to be college and career ready.
2. Clothing should be clean, with no large rips or tears.
3. The student should not wear clothes that display midriffs
4. Hats and hoods may be worn outside of the classroom.

Whittier Elementary students are encouraged to arrive at school dressed in clean, comfortable, and appropriate attire for learning. Student appearance, including hair, must not distract from the learning process. Modest dress is required. Please reference the District Student Dress Code Policy 5132 for more details.

If a student should arrive at school with inappropriate clothing, the student's guardian will be contacted and requested to bring the appropriate clothing to school. During the interim, the student may be loaned alternate clothing, when available and appropriate.

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

Whittier Elementary has a full-time Health Assistant from the hours of 9:00 AM to 2:30 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.

Whittier Elementary Cafeteria Manager: Donna Bunney

Breakfast

Breakfast is served at 7:30 AM each day. The breakfast program is for students attending Whittier Elementary. Service will conclude at 7:50 AM each day. Students need to monitor their time to avoid being late to their line at the 7:53 am bell.

Other School Programs

Whittier Elementary students have a variety of opportunities to take on leadership roles, participate in groups or clubs, and/or highlight their skills and interests in specialized programs or events:

- Dual Immersion Program
- Student Council
- Choir
- Orchestra
- GATE - Gifted and Talented Education

Parent / Family Engagement for Title I Schools

Whittier Elementary School/Preschool has developed a written Title I parent and family engagement policy with input from Title I parents and family members. The policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parent and family engagement requirements [20 USC 6318 Section 1118(c)-(g) inclusive].

The school followed this process to develop the policy:

An annual meeting will be scheduled during the 2023-24 school year. Information will be presented in both English and Spanish. The school distributes the policy to parents and family members of Title I students by doing the following: School improvement and program topics are discussed at all SSC, ELAC, and PTA meetings to allow discussion among all groups. Meetings are held in the morning and after school with child care provided.

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

To involve and engage parents and family members in the Title I program at Whittier Elementary School the following practices have been established:

1. Annual Meeting: The school convenes an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited to attend and encouraged to attend, to inform parents and family members of their school's participation in the Title I program and to explain the requirements, and the right of the parents to be involved. (20 USC 6318 (c)(1))

The annual meeting is scheduled for/was held on: October 13, 2023

2. Flexible Number of Meetings: The school offers a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent involvement. (20 USC 6318 (c)(2))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Back to School Night, Open House, PTA meetings and Family Nights, School Site Council Meetings, ELAC, and Parent Education Classes coordinated by the School Community Facilitator

3. Planning, Review and Improvement with Parent/Family Input: The school involves parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan. (20 USC 6318 (c)(3))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Translators are provided as needed for all parent teacher conferences. Goal setting conferences in November provide a review of the standards to be mastered. Regular reporting of student achievement allows parents to understand how their child is performing. Teachers meet

with parents at least twice a year to discuss progress. A special program is included during the spring PTA meeting to discuss state testing.

Information about the Title I Program: The school provides parents of participating students with:

4. timely information about the Title I program. (20 USC 6318 (c)(4)(A))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: An annual parent survey gives planning input for the following year's parent education classes. The Whittier preschool and elementary school programs coordinate the monthly training to be sure all topics are covered in a timely manner. Parent input is integrated into the school improvement goals and the parents have a voice in determining the most effective expenditures that support program improvement activity funding.

5. a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. (20 USC 6318 (c)(4)(B))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Teachers meet with parents during conferences to review the student's progress and discuss how they can assist at home. Parent Education classes deal with literacy support, language acquisition and reinforcement techniques.

6. if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. (20 USC 6318 (c)(4)(C))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: All parents are invited to participate in the School Site Council meetings and ELAC meetings to discuss program strengths and changes. School improvement action plans are developed with the participation of parents each year. GATE parent meetings are held each year to help parents understand the GATE program and to give feedback and input on our effectiveness.

7. Additional Parent/Family Input on school wide Programs: If the school wide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency. (20 USC 6318 (c)(5))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Elected positions for School Site Council and ELAC are designed to overlap so that seated members train the new members and we maintain a collective memory. Various committees are formed by PTA to bring in as many different people as possible for every activity. The PTA plans activities to assist parents in working with their child on campus and learning about the curricular program.

Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and school district assisted with Title I, Part A funds, the school has established the following practices:

a) Understanding the School System: The school provides parents with assistance in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local assessments, the requirements of Title I, Part A, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. (20 USC 6318 (e)(1))
The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Parents are encouraged to attend district training classes for SSC and ELAC and these classes are offered at various times of the day. The Community Facilitator works closely with our parent volunteers to train and promote activities to involve other parents. Parent Ed classes explain how the system operates and encourages classroom volunteers.

b) Materials and Training: The school provides parents with materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement. (20 USC 6318 (e)(2))
The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Whittier School has a homogenous population that provide multiple opportunities for parents to be involved in many different areas. Meetings deal with

issues that effect all the students. Particular care is given to insure that meetings are held in multiple languages so all have access.

c) Education for Staff on Communication and Coordination with Parents/Families: The school educates teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (20 USC 6318 (e)(3))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: All documents sent home are in both English and Spanish. The Community Facilitator and Principal work closely together to present information in both languages. Phone broadcast messages are in dual languages to remind parents of upcoming events.

d) Coordination and Integration with Other Programs: The school, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinates and integrates the parent/family involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. (20 USC 6318 (e)(4))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: In addition to having parent input on developing these documents, an annual survey is sent to parents to gather even more input. The results of the survey are published in our newsletter annually and parent comments are addressed individually as appropriate. Survey results are reviewed at SSC and ELAC.

e) Understandable Language: The school ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents is sent in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (20 USC 6318 (e)(5))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Information about teacher qualifications are posted on the school web site. The web url is printed in the newsletter sent to parents in September. The SARC report is available on-line as well. Paper copies of the information are available in the office.

f) Reasonable Supports: The school provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (20 USC 6318 (e)(14))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Ideas for encouraging parent involvement are shared at the first faculty meeting each year. Teachers are also being encouraged to develop a class web site to keep parents informed about the weekly activities and topics of learning. Conference preparation time is given and all parents are requested to attend at least the first conference of the year.

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>.

Home-School Compact

The partnership of parents, teachers, and students is imperative to ensure an optimal experience for students. When we all participate in upholding our responsibilities, the goal of providing a meaningful education, academically, socially, and emotionally will be realized.

School Responsibilities

- Contribute to the school-wide environment to ensure a safe and orderly campus.
- Provide rigorous and challenging instruction toward mastery of the standards appropriate for each student.
- Maintain a classroom that is nurturing and conducive to learning.
- Provide programs to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students.
- Thoroughly and consistently assess student work and give constructive feedback to students for continuous improvement.
- Be a positive role model for students.
- Treat all students and parents respectfully.
- Intervene on students' behalf at the first sign of difficulty.
- Keep parents informed/maintain an open line for communication re: student progress, classroom activities & school policies.
- Hold at least two parent conferences per year.

Parent Responsibilities

- Be respectful to all staff members.
- Show and tell your student that you value education.
- Make certain your student attends school regularly and is prompt each day (7:53 AM).
- Work as a partner with your student's teacher, inquiring about areas for improvement.
- Set up regular time for reading and/or homework each evening and take time to check over your student's work.
- Ensure your child has adequate sleep each night and a healthy breakfast each morning.
- Share meal times together as much as possible and encourage positive sharing about school activities.
- Limit screen time during the school week.
- Be watchful for early signs of academic difficulties and seek remedies.
- Speak directly to a staff member when there is a difficulty, a rumor, or question.
- Attend all parent/teacher conferences and student performances. Participate in some school functions, volunteer opportunities, and PTA activities.
- Adhere to the district's civility policy.

Student Responsibilities

- Attend school regularly and be on time each day (7:55 AM).
- Follow all school and classroom rules and expectations. Show Dolphin P.R.I.D.E. at all times.
- Participate fully in classroom activities.
- Treat students, staff, and parents with respect.
- Do your best on all assignments. Do assignments/homework when assigned and turn them in on time.
- Ask questions when you do not understand.
- Tell a teacher or staff member when there is a problem. Work to solve your problems.
- Discuss with your parents what you have learned at school.
- Read at home every day.

I understand the importance of my role as teacher and role model. I am responsible for systematically and conscientiously teaching students so they may successfully progress in their educational journey, recognize their potential and attain their dreams.

 Teacher's Name (print)

 Teacher's Signature

 Date

I have read the Parent/Student Handbook with my student as well as discussed the responsibilities as explained in the School-Parent-Student Compact. I understand that my efforts and participation in my student's education is necessary and is expected in order to increase his or her achievement and ensure a positive attitude about school.

 Parent's Name (print)

 Parent's Signature

 Date

I have read (or had read to me) the Parent/Student Handbook and the School-Parent-Student Compact. I will follow the rules, procedures, and expectations outlined. I realize that my education is important. It will help me become a happy and productive person. I know that I am largely responsible for my success, and I must work hard to achieve it.

 Student's Name (print)

 Student's Signature

 Date