

**Pre-K - 8th Grade**



# **BES Student Handbook**

## **2023-2024**

*Revised June 22, 2023*



# Table of Contents

*Click on the topic to navigate directly to the section*

<a href="#">Table of Contents</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<b>WCS Vision, Mission, and Beliefs</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>WCS School Calendar</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>WCS Assessment Calendars</b>	<b>6</b>
Elementary School	6
Middle School	7
<b>Absences for School Sponsored Events</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>After School Child Care Program</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Athletics - Middle School</b>	<b>8</b>
Concussions	8
Gender Equity In Sports	9
Physicals and Insurance	9
Eligibility Criteria for Middle School Students	9
<b>Attendance Expectations</b>	<b>10</b>
Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Law	12
<b>Bullying</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Bus Procedures</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Car Riders</b>	<b>14</b>
Elementary	14
Middle	14
<b>Clubs and Organizations</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Complaint Procedures</b>	<b>14</b>
Complaint Procedures under the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) of 1965	14
Grounds for a Complaint	14
Filing a Complaint	15
Investigation of Complaint	15
Right of Appeal	15
<b>Curriculum</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Dress Code (Student)</b>	<b>16</b>
Section A: Acceptable Standards for Proper Attire	16
Section B: Inappropriate Dress	17
Section C: Adherence to the Dress Code	18
Section D: Exemptions	18
<b>Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)</b>	<b>18</b>
Parent/Eligible Student Data Privacy Complaint Policy	20
<b>Field Trips</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Fines and Fees</b>	<b>22</b>



<b>GOSA Annual School Report Cards</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Grades, Progress Reports &amp; Report Cards</b>	<b>22</b>
Elementary	22
Middle School	23
<b>Harassment</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Health &amp; Immunizations</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Internet Policy</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Makeup Work</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Media Center</b>	<b>24</b>
Middle School Policy for Young Adult Fiction/Non-fiction	24
<b>Medications</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Nondiscrimination</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Parent &amp; Family Engagement</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Parent’s Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals Letter</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>School Closings</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>School Improvement Plans</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>School Nutrition</b>	<b>28</b>
Free and Reduced Meal Applications	28
Meal Prices	29
Online Payment Option	29
Charges	29
Menus	29
Outside Food	29
<b>Searches</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Smoking/Use of Tobacco Products</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Specialized Programs</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Title I</b>	<b>30</b>
Purpose	30
Whitfield County Title I Schools	30
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Volunteers &amp; Chaperones</b>	<b>31</b>



## **WCS Vision, Mission, and Beliefs**

### **Vision**

We envision a valued and dynamic school district that prepares students for success in a global community.

### **Mission**

Our mission is to maximize student learning by providing challenging and engaging educational experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

### **Beliefs**

We believe the needs of students, personnel, families, and the community are best met with a unified direction.

We believe our purpose is to lead students to success by engaging them in challenging and meaningful work.

We believe teachers are leaders who design learning experiences for students.

We believe our personnel, families, and community members are vital to the education of our students.

We believe in creating and maintaining a safe, inviting, and inclusive learning environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.



# WCS School Calendar

## 2023-2024

*Board Approved on 2/6/2023*

Wednesday - Monday, August 2-7 .....	Pre-Planning for Teachers
Tuesday, August 8.....	First Day of School for Students
Monday, September 4 .....	Labor Day Holiday for Students and Staff
Wednesday, October 4.....	Early Dismissal (Parent Conference/Professional Learning)
Thursday, October 5.....	Student Holiday and Staff Professional Learning Day
Friday–Monday, October 6 - 9.....	Student and Staff Holiday
Monday–Friday, November 20–24 .....	Thanksgiving Holidays
Wednesday, December 20.....	Early Dismissal for Students (P.M. workday for staff)
Thursday, Dec. 21 - Tuesday, Jan. 2 .....	Christmas Holidays for Students and Staff
Wednesday, January 3.....	Student Holiday and Staff Professional Learning Day
Thursday, January 4.....	Students Resume Classes after Christmas Holidays
Monday, January 15.....	Staff and Student Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday)
Monday-Tuesday, February 19-20 .....	Staff and Student Holiday (President’s Day)
Wednesday, February 21 .....	Student Holiday and Staff Professional Learning Day
Friday, March 15.....	Early Dismissal (Parent Conference/Professional Learning)
Friday, March 29.....	Student Holiday/Staff Prof. Dev. <b>OR</b> Inclement Weather Make-up
Monday–Friday, April 1-5 .....	Spring Holidays
Friday, May 24.....	Early Dismissal (Last Day of School for Students -180 days)
Monday, May 27 .....	Memorial Day Holiday
Tuesday-Wednesday, May 28-29.....	Post-Planning for Teachers
Thursday, May 30 .....	Makeup day for Teachers if Inclement Weather Day is used.

Elementary Schools – Four 9-Week Grading Periods				Middle Schools – Six 6-Week Grading Periods		
Progress Reports Issued		Nine-Week Grading Period Ends	Report Card Dates	Grading Periods	Six-Week Grading Period Ends	Report Card/Progress Report Dates
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wed., Sept. 6	Wed., Oct. 4	Friday, October 13	1 <sup>st</sup>	Friday, September 15	Friday, Sept. 22
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed., November 8	Wed., December 20	Friday, January 5	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday, October 27	Friday, Nov. 3
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed., February 7	Friday, March 8	Friday, March 15	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed., December 20	Friday, Jan. 5
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wed., April 17	Friday, May 24	End of Year	4 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, Feb.,16	Friday, Feb. 23
				5 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, April 12	Friday, April 19
				6 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, May 24	End of Year
High Schools						
Semester Ends		Progress Reports Issued		Semester Report Cards		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday, December 20	Friday, September 15 Friday, October 27		Friday, Jan. 5		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday, May 24	Friday, February 16 Friday, April 12		End of Year		



# WCS Assessment Calendars

## Elementary School

### Whitfield County Schools 2023-2024 Assessment Calendar

#### Elementary School Assessment Dates

<p>Aug. 8 GKIDS 2.0 Testing Window Opens (year long assessment)</p> <p>Aug. 8 GKIDS Readiness Check Window Opens</p> <p>Aug. 21-Sept. 8 MAP Grades K-8</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">AUGUST 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AUGUST 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">SEPTEMBER 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SEPTEMBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<p>Sept. 11-22 CogAT – 4<sup>th</sup> grade</p> <p>Sept. 19 GKIDS Readiness Check Window Closes</p>							
AUGUST 2023																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																						
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																								
SEPTEMBER 2023																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																						
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">OCTOBER 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	OCTOBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">NOVEMBER 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	NOVEMBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		<p>Nov. 27-Dec. 15 MAP Grades K-8</p>							
OCTOBER 2023																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																						
29	30	31																																																																																																										
NOVEMBER 2023																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
				1	2	3																																																																																																						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																						
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																							
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">DECEMBER 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DECEMBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">JANUARY 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	JANUARY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<p>Jan. 10 ACCESS 2.0 Window Opens</p> <p>Jan. 29 NAEP window opens (selected schools only)</p>
DECEMBER 2023																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																						
31																																																																																																												
JANUARY 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																						
28	29	30	31																																																																																																									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">FEBRUARY 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FEBRUARY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">MARCH 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	MARCH 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p>Mar. 1 ACCESS 2.0 Window Closes</p> <p>Mar. 8 NAEP window closes (selected schools only)</p> <p>Mar. 11-22 MAP Grades K-8</p> <p>Mar. 25 GAA 2.0 Window Opens</p> <p>Mar. 27 Secure Test Practice w/ Response Trans.</p>
FEBRUARY 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
				1	2	3																																																																																																						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																						
25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																								
MARCH 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																						
31																																																																																																												
<p>Apr. 23-May 3 Grades 3-8 Georgia Milestones End of Grade Main Administration</p> <p>April 26 GAA 2.0 Window Closes</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">APRIL 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	APRIL 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">MAY 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	MAY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<p>May 13 GKIDS 2.0 Window Closes</p> <p>May 15-17 Grades 3,5 &amp; 8 Georgia Milestones End of Grade Spring Retest</p>							
APRIL 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																						
28	29	30																																																																																																										
MAY 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																						
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																							
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">JUNE 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	JUNE 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">JULY 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	JULY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Learning</li> <li>Student/Staff Holiday</li> <li>Early Dismissal Day</li> </ul>
JUNE 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
						1																																																																																																						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																						
30																																																																																																												
JULY 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																						
28	29	30	31																																																																																																									



# Middle School

## Whitfield County Schools 2023-2024 Assessment Calendar

### Middle School Assessment Dates

Aug. 21-Sept. 8	MAP Grades K-8	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">AUGUST 2023</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	AUGUST 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">SEPTEMBER 2023</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	SEPTEMBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
		AUGUST 2023																																																																																																										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																						
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																								
SEPTEMBER 2023																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																						
Nov. 27-Dec. 15	MAP Grades K-8	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">OCTOBER 2023</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	OCTOBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">NOVEMBER 2023</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	NOVEMBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30									
		OCTOBER 2023																																																																																																										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																						
29	30	31																																																																																																										
NOVEMBER 2023																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																						
26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																								
Jan. 10	ACCESS 2.0 Window Opens	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">DECEMBER 2023</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	DECEMBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">JANUARY 2024</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	JANUARY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
		DECEMBER 2023																																																																																																										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																						
31																																																																																																												
JANUARY 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																						
28	29	30	31																																																																																																									
Jan. 29	NAEP window opens (selected schools only)																																																																																																											
Mar. 1	ACCESS 2.0 Window Closes	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">FEBRUARY 2024</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	FEBRUARY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">MARCH 2024</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	MARCH 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
		FEBRUARY 2024																																																																																																										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																							
MARCH 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																						
31																																																																																																												
Mar. 8	NAEP window closes (selected schools only)																																																																																																											
Mar. 11-22	MAP Grades K-8																																																																																																											
Mar. 25	GAA 2.0 Window Opens																																																																																																											
Mar. 27	Secure Test Practice w/ Response Trans.																																																																																																											
Apr. 23-May 3	Grades 3-8 Georgia Milestones End of Grade Main Administration	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">APRIL 2024</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	APRIL 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">MAY 2024</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	MAY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								
		APRIL 2024																																																																																																										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																						
28	29	30																																																																																																										
MAY 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																						
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																							
Apr. 26	GAA 2.0 Window Closes																																																																																																											
May 15-17	Grades 3,5 & 8 Georgia Milestones End of Grade Spring Retest																																																																																																											
June 1-8	Professional Learning Student/Staff Holiday Early Dismissal Day	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">JUNE 2024</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	JUNE 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">JULY 2024</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	JULY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
		JUNE 2024																																																																																																										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
						1																																																																																																						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																						
30																																																																																																												
JULY 2024																																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																						
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																						
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																							



## Absences for School Sponsored Events

Students may be excused during the school year for school-sponsored events they attend at the request of the school. Class work for these days should be completed prior to the absence when possible. In addition, seniors are allowed two visits to a college during the school year (taken before April 1), which are not counted as absences. Again, class work should be completed prior to the absence when possible. Approval by the principal is required prior to the date of absence.

## After School Child Care Program

Most Whitfield County Elementary Schools offer After School Child Care for students in grades Pre-K through five. Please contact individual elementary school campuses for specific details. Cost of the program is \$8 per day and the program ends at 6:00 p.m. After School Child Care services must be pre-paid the week before care is needed. For more information on After School Child Care, contact the individual elementary school.

## Athletics - Middle School

The athletic program consists of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade competition. Football is a graded sport (sixth grade students may not participate). The other sports are non-graded sports. The sports program includes cross-country, football, basketball, wrestling, track, baseball, softball, swimming, tennis, golf, soccer, volleyball, and cheerleading. Any student with an interest in athletics is urged to participate in one or more sports.

The success of any sports program depends upon the total support of the student body and its attendance at the sporting events. All students and their parents are encouraged to support the athletic, band, and cheerleading programs by attending as many school events as possible.

Whitfield County Athletics website: [Whitfield County Athletics](#)

### Concussions

A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death. The well-being of the athlete is of paramount concern during any athletic contest. Officials, coaches and administrators are being asked to make all efforts to ensure that concussed athletes do not continue to participate. Thus, coaches, players, officials, and administrators should also be looking for signs of concussion in all athletes and should immediately remove any suspected concussed athlete from play.

Helpful links:: [Whitfield County Concussion Website](#) and [Concussion Awareness Form](#)

School Responsibilities:

1. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day. NOTE: An "appropriate health-care professional" must be determined by each school district with respect to state laws and local preferences. Such individuals should be knowledgeable in the evaluation and management of sports-related concussions and may, depending on controlling law, include MDs, DOs and certified athletic trainers
2. No athlete should return to play or practice on the same day after a concussion has been diagnosed
3. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol should be a part of the medical clearance. NOTE: Athletes with continued concussion symptoms are at significant risk for recurrent, cumulative and even catastrophic consequences of a second concussive injury. Such risks are minimized if the athlete is allowed time to recover from the concussion and return to play decisions are carefully made. No





athlete should return-to-sport or other at-risk participation when symptoms of concussion are present and recovery is ongoing.

4. These guidelines should be applied to both practices and scrimmages.

## Gender Equity In Sports

In compliance with the Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-315, no student in the Whitfield County School System shall, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another student, or otherwise be discriminated against in any interscholastic or intramural athletics offered by the school system, nor shall the school system provide any such athletics separately on such basis, except as specifically authorized by the Act itself.

As a part of achieving this goal, the School System annually shall notify all of its students of the name, office address, and office telephone number of the equity in sports coordinator. This notification shall be included in a student handbook containing the code of conduct and distributed to all students.

An equity in sports grievance procedure will be developed by the superintendent, consistent with the requirements of state law and designed to implement the purposes of this policy. The grievance procedure will provide for prompt and equitable resolution of written student complaints, including those brought by a parent or guardian on behalf of his or her minor child who is a student, alleging any action which would be a violation of the Act.

The school system shall comply with all the requirements of state board rules concerning gender equity in sports, including records retention and the filing of any and all reports.

All donations of services or items, including booster club support, to any athletic program, shall be accepted or rejected in accordance with Whitfield County Board of Education Policy DFK concerning donations to the school system.

## Physicals and Insurance

Before a player can play or practice in a sport, he or she must have had a physical during that school year with a Georgia High School Association form filled out and signed by a doctor and on file with the Athletic Director. Students must provide verification of insurance before they practice or participate in athletic events. A player may get a physical with their team at a reduced cost or go to their physician for a physical in accordance with their insurance coverage. Click here for the: [Physical Form](#)

## Eligibility Criteria for Middle School Students

1. The Georgia State Board of Education Policy governing No Pass- No Participate will govern eligibility. This policy must be monitored regularly by the local school administration.
2. Initial eligibility for each sport will be determined by the grading report prior to the start of that season. Students must pass a minimum of three academic classes to be eligible.
3. 6th grade students are eligible for all fall sports. 7th and 8th grade students' eligibility for fall sports will be based on their spring report card from the previous school year.
4. For the 2022-2023 school year, student eligibility for all winter sports will be evaluated on October 28th and will be based on their 1st term grades (Whitfield) or most recent report card (Murray).
5. For the 2022-2023 school year, student eligibility for all spring sports will be evaluated on February 15th and will be based on their 2nd term grades (Whitfield) or most recent report card (Murray).
6. If a student is deemed to be ineligible for a grading term/season, the student may not try out, practice, or participate during that season in any manner. They may only regain eligibility at the next scheduled eligibility check (October 28th, February 15th, and end of school year).
7. These are the minimum eligibility requirements. Administrators and coaches may extend eligibility requirements.
8. Sixth graders may be allowed to participate in non-graded athletic events as approved by individual Boards of Education.
9. Seventh grade students participating in league sports may not reach their fifteenth birthday on or before May 1 of the current school year.



10. Eighth grade students participating in league sports may not reach their sixteenth birthday on or before May 1 of the current school year.
11. Middle School students who begin competition in a sport as 6<sup>th</sup> graders may compete in that sport no more than 3 years.
12. Middle School students who begin competition in a sport as 7<sup>th</sup> graders may compete in that sport no more than 2 years.
13. Middle School students who begin competition in a sport as 8<sup>th</sup> graders may compete in that sport no more than 1 year.
14. All practice shall be limited to prospective team members.
15. Start dates for official practices will be stated for each sport as part of the season schedule. This will be stated in the section for each sport.
16. Students may be allowed to participate in two sports concurrently at their home school provided that the principal and both coaches approve. All other eligibility requirements must be met.
17. The principal must receive written approval of parents or guardians before a student can participate in interscholastic activities. The inherent potential danger of the specific sport must be included in the statement. Student athletes are required to have on file a current sport's physical and proof of health insurance or the purchase of school insurance.
18. Students may be restricted from playing in a game or games for disciplinary reasons. Any pupil under any type of suspension from school is not eligible to attend practice in any capacity, dress out, travel with the team, or play in any game during the time of suspension from school or assignment to an in-school suspension program.
19. Students, upon completion of the suspension or the in-school suspension, may be immediately re-eligible for participation. The in-school suspension will be deemed to be complete at the end of the school day on the final day of the in-school suspension. Students under out of school suspension are deemed to be re-eligible on the first day back in school following the suspension. These are the minimum requirements. Coaches, athletic directors, and/or administrators may choose to impose further consequences at their discretion.
20. Regarding eligibility for all school-sponsored athletic events, both league and non-league, the league by-laws are the controlling authority and are to be followed.
21. Students who transfer schools are ineligible to participate in the sport(s) that are currently in season unless a true move is made. The parent will have to provide a water bill or an electric bill to prove residency. A current season starts when a student begins practice/try-outs with a school. Hardships will be brought before the controlling authority and voted on by the board for approval.
22. Students who transfer in season will not be able to play for their new school unless they made the team at the school in which they transferred from.

Note: The North Georgia Middle School Athletic Association by-laws are subject to change during the course of the school year. Always check with school administration and the Athletic Director (Chris Parker) when questions arise.

## **Attendance Expectations**

Students are expected to be in school each day unless excused for one of the reasons listed below.

- Personal illness that would endanger the student's health or the health of others.
- Serious illness or death in the student's immediate family.
- Special and recognized religious holidays observed by the student's faith.
- Mandated absence by order of governmental agencies, e.g., court order or pre-induction physical for the armed forces.



- Conditions rendering school attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety.
- A period not to exceed one day is allowed for registering to vote or voting in a public election.
- Approved college visitation in accordance with high school regulations.
- Working at an electoral poll site during an election.
- Student trips deemed educational by the Assistant Superintendent.

Parent notes may be accepted for up to 10 absences in a school year and must be turned in five (5) days after the absence. After 10 total absences, parents will be required to provide written medical excuses or documentation. However, in cases when a student's absences become excessive and are addressed through an attendance intervention (i.e. Attendance Review Team, Truancy Treatment Team or School Social Work Referral) absences will only be excused by written medical documentation.

Students shall be counted present when they are serving as the pages of the Georgia General Assembly and/or while representing the school in an activity approved by the school and/or Board of Education. Students in foster care shall be counted present when they attend court proceedings relating to their foster care.

A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U. S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted up to five (5) days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.

Individual students who have emergencies to arise that necessitate their absence from school for a portion of the school day must have been present for one half of the instructional day in order to be included in attendance counts.

An unlawful (unexcused) absence is one not permitted under the Compulsory School Attendance Law (20-2-690) and policies of the Whitfield County School Board.

Any combination of five (5) unexcused tardies / late check-ins or unexcused early check-outs will be considered one (1) unexcused absence. (Excessive tardies to first period may result in loss of driving privileges for high school student drivers.) If a student has excessive absences or tardies, the school social worker may refer the student and parent(s) to the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS), Truancy Treatment Team (TTT) or the appropriate court when sufficient legal causes for these absences or tardies do not exist. Corrective measures may be taken against the student and/or parent(s).

According to the State Board of Education rules, a student is truant who during the school calendar year has more than five (5) unexcused absences.

- The school will contact you in writing by mail when your child has 5, 10 and 15 total absences each school year.
- Parents may be requested to attend an Attendance Review Team (ART) meeting when students reach 5 unexcused or 10 total absences. Parents who do not attend the ART meeting will be referred to the school social worker. Parents may also be asked by the ART committee to provide written medical documentation to excuse future absences due to illness.
- Upon review of the student's attendance, the school social worker may refer the student and family to the community Truancy Treatment Team (TTT), the Department of Family and Children Services or the Whitfield County Juvenile or Magistrate Court.
- The ART and TTT process is ongoing and may not start over each year. If the intervention was held the previous school year, the family may not attend an ART or TTT the following year. However, the family will be notified by the school social worker of the continued attendance concerns.

When a high school student has more than six (6) unexcused absences per semester in a class meeting fewer than 90



days (6 block days), the student will not receive credit for that course. If a high school student has more than 10 unexcused absences in a class meeting more than 90 days (yearlong courses) the student will not receive credit for that course. Any student who is absent one half day is considered absent the full day. The student must be present for at least one half of the high school class period to be considered present for the class. The student and/or parent/guardian may request the school principal or designee to review the case if there are extenuating circumstances. Upon denial, it can be appealed to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

## **Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Law**

### **CODE SECTION --20-2-690-1.**

- (a) Every parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays shall enroll and send such child or children to a public school, a private school, or a home study program that meets the requirements for a public school, a private school, or a home study program.

Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of a child or children and who shall violate this Code Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00 or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of this part shall constitute a separate offense.

## **Bullying**

The Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system.

Bullying is defined as follows: An act that is any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; (2) any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or (3) any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that: (a) causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1; (b) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; (c) is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or (d) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. For purposes of this Code Section, electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.

Procedures may be developed at each school encouraging a teacher or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student, either anonymously or in the person's name, at the person's option, to report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity. Any teacher or other school employee



who, in the exercise of his or her personal judgment and discretion, believes he or she has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying is encouraged to immediately report it to the school principal. Any report will be appropriately investigated by the administration based on the nature of the complaint in a timely manner to determine whether bullying has occurred, whether there are other procedures related to illegal harassment or discrimination that should be implemented and what other steps should be taken. Any report of retaliation for reporting bullying will also be investigated and addressed as called for in this policy and in accordance with school procedures.

Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process, as stated in the Code of Conduct. However, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school.

Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student by telephone call or through written notice, which may be done electronically.

Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the student/parent handbooks.

## **Bus Procedures**

Whitfield County Schools provides School Bus Transportation for approximately 9,000 of our students on a daily basis. In order to maintain a safe and efficient transportation program and to offer this privilege with fairness and equity, we must require all students to attend their zoned school in order to receive school bus service. Any parents who have been granted permission for their students to attend the school of their choice and whose residence address is not located within that school zone are responsible for transporting their students to and from school. All bus documents can be found at: [WCS Bus Transportation Website](#)

An exemption exists for students who qualify for special-needs bus services to specific programs in another school as authorized by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Once a student has been enrolled in the school where their residence is zoned, the student and their family will be given bus route information for the bus to take them to and from their home of record. Due to safety and resource limitations, riding the bus to and from other locations cannot be accommodated.

On a limited (one-time) basis, students may ride to an alternate location as long as they have a signed note from a parent, verified by the school administrator and presented to the bus driver prior to boarding. This exception is also contingent upon space being available on the bus.

Bus routes are established between schools, private residences, and designated neighborhood bus stops. Due to safety concerns, school buses do not deliver students to business locations. As always, based on the individual needs of the students, it is the parents responsibility to provide the necessary supervision for their students before the bus arrives at the bus stop in the morning and after the Bus drops off the students in the afternoon.

All students are expected to understand and abide by the Bus Safety Rules provided in the student handbook.

If a hardship exists that makes it necessary for a parent to request a student to be delivered to an alternate location on a recurring basis, an exemption may be granted under the following conditions:

- Legitimate hardship cases may be appealed to the principal of the school for consideration by submitting a hardship request form provided by the School.
- Principals will evaluate each hardship request to determine if the situation precludes parents from being



ONE WHITFIELD

reasonably able to provide childcare, adult supervision, transportation, etc.

- The alternate pickup or drop-off location must be at a residence within the student's home school zone.

If the hardship request is approved, the student would be delivered to the alternate address on a regular basis. Students would not be able to intermittently switch between their home and alternate addresses for bus pickup or delivery.

Parents: Please make sure that your child has proper supervision at the bus stop in the mornings and in the afternoons. Our drivers try to transport your child safely between the school and the bus stop, but it is the parent's responsibility to see to the child's welfare before he or she is picked up by the bus in the morning and when he or she is delivered to the bus stop in the afternoon.

## Car Riders

### Elementary

In order to pick up a child in the car rider line, you must have the child's car rider tag issued by the school. If you do not have the tag, please report to the front office with identification to pick up your child. You must also be listed on the student's contact form. If the person is not listed on the contact sheet, he/she will not be allowed to pick up the child.

### Middle

Only authorized persons will be allowed to pick up students.

## Clubs and Organizations

School sponsored clubs (excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events) are those under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school that organize and meet for common goals, objectives, and purposes. Each school should create a tab on their school web page regarding the clubs in their respective schools. The name of each club, its purpose, faculty sponsor and a description of past or planned activities should be included in the document. Parents or guardians have the right to withhold in writing permission for students to participate in any club or organization.

## Complaint Procedures

Parents are expected to address complaints or grievances beginning at the school level with the teacher first and then the administration. Central office personnel should be contacted next should parents feel the issues have not been resolved. If still unsatisfied, the superintendent should be contacted. Parents have the right to speak to the Board of Education through public participation at a Board of Education meeting. Conference forms, notes, and minutes are kept on file as documentation of the issues. Complaint procedures are described and a form for documenting complaints is located in the administrative handbook. The complaint procedures describe grounds for complaints, federal programs for which complaints can be filed, filing and investigation of a complaint, as well as rights to appeal. The GADOE address to which complaints should be filed is included in the procedure.

### Complaint Procedures under the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) of 1965

#### Grounds for a Complaint

A formal complaint may be filed when an organization or individual believes that a recipient of funding has violated a requirement of a federal statute or regulation related to the administration of a program. The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than one (1) year prior to the date that the complaint is received, unless a longer period is reasonable because the violation is considered systemic or ongoing. The federal ESSA programs for which formal complaints may be filed and investigated are:





- Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies
- Title I, Part A – School Improvement Grants, referred to as 1003(a) and 1003(g)
- Title I, Part C: Education of Migrant Children
- Title I, Part D: Programs for Neglected or Delinquent Children
- Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title III, Part A: Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students
- Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1: Student Support and Academic Enrichment

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.** A parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth may also file a complaint under Title IX, Part A – the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and the process for filing a complaint is the same as it is for the ESSA federal programs. Unique to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, however, is the GaDOE’s role in also resolving disputes regarding a final decision over eligibility, school selection or enrollment in a school made at the school district level. Each school district must have a McKinney-Vento dispute resolution process to address issues regarding eligibility, school selection or enrollment in a school. If the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth disagrees with the school district’s decision and the school district’s appeal process has been exhausted, a request may be filed within 10 business days for the GaDOE to review the final decision of the school district.

**Equitable services.** Formal complaint procedures regarding a school district’s or a 21st CCLC program’s equitable services for children attending private school are found on the [State Ombudsman](#) webpage.

### **Filing a Complaint**

A formal complaint must be filed in writing to the Whitfield County School District superintendent or his/her designee. The complaint must include the following:

1. A statement that the LEA has violated a requirement of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to an applicable program;
2. The date on which the violation occurred;
3. The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated (include citation to the Federal statute or regulation);
4. A list of names and telephone numbers of individuals who can provide additional information;
5. Copies of all applicable documents supporting the complaint’s position; and
6. The address of the complainant/s.

### **Investigation of Complaint**

Within ten (10) days of receipt of the complaint, the Superintendent or his/her designee will issue a Letter of Acknowledgement to the complainant that contains the following information:

The date the Department received the complaint;

1. How the complainant may provide additional information;
2. A statement of the ways in which the Department may investigate or address the complaint; and
3. Any other pertinent information.

If additional information or an investigation is necessary, the Superintendent will have sixty (60) days from receipt of the information or completion of the investigation to issue a Letter of Findings. If the Letter of Findings indicates that a violation has been found, corrective action will be required and timelines for completion will be included. Either the 30-day or 60-day timelines outlined above may be extended, if exceptional circumstances exist. The Letter of Findings will be sent directly to the complainant.

### **Right of Appeal**

If the complaint cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant has the right to request review of the decision by the Georgia Department of Education. The appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the Superintendent’s decision and



include a complete statement of the reasons supporting the appeal.

The complaint must be addressed to:  
Georgia Department of Education  
Office of Legal Services  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE  
2052 Twin Tower East  
Atlanta, GA 30334

## Curriculum

The GA Standards of Excellence (GSE) clearly define what is expected of Whitfield County students at each grade level. The clear goals set by these educational standards help teachers ensure students have the skills and knowledge to be successful beyond the classroom. Standards do not tell teachers how to teach but do guide their lesson designs to include the knowledge and skills students need to succeed. Standards help teachers customize work to provide the best teaching and learning experiences for their students. Standards also help students and parents see clear and realistic goals for success.

The GA Standards of Excellence are designed to be rigorous and relevant to the real world and to reflect the knowledge and skills our young people need for success in college and their careers. Whitfield County teachers have been trained on the standards and understand what this rigor will look like in their classrooms. The standards emphasize development of critical thinking and problem solving skills in students to help them reflect more deeply and encourage profound learning in all subject areas. In the classroom, work aligned to the GA Standards of Excellence will push students to collaborate, which trains them to be excellent communicators who speak and write effectively.

The GA Standards of Excellence also include an integrated model of literacy, increasing text complexity and the use of technology to enhance learning in all content areas. Math students delve deeper into the process skills by engaging in authentic tasks. GA Standards of Excellence raise the bar for students in all grade levels, requiring teachers, students, and parents to work together to embrace the challenges of this curriculum.

## Discipline

The discipline code will be explained to each student and a copy sent home for parents' records at the beginning of each new school year. Each student will sign a form indicating an understanding of the code. The discipline code will be strictly followed. A copy of the Whitfield County School Discipline Code may be found at: [Whitfield County Discipline Policy](#). Discipline Brochure can be found here in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## Dress Code (Student)

The Whitfield County Board of Education believes that an appropriate dress code will support a safe school environment that is conducive to learning. A committee of board members, administrators, teachers, parents, and students will review this student dress code each year. The Board of Education intends for this dress code to continually adapt to changing styles, reflecting the needs and opinions of our schools and our community.

### Section A: Acceptable Standards for Proper Attire

- SHIRTS/BLOUSES (All colors and color combinations are acceptable.)





- Styles – all styles which conform to rules concerning fit
- Fabric – all except sheer, see-through, unlined lace, or anything similar
- Fit
  - Sized appropriately, fitted modestly, (no cleavage showing), sleeveless with material extending from collarbone to end of shoulder bone
  - Buttoned properly
  - Long enough to cover midriff at all times (no skin showing at midriff)
- SKIRTS/DRESSES/JUMPERS (all colors and color combinations)
  - Length – no shorter than  $\frac{3}{4}$  thigh length when standing
  - Fabric – all except sheer, see-through, unlined lace, or anything similar
  - Fit
    - Sized appropriately, fitted modestly, (no cleavage showing), sleeveless with material extending from collarbone to end of shoulder bone
    - Skirts properly fitted and secured at the waist
    - Jumpers must be worn with blouse meeting the dress code
    - No splits above the knee in skirts or dresses
- PANTS/SLACKS/SHORTS
  - Styles – dress, chino, denim (jeans), cargo, sweatpants (no pajama pants, or similar styles)
  - Fabric – all except sheer, see-through, unlined lace, or anything similar
  - Leggings, yoga pants, any form-fitting pants must be worn with an appropriately sized covering that comes to mid-thigh while standing and made of a material that meets the dress code
  - Fit
    - Sized appropriately (no baggy or oversized pant legs)
    - Shorts  $\frac{3}{4}$  thigh length when standing
    - Shorts may be dress, chino, denim (jeans), or cargo, gym, athletic, and basketball shorts are acceptable (must be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  thigh length)
    - All styles fitted and secured at the waist
- SHOES/BOOTS
  - Must be properly fastened (tied, buckled, laced)
  - No shoes with wheels
- SWEATERS/JACKETS/OUTERWEAR
  - All dress code rules will apply to sweaters/jackets/outerwear when worn inside the school building
  - Hoodies must fit appropriately and not be oversized

## Section B: Inappropriate Dress

The following fads, styles, types of clothing, accessories, and appearances are deemed inappropriate:

- If clothing is worn with rips, holes, tears (above the knee), all holes must be permanently filled with fabric meeting dress code standards. Underwear cannot be visible under pants or shorts with holes above the knee.
- Baggy and oversized clothing
- Pajamas or similar styles
- Revealing, immodest
- Clothing or tattoos with writings, numbers, pictures, graphics, monograms, symbols or drawings, that promotes:
  - Gang/cult memberships or activity
  - Trademarks, slogans, or advertising advocating the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other unlawful activity
  - Discrimination based upon cultural, religious, racial or sexual orientations
- Clothing or jewelry deemed a safety risk or unlawful (see Discipline Code)
- Headwear (caps, scarves, bandanas, sunglasses, hoods, etc.) at any time inside the building



ONE WHITFIELD

- Any objects in pierced body parts other than the ear and/or one side of the nose (One **small** stud in the nose is allowed only). Stretchers, spikes or tunnels are not allowed. Any holes in ear lobes must be plugged for safety reasons.
- Writing on rear of pants or shorts

**The administrator's decision will stand as to the accepted judgment in the preceding examples of inappropriate dress.**

### **Section C: Adherence to the Dress Code**

- During the first five days of attendance within the school year, a student in violation will be asked to correct the infractions.
- Enforcement as to the progressive discipline procedures in the "Student Discipline Code" will begin on the sixth school day for any student.

**No student shall be considered to be out of compliance with this policy in the following instances:**

- When the student's parent/guardian has secured an exemption from the policy as set forth in the procedures outlined in the exemptions section below
- When the student wears a button, armband, or other accessory to exercise the right of freedom of expression, unless the button, armband, or other accessory is related to gangs, gang membership, or gang activity
- When the student wears a uniform of a nationally recognized youth organizations such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts on regular meeting days
- When a student is wearing an approved form of dress for a school sponsored activity
- When the school administration waives the dress code policy for physical education classes or any class where the dress code is not conducive to the learning environment
- When the school administration waives the dress code policy for school spirit wear (clothing that is affiliated with school clubs, organizations, athletics)

### **Section D: Exemptions**

In order to qualify for an exemption, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Request by mail, email [Chris Parker](#) or in person from the school an "Application For Exemption Form".
2. Complete the application in full and submit it to the designated administrator at the student's school.
3. Meet with the designated school administrator to discuss the reasons and goals of the policy and the objection to the policy.
4. Receive formal approval/disapproval by the designated district administrator.

## **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OF RIGHTS UNDER FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) AND PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

FERPA affords parents and eligible students (over 18 years of age or attending a postsecondary institution) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review, within 45 days of a request, the education records of a student who is your child, or in the case of a student who is eighteen (18) or older, your own education records. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Superintendent a written request identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Superintendent or designee will make arrangements for access and provide notice of such arrangements.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. To request the school district to amend a record, parents or eligible students should write to the school principal, specify the part of the record they want



ONE WHITFIELD

changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the district decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parents or eligible students of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided with the notification of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and its implementing regulations authorize disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including school nurses and school resource officers); a member of the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); a contractor consultant, volunteer, or other party to whom the school district has outsourced services; or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.
4. FERPA requires the school district, with certain exceptions, to obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the student's education records. However, the district may disclose appropriate designated "directory information" without written consent, unless the parent or eligible student has advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school to include this type of information from the student's education records in certain school publications, such as the annual yearbook, graduation or sports activity programs, and honor roll or other recognition lists.

The School District has designated the following information as directory information:

Note: The board may, but does not have to, include all the information listed below. Information listed must be consistent with those items designated in board policy:

- a) Student's name, address and telephone number;
- b) Student's date and place of birth;
- c) Student's participation in official school activities and sports;
- d) Weight and height of members of an athletic team;
- e) Dates of attendance at schools within the district;
- f) Honors and awards received during the time enrolled in district schools;
- g) Photograph; and
- h) Grade level.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. In addition, two federal laws require school systems receiving federal financial assistance to provide military recruiters, upon request, with students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers unless parents have advised the school system that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and to refuse to allow it to be disclosed to the public upon request without your prior written consent. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the principal of the school at which the student is enrolled in writing within 30 days after officially enrolling in school or within 30 days of the date of the release of this notice.

5. You are also notified that from time to time students may be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed by the news media at school or some school activity or event; unless you, as a parent/guardian object in writing to the principal to your student being photographed, videotaped or interviewed. You must notify the principal of your objection by the date specified above. The principal will take reasonable steps to control the media's access to students. However, your submission of a written objection does not constitute a guarantee that your student will not be photographed, videoed, or interviewed, or that such information will not be posted on websites or social media sites not affiliated



with the school or district, or in circumstances which are not within the knowledge or control of the principal.

6. You have the right to file with the United States Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA or the regulations promulgated thereunder. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education,  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202.

### **Parent/Eligible Student Data Privacy Complaint Policy**

The Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act is a Georgia state law that is designed to ensure student data is kept private and secure from unauthorized access. Any parent or eligible student (“Complainant”) may file a complaint with the local school system if that individual believes and alleges that a possible violation of rights under the federal or state privacy and security laws has occurred. A parent is defined as a natural parent, guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or guardian. An eligible student is defined as a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

O.C.G.A. §20-2-667 Parental and student review of education record; model policies subsection (g)(1) directs the Georgia Department of Education to develop model policies and procedures for a parent or eligible student to file a complaint with an LEA regarding a possible violation of rights under federal or state student data privacy and security laws.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that parents or eligible students are provided a formal process to file a complaint with a local school system regarding a possible violation and to set forth the official process that the local school system must use to handle the complaint. The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than one (1) year prior to the date that the complaint is received.

In accordance with OCGA §20-2-667 section (g)(1), Whitfield County School System policy is as follows:

1. Any Parent/Eligible Student with a complaint should request, in writing, a Parent/Eligible Student Complaint form from the following official:

Chris Parker  
Director of Student Services  
201 East Tyler Street, Dalton, GA 30721

2. The Complainant will be provided a complaint form within 3 business days of receiving the request.
3. A written response must be provided to the Complaint within 10 business days of receipt of complaint.
4. The Complainant may file an appeal with the local school superintendent within 10 business days of receiving a written response from the local school system.
5. Parents or eligible students may file an appeal for a final decision to the local board of education within 10 business days of receipt of a written response from the local school system.
6. Local boards of education must render a decision within 10 business days of receiving an appeal.

## **Field Trips**

All students should have the opportunity of attending field trips during the school year. Field trips are an extension of the educational experience the students receive at school. Therefore, all field trips should be directly related to the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Donations may be requested from parents to help defray costs; however, no fees may be required and no student may be denied the opportunity to participate due to not paying.



Teachers are responsible for the organization of the field trip. Steps include informing the principal of the logistics of the trip, completing the bus request and student permission forms, making arrangements with the facility to be visited, and obtaining permission from parents for their children to participate. Field trips should generally be planned two weeks in advance to allow scheduling of buses and proper notification to the cafeteria if lunches are going to be needed. Overnight field trips require superintendent approval.

Only Whitfield County employees are allowed to ride on the buses with students. Parents who ride the bus are considered school volunteers and may attend as chaperones as long as they have been approved by the principal prior to the trip. If parents are supervising students, they must have completed the mandated reporter training. Parents attending the field trip do not need a background check as long as they are NOT chaperoning or in charge of students on the trip. Background checks will be required for parents supervising students on overnight trips. For safety reasons, one list of the students and adults on each bus should be left in the office, and a copy taken on the bus. Also, a cell phone and a first aid kit should be on each bus.

School volunteers are also considered mandatory reporters and they must adhere to the same reporting guidelines mentioned above. In order to volunteer in WCS, school volunteers must complete the mandated reporter training and must provide the school with a copy of the online training ([Mandated Reporting Training Website](#)) or school conducted training certificate plus sign the WCS forms ([Mandated Reporter & Volunteer - No Compensation Forms](#)). These forms must be on file with each school he/she volunteers. Additional volunteer requirements must be completed if the volunteer is supervising overnight field trips and/or students outside of teacher's supervision.

#### Whitfield County Schools Field Trip and Chaperone Guidelines for Non-Employees

Whitfield County Schools' students will attend a variety of field trips this year. In order to ensure the safety of our students and make the trip fun and educational, school personnel and chaperones must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. If you would like to attend a field trip with your child, you will need to submit this completed form at least 5 days prior to the trip. This is a Whitfield County Schools policy.
2. The teacher is ultimately responsible for all students, which is why it is a requirement that teachers cannot bring their own children on field trips unless their children are students in the attending class.
3. Field trips are off-campus learning experiences and tied to the curriculum. Parents are welcome to attend field trips in the capacity as a chaperone. Chaperones are used to assist the teacher and help ensure safety of the students in order to maximize the learning experience. A chaperone's attention needs to be completely focused on his/her assigned group of students. Therefore, only students enrolled at the designated school in the grade level attending the field trip are permitted to attend school field trips. Siblings of the student are not permitted to attend.
4. As a chaperone, you may be assigned a group of students to supervise. You must be aware of the whereabouts of your assigned group at all times.
5. Chaperones must provide their own transportation unless requested by the school to ride the bus.
6. Chaperones are asked to pay the entrance fee at the location of the trip, unless otherwise informed.
7. If souvenirs are purchased or snacks are brought, you must purchase enough for the entire group.
8. Whitfield County policies, such as proper attire and a tobacco free (smokeless and non-smokeless) environment, apply to field trips.
9. The Chaperone will need to complete the Mandated Reporter training and submit the certificate to the school before the trip. This is required by Georgia Law.
10. If it is an overnight trip involving boys and girls, you must have male and female chaperones. You should have 1 gender-specific chaperone for each 12 gender-specific students.
11. No field trips will be scheduled during the testing windows for state assessments.



## Fines and Fees

Student fees may be charged for extracurricular activities as long as these activities are not made a condition of attendance or credit in the normal academic program. Fees may be charged for performances, publications, club membership, etc. Students may be required to pay for lost or damaged books/materials. Students and/or parents must be notified in writing of any outstanding charges and that failure to pay these charges may result in sanctions until restitution is made. When a student transfers to another school, student records may not be withheld due to non-payment of fines or fees. The Whitfield County Schools Board policy on student fines, fees, and charges may be found at: [Whitfield County Board policy on fines, fees, and charges](#)

## GOSA Annual School Report Cards

Each year, the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement provides school reports for all public elementary, middle, and high schools in Georgia. These reports include A-F letter grades based on school performance and other useful information about the school, such as performance on statewide assessments, the make-up of the school’s student body, the graduation rate, and additional academic information. The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) creates these reports to provide parents with clear and concise information on school performance for all stakeholders.

The current, most-up-date, report card is located on the school website.

## Grades, Progress Reports & Report Cards

Whitfield County Schools is pleased to provide the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#), which allows parents to login and view information relative to their student(s). Attendance, assignments, and grades may be viewed anytime, from anywhere there is internet access. Progress Reports and Report Cards will be available on Infinite Campus and sent home with students on the dates listed on the Board Approved [District Calendar](#).

### Elementary

Infinite Campus is used for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to record grades, and report cards are sent home at the end of each nine week grading period in order to communicate the academic achievement, conduct, and attendance of students with their parents. Progress reports are sent home at 4 1/2 weeks.

All kindergarten through second grade students receive a standards-based report card which identifies how the student is progressing with the GA Standards of Excellence on a scaled rubric. The beginning of the school year is an adjustment period mentally, emotionally, and academically for our younger learners. For this reason, a progress report will not be sent home with kindergarten and first grade students for the first 4 1/2 week grading period. Grades 3-5 use the numerical format below to report progress.

The letter-numerical grading system is as follows:

<u>Grade</u>		<u>Conduct</u>	
A	90-100	Satisfactory	S
B	80-89	Needs to Improve	N
C	70-79	Unsatisfactory	U
Below 70 -U			



## Middle School

Grading periods in middle school are divided into three, twelve-week terms. Final grades for year-long courses are calculated by averaging the three, twelve-week terms. Numerical averages are designed to communicate student academic progress to parents.

Connections classes include fine arts, health, physical education, careers, world languages, and STEM classes. Connections course offerings vary by school.

- Yearlong Connections final grades will be calculated by averaging the three, twelve-week grading periods.
- Twelve (12) week Connections class final grades will be calculated by cumulative numeric score for the grading period.

If parents/guardians desire information more frequently on their child's progress, they are encouraged to email teachers and to use the Infinite Campus parent portal. Parents/guardians may also discuss monitoring their child's progress with the school counselor.

Formative and summative assessments in a variety of platforms must be used to determine the student's grade. Percentages in each grade level are as follows:

6th & 7th grade      50% assessments, 40% daily work/class work, 10% homework  
8th grade              60% assessments, 30% daily work/class work, 10% homework

**No one grade may count more than 10% of the total grade.** (In Connections classes at least 80% of the grade must be based on participation.)

All courses third through twelfth grade will receive a numeric score as a final grade. The letter grade equivalent is shown below:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
Below 70	F

## Harassment

It is the policy of this School District to prohibit any act of harassment of students by other students or employees based upon race, color, national origin, sex, disability or genetic make-up at all times and during all occasions while at school, in the workplace or at any school event or activity. Any such act by a student or employee shall result in prompt and appropriate discipline, including the possible termination of employment or suspension or expulsion of the student.

Sexual harassment may include conduct or speech which entails unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, taunts, threats, comments of a vulgar or demeaning nature, demands or physical contact which creates a hostile environment. There may be other speech or conduct which students or employees experience as inappropriate or illegal harassment which should also be reported; harassment can take many forms and it is not possible to itemize every aspect of the harassment forbidden by this policy.

Any student, employee, parent or other individual who believes that a student has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the School District as prohibited by this policy should promptly report the same to the principal of their school or to the appropriate coordinator designated in policy JAA, who will implement the board's discriminatory complaints procedures as specified in that policy. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor or any administrator. Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation





for reporting such harassment or discrimination. If at any point in the investigation of reported sexual harassment of a student, the coordinator or designee determines that the reported harassment should more properly be termed abuse, the reported incident or situation shall be referred pursuant to the established protocol for child abuse investigation.

It is the duty of all employees to promptly report harassment forbidden by this policy. All supervisors will instruct their subordinates as to the content of this policy and, through appropriate professional learning activities, enlighten employees as to the varied forms or expression of prohibited harassment. The principals of all schools shall ensure that students and parents are informed through student handbooks and verbally that such harassment is strictly forbidden, how it is to be reported, and the consequences for violating this policy.

Whitfield County Schools policies: [Whitfield County Board of Education Harassment Policies](#)

## **Health & Immunizations**

All students must have a current certificate of immunization or religious exemption waiver in the permanent record on file in the main office.

## **Internet Policy**

All students have access to the internet. View the [Internet acceptable use and internet safety guidelines](#) online. Parents may also request a written copy of these guidelines by contacting the school. The school district cannot provide an absolute assurance that students will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials or sending and receiving objectionable communications but the district will ensure that all practical precautions will be taken to keep students safe from illegal and/or inappropriate material. Students are instructed in acceptable use and internet safety and their internet use is monitored as closely as possible. If a parent does not wish their child to be allowed on the internet, they must notify the school principal in writing within the first week of each school term.

## **Makeup Work**

It is the student's responsibility to obtain all makeup work from his/her teachers immediately upon returning to school after an absence. If students are suspended from school, they are allowed to make up work, which must be completed within five (5) days of their return to school. If the students do not make up the work, then it will count as a zero. The key is that students must have a chance to do the work.

Students have five (5) school days to turn in a missing assignment after they return from an absence.

## **Media Center**

Each elementary, middle, and high school has a media center staffed by a certified media specialist and a clerk. The media center is open to teachers and students throughout the instructional day.

Overdue books must be renewed or returned as soon as possible. Any checked out materials that are lost, or damaged are subject to the replacement fee. Refunds for replacement fees (should a book be located) must be requested within 90 months of the due date.

## **Middle School Policy for Young Adult Fiction/Non-fiction**

Part of the middle school experience is learning to make choices, including material that is read independently. However, we respect each parent's autonomy in guiding his or her child's adolescent experiences. For this reason, students in 6th





and 7th grades must turn in a signed parental permission form in order to check out any YA title. Eighth grade students are allowed to check out YA titles unless a parent requests that a signed permission be completed before any YA title is made available to the student.

[Media Parental Permission \(English\)](#)

[Media Parental Permission \(Spanish\)](#)

Individual titles in our media centers are not required reading. Parents are encouraged to talk to their students about what they're reading and seize these "teachable moments" to help guide students toward selections that are appropriate for each family's values. Common Sense Media is an online tool that can help answer questions about the content of books, movies, tv shows, games, and apps. Follow the link in English (<https://www.common sense media.org/>) or Spanish (<https://www.common sense media.org/latino>) to find answers to your questions about the content of many print and digital media sources.

## Medications

All medications other than the exceptions listed in this policy, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered only in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the principal of each school. All medications must be taken by the student, parent or guardian to the school office immediately upon arrival at school and must be in original pharmaceutical containers, clearly labeled as to the name of the student, the name of the medication, the appropriate dosage, and the times for dosage. Any student possessing prescription or over-the-counter medication not in accordance with these guidelines will be considered in violation of the School District's drug policy and shall be subject to the discipline set forth in the student code of conduct and/or the student/parent handbook.

A student for whom the school has on file supporting medical documentation may carry at all times with parental/guardian permission inhalers for asthma, auto-injectable epinephrine (epi-pens) for allergic reactions and medical needs for diabetes. Students authorized to self-administer such medications shall be instructed not to permit any other student to handle, possess, or otherwise attempt to use his/her medication and shall be informed that violations of such instructions will be dealt with in accordance with the student code of conduct. Use of the prescribed medication by an unauthorized student could result in charges of distribution of drugs under Whitfield County Discipline Code 3d Sale of or distribution of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school function.

In order for the student to carry and self-administer such medications, or in order for the school to store and administer the medication for students who are unable to self-administer because of age or any other reason, parents must provide a written statement from a licensed physician confirming that the student is able to self-administer the medication and written permission from the parent for the nurse or designated employee to consult with the doctor regarding any questions that may arise concerning the medication. Such permission shall release the school district and its employees and agents from civil liability if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administration of such medication. Parents are encouraged to provide the schools duplicate medication and supplies in the event a student is unable to self-administer or fails to bring the medication or equipment to school.

Nurses or other school employees are authorized to administer an auto-injectable epinephrine, if available, to a student who is having an actual or perceived anaphylactic adverse (allergic) reaction, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for epinephrine. Any school employee who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer an auto-injectable epinephrine to a student in such circumstances shall be immune from civil liability.

## Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Whitfield County School District racial, sexual, or other forms of harassment are strictly forbidden. Any student, employee, applicant for employment, parent or other individual who believes he or she has been



subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the school district based upon his or her race, color, religion, national origin, disability or sex should promptly report the same to the principal of their school or the appropriate coordinator, who will implement the board's discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor. Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such harassment or discrimination. A copy of the discriminatory complaint procedure of Whitfield County Schools (GAAA/JAA) is located online in the board of education policy manual at [Complaints and Grievances Policy](#) and is available in all school offices and the central office. State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that Whitfield County Schools does not discriminate based on gender in its athletic programs. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator.

## Parent & Family Engagement

Districts are required to set aside 1% of the allotted budget for activities for building the capacity of parents to help their children succeed academically. The district has one full-time Family Engagement Coordinator and one part-time Family Engagement Specialist to coordinate activities at the district level. Parents are asked for input at the district level on our Parent & Family Engagement Policy, Comprehensive Needs Assessment, District Improvement Plan, and 1% Family Engagement Set-Aside funds. All funds are distributed to schools on an equitable per pupil allocation based on the previous October FTE number of students on free and reduced meals.

At the school level, parents are asked for input which guides the School Improvement Plan/budget, Parent & Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, and 1% Family Engagement Set-Aside funds.

## Parent's Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals Letter

July 1, 2023

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Students Succeeds Act, the Beaverdale Elementary School would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher—
  - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
  - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
  
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact Dr. Rena Graham at 706-275-4414.

## Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and eligible students (18 or older or emancipated minors) certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.



These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Parents and eligible students will be notified at the beginning of the school year if the school district has identified the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the activities listed above are expected to be scheduled. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. The Board of Education has developed and adopted policies, in conjunction with parents, regarding these rights as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The district will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The district will also directly notify parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation in the specific activity or survey.

The school is required by federal law to give this notice to parents. However, the school does not have scheduled any such activities as are described above. If any such activities are initiated during the school year, parents will be notified accordingly and will be afforded all rights described herein.

## Publicity

### Release Of Directory Information

The Board of Education designates the following information as "directory information." Unless a parent or eligible student makes a timely request to the principal of the school where the student is enrolled that such



information not be designated directory information on the individual student, such information will not be considered confidential and may be disclosed upon request:

1. Student's name, address and telephone number
2. Student's date and place of birth
3. Student's email address
4. Student's participation in official school clubs and sports
5. Weight and height of student if he/she is a member of an athletic team
6. Dates of attendance at schools within the school district
7. Honors and awards received during the time enrolled in the district's schools
8. Photograph
9. Grade level

Parents are further notified that students may be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed by the news media or school system personnel at school or some school activity or event. **Parents wishing that the above information be denied release must notify the school principal in writing within 30 days of the first day of a school year or the date of enrollment.**

## School Closings

In the event of severe inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, Whitfield County Schools may be closed, may delay starting time, or may advance dismissal time. Decisions regarding school closings will be made by Central Office personnel and will be announced over local radio stations as well as Chattanooga television stations. Whitfield County Schools webpage, the district app, and other avenues of social media will contain closure information. Blackboard Connect, a student/parent calling system will also be employed to inform parents of school closings. If no announcement is made by approximately 6:30 a.m., it should be assumed that school will be in session. Please do not call the school or Central Office, as lines need to be left open for emergencies.

## School Improvement Plans

After completing a comprehensive needs assessment & reviewing data sources, all schools, along with stakeholder input, must create a school improvement plan. This plan serves as a guiding document for school improvement. The plan is reviewed and updated annually. This plan serves to guide how school resources are allocated. In the spring, plans will be submitted for review by the Director of Title I, Deputy Superintendent, and Superintendent for approval. The plans may be revised or amended annually if needed. These plans serve as a guiding document for professional learning, instruction and use of funds to improve the achievement of all students.

## School Nutrition

### Free and Reduced Meal Applications

Free and Reduced Meal Applications are available on-line. Go to the Whitfield County School website at [www.wcsga.net/schoolnutrition](http://www.wcsga.net/schoolnutrition) to access the online application. Paper copies will be available at the beginning of school. You are encouraged to complete an application if you think your children may qualify. ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER HOUSEHOLD needs to be completed, listing all school age children on the form.



## Meal Prices

Meal Prices	Students	Adults
Breakfast Elementary	Free	2.35
Breakfast Middle & High	1.60	2.35
Lunch Elementary	2.60	3.85
Lunch Middle & High	2.85	3.85

## Online Payment Option

Parents are able to pay for student meals with cash, money order, check or [online](#).

### Advantages of Using Online Payment System

- See your student's meal balance at anytime from anywhere
- Deposit payments for multiple students in just one click
- Set up recurring payments for monthly or weekly deposits
- Reviewing individual student meal histories
- Automated notifications via email or text when your student's balance falls below an amount you choose

Go to the Whitfield County School website at [www.wcsga.net/schoolnutrition](http://www.wcsga.net/schoolnutrition) to set up your child's account.

## Biometric finger scan

Schools will be using a biometric finger scan to identify students. Parents can opt out of the finger scan by contacting their school's cafeteria manager.

## Charges

Students have a limited charge privilege. If a student arrives at school without money, they are allowed up to \$15.00 in charges. If the student has reached the charge limit, he/she may be provided an alternate meal. Every effort will be made to notify parents of charges and the alternative meal policy at the first negative balance, utilizing automated calls, letters, texts and email. Charges are not allowed for extras or ala carte items.

Every effort will be made to notify parents of charges and the alternative meal policy at the first negative balance, utilizing automated calls, letters and email. Charges are not allowed for extras or a la carte items.

## Menus

Monthly lunch menus can be viewed on [www.wcsga.net/schoolnutrition](http://www.wcsga.net/schoolnutrition).

## Outside Food

Students are encouraged to eat school prepared meals. Food items brought from home to be consumed in the school cafeteria should be in appropriate containers such as paper bags or lunch boxes. Containers with advertising (such as Wendy's, McDonald's, etc.) should not be brought into the school cafeteria. Carbonated beverages should not be brought to school.

## Searches

Desks, lockers, and storage spaces provided to students and teachers are the property of the school district. The principal or designee may have general inspections on a periodic basis, including unannounced searches, and may open desks,



lockers, and storage spaces and examine the contents. Other administrative searches will occur when there is reasonable suspicion to believe there has been a violation of state or federal laws, local codes, or School Board Policy. Searches may include personal belongings of students. Additionally, law enforcement officials may randomly conduct unannounced canine searches.

## **Smoking/Use of Tobacco Products**

Smoking and the use of tobacco products (including vapor pens) in the school building or anywhere on school grounds is a violation of Whitfield County School Board of Education policy. This rule applies to field trips and all extracurricular activities which are an extension of the school. All persons on school property must follow this rule.

## **Specialized Programs**

Whitfield County Schools provides a wide range of specialized programs to meet the needs of students (i.e. ESS, ESOL, gifted, EIP, counselors, nurses, etc). Through internal programs/services and external partnerships, the district strives to address academic, social/emotional, and physical needs of our students. Contact your child's school for more information.

## **Title I**

### **Purpose**

Title I, Part A is a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This Act provides federal funds through the Georgia Department of Education to local educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards.

LEAs target the Title I, Part A funds they receive to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. These funds may be used for children from preschool aged to high school. Title I, Part A is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging State academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I, Part A programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement.

Under Title I, Part A local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to provide services for eligible private school students, as well as eligible public school students. These services must be developed in consultation with officials of the private schools. The Title I services provided by the LEA for private school participants are designed to meet their educational needs and supplement the educational services provided by the private school.

### **Whitfield County Title I Schools**

In Whitfield County, we have twenty Title I schools. Thirteen elementary schools, five middle schools, and two high schools operate as School wide Title I programs. All Whitfield County Schools review data and gather stakeholder feedback, which leads to the revision of each School's Improvement Plan. These plans are reviewed annually for progress and revised as needed. Comprehensive Needs Assessments and School Improvement Plans guide the Title I budget planning process at each Title I school.

Beaverdale Elementary School is a Title I school, meaning, BES receives supplemental funding from the federal program entitled Title I-A. These funds provide supplementary services and materials for ALL students to raise their achievement in core content areas (Math, Literacy, Social Studies, and Science). At Beaverdale Elementary School, funds are used to employ an instructional coach and additional paraprofessional support to reduce student-teacher ratio in literacy and math. The instructional coach provides teachers with in-house



professional learning and support that helps to increase their effectiveness in the classrooms so all students can increase their academic achievement. All remaining allotted funds are used to purchase instructional materials and/or technology that will support students in academic achievement.

Using data from multiple sources, Beaverdale's school improvement plan focuses on improving instruction in all content areas. BES will use the following goals to guide its school improvement: 1) raise the CCRPI content mastery score, 2) increase the number of students reading at or above grade level, and 3) improve overall student attendance rate.

Beaverdale Elementary School partners with parents and the community to ensure students are learning at optimal rates. Communication from school to home and home to school is imperative. You are welcome to contact BES at any time to schedule a conversation with your student's teachers, counselors, or administration.

## **Visitors**

For security reasons, all persons visiting the school must report to the office to sign in and receive a visitor's sticker. All visitors must have a visible, affixed visitor's sticker if they are outside of the office area. Before leaving the school, visitors should return to the office to sign out and return their visitor's sticker.

If a visitor appears unannounced, the teacher should instruct the person to go to the office to sign in before any other business can be conducted. Parents may visit classrooms after making an appointment with the teacher. Students from other schools may not visit during the instructional day unless they are participating in a specific program.

## **Volunteers & Chaperones**

There are three ways to volunteer in Whitfield County Schools: school volunteers, field trip attendees, and overnight chaperones. Volunteers/chaperones are an essential and important part of school life. Recruited by teachers or the parent organization. Volunteers/chaperones can be of assistance to the school and are valuable to the school's public relations. To ensure school safety, volunteers/chaperones sign in/out in the office and wear a nametag or visitor's sticker while working in the building. The principal or assistant principal should approve volunteers/chaperones prior to working with students. Volunteers & chaperones are mandated reporters. There are procedures for using volunteers & chaperones in the school building.

Required forms for the different types of volunteers may be found at the following link: ([Volunteer & Chaperones](#))