

## Special Education

Special education is "specialized instruction" provided for students (3-21) who are determined to have a specific disability as defined by Public Law 94-142 and amended by the 1997 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It may be provided by one or several special education teacher(s). Also, related specialists will sometimes assist in delivering services for a child.

### **Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscriminatory statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

### **Child Find Procedures**

Child Find is the school system's attempt to locate any children (3-21) who are suspected of having a disability. Special education and/or related services may be recommended if a disability interferes with a child's learning. Speech/Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy are some of the related services that may be offered.

- When should a child be referred to Child Find?
- If there are birth complications or a medical condition that interferes with development and/or learning.
  - If a child appears to have social or emotional difficulties that interfere with his/her ability to learn.
  - If a child appears to learn more slowly than children his/her own age.
  - If a child has speech that cannot be understood by others.

Who may refer children? -Parents/legal guardians -Other family members - School personnel -Physicians -Child care providers -Community agencies - Infants & Toddlers Program.

### **Seclusion and Restraint for all Students**State Rule: 160-5-1-.35

The seclusion of students is prohibited in the Laurens County School System. The use of restraint is limited to those situations in which students are a danger to themselves or others. Prone restraints are prohibited in all situations. Laurens County Schools has adopted the HELP (Human Empowerment and Leadership Principles) program that focuses on maintaining a physically and emotionally safe environment. Training is provided to those staff who are in positions in which they may be called upon to physically restrain students. An update HELP training is provided annually. A Physical Restraint Incident Report Form should be completed on each incidence of restraint. Written notification should be provided to parents within a reasonable time, not to exceed one school day from the use of restraint, when physical restraint is used.

- For more information on Section 504 rights, contact, Randy Gay, randygay@lcboe.net 478-272-4767
  - For information on Child Find Procedures, and/or Seclusion and Restraint, please contact Stacey Sanders, Special Ed Director, 478-272-4767, stacey.sanders@lcboe.net.
- For more information on these services, visit [www.lcboe.net](http://www.lcboe.net) -> then select Parent Resources -> then select Special Education.

## Laurens County School Contacts

<http://www.lcboe.net/schools>

**East Laurens Primary**  
Mrs. Janelle Butler, Principal  
950 Highway 80 East  
East Dublin, GA 31027  
478-272-4440

**East Laurens Elementary**  
Mrs. Kelly Dean, Principal  
960 Highway 80 East  
East Dublin, GA 31027  
478-272-8612

**East Laurens Middle School**  
Dr. James Lawhorn, Principal  
930 Highway 80 East  
East Dublin, GA 31027  
478-272-1201

**East Laurens High School**  
Keldrick Burke, Principal  
1010 Highway 80 East  
East Dublin, GA 31027  
478-272-3144

**Northwest Laurens Elementary**  
Mr. Jeffrey Dean, Principal  
3330 Highway 80 East  
Dudley, GA 31022  
478-676-3475

**Southwest Laurens Elementary**  
Mr. Edwin Bland, Principal  
1799 Highway 117  
Renz, Georgia 31075  
478-984-4276

**West Laurens Middle School**  
Mr. Reed Waldepp, Principal  
879 Honeyuckle Road  
Dublin, GA 31021  
478-272-8452

**West Laurens High School**  
Dr. Dewana Kemp, Principal  
3692 Highway 257  
Dexter, GA 31019  
478-875-1000

Title I, Part A (Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended (ESSA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

# Laurens County Schools 2023—2024

## Parent Notification

Mr. Clifford Garruto, Superintendent  
Dr. Ronda Hightower, Assoc. Superintendent  
Mr. Tim Passmore, Assoc. Superintendent  
Dr. D.J. Hall, Assoc. Superintendent  
Mrs. Mary McCollough, Finance Director  
Mrs. Julie Dyar, Federal Programs and Assessment Director  
Mr. Randy Gay, E/LE Director/504 Coordinator  
Ms. Stacey Sanders, Special Education Director

Mrs. Marquita Timmons, LMSW, Social Worker-West, Homeless Liaison  
Mrs. Summer Faulk, Social Worker-East, Foster Care Liaison  
Mrs. Donna Sepp, School Nutrition Director  
Mr. McKinley Kemp, Maintenance Director  
Mr. Dennis Howell, Technology Director  
Mr. Jeff Clayton, System Athletic Director  
Mr. Greg Pauldo, Transportation Director

Laurens County School System  
467 Firetower Road  
Dublin, GA 31021  
Phone: 478-272-4767  
[www.lcboe.net](http://www.lcboe.net)

As required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Laurens County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission to its programs, services or activities in access to them, in treatment of them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. For additional information, please contact the Laurens County Board of Education.



## **Parents Right to Know**

### **Required Notification: Right to Know**

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Students Succeeds Act, parents may request the following information:

1. 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
  2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications
- For more information concerning a Parent's Right to Know, visit [www.lcboue.net](http://www.lcboue.net) -> then select Federal Programs on the left side list

### **Parent and Family Engagement**

It is the intent of the Laurens County Board of Education and each school to involve parents in an effective partnership with the school. A number of opportunities will be available throughout the school year for you to join our staff as we: 1) plan for and discuss upcoming school events, 2) develop, implement, and evaluate the parent involvement plan/student compact, 3) discuss and evaluate the school's curriculum and academic performance, 4) review, amend, implement and evaluate the school's annual improvement plan. We hope you will be an active participant as we strive to provide a rigorous academic program that meets the needs of each child.

### **Title I Designation**

The following schools in Laurens County are designated Title I schools and served through school-wide plans.

- East Laurens Primary
- East Laurens Elementary
- East Laurens Middle
- East Laurens High
- Northwest Laurens Elementary
- Southwest Laurens Elementary
- West Laurens Middle
- West Laurens High

## **Migrant**

The purpose of the Migrant Education Program (MEP) is to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to other children. To achieve this purpose, the MEP addresses the special educational needs of all migrant children to better enable children to succeed academically. More specifically, the purpose of the MEP is to:

- Support high-quality, comprehensive educational programs for migrant children to reduce the educational disruption from repeated moves.
- Ensure that migrant children moving among states are not penalized by disparities between state curriculums, graduation requirements, academic content, or achievement standards.
- Ensure that migrant children are provided with appropriate opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic content and student achievement standards that all children are expected to meet.
- Design programs to help migrant children overcome educational disruption, culture & language barriers, social isolation, health related problems, and other factors that inhibit their ability to do well in school.
- Ensure that migrant children benefit from state and local systemic reforms.

For more information contact the LCBOE Migrant Services Director, Mrs. Isabel Mendez at 272-4767, [isabelmendoza@lcboue.net](mailto:isabelmendoza@lcboue.net) or visit:

For more information on these services, visit [www.lcboue.net](http://www.lcboue.net) -> then select Parent Resources -> then select Migrant Education.

## **Homeless**

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Foster Care Assistance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Acts, the LCBOE will work with homeless and Foster Care children, youths, and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless & Foster Care children and youths not currently attending school in a manner that will not stigmatize or segregate them on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, educational programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs, and school nutrition programs. For more information contact the LCBOE Homeless Liaison, Marquita Timmons at 478-279-3495, [marquitatimmons@lcboue.net](mailto:marquitatimmons@lcboue.net) or visit:

For more information on these services visit [www.lcboue.net](http://www.lcboue.net) -> then select Federal Programs on the left side list

## **LCBOE Gifted and Talented**

Our mission is to provide gifted education services that are tailored to the intellectual, academic, creative, social, emotional, and motivational needs of the gifted student. For more information, contact the LCBOE Gifted Coordinator, Mrs. Dana Hall at 478-272-4767, [danahall@lcboue.net](mailto:danahall@lcboue.net)

For more information on these services, visit [www.lcboue.net](http://www.lcboue.net) -> then select Parent Resources -> then select Gifted Education.

## **HB251**

HB251 Laurens County School-to-School Transfer Requests. The Laurens County Board of Education, in compliance with House Bill 251 (HB251), has developed a process giving Laurens County parents/guardians the option to request that their children attend any Laurens County school in the system, based on space availability. In accordance with the law, Laurens County has developed a process for parents to exercise the school transfer option and a process to determine space availability. For more information pertaining to the Laurens County School-to-School Transfer Request option, request submission deadlines, the implementation procedures, a preliminary list of schools with available classroom space, and an application to request a transfer, please contact LCBOE Central Registration at 272-4767.

## **Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Corruption**

All employees, board members, consultants, vendors, contractors, and other parties maintaining a business relationship with the Laurens County School District shall act with integrity and due diligence in matters involving District fiscal resources.

Employees who suspect that financial fraud, impropriety or irregularity has occurred shall immediately report those suspicions to their immediate supervisor and/or the Superintendent/Designee, who shall have the primary responsibility for initiating necessary investigations. Investigations shall be conducted in coordination with legal counsel and/or other internal or external departments or agencies as appropriate.

For more information, visit [www.lcboue.net](http://www.lcboue.net) -> then select Federal Programs on the left side list.

## **Complaint Procedure**

Any individual, organization, or agency (complainant) may file a complaint with the Laurens County BOE if that individual, organization, or agency believes and alleges that the LCBOE, SA Dept. of Ed., or any agency or consortium of agencies is violating a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than one year prior to the date that the complaint is received, unless a longer period is reasonable because the violation is considered systemic or ongoing.

As part of its assurances within the ESSA program grant application and pursuant to Section 9306 within the Title I, Part A of the ESSA the Laurens County BOE has adopted and posted local written procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations of law in the administration of covered federal programs.

For more information, visit [www.lcboue.net](http://www.lcboue.net) -> then select Federal Programs on the left side list

By request at the Laurens County Board Office Reception Desk (see address on the front of flyer).