



# TEWINKLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

2024-25 Parent and Student Handbook

Revised 7/1/2024



**Newport-Mesa**

Unified School District

*Inspire. Educate. Elevate.*

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## NMUSD MISSION AND VISION

The mission of Newport-Mesa Unified School District, in partnership with the Costa Mesa and Newport Beach communities, is to graduate students who have acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to achieve significant career, educational, civic and personal goals, which will enrich our society.

To achieve individual success, Newport-Mesa Unified School District will demonstrate continuous improvement in . . .

- Student Achievement
- Attendance Rates
- Graduation Rates
- Dropout Rates
- Family/Student/Staff/Community Satisfaction
- Responsiveness to those we serve
- Involvement of Stakeholders
- Family Involvement
- Honoring Diversity
- Budget Alignment

## WELCOME TO TEWINKLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Mission Statement

TeWinkle Middle School is a partnership of teachers, students, staff, parents and community members where cooperation, respect, learning and confidence foster personal growth and academic success for all students.

### Vision Statement

"Dare to Learn, Dream, and Achieve!"

### Contact Information

Address: 3224 California Street, Costa Mesa CA 92626

Main Telephone: (714) 424-7965

Attendance Line (24/7) tel: (714) 424 -7965 (Select Option 2)

Principal: Dr. Ixchel Sanchez

Office Staff: Claudia Chavez, Administrative Assistant  
Laysa Curiel, Office Assistant

Nurse: Audrey Scott

Health Assistant: Mealynn Tonnu

Website: <https://tewinkle.nmusd.us>

## Emergency Procedures & Communications

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

### Parent Emergency Contact Information

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

In the event that you move, you must verify your new address with your school's front office. Student and parent contact information can be updated throughout the year via the [Aeries Parent Portal](#). The school office cannot be responsible for making those changes.

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

### Emergency Procedures

Our school has emergency procedures in our comprehensive school safety plan and conducts training with staff on a regular basis.



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

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

- Absolutely no parking in the parking lot to allow emergency vehicles access.
- Do not enter the school building. Rescue teams are equipped for this purpose.
- Report to the Reunification Location to pick-up your student. (Cemetery across the street from school)
- Reinforce the necessity of your student remaining at school until an adult listed as an emergency contact in Aeries arrives to pick them up.

## WeTip

NMUSD has partnered with WeTip 2.0, a 24-hour anonymous reporting system (tip line) through which suspicious activity and safety concerns at secondary schools can be reported via phone, text and an online form. Tip Categories include Bullying, Concern for Self or Others, Discrimination/Harassment, Physical Abuse & Misconduct, Threat to School or Students, and Vandalism.

Submit a tip online: [TeWinkle WeTip](#)

or Call/Text 844-714-1321



**2024-25 DISTRICT SCHEDULE**<https://web.nmusd.us/calendars>

TK-12+ First Duty Day for TK-12+ Teachers/TK-12+ Staff Development Day.....	(Mon) August 12, 2024
TK-12+ Staff Development Day .....	(Tues) August 13, 2024
TK-12+ Teacher Prep Day.....	(Wed) August 14, 2024
TK-12+ Staff Development Day .....	(Thur) August 15, 2024
TK-12+ Teacher Prep Day.....	(Fri) August 16, 2024
First Day of School for TK-12+ Students .....	(Mon) August 19, 2024
*Alternate Elementary Conference Day TK-6 Teachers .....	(Wed) September 25, 2024
(TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	
Elementary Conference Day TK-6 Teachers.....	(Wed) October 23, 2024
(TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	
TK-12+ Staff Development Day for Teachers .....	(Fri) November 1, 2024
(TK-12+ - Local Non-Student Day)	
Secondary Preparation Day for Teachers.....	(Fri) December 20, 2024
(7-12+ Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	
Elementary Conference Day TK-6 Teachers.....	(Wed) March 12, 2025
(TK-6 Students Only - Local Non-Student Day)	
Last Day of School 7-12+ Students .....	(Thur) June 5, 2025
Last Day of School TK-6 Students .....	(Fri) June 6, 2025
Last Day of Service TK-12+ Teachers .....	(Fri) June 6, 2025

**Instructional Staff****Legal/Local Non-Student Days****Classified Staff Holidays**

September 2, 2024 .....	Independence Day Observed .....	July 4, 2024
September 25, 2024.....	Labor Day .....	September 2, 2024
.....	*Alternate Day Conference Day TK-6 Teacher .....	
.....	(Local Non-Student Day for TK-6 Students *Alternate) .....	
October 23, 2024 .....	Conference Day TK-6 Teachers .....	
.....	(Local Non-Student Day for TK-6 Students) .....	
November 1, 2024 .....	Staff Development Day TK-12+ Teachers.....	
.....	(Local Non-Student Day for TK-12+ Students).....	
November 11, 2024.....	Veterans' Day .....	November 11, 2024
November 27-29, 2024.....	Thanksgiving Recess .....	November 28-29, 2024
December 20, 2024.....	Preparation Day 7-12+ Teachers .....	
.....	(Local Non-Student Day for 7-12+ Students) .....	
December 23, 2024.....	Winter Recess .....	December 24-25, 2024
January 3, 2025.....	.....	December 31, 2024 - January 1, 2025
January 20, 2025 .....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.....	January 20, 2025
February 17-21, 2025 (5 Days) .....	Presidents' Recess .....	
.....	Presidents' Day.....	February 17, 2025
.....	Lincoln's Birthday Observed.....	February 18, 2025
.....	Admission Day Observed .....	February 19, 2025
March 12, 2025.....	Conference Day TK-6 Teachers .....	
.....	(Local Non-Student Day for TK-6 Students) .....	
April 7-11, 2025.....	Spring Recess .....	
May 26, 2025 .....	Memorial Day .....	May 26, 2025

**ELEMENTARY TRIMESTER DATES**

October 18, 2024 (44 Days).....	End of First Trimester
March 7, 2025 (78 Days) .....	End of Second Trimester
June 6, 2025 (58 Days).....	End of Third Trimester

**SECONDARY QUARTER DATES**

October 11, 2024 (39 Days).....	End of First Quarter
December 19, 2024 (44 Days) .....	End of Second Quarter/First Semester
March 21, 2025 (49 Days) .....	End of Third Quarter
June 5, 2025 (48 Days).....	End of Fourth Quarter/Second Semester



## SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE



# TEWINKLE MIDDLE SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULES 2024-2025



### REGULAR SCHEDULE

Period	Start	End	Minutes
1st	8:05	8:54	49
2nd	8:58	9:45	47
Nutrition	9:45	9:55	10
3rd	9:59	10:46	47
4th	10:50	11:37	47
5th	11:41	12:28	47
Lunch	12:28	12:58	30
6th	1:02	1:49	47
7th	1:53	2:40	47

### WEDNESDAY - LATE START

Period	Start	End	Minutes
1st	9:24	10:00	36
2nd	10:04	10:40	36
Nutrition	10:40	10:50	10
3rd	10:54	11:30	36
4th	11:34	12:10	36
5th	12:14	12:50	36
Lunch	12:50	1:20	30
6th	1:24	2:00	36
7th	2:04	2:40	36

### MINIMUM DAY

Period	Start	End	Minutes
1st	8:05	8:41	36
2nd	8:45	9:21	36
Nutrition	9:21	9:31	10
3rd	9:35	10:11	36
4th	10:15	10:51	36
5th	10:55	11:31	36
Lunch	11:31	12:01	30
6th	12:05	12:41	36
7th	12:45	1:21	36

### ASSEMBLY DAY

Period	Start	End	Minutes
1st	8:05	8:48	43
2nd	8:52	9:34	42
Assembly	9:38	10:10	32
Nutrition	10:10	10:20	10
3rd	10:24	11:06	42
4th	11:10	11:51	42
5th	11:56	12:38	42
Lunch	12:38	1:08	30
6th	1:12	1:54	42
7th	1:50	2:40	42

## CAMPUS SPECIFIC DATES

(Subject to Change - Please refer to <https://tewinkle.nmusd.us> for the most up to date information)

Student's First Day of School	8/19/2024
Labor Day (No School)	9/2/2024
TeWinkle Back to School Night	9/5/2024
Minimum Day Schedule	9/6/2024
Non-Student Day (Staff Development)	11/1/2024
Veteran's Day (No School)	11/11/2024
Minimum Day Schedule	11/26/2024
Thanksgiving Recess	11/27/2024-11/29/2024
Minimum Day Schedule	12/19/2024
Non-Student Day (1st Semester Ends)	12/20/2024
Winter Recess	12/23/2024-1/3/2025
Minimum Day Schedule	1/17/2025
Martin Luther King Day (No School)	1/20/2025
Minimum Day Schedule	2/14/2025
President's Recess	2/17/2025-2/21/2025
Minimum Day Schedule	3/20/2025
Future Trojan Night (Open House)	3/21/2025
Minimum Day Schedule	4/4/2025
Spring Recess	4/7/2025-4/11/2025
TeWinkle Student Award Ceremony	5/21/2025
Minimum Day Schedule	5/23/2025
Memorial Day (No School)	5/26/2025
Minimum Day Schedule	6/2/2025 & 6/3/2025
Min Day-8th Grade Promotion Ceremony	6/4/2025
Student's Last Day of School & Min Day	6/5/2025

## ACADEMICS

### Academic Honesty

Students are expected to do their own work in an honest and forthright manner. Looking at another student's test paper, using cheat sheets, obtaining test answers, copying homework, and plagiarizing (copying from a book, magazine, a peer, or the internet) to complete an assignment or project are dishonest acts. Students who compromise their integrity in these ways will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Additionally, using AI-powered digital tools to generate content that is presented as original work is a form of plagiarism.** This includes having AI write essays, answer test questions, or paraphrase existing content without proper citation. Remember, schoolwork is about developing your own knowledge and critical thinking skills. If you're unsure whether a particular use of AI is acceptable, consult your teacher before proceeding. More information regarding citation and appropriate use of AI can be found [here](#).

### Academic Intervention/Credit Recovery

Students who fall behind academically qualify for credit recovery coursework. Credit recovery provides students with an opportunity to retake coursework for which they did not earn credits. The programs are designed to help recover lost credits and ultimately meet graduation requirements. Please see your counselor for additional information.

### Grades

At NMUSD, we recognize the importance of academic achievement and the role it plays in shaping students' success. Therefore, we have clear expectations regarding grades and provide comprehensive syllabi to guide students through their courses. Teachers are provided the responsibility of issuing grades based on [California Education Code 49066](#). If students or parents want to challenge a grade, please contact your school principal.

### Graduation Requirements

NMUSD places a strong emphasis on graduation requirements and providing the option for students to meet the California A-G requirements as milestones for our students academic success and future opportunities.

NMUSD requires students to complete 230 credits for graduation which include a breadth of coursework.

A-G requirements established by the University of California and the California State University are a series of rigorous courses that prepare students for admission to the UC and CSU schools. For additional information regarding graduation requirements and coursework, please see Board Policy [6146.1](#).

### Homework

Homework serves as an essential component of the learning process, designed to reinforce classroom instruction, promote independent learning and enhance academic skills. NMUSD believes that homework plays a valuable role in academic development and NMUSD policies reflect this belief. Please check with your student's teacher to learn more about their homework policy.

### Homework Requests for Absent Students

NMUSD recognizes the importance of maintaining the continuity of learning, even when students are absent from class. Independent study options are available to support students in keeping up with missed coursework. Short-term independent study is offered to students who are going to be out for 3-15 days. Long term independent study is for students who plan to be out longer than 15 days. Please contact your students counselor for more information.

If a student is absent, parents/guardians may contact the main office or student's counselor to request work to be collected and picked up, or may contact the teacher directly through Schoology.

## ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

### Parking Lot Rules/Parking Permits

TeWinkle Middle School does not offer parking permits for staff or students' families. It is advised that families that have meetings, or are dropping students off late or picking up students early, park in the parking lot nearest the front office on California Street. If dropping off or picking up students at normal times, families may use the Staff Parking lot on Gisler Street.

### Bus Transportation

NMUSD offers fee-based bus transportation on a first-come, first-served basis for eligible students. All students are required to have a bus pass to ride the bus. Students are eligible if they attend their school of residence and meet mileage criteria. (Middle School students must live more than 1.5 miles from their home school, and High School students must live more than 2.0 miles from their home school.)

For more information, contact the Transportation Department at (714) 424-5065 or visit the [NMUSD Transportation Department website](#).

### Off Campus Release

Students are not allowed to leave campus independently and must be signed out of school at the front office by an adult on their emergency contact list on the Aeries portal. Students will be called from class to the office and should not use personal cell phones to contact parents or guardians for pick up.

In addition parents/students are not allowed to order food delivery from companies such as Door Dash or Uber Eats. Any items received will be disposed of. Parents/guardians may bring lunch to the front office for student pick up only at designated lunch times. Any other items (sports equipment, PE clothes, supplies/materials) should also be brought to the front office for students to retrieve when appropriate.

## ATHLETICS

Visit the [NMUSD athletics website](#) for board policies, participation forms, the NMUSD Athletics Handbook, and other resources.

### National Collegiate Athletic Association

For high school athletes aspiring to compete at the collegiate level, understanding NCAA requirements is crucial for eligibility. The NCAA establishes guidelines that student athletes must meet in order to participate in college athletics. Please contact your school counselor for more information.

### Eligibility

Athletic eligibility and sportsmanship are cornerstones of high school athletics, shaping individual performance and the culture and values of NMUSD. Students must meet eligibility requirements in order to participate/compete in high school athletics. Please review the [Eligibility Guidelines](#) for more information.

## ATTENDANCE

### Absence(s) - How to Report

If a student is absent, parents must notify the school by telephone using the 24-hour Attendance Hotline (714) 424-7965 (Select Option 2). This is for the protection and safety of your student. Please leave the following information when calling the hotline:

- Your name and relationship to the student
- Your student's name (first and last)
- Student's grade

- Date of absence(s)
- Reason for absence(s)

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

Reference: Board Policy [5113](#) and Administrative Regulation [5113](#)

## Tardiness

It is important to be at school on time, every day.

TeWinkle Middle School strives to teach students the importance of being responsible and prompt to their classes, therefore the tardy policy is as follows:

- If a student is tardy to the first period, he/she must report directly to the Counseling Office to receive a tardy slip.
- First period tardies will be regarded as unexcused except those resulting from illness, injury or necessary visits to health advisors and verified by parents.
- Unexcused tardies will result in parent notification, conferences, possible behavior contract, lunch and/or after school detention.
- Students who are outside of their class after the bell rings, may be subject to a “tardy sweep” and will be directed to the office to record the tardy.
- Once three tardies have been accrued, parent/guardian will be notified via phone/text. Once a student accrues six tardies, the student will be assigned a detention and parent/guardian will be notified.
- After three detentions, parents/guardians will be required to attend a meeting with administration to discuss and resolve any barriers to students attending classes on time.
- Students who continue to have an issue will be referred to the School Attendance Review Team for further interventions and support.
- Excessive unexcused tardies may result in further disciplinary action and possible loss of eligibility for extracurricular activities such as dances, field trips, and special events.

## Chronic Absence and Truancy

We believe that regular attendance is vital for your child’s academic success. We are committed to fostering open communication with parents to address any attendance issues that may arise. Our attendance notification system is designed to keep you informed and to work together in supporting your child’s attendance.

### FIRST NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY:

If your child has missed school without a valid excuse on three full days in one school year or has been tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, you will receive a “FIRST NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY.”

### SECOND NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY:

If attendance has not improved since the issuance of the “FIRST NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY”, you will receive a “SECOND NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY.” A conference may be scheduled to discuss attendance concerns and develop strategies for improvement.

### SCHEDULED CONFERENCE:

After the issuance of the “SECOND NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY,” a conference may be scheduled with you and your child to address attendance concerns and collaborate on improvement strategies.

### THIRD NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY:

If attendance has not improved since the “Second Notification of Truancy,” and your child continues to miss school without a valid excuse, you will receive a “THIRD NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY.”

**CHRONIC ABSENCE NOTIFICATION:**

Students who are chronically absent, missing 10% of their instructional days, will receive a “Chronic Absence Notification.”

**FIRST EXCESSIVE EXCUSED ABSENCE NOTIFICATION:**

When your child has accumulated a number of excused absences, they will receive a “First Excessive Excused Absence Notification.”

**SECOND EXCESSIVE EXCUSED ABSENCE NOTIFICATION:**

If your child continues to miss school after receiving the “First Excessive Excused Absence Notification,” they will receive a “Second Excessive Excused Absence Notification.”

We understand that there are unavoidable circumstances that may lead to absences. However, consistent attendance is essential for your child’s academic progress. If you have any questions or concerns regarding attendance notifications, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Reference: Board Policy [5113.1](#) and Administrative Regulation [5113.1](#)

Reference: [NMUSD Attendance Website](#)

## Unexcused Absences / Vacations

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District is committed to providing each student a world-class education. This commitment can only be realized if all stakeholders, parents, students, and the school participate fully in the educational process. Student holidays are listed below for your reference.

September 2, 2024	Labor Day
November 1, 2024	Staff Development Day
November 11, 2024	Veterans’ Day
November 27-29, 2024	Thanksgiving Recess
December 20, 2024	Preparation Day (7-12)
December 23, 2024-January 3, 2025 (School resumes Mon, January 6, 2025)	Winter Recess
January 20, 2025	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 17-21, 2025	President’s Recess
April 7-11, 2025	Spring Recess
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day

We encourage families to plan vacations on the dates listed above. A vacation absence is considered to be an unexcused absence. Each individual school site will determine the academic responsibility of students absent due to vacation and will assign student work as appropriate.

## Excused Absences (EC §§48205, 48980)

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

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

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

## Grade Reduction/Loss Of Academic Credit (EC §§48205, 48980)

Your student may not have his/her grade reduced or lose academic credit for any absence or absences excused under Education Code section 48205, when missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.

## Excuse To Obtain Confidential Medical Services (EC §46010.1)

Pupils in grades 7 to 12 may be excused from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services, without the consent of the pupil's parent/guardian.

## Pregnant And Parenting Pupils (EC §§ 222.5, 46015, 48205, 48980)

A pregnant or parenting pupil is entitled to eight weeks of parental leave from school, as specified, but is not required to take all or part of the leave. Absences taken for parental leave shall be excused absences until the pupil is able to return to school. A pupil will not be penalized academically for leave taken and is entitled to opportunities to make up work missed during his/her leave, including makeup work plans and re enrollment in courses.

## Education Code §48205

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

- (1) Due to the pupil's illness, including an absence for the benefit of the pupil's mental or behavioral health.
- (2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
- (3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered.
- (4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services or grieving the death of either a member of the pupil's immediate family, or of a person that is determined by the pupil's parent or guardian to be in such close association with the pupil as to be considered the pupil's immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than five days per incident.
- (5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
- (6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent, including absences to care for a sick child, for which the school shall not require a note from a doctor.
- (7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an attendance or appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of the pupil's religion, attendance at a religious retreat, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization, when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board of the school district.
- (8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.
- (9) For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Section 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the superintendent of the school district.
- (10) For the purpose of attending the pupil's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen.
- (11) For the purpose of participating in a cultural ceremony or event.
- (12)(A) For the purpose of a middle school or high school pupil engaging in a civic or political event, as provided in subparagraph (B), provided that the pupil notifies the school ahead of the absence.
  - (B)(i) A middle school or high school pupil who is absent pursuant to subparagraph (A) is required to be excused for only one school day-long absence per school year.
  - (ii) A middle school or high school pupil who is absent pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be permitted additional excused absences in the discretion of a school administrator, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 48260.
- (13)(A) For any of the purposes described in clauses (i) to (iii), inclusive, if an immediate family member of the pupil, or a person that is determined by the pupil's parent or guardian to be in such close association with the pupil as to be considered the pupil's immediate family, has died, so long as the absence is not more than three days per incident.
  - (i) To access services from a victim services organization or agency.
  - (ii) To access grief support services.
  - (iii) To participate in safety planning or to take other actions to increase the safety of the pupil or an immediate family member of the pupil, or a person that is determined by the pupil's parent or guardian to be in such close association with the pupil as to be considered the pupil's immediate family, including, but not limited to, temporary or permanent relocation.

(B) Any absences beyond three days for the reasons described in subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the discretion of the school administrator, or their designee, pursuant to Section 48260.

(14) Authorized at the discretion of a school administrator, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 48260.

(b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefore. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.

(c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed one school day per semester.

(d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.

(e) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) A “civic or political event” includes, but is not limited to, voting, poll working, strikes, public commenting, candidate speeches, political or civic forums, and town halls.

(2) “Cultural” means relating to the practices, habits, beliefs, and traditions of a certain group of people.

(3) “Immediate family” means the parent or guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the household of the pupil.

(4) “Victim services organization or agency” has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (7) of subdivision (g) of Section 230.1 of the Labor Code.

Amended by Stats.2023, c. 601 (S.B.350), § 1, eff. Jan. 1, 2024; Stats.2023, c. 846 (A.B.1503), § 1.5, eff. Jan. 1, 2024.

## BEHAVIOR

According to district & state policies, TeWinkle students will not:

- Cause damage (vandalism) to or steal private or school property.
- Cause, attempt to cause, or threaten to cause physical injury to another person. This includes the inappropriate use of social media to harm or threaten to harm others in any way.
- Possess, sell, or otherwise furnish any firearm, knife, explosive, or any other dangerous object
- Possess, use, sell, or otherwise furnish, or be under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- Smoke or be in the possession of tobacco, lighters, electronic cigarettes, vapes, or matches during school or at any school events
- Commit an obscene act, public display of affection (PDA) or engage in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- Disrupt school activities or otherwise willfully defy the valid authority of supervisors, security personnel, teachers and/or administrators.
- Loiter on the school grounds. Loitering is discouraged before or after the school day including unauthorized areas.
- Makeup may be worn, but will be confiscated if used/applied during instructional time.
- Be without their school identification card. Student ID cards must be carried at all times while on campus for the school day. Bus passes may be used as a form of identification if a student does not have their ID card.
- Be in classrooms without faculty supervision. A staff member must be present at all times.
- Forge notes/signatures or any falsification of school forms or phone calls.
- Be in the parking lots between classes or at any time during the school day without an off-campus pass from the Attendance Office. This policy is for the protection of the cars, personal property, and students.
- Possess or use laser pointers or laser devices
- Engage in any form of gambling
- Have any form of gang-associated writing/art work on backpacks, binders, notebooks, or body parts
- Engage in sexual harassment whether through verbal, physical, suggestive, in person or using online methods.
- Students who habitually disrupt classes infringe on the rights of others and should realize that their actions will have consequences. Additionally, students can and may lose privileges such as field trips, dances, school and class-related activities throughout the school year including, but not limited to participating in promotional ceremonies.
- Students involved in any aspect of physical altercations—including instigation, incitement, or recording—will face progressive disciplinary actions at the discretion of the administration.

## BICYCLES (INCLUDING EBIKES), SCOOTERS, AND SKATEBOARDS

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



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

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

## eBikes

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

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

Middle Schools – Class 3 eBikes (Per CA AB1096), and any other motorized vehicle are prohibited on campus by middle school students. Any students with a Class 3 eBike on campus will have the eBike confiscated and parent pick-up will be required. [Use of Class 3 eBikes (Per CA AB1096) requires the operator to be a minimum of 16 years old.]

## Skateboards

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

# COMMUNICATION

## Contacting the Classroom Teacher

Please make every effort to contact your student's teacher through their preferred communication channels. As a reminder, teachers may not be able to respond during the instructional day. There is an expectation that teachers will respond in a timely manner. In case of emergencies, please contact the school office at 714 424-7965.

## Contacting Your Student

Should you need to reach your student, please contact the school office and a message will be given to your student. Phone calls and messages cause an interruption to student learning. We make every effort to not interrupt the classrooms during the instructional day; however, emergency messages will be delivered as soon as possible.

## Forgotten Items

Students who forget or lose an item should report said item to the front/main office and check the "Lost and Found" storage container.

## School/Home Communication

Our school district utilizes a variety of tools to ensure effective communication between students, parents, and teachers. The following platforms are used for 7-12 students:

- **Aeries Parent Portal:** For grades, test scores, attendance, emergency contacts, and other information
- **Blackboard:** For school-wide and district-wide announcements
- **Schoology:** For course management, assignments, and classroom resources (see [Schoology Message to Parents](#))

## DISCIPLINE

In the Newport-Mesa USD, we closely follow the California Education Code for discipline. We believe in progressive discipline, with high levels of accountability and support, when appropriate. This can include a variety of interventions, including other means of correction and alternatives to suspension. When necessary and at the discretion of the site administrator, suspensions will also be used when a student's behavior and choices result in the need for such action. In the most significant and serious of incidences, a student may also be recommended for expulsion to the Office of Student Services.

To learn more about the specific disciplinary practices at your school, please contact your principal.

Reference: [NMUSD Discipline Matrix](#)

Reference: Board Policies [5144](#), [5131](#), [5144.1](#) and Administrative Regulations [5144](#), [5144.1](#), [5144.2](#)

## DRESS CODE

### NMUSD Student Dress Guidelines

Appropriate dress contributes to a productive learning environment. Please reference Board Policy [5132.16](#) and Administrative Regulation [5132](#) for guidelines.

### TeWinkle Middle School Dress Code

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE CONSIDERED MINIMUM STANDARDS. PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SET STANDARDS FOR THEIR OWN STUDENT WHICH MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THOSE INDICATED IN THIS CODE, BUT CANNOT BE LESS RESTRICTIVE.

- Hat/caps/beanies are ok, but not sweatshirt hoods worn on head except outside in inclement (rainy/cold) weather. Hair nets are not allowed. Head coverings due to medical, cultural, or religious purposes are allowed.
- Any clothing, jewelry or personal items (including but not limited to backpacks, purses, folders, binders, sports bags, lunch bags, water bottles, phone cases, etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures, initials or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, sexually suggestive, or bear any weapons, drug, alcohol, or tobacco company advertising, promotion or likeness or which advocate racial ethnic, religious or prejudice images or wording are prohibited
- No sharp, spiked jewelry or accessories including belt buckles w/ or w/out logos, initials, or symbols related to weapons, drugs or of a sexual nature and no wallet chains or chains hanging from any clothing.
- Tops must cover midriffs, undergarments and may not be low cut. All tops must have a strap or sleeve. No see through (sheer), fishnet, lace, backless.
- Bottoms must fit at waist/hip. No excessively oversized, baggy, sagging shorts or pants or excessively short shorts or skirts determined by the discretion of school staff.
- Belts must be waist size appropriate and any extra length must be tucked into belt loops at all times
- No inappropriate wording or images on accessories and/or any apparel. These include logos, words or pictures that promote alcohol, tobacco, drugs, illegal activities, violence, tagging, bigotry, or sexual connotations.
- Jeans may have rips, but nothing above mid-thigh.
- Socks may not be pulled up to meet the bottom of shorts.

- Shoes must be enclosed and have heel straps. Flip-flops, sandals, slippers or any open-toe, backless shoes are not allowed
- Dress code must be followed on school property during school hours or any school games or activities
- TeWinkle Administration will use discretion and reserves the right to determine whether any specific article of clothing or hairstyle meets the requirement of “disrupting the educational process” and to amend the dress code during the school year to protect the school learning environment. If a student is in violation of dress code the following progressive disciplinary actions will be taken in addition to notifying the parent/guardian:
  - Opportunities to change into clothing they have (such as PE uniform), or loaner clothes (provided by school).
  - Campus Beautification projects
  - Detention
  - Parent/Admin conference
  - Loss of Privileges

## EXTRACURRICULAR

Participation in extracurricular activities comes with expectations. Students are expected to demonstrate responsibility and respect towards their chosen activities and their peers. School-wide rules and expectations are in force when students participate in such activities. Any violation of these expectations may result in disciplinary action in alignment with school and board policy. Violations of school policies or discipline infractions may prohibit a student’s participation in activities.

### ASB

ASB stands for Associated Student Body and promotes collaborative and communication skills. Our ASB students plan, organize, and participate in such activities as dances, Spirit Week, school wide competitions, community awareness projects, and cultural events throughout the year. Students must maintain high academic and citizenship grades to remain in the class and are additionally required to do community service each quarter. ASB officers are elected or appointed to the class each spring for the following school year. Our goal in ASB is to help develop young leaders and representatives.

- Assists in carrying out school activities
- Promotes leadership and responsibility
- Officers elected 1st quarter in the following school year.
- Develop the Three Styles of Leadership
- Practice Communication skills
- Create Personal and Social Responsibilities
- Enhance Collaboration and Social Development
- Continuously support a positive and safe school culture

### Dance Policies

Students interested in attending TeWinkle school dances are reminded that this is a privilege and an extracurricular activity offered to students that meet certain criteria. While we encourage all students to attend, we must uphold these requirements to ensure that students have earned the opportunity to attend. These requirements include:

- Academic Performance: Students may be required to meet certain academic standards, such as maintaining a minimum GPA or having no failing grades in their classes.
- Behavior: Students need to have good behavioral records, with no recent suspensions, or significant disciplinary actions.
- Attendance: Consistent school attendance is a requirement. Students may need to have a certain percentage of attendance or fewer than a set number of unexcused absences and/or tardies.
- Permission Slips: A signed permission slip from a parent or guardian is required for a student to attend the dance.

- **Ticket Purchase/Fee Payment:** There might be a small fee to attend the dance, and students need to have paid this fee in advance.: Tickets for the dance are sold in advance, and students must purchase these tickets within a specified timeframe.
- **Dress Code:** Students need to adhere to the dress code for the dance, which is outlined in the “Dress Code” section on page 17.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips provide valuable opportunities for students to enhance their learning experiences beyond the classroom. To ensure the success and safety of all participants, it is essential that students understand and agree to the behavior expectations before, during and after field trips. Students who fail to adhere to the expectations may lose their privilege to participate in field trips. For more information, please contact the student advisor overseeing your student’s field trip.

## HEALTH OFFICE

The school nurse is the health expert at school and uses professional skills to promote the well-being and success of students. The health assistant also provides support to students under the direction of the school nurse. Please contact the school for more information or if your student has a health concern and you would like to consult with the school nurse. Check the [Health Services website](#) for more information.

### Immunizations

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

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

### Medical Exemptions for Immunization Requirements

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

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

### Physical Exams and Oral Health Assessment

Physical exams and oral health assessments are required at specified grade levels. Please refer to student enrollment information located on the [Health Services website](#) for information about school health requirements.

### Independent Toileting

The district recognizes that some students may need occasional assistance with toileting and seeks to provide a supportive, hygienic, and inclusive environment for all students. Parents are encouraged to notify and collaborate with the school of attendance if their student does not use the toilet independently.

### Medication and Medical Procedures

Medication and medical procedures at school require written authorization from the parent and the prescribing physician. Forms are available from the school or the [Health Services website](#). Medication must be in a pharmacy labeled container for the medication to be given at school. Over-the-counter medication and products also require written physician orders and must be provided in the original container. Please provide the school with extra medication for disaster preparation.

## Illness Prevention and Health Checks Prior to School

School nurses work collaboratively with the Orange County Health Care Agency regarding communicable disease concerns at school. For the health and safety of students, and to minimize the potential spread of illness to students and staff, parents are asked to conduct a health check at home prior to sending students to school. If your student is ill, please keep your student home, contact your doctor, and notify the school and school nurse. We ask you to keep your student home if the following symptoms are present:

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

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

## Current Health and Contact Information

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

## 911 Calls

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

## Health Screenings

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

## Medi-Cal Program for Local Education Agencies

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

## NUTRITION

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

For questions or concerns, please contact Nutrition Services at 714-424-5090.

Reference: Administrative Regulations [3550](#) and [5141.27](#)

Breakfast is served from 7:15 AM - 8:00 AM in the cafeteria.

## PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### PTA Website

<https://tewinkle.nmusd.us/community/tewinkle-pta>

### School Site Council Website

<https://tewinkle.nmusd.us/community/school-site-council>

### ELAC Website

<https://tewinkle.nmusd.us/community/english-learner-advisory-committee-elac>

### Estancia/TeWinkle Schools Foundation

<https://tewinkle.nmusd.us/community/estanciatewinkle-schools-foundation>

### City of Costa Mesa Teen Center at TeWinkle (after school care)

<https://tewinkle.nmusd.us/community/teen-center>

## TeWinkle Parent and Family Engagement Policy

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

The school followed this process to develop the policy: Parent Orientation held in August and Back to School Night held in September.

The school distributes the policy to parents and family members of Title I students by doing the following: Changing locations to give proximity to families without transportation, providing childcare, translation, and flexible meeting times. Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program to involve and engage parents and family members in the Title I program at TeWinkle Intermediate School, the following practices have been established:

1. Annual Meeting: The school convenes an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited to attend and encouraged to attend, to inform parents and family members of their school's participation in the Title I program and to explain the requirements, and the right of the parents to be involved. (20 USC 6318 (c)(1))
2. Flexible Number of Meetings: The school offers a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parent involvement. (20 USC 6318 (c)(2))  
The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Meetings are held at Pomona and Rea Elementary; child care is provided with meetings in early evening.
3. Planning, Review and Improvement with Parent/Family Input: The school involves parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program, including the planning,

review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan. (20 USC 6318(c)(3))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Student/Parent/Teacher conferences, Back to School Night, IEP, and SST meetings, TeWinkle Information Night, school loop grades, goal setting.

Information about the Title I Program:

The school provides parents of participating students with:

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

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Offering district resources at various locations, parenting classes, general information meetings, internet communication in English and Spanish.

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

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Parenting classes, local resources, counselor, SST meetings, conferences.

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

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: PTA Meeting, ELAC Meeting, parent surveys, parent meetings.

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

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: School Site Council, parent surveys, PTA

#### Building Capacity for Involvement

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

a) Understanding the School System: The school provides parents with assistance in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local assessments, the requirements of Title I, Part A, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

(20 USC 6318 (e)(1))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Parent Advisory Council, PTA, ELAC, School Site Council, Challenge Days, Positive Behavior Committee, Technology Committee.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at (714) 424-7965. \*\*\*Please note: all policies and/or dates subject to change\*\*\*

Committee, Registration Meetings, TeWinkle parent survey.

b) Materials and Training: The school provides parents with materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement. (20 USC 6318(e)(2))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: ELAC and English Learner Program

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

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: School to home messages in home language through broadcast system, through Blackboard, and through School Loop.

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

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: PTA, School Site Council, ELAC meetings, Parent surveys.

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

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Letter, web home page, f) Reasonable Supports: The school provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (20 USC 6318 (e) (14))

The activities the school will carry out to address this requirement include: Student/Parent/Teacher Conference Training, training on Blackboard school to home communication system and School Loop training.

**Accessibility**

TeWinkle Intermediate School to the extent practicable, provides opportunities for the informed participation of all parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory students) including providing information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents understand.

## PBIS (POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS)

<span style="float: left; font-size: 2em;">T</span> <b>TeWinkle Trojans R.E.A.P the Benefits of Exemplary Behavior</b> <span style="float: right; font-size: 2em;">T</span>					
	CLASSROOM	WALKWAYS	QUAD/ LUNCH TABLES/ FIELD	BUS	LIBRARY/LABS
RESPECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use positive language</li> <li>• Respect classmates and teachers</li> <li>• Keep the classroom clean</li> <li>• CHAMPS</li> <li>• Respect belongings of classmates and teachers</li> <li>• Use good manners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of personal space</li> <li>• Keep hands to self</li> <li>• Walk at all times</li> <li>• Leave posters as they are</li> <li>• Follow school rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wait calmly for your turn in line</li> <li>• Listen to adults</li> <li>• Follow school rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to bus driver</li> <li>• Line up in an orderly fashion</li> <li>• Respect each other's item</li> <li>• Use positive language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use equipment and resources properly</li> <li>• Print only necessary school items</li> <li>• Follow adult directions and computer rules</li> </ul>
EMPATHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help others</li> <li>• Practice patience and teamwork</li> <li>• Accept differences</li> <li>• Work well with others</li> <li>• Be kind</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help fellow students</li> <li>• Be aware of other classes</li> <li>• Greet other students and staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep your place in line</li> <li>• Say Please and thank you when served</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make room when needed for all students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHAMPS: Conversation level 0-1</li> <li>• Return books on time and in good condition</li> <li>• Use computers for school work only</li> </ul>
ACCOUNTABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Own your actions and choices</li> <li>• Practice honesty</li> <li>• Be prepared</li> <li>• Advocate for yourself and others</li> <li>• Recycle paper and plastic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go directly to your destination</li> <li>• Reach your destination on time</li> <li>• Report any issues</li> <li>• Monitor your noise level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only take food you are going to eat</li> <li>• Dispose of food in the proper manner</li> <li>• Recycle when possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have your bus pass</li> <li>• Follow all bus safety rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work quietly in assigned area</li> <li>• Ask for help when needed</li> <li>• Use time wisely</li> <li>• Use appropriate websites</li> </ul>
PRIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School spirit</li> <li>• Be a role model</li> <li>• Do your best work</li> <li>• Keep space clean</li> <li>• SLANT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Spirit</li> <li>• Place all trash in trash cans</li> <li>• Model expected behaviors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Spirit</li> <li>• Help keep the lunch area clean</li> <li>• Pick up trash</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School spirit</li> <li>• Follow school rules</li> <li>• Keep your bus clean</li> <li>• Be a positive representative of TeWinkle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School spirit</li> <li>• Stay quiet and attentive</li> <li>• Keep work area clean</li> </ul>



## STUDENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

### Counseling and Guidance

The high school counseling department and guidance office play a vital role in supporting students throughout their academic journey in NMUSD. The primary purpose is to provide comprehensive guidance and support to help students achieve academic success, personal growth and future readiness.

We have established a policy regarding schedule changes to ensure a smooth and efficient process for all students. In most cases, students will not be able to request schedule changes after the designated deadlines. Please check with your school counselor for more information.

Mrs. Carolina Giraldo 7th Grade Counselor 714-424-4914 [cgiraldo@nmusd.us](mailto:cgiraldo@nmusd.us)

Mrs. Angela Mercado 8th Grade Counselor 714-424-5907 [amercado@nmusd.us](mailto:amercado@nmusd.us)

### School Community Facilitator

The School Community Facilitator (SCF) coordinates parent education and encourages involvement in school programs and activities, assists with communication between the school and parents, and connects families with school services and community agencies.

Ms. Leticia Gallegos 714-424-5684 [lgallegos@nmusd.us](mailto:lgallegos@nmusd.us)

Ms. Josephine Colindres 714-424-4719 [jcolindres@nmusd.us](mailto:jcolindres@nmusd.us)

### School Psychologist

School Psychologists are uniquely qualified members of school teams that support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. They apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior, to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. School Psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community.

TBD 714-424-5696

### Foster Youth & Homeless Liaison

Foster youth and homeless students have certain rights under California and United States law. For information concerning these rights, please contact the District's liaison for homeless children and youths, Christy Flores, who may be contacted at 714-424-7553.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Cell Phone Policy

NMUSD recognizes that the use of smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus may be beneficial to student learning and well-being but could be disruptive of the instructional program in some circumstances. The district permits limited use of mobile communication devices on campus in accordance with law and [Board Policy 5131.8](#).

### Acceptable Use Agreement & Digital Safety

Every student in NMUSD participates in a digital learning environment with 1:1 Chromebooks. Parents and students are presented with an Acceptable Use Agreement and other agreements relating to ethical and responsible use of technology. Students who violate digital safety policies may face disciplinary action. Fees have been established for

replacement of damaged or lost equipment and are included in the Acceptable Use Agreement. Parents/guardians may review the agreement at [www.nmusd.us/etua](http://www.nmusd.us/etua).

## Student Use of Technology

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

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

Reference: Board Policy [6163.4](#) and Administrative Regulation [6163.4](#)

## THEFT/LOST AND FOUND

TeWinkle Middle School is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Students should make every effort to prevent the theft of personal property while attending school. The following preventative actions will help reduce the likelihood of theft on campus:

- Do not bring valuable items that are not needed for school.
- Do not leave any items unattended in a classroom, locker room, or during break/lunch.
- Do not leave backpacks or other items in an unlocked locker. Do not give your locker combination to other students.

All lost articles should be turned in to the front office. Unclaimed items will be donated twice a year at the end of each semester (December & June).

## VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

All visitors to NMUSD school sites must check in at the school front office and will be required to be cleared through the Raptor visitor management system.

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

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

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & REQUIRED NOTICES

### Bullying Policy

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

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

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

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

Sarah Coley  
Administrative Director I, Student Services  
Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer  
714-424-5016 | [scoley@nmusd.us](mailto:scoley@nmusd.us)

### Civility Policy

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

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among members of the school community including all employees, parents/guardians, students, and the public at all schools, district facilities, and at athletic and extracurricular events. This policy is not intended to deprive any person of his/her right to freedom of expression that is protected from governmental restriction on school grounds and district facilities/activities. Uncivil conduct does not include the expression of controversial or differing viewpoints.

The basic purpose of this policy is three-fold:

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

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

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

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

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

Reference: Board Policy [1313](#) and Administrative Regulation [1313](#).

## Dangerous Objects/Weapons

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

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

Weapons and dangerous objects include, but are not limited to any firearm, stun gun, air gun, spring activated gun, toy guns (imitation firearms), slingshots, bludgeons, brass knuckles, any knife (including pocket knives and cutting blades), chains, clubs, stars, explosives, fireworks, etc. Also included are articles designed for other purposes but which could easily be used to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate (examples are belts, files, compasses, Scissors, bats, etc.). The Federal Gun Free Schools Act requires that any student bringing a firearm to school is subject to one calendar year of expulsion and referral of the student to law enforcement.

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

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

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

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

Reference: Board Policies [3515.7](#), [5131.7](#) and Administrative Regulation [5131.7](#)

## Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Controlled Substances

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

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

Reference: Board Policies [5131.6](#), [5131.62](#) and Administrative Regulations [5144.11](#), [5144.1](#).

## English Learner Supports/Reclassification

### Language Acquisition Programs

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

Newport-Mesa also offers two Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Programs: Mandarin Dual Immersion and Spanish Dual-Immersion. The 2024-25 dual immersion programs are offered to students in grades K through 9. To learn more about NMUSD dual immersion programs, please visit the [NMUSD Dual Immersion webpage](#).

### Requesting a Language Acquisition Program

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

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

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

Parents of English learners have a right to decline or opt their children out of the school district’s language acquisition program or opt out of particular English learner service(s) within a language acquisition program. However, districts remain obligated to provide the student meaningful instruction until the student is reclassified, inform the parent when progress is not made, and offer the parent programs and services to consider at that time.

## Language Assessment

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

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

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

The [ELPAC website](#) has the following materials to help parents understand the ELPAC. These materials include:

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

## Reclassification (Exit) Criteria

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

GRADE	1. PROFICIENCY ON LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT	2. DEMONSTRATION OF “BASIC SKILLS”		3. TEACHER EVALUATION & EL COORDINATOR RECOMMENDATION	4. PARENT OPINION & CONSULTATION
		OTHER MEASURES	REQUIRED SCORE		
7	ELPAC: Overall Performance Level 4	CAASPP ELA <u>or</u>	3 or 4	A. Students will qualify on the teacher evaluation criterion based on report card grades grade of C or better in ELD or ELA. B. If grades are lower than above, teacher may complete a “Teacher Evaluation” form to determine if the student’s grade is not due to language acquisition issues in order to satisfy this requirement.	✓
		STAR IRL	5.8		
8	Same as Above	CAASPP ELA <u>or</u>	3 or 4	Same as Above	✓
		STAR IRL	5.8		
9	Same as Above	8 <sup>th</sup> grade CAASPP ELA <u>or</u>	3 or 4	Same as Above	✓
		STAR IRL	6.6		
10	Same as Above	STAR IRL <u>or</u>	6.6	Same as Above	✓
			3 or 4		
11	Same as Above	STAR IRL <u>or</u>	8.2	Same as Above	✓
			3 or 4		
12	Same as Above	11 <sup>th</sup> grade CAASPP ELA <u>or</u>	3 or 4	Same as Above	✓
		STAR IRL	8.2		

## Homeless Liaison/McKinney Vento

### Homeless Liaison

Homeless pupils have certain rights under California and United States law. For information concerning these rights, please contact the District's liaison for homeless children and youths, Christy Flores, who may be contacted at 714-424-7553.

### McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

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

### Does your living situation meet the definition of homelessness?

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

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

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

### Additional Definition:

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

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

For more information, including rights and services, visit the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program website at [www.nmusd.us/homeless](http://www.nmusd.us/homeless) or contact the district's McKinney-Vento liaison Christy Flores at [cflores@nmusd.us](mailto:cflores@nmusd.us) or 714-424-7553.

## Immigration Status of Pupils

### Your Child has the Right to a Free Public Education

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

### Information Required for School Enrollment

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

## Confidentiality of Personal Information

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

### **Family Safety Plans if You Are Detained or Deported**

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

### **Right to File a Complaint**

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

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

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

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

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

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

### **NMUSD Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

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

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

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

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



## Title I Schools

The Superintendent or designee shall involve parents/guardians in establishing district expectations and objectives for meaningful parent/guardian and family engagement in schools supported by Title I funding, developing strategies that describe how the district will carry out each activity listed in 20 USC 6318, as contained in the accompanying administrative regulation, and implementing and evaluating such programs, activities, and procedures. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct outreach to all parents/guardians. (Education Code 11503; 20 USC 6318) When the district's Title I, Part A allocation exceeds the amount specified in 20 USC 6318, the Board shall reserve at least one percent of the funding to implement parent/guardian and family engagement activities. The Superintendent or designee shall involve parents/guardians and family members of participating students in decisions regarding how the district's Title I funds will be allotted for parent/guardian and family engagement activities and shall ensure that priority is given to schools in high poverty areas in accordance with law. (20 USC 6318, 6631)

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

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

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

## Non-Title I Schools

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

Reference: Board Policy [6020](#)

## Non-Discrimination

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

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

Sarah Coley  
Administrative Director I, Student Services  
Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer  
714-424-5016 | [scoley@nmusd.us](mailto:scoley@nmusd.us)

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

Reference: Board Policies [0410](#), [5145.3](#), and Administrative Regulation [5145.3](#)

### **Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students**

NMUSD applies no rule concerning a student's actual or potential parental, family, or marital status that treats students differently on the basis of sex.

- I. NMUSD does not exclude or deny any student from any educational program or activity solely on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom.
- II. Pregnant students and parenting male or female students are not excluded from participation in their regular school programs or required to participate in pregnant-student programs or alternative educational programs.
- III. NMUSD treats pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and recovery therefrom in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary disability.

Any student who feels he/she is being or has been discriminated against based on their actual or potential parental, family, or marital status is encouraged to immediately contact his/her teacher, the principal, or any other available school employee. The allegation of unlawful discrimination may also be reported under Board Policy [1312.3](#) to the District's Uniform Complaint Officer.

All allegations of discrimination will be investigated in accordance with law and District procedures outlined in Board Policy [5146](#) - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students.

Reference: Board Policy [5146](#) and Administrative Regulation [5146](#)

### **Participation in Extra Curricular and Cocurricular Activities**

Newport-Mesa Unified School District Governing Board recognizes that extracurricular and cocurricular activities enrich the educational and social development of students and enhance students' feelings of connectedness with the schools. The District shall encourage and support student participation in extracurricular and cocurricular activities without compromising the integrity and purpose of the educational program.

Extracurricular or co curricular programs or activities are available to all persons, without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination in the District's extracurricular and cocurricular programs or activities shall be filed in accordance with Board Policy [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Reference: Board Policy [6145](#) and Administrative Regulation [6145](#)

### **Participation in Athletic Competition**

The District's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices in accordance with state and federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for both sexes.

Interscholastic, intramural, and/or club athletics participation is open to all persons, without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Administrative Regulation [6145.2](#) and Board Policy [6145.2](#) outline the considerations to determine whether equivalent opportunities are available to both sexes, as well as the criteria used to ensure the District's athletic program effectively accommodates the interests and abilities of both sexes in athletics.

Any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination within the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with the District's BP [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

## Guidance/Counseling Services

Newport-Mesa Unified School District Governing Board recognizes that a comprehensive counseling program promotes academic achievement and serves the diverse needs of all district students. Academic programs and/or courses are available to all persons, without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination in the District's academic program shall be filed in accordance with the District's BP [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Reference: Board Policy [6164.2](#) and Administrative Regulation [6164.2](#)

## Professional Qualifications of Teachers

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

1. whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
4. whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

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

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

## Pupil Fees

A pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity. A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

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

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

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

Reference: Board Policy [3260](#) and Administrative Regulation [3260](#)

## School Accountability Report Card

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

## Sexual Harassment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sarah Coley  
Administrative Director I, Student Services  
Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer  
714-424-5016 | [scoley@nmusd.us](mailto:scoley@nmusd.us)

## State Testing/Level of Achievement

The District will provide timely information on the level of achievement of your student in each of the state academic assessments. More information regarding state testing results is available at <https://web.nmusd.us/departments/education-services/assessment/state-testing-results>.

## Uniform Complaint Procedure

The Newport-Mesa unified School District has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The Board encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints whenever possible and appropriate. Board Policy [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) has been adopted to resolve complaints which cannot be resolved through the informal process. Board Policy [1312.3](#) outlines

how complaints alleging violation of state or federal laws governing educational programs, allegations of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, the charging of unlawful pupil fees and the non-compliance of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) are addressed.

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

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

Complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must be filed within six (6) months from the date the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying occurred, or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, unless the time for filing is extended by the superintendent or his or her designee. A pupil fee complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred.

Complaints, other than issues relating to pupil fees, must be filed in writing with the following designated Uniform Complaint Officer:

Sarah Coley  
Administrative Director I, Student Services  
Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer  
714-424-5016 | [scoley@nmusd.us](mailto:scoley@nmusd.us)

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

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

A complaint form may be obtained at the school office, district office, or downloaded from the [NMUSD UCP website](#).

Reference: Board Policy [1312.3](#) and Administrative Regulation [1312.3](#).

### **Investigation of Complaint:**

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

**Written Decision:**

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

**Appeals to the California Department of Education:**

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the District decision may appeal in writing to the California Department of Education within fifteen (15) days of receiving the District's decision. When appealing to the California Department of Education, the complainant must specify the reason(s) for appealing the district's decision and must include copies of the complaint and the District's decision. In addition, the complainant has the right to contact the Office of Civil Rights or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to file a claim.

A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the District's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/ private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders. For discrimination complaints, however, a complainant must wait until 60 days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the California Department of Education before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if the District has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of his/her rights to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR 4622. (EC Section 262.3)

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

Sarah Coley  
Administrative Director I, Student Services  
Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer  
714-424-5016 | [scoley@nmusd.us](mailto:scoley@nmusd.us)

**Williams Complaint Classroom Notice****Notice to Parents, Guardians, Pupils, and Teachers**

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

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

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

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

A complaint form may be obtained at the school office, district office, or downloaded from the [NMUSD UCP website](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc). You may also download a copy of the California Department of Education complaint form from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc>.

## HOME-SCHOOL COMPACT

### TeWinkle Home-School Compact 24-25

We at TeWinkle Middle School believe that each stakeholder in our community plays a critical role in our students' overall success. For that reason, we created a contract to nurture those roles to ensure academic and social achievement. Working in partnership is what we believe in and what we promise we will promote. Each Title I school develops a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the way in which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

#### As a school, we will:

- Provide a high-quality effective learning environment that is safe and that enables the student to meet student academic achievement standards
- Provide ongoing two-way communication between teachers and parents through parent-teacher student conferences and frequent reports to parents
- Provide reasonable access to staff through an "open door" policy
- Provide a mutually respectful relationship between all parties (students, parents, teachers, volunteers, and administration)

#### As a parent, I will:

- Support my child's learning by ensuring that he/she has proper rest and nutrition and attends school on time and on a regular basis
- Help set a positive tone for learning with my child
- Strive to make positive use of my time with my child ("quality" one-on-one time) • Participate in decisions relating to the education of my child through a mutually respectful relationship with school staff
- Provide a mutually respectful relationship between all parties (students, parents, teachers, volunteers, and administration)
- Provide a time for homework completion ("perfect practice")

#### As a student, I will:

- Proudly be the best student I can be and demonstrate a growth mindset
- Proudly follow the behavioral expectations
- Ask questions when I am not sure about a lesson or an assignment
- Make good choices like paying attention in class, staying on task, doing my best, and working hard at my schoolwork

#### Parent/Student Acknowledgment:

Parent Name/Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_