

ANNUAL DISTRICT NOTIFICATIONS

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect upon request and before administration or use:

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum.

Williamson Central School has adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

Opt-out: Contact E. Bridget Ashton, Superintendent of Schools at 315-589-9661 or e-mail bashton@williamsoncentral.org if you do not want your child to participate in any/all of these surveys. **Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:** Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

NOTICE OF ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTION

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for the 2024-25 school year of the school buildings of the Williamson Central School District for fire hazards, which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, and employees therein, is current, and the report thereof is available at the Business Office for inspection by all interested persons. *By order of the Board of Education, Kelly Dixon, District Clerk*

CODE OF CONDUCT

A plain language version of the Code of Conduct is presented to all students at the beginning of the school year. The behavior and civility requirements of the Code of Conduct apply to visitors and parents/guardians. The full Code of Conduct appears on the district's webpage.

NOTICE OF ASBESTOS CONTROL

AHERA is the acronym for a federal law that requires all school districts to re-inspect facilities for building materials containing asbestos. District facilities have been inspected and response actions are planned to insure a continued safe environment for students and employees. Activities include training of maintenance staff to prevent disturbance of asbestos and periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities by trained personnel. Details of such activities are described in the District's AHERA Management Plan that is available for review in the Business Office. Questions may be directed to Patrick Poirier, Williamson Central School Director of Facilities, 315-589-9661.

PESTICIDE NOTICE

The Williamson Central School District does not intend to use pesticides; however, New York State Education Law Section 409-H, requires all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year. The District is required to maintain a list of persons who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- anti-microbial products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- the application of EPA designated biopesticides
- the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40 CFR § 152.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the list. If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please send a letter to Patrick Poirier, Williamson Central School District, P.O. Box 900, Williamson, NY 14589. Indicate the building of concern, your name, address, day and evening phone numbers.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION UNDER TITLE VI, TITLE IX, SECTION 504, AGE DISCRIMINATION AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Williamson Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activities, including employment, as is required by Title IX. Furthermore, Williamson Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability in admissions, participation or employment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the District may be directed to the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights of the Department of Education, to the Title IX Coordinator, Kathryn Taylor, Byron Rockow or Robert Snyder, who can be reached at Williamson Central School District, P.O. Box 900, Williamson, NY 14589, via email at ktaylor@williamsoncentral.org, brockow@williamsoncentral.org or rsnyder@williamsoncentral.org respectively, or via telephone at 315-589-9661.

ANNUAL DISTRICT NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

RIGHTS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Student records are privileged and confidential. Records are not disclosed to persons other than a student's parents or guardian, or the student, if over 18 except as expressly required by law. At the time of inspection of student records appropriate school personnel must be present.

Parents or Guardians and eligible students over 18 have a right to:

1. Inspect and review a student's educational record.
2. Know that the intent of the school district is to limit disclosure of personally identifiable information in those records, except
 - by prior written consent of the student's parents or guardian, or student, if over 18.
 - disclosure as directory information as defined below
 - for access by school officials
 - as otherwise legally permitted.
3. Request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of a student's privacy or other rights.
4. File a complaint with the US Department of Education alleging failure of the school district to comply with FERPA rules & regulations.

Requests for access to student records or procedures to be followed for amending student records should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Williamson Central School may release or publish in school newsletters, school or student newspapers, athletic programs, musical or theatrical programs, news releases and the district web page some and/or all of the following directory information pertaining to students as may be appropriate under the circumstance; name of students, photographs, video, of students, name of parents, grade, age, major fields of study, participation in school activities, extra-curricular activities and sport programs, academic honors, degrees, achievements, awards, scholarships, and height & weight of athletic team members.

Under Title 34 C.F.R. Part 99, parents or students over the age of 18 ("eligible students") who do not want this information released must make a request in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within 30 days of this notification. Failure to make such a request shall be deemed consent to release directory information during the present school year.

Pursuant to federal law, Williamson Central School District must disclose to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning upon request the names, addresses and telephone numbers of high school students. Parent(s) may submit a request in writing to the Superintendent of schools that the student's name, address and telephone number not be released for this purpose without the prior written consent of the parent(s).

TEACHER QUALIFICATION REQUESTS

As a parent of a student in the Williamson Central School District, Federal law allows you to request certain information about the professional qualification of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Please refer to the District's website or call the District Office for more information.

PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS REGARDING STUDENT DATA PRIVACY & PROTECTION

In accordance with New York Education Law Section 2-d, the Williamson Central School District has established a Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security. The full document can be viewed on the District's website or call the District Office for more information.

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (APPR)

New York State Education Law requires each classroom teacher and school principal to receive an annual professional performance review (APPR) that results in a composite effectiveness score and rating. All parents/guardians have the right to obtain the APPR quality ratings and composite effectiveness scores for their child's current teacher(s) and principal(s) once they are available. To initiate this request, please contact your child's principal in their corresponding school.

HEALTH INFORMATION

THE HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) required adoption of security and privacy standards in order to protect personal health information. In order for the District to exchange information with a child's health care provider, it is necessary for a parent or guardian to sign a comprehensive release of information form that outlines the security provisions.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Under Public Health Law, all students are required to be immunized against measles, polio, diphtheria, mumps, rubella, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, Pertussis and Varicella. A signed physician's certificate or other acceptable evidence must be submitted for all children entering school. Proof of immunization must be submitted within 14 days or the child will not be permitted to attend beyond that point. For more information or questions about the requirement and exceptions contact the school nurse in each building.

INSURANCE

All students of the District are covered under a group student accident insurance plan which acts as co-insurance with the family coverage considered the primary coverage. All accidents must be reported to the school nurse. The accident policy is designed to cover or assist in covering expenses resulting from accidental injury to any student while at school or involved in a school sponsored activity. For further information, contact the school nurse.

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

State law requires a signed written order from a physician and parent/guardian in order for a student to receive any (including over-the-counter) medicine at school. Medication is to be brought to school by the parent/guardian in the original, correctly labeled prescription or product bottle. For specific information regarding these medications on field trips, please contact the school nurse.

SCHOOL HEALTH SCREENINGS

Vision screening guidelines recommend distance visual acuity once within six months of admission to school and in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11. Hearing Screening guidelines state that a hearing screening be administered to all students within six months of admission to the school in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11. Scoliosis examinations will be performed at least once each year to all students in Grades 5-9. An annual check of height and weight will be recorded by the school nurse in the student's health file.

PHYSICAL EXAMS

NYS Education Department and State Law requires an annual physical exam which includes a body mass index and weight status category for those students entering UPK, Kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. Any student entering the school district for the first time is required to have an examination. Participation in a sport requires a health history form and a current physician physical dated within the past 12 months.

SCREENING OF NEW STUDENTS

New students will be screened to determine each pupil's educational needs. For more information on screening, please contact the elementary school or guidance office at the middle/high school.

DISTRICT POLICY SUMMARIES

MEDIA OPT OUT

The district recognizes the right of parents to refuse to have their child's photo featured in district media. Opt out forms are available in our District Office and in each building's main office.

DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (POLICY 7492)

In accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, the District will strive to create an environment that is free of bullying, discrimination, and/or harassment. The District will foster civility in the schools to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission. Acts of prohibited bullying, discrimination, and/or harassment may be based upon a person's actual or perceived membership in the following categories, including but not limited to: Race, Color, Weight, National Origin, Ethnic Group, Religion, Religious Practice, Disability, Sex, Gender (including gender identity and expression), and Sexual Orientation, however this is not an exhaustive list. The District has designated staff members in each building and can be reached via e-mail: ESDASA@williamsoncentral.org, MSDASA@williamsoncentral.org or HSDASA@williamsoncentral.org.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (POLICY 6170)

The Williamson Central School District prohibits and will not tolerate all forms of harassing conduct in – or related – to the workplace on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex or gender, sexual orientation, age, marital or veteran status, disability or any other characteristics protected by federal or state law, by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees (e.g., contractors and vendors) as well as any third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaging in activities subject to the supervision and control of the District. "Harassing conduct" is offensive behavior that is motivated by the individual's attitudes and/or impermissible stereotypes about other people based on their protected characteristics listed above. There are two types of such conduct: (1) tangible employment action discrimination, which can only be committed by an employee's supervisor(s) and (2) hostile environment harassment, which can be committed by supervisors, coworkers and non-employees.

ATTENDANCE (POLICY 7200)

Pupils enrolled in the District must attend school regularly in accordance with State Law. Our attendance policy lists both legal and illegal absences. All absences need to be verified by a written note. Excessive tardiness or truancy may result in disciplinary action.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL (POLICY 3200)

Parents and other adults are encouraged to visit their schools. Visitation for any purpose requires that the visitor check in at the office, sign in, state the reason for the visit and acquire a visitor's badge.

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (POLICY 3250)

Use of the school building and outdoor facilities for community-wide activities by recognized civic, social, fraternal, religious, and not-for-profit groups is encouraged. Groups wishing to use school facilities must secure written permission from the Superintendent of Schools and abide by the rules and regulations established. A certificate of insurance will be required. A building use form must be submitted ten working days prior to the event. For more information contact the Main Office in any of the buildings.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS (POLICY 3500)

In the event it is necessary to close school for the day due to inclement weather or other emergency reasons, an announcement shall be made over local radio and television stations. A district wide phone call will be made through the School Messenger system. When school is closed, all related activities, including athletic events and student activities will be suspended for that day and evening, unless otherwise specified.

SMOKING/TOBACCO USE (POLICY 3431)

The Board of Education prohibits the use of tobacco or any products containing nicotine (this includes electronic or e-cigarettes) within 100 feet of the entrances, exits or outdoor areas of any public or private educational institution's legally defined boundaries, and at any school sponsored event.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES (POLICY 3430)

Williamson Central School District is a drug-free school zone. The consumption, sharing and/or selling, use and/or possession of illegal drugs, counterfeit and designer drugs or alcoholic beverages on school grounds are not tolerated. This prohibition includes cannabis/marijuana.

GRADUATION CEREMONY (POLICY 4772)

The Board of Education has adopted a policy and procedures to allow any student to participate in the graduation ceremony of the student's high school graduating class (cohort) and all related activities if such student has been awarded a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential or Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential but has not otherwise qualified for a Regents or local high school diploma.

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AND ELECTION (POLICY 1570)

The Annual District Meeting (Budget Vote and Election) for the Williamson Central School District will be held on the third Tuesday in May as designated by New York State. A budget hearing will be held according to New York State School Law. The District Clerk will publish notification of the Annual Meeting four times in the District's official newspapers. Voter eligibility requirements and information regarding absentee ballots will appear on the District website.

HOMELESS CHILDREN (POLICY 7670)

Enrollment of homeless children shall not be delayed and their ability to continue or participate in the educational program shall not be restricted. Transportation will be provided by the District once a child is registered. The homeless liaison for the 2024-2025 school year is Karen Hoody, Assistant Principal, Elementary School.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (POLICY 8151)

All use of computer technology shall be in compliance with rules and regulations set forth in administrative regulations (See Acceptable Use Regulations). Failure to obey rules regulating acceptable use will result in revocation or suspension of the right to use the technology and/or prosecution by law.

INTERNET SAFETY (POLICY 8153)

The Board of Education is committed to undertaking efforts that serve to make safe for children the use of district computers for access to the Internet and World Wide Web.

FULL POLICIES CAN BE VIEWED ON THE DISTRICT WEB PAGE – MENU-BOARD OF ED-POLICIES