

Freeport Area School District Elementary Handbook



2026-2027

For parents/guardians of students at:

Buffalo Elementary School

South Buffalo Elementary School

Table of Contents

	Page
Directory	1
School Board.....	2
Administrative Office	2
Buffalo Elementary.....	2
South Buffalo Elementary.....	2
Public Notices	2
Annual Public Notice of Special Services	3
Student Expression.....	5
Complaints	6
Student Health Program	6
Immunization	6
General Health Information	6
Emergency Health Information.....	8
Speech Screening	9
Child’s Mental Health Diagnosis and School Staff Notification	9
Services for Students Experiencing Homelessness.....	9
Care of School Property	13
Assemblies	14
Parties.....	14
Procedures Governing Expulsion and Suspension.....	14
Suspension Offenses	15
Transportation	16
Bus Discipline Policy.....	16
Personal Property Search	17
Electronic Devices and Chromebooks	18
Personally Owned Items Policy	18
Student Conduct.....	18
Civil Law Violations.....	19
Cafeteria	19
Smoking/Tobacco Use/Vaping	20
Activity Requests	21
Lost and Found	21
Cheating	21
Homework Policy	21
School Attendance Policy	23
Early Dismissal	26
Truancy and Cutting Classes	26
Tardiness	26
Six Day Schedule.....	27
Security	27
Safety Drills	27
School Bus Drill.....	27
Transportation Notification of Video Monitors	28
Visitors to Schools	28
Bullying Prevention Program	28
Closing of School Due to Snow or Emergency	29

	Page
Hall Passes	29
Title I.....	29
Student Dress Code.....	30
Face Coverings.....	30
Enrollment of Kindergarten and First Grade	31
Recess	31
Preparation for School	31
Gifts to Students.....	31
Student Pictures	31
Withdrawal of Privileges	32
School Trips.....	32
Field Trips.....	32
Interim Progress Reports.....	33
Parent-Teacher Organizations.....	33
Grading	33
Special Events.....	33
Use of Telephones.....	33
Student Accident Insurance	33
Guidance Programs.....	34
Assessment.....	34
Guidelines for Acceptable Use of School Computers.....	34
Email Permission for Students.....	36
Student Discipline Code Guidelines	37
Explanation of the Guidelines.....	38
Bullying Policy	43

Directory

Board of School Directors

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Mr. Gregory J. Selinger	First Vice President
Mrs. Sylvia R. Maxwell	Second Vice President
Mr. Michael J. Huth	Treasurer
Ms. Mary Dobransky	Board Secretary
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Mr. Daniel Ritter	Member
Ms. Melanie A. Zembruski.	Member

Administration and Supervisory Personnel

Mr. Ian M. Magness	Superintendent
Mr. Timothy E. Walters.....	Program Director
Mr. Bradley T. Walker.....	Director of Finance and Operations
Mr. Donald W. Dell, Jr.	Special Services Coordinator
Mr. Robert W. Harris, III.....	Director of Technology and Innovation
Mr. Eric D. Mailki	Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Shawn W. Stivenson	School & Student Events Coordinator/Athletic Director

Central Administration Office
P.O. Drawer C, Freeport, Pennsylvania 16229
Telephone Number 724-295-5141

Building Administration

Dr. Charles M. Shipman, Jr.	Principal
Ms. Christine M. Davis	Grades 6-12 Assistant Principal

Freeport Area High School
P.O. Drawer H, Freeport, Pennsylvania 16229
Telephone Number 724-295-5143 and 724-295-5144

Ms. Renee M. Bogan	Principal
Ms. Christine M. Davis	Grades 6-12 Assistant Principal

Freeport Area Middle School
629 South Pike Road, Sarver, Pennsylvania, 16055
Telephone Number 724-295-9020

Mr. Michael R. Kleckner	Principal
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Buffalo Elementary School
500 Sarver Road, Sarver, Pennsylvania 16055
Telephone Number 724-353-9577

Mr. Jeffrey S. Lesko	Principal
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South Buffalo Elementary School
562 Freeport Road, Freeport, Pennsylvania 16229
Telephone Number 724-295-9510

School Board

A nine-member board comprised of school district residents who are elected in locally held elections serves the school and community in overseeing the operation of the schools. This Board of School Directors has the responsibility to provide an education for school age district residents under provisions of the Pennsylvania School Code, the regulations of Pennsylvania State Board of Education, and standards established by the Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth. School Board meetings are conducted in the High School Auditorium (Entrance 10).

Administrative Office

A central administrative office is located at 621 South Pike Road, in Sarver. The central administrative office houses the offices of the school superintendent, program director and the director of finance and operations.

Buffalo Elementary

Buffalo Elementary School is located on 21.3 acres in a rural area at 500 Sarver Road, Sarver, PA. Access is good, with well-developed and paved parking on the grounds. Originally a one-story building, it was built in 1936. Buffalo Elementary has been renovated to accommodate 800 students with the addition of a gym, auditorium, science lab, art room, new cafeteria and additional class rooms.

South Buffalo Elementary

South Buffalo Elementary School is located on 16 acres in a rural area at 562 Freeport Road, Freeport, PA. Good access is available to the school from a main artery and the parking area and play areas are well developed and paved. The one story building was built in 1954 with additions in 1962, 1989, and 2005.

Public Notices

Public Notices are updated by the Freeport Area School District on an annual basis. The updates for the policies listed below can be accessed on the District website via the following link: <https://www.freeport.k12.pa.us/public-notices>

- Non-Discrimination Policy
- Confidentiality of Student Information
- Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice
- Integrated Pest Management
- Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) Notice
- Rights of Parents to Review Teacher Qualifications
- Safe School Environment/ Bullying Prevention
- Sexual Harassment Policy
- Asbestos Management Plan Notice

- Special Education Services
- Title I

Annual Public Notice of Special Services

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS, AND SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

Notice to Parents

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding child find responsibilities. School districts and intermediate units are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Also, school districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence. All of this information can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website: www.pde.state.pa.us.

This notice shall inform parents throughout the school district and intermediate unit of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this public notice, each school district and intermediate unit shall publish written information in the handbook and on the website. Children ages three through twenty-one can be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact their district of residence. Contact information is listed at the end of this public notice.

Children age three through the age of admission to first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need Special Education and related services. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas, or (ii) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help. For additional information contact the intermediate unit. Contact information is listed at the end of this public notice.

Evaluation Process

Each school district and intermediate unit has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child, contact the school which your child attends. Parents of preschool age children, age three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Early Intervention Program Supervisor, ARIN Intermediate Unit 28, 2895 W Pike, Indiana, PA 15701.

Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or with the initial provision of special education and related services without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website at www.pattan.net. Once written parental consent is obtained, the school district or intermediate unit will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent educational evaluation at public expense.

Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and the parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff or intermediate unit staff will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice. Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

Confidentiality of Information

The school districts and to some extent the intermediate unit maintain records concerning children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction states. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information.

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials:

- PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
- PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the FERPA at the following url: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

This notice is only a summary of the special education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For more information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact the responsible entity listed below. For preschool age children, information, screenings and evaluations requested, may be obtained by contacting the intermediate unit.

INTERMEDIATE UNIT
ARIN Intermediate Unit 28
2895 W Pike
Indiana, PA 15701
(724) 463-5300

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE
Freeport Area School District
P.O. Box C
Freeport, PA 16229-0303
(724) 295-5141

The school district, and intermediate unit will not discriminate in employment, educational programs, or activities based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, creed, marital status or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. No preschool, elementary or secondary school pupil enrolled in a school district or intermediate unit shall be denied equal opportunity to participate in age and program appropriate instruction or activities due to race, color, handicap, creed, national origin, marital status or financial hardship.

Student Expression

1. Purpose

The Board respects the right of students and employees to express themselves in word or symbol and to distribute materials as part of that expression, but recognizes that the exercise of that right must be limited by the need to maintain an orderly school environment and to protect the rights of all members of the school community.

2. Authority

The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit the kinds of student expression which are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. Such expressions are those which:

- A. Libel any specific person or persons.
- B. Advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material which may reasonably be believed to constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health of students.
- C. Are obscene or certain material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable students who may receive them.
- D. Incite violence, advocate the use of force or urge the violation of law or school regulations.
- E. Advertise goods or services for the benefit of profit making organizations.
- F. Solicit funds for non-school organizations or institutions when such solicitations have not been approved by the Superintendent or his designee.

The Board shall require that students who wish to distribute materials submit them for prior review to the building Principal.

Complaints

Complaints regarding any type of situation involving a child, his teacher, his subjects, his grades, etc., should be directed to the teacher, preferably in person in a conference with the teacher. If the parties involved are not satisfied through such action, the matter should then be directed to the guidance counselor and/or principal. Matters which do not especially involve the above may be directed to the principal. Questions and misunderstandings are frequently satisfactorily handled in these manners. If a solution is not available at the local building level, then the complainant has the recourse of contacting the Superintendent of Schools. Written complaints of such magnitude that are not satisfied in communication with the Superintendent can be referred to the School Board for discussion and/or formal hearing.

Student Health Program

Physical exams are required by law for all students in **Kindergarten** and **grade 6**. Dental exams are required for all students in **Kindergarten** and **grade 3**. These exams can be performed by the school doctor/dentist or may be done privately. We strongly recommend that you have these exams performed by your own doctor/dentist. You will be informed well in advance of the exams and provided the necessary forms.

Every child in **Kindergarten through grade 12** will have a height, weight, and vision screening done annually. Hearing screening will be given to students in **Kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, grade 3, grade 7, and grade 11**. Those with a history of hearing difficulty will have an annual hearing screening. Scoliosis screening will also be done in **grade 6 and grade 7**.

Regarding any of the above services, parents are notified whenever an abnormality is detected. Additionally, all parents are notified by mail of their child's body mass index (BMI) each year.

Any child with a diagnosis of asthma, or a severe allergy (i.e., peanut/nut, insect, etc.) is required to complete an action plan annually.

Finally, please inform the school nurse with any new health information (allergies, surgeries, immunizations, medication changes, or new health conditions) throughout the school year.

Immunization

A student who has not been immunized in accordance with state regulations shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend district schools, unless exempted for medical or religious reasons, or provisionally admitted by the Superintendent or designee after beginning a multiple dose vaccine series and submitting proof of immunization or a medical certificate on or before the fifth school day of attendance. Please refer to District Policy 203 (Immunization) or our district website.

General Health Information

Please notify the school nurse in the event your child contracts a contagious disease. We need to be informed in order to be effective. This includes areas such as head lice, impetigo, and chicken pox. Regarding head

lice – Students who have had lice will need to be checked by the school nurse upon return to school following treatment to be certain all nits (eggs) are removed. If nits are present, students will be sent home and denied admission to school until all nits have been removed.

A child should be kept home from school if these symptoms are evident:

- Temperature elevation (100 degrees or higher)
- Nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain
- Repeated diarrhea
- Earache (unless he/she is already under a physician's care)
- Any contagious condition like a suspicious skin rash or a possibility of pink eye (itch, inflammation, and discharge), in addition to known childhood diseases. **Follow your family physician's directions regarding return to school.**

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

The Freeport Area School board revised our school policy several years ago regarding student medication administration during school hours. **NURSES AND ADMINISTRATORS DO NOT DISPENSE MEDICATION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.** This includes **ALL** medication (both prescription and over-the-counter drugs.) Therefore, we request that parents advise their physicians and dentists of this policy in order that prescribed medicines can be scheduled for administration before and after school hours. However, if your child is receiving medications at home, which the school should be aware of, please inform the school nurse.

It may be possible in a particularly critical circumstance that a rare exception will have to be made. If a child's Physician/Dentist feels such an exception applies, we request that the parent call the Principal or Nurse **before** delivering any medication to school so that the child's unique situation can be evaluated and appropriate forms completed by the parent and physician.

A parent or designee of the parent is welcome at any time to come to the school to administer medication during the school day. Students are not permitted to carry their own medication unless they have inhalers (for asthma.) Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions regarding this policy.

When exceptions are necessary, in **extremely critical circumstances**, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. All medications required by a student during school hours must be registered in the nurse's office or school office immediately upon arrival at school by the student or the student's parent/legal guardian. The medication must be in a pharmacy labeled container. Exceptions to this procedure must have prior approval by the school nurse.
2. A written order by the prescribing physician will accompany a medication form (available through the nurse's office) signed by the parent. Parents are responsible for informing the school of any changes in their child's medication, health or level of activity.
3. The school nurse is the authorized person who may administer medication.
4. A student may be eligible to self-administer in exceptional circumstances, after evaluation by the school nurse.

5. The principal will designate in writing those persons authorized to administer the medication in the absence of the nurse.
6. Parental permission for a school employee to administer medication to a student must be signed by the parent or guardian. The principal or his/her designee may assist the student in the self-administration of medication by performing the following tasks:
 - a. Reminding the student when to take medication;
 - b. procuring water for taking oral medications;
 - c. opening the container/bottle if necessary; and
 - d. placing the container(s) of medication in close proximity to the student so that it may be reached.
7. The amount of medication stored by the school will be based on the length of time the medication is to be administered and other individual factors when feasible. Medications will be kept locked in the nurse's office.
8. A medication log will be kept for each student receiving medication in the nurse's office.
9. The procedure for the administration of medication for students participating in school-related activities occurring off campus or after school hours will be determined on an individual basis as the situation warrants.
10. Unused medication not claimed by the student, parent, or guardian at the close of the school year may be destroyed by the school nurse. When returned or destroyed, the nurse will record the medication, date and amount.
11. Medications that do not comply with the above guidelines and procedures will not be given by school personnel and will be returned to the parent or guardian.

Parents can make arrangements with the school nurse to keep an extra supply of medication at school in the event of a disaster and the school becomes a "shelter-in-place."

Emergency Health Information

At the beginning of each school year, parents will be asked to complete a form with telephone numbers for us to call in the event your child becomes sick or injured while he/she is in school. We also will need to know what specific health problems your child has. If health information you or your physician provides on any of the records the school receives is extremely confidential, (not to be shared with school staff), please advise the school nurse. Please provide as much detail and as many phone numbers as possible on the form, including cell numbers of parents (if those phones are kept on during the day). If you prefer, we will follow a particular order with regard to whom we call first, second, etc. Please note that on the Emergency Form. Only those listed can be contacted by the school. If any numbers change during the school year (or you wish to add/remove numbers) please request a new form. The old ones will be destroyed.

We will make every possible attempt to follow your instructions on the emergency form in order to get your child necessary care as quickly as possible. We welcome communication from you regarding your child's particular health needs. Please feel free to contact the school nurse whenever necessary.

If a student becomes ill when the nurse is not in the building, the student is to report to the office and a secretary or principal will handle the arrangements. **A student is not permitted, under any circumstances, to make his own arrangements for early dismissal.** All calls home and arrangements must be made by a secretary or principal.

Speech Screening

The District screens designated elementary students for speech difficulties that impede their educational progress. Those designated for speech screening are as follows: all Kindergarten students, all new students entering grades 1-5, and students who are referred to the speech clinician by a teacher.

Child's Mental Health Diagnosis and School Staff Notification

There are students attending Freeport Area School District who have mental health issues and/or diagnoses. As a parent/guardian you are encouraged to share any such information with school staff on a need-to-know basis. School employees are restricted by laws specifically mandated to protect such highly sensitive student information. It is our suggestion that you personally consider which information you would like to share concerning your child and whom you would like to share that information with. It is the parent's responsibility to contact all parties with the relevant information.

Additionally, the guidance counselor should be made aware of mental health issues that could possibly impact on your child's school performance and the nurse should be made aware of related medication(s) your child is receiving at home for documentation on his/her health record.

Services for Students Experiencing Homelessness

This resource is intended for parents/guardians/staff/community members to utilize if experiencing homelessness or in crisis. This resource also provides guidance and training and is updated annually. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance — please reach out to Special Programs Director, Don Dell at 724-295-9510 x 3050 or dell@freeport.k12.pa.us

Liaison Responsibilities:

The district's liaison shall coordinate with:

1. Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children, youth, and families.
2. Other school districts on issues of records transfer and transportation.
3. District staff responsible for the provision of services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Individuals with Disabilities Act.
4. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.

The district's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters, soup kitchens, public libraries, and locations frequented by parents/guardians of homeless children.

The district liaison shall provide reliable, valid, and comprehensive data to the coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children/Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program in according to federal and state law regulations.

Definition of Homelessness:

Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence, which include the following conditions:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
3. Living in emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelters.
4. Abandoned in hospitals.
5. Whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings.
7. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
8. Living as run-away children.
9. Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
10. Living as school-aged parents in houses for parents if they have no other living accommodations.

School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including pre-school. When the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

Unaccompanied youth is defined as a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Enrollment/Placement:

To the extent feasible and, in accordance with the student's best interest, a homeless student shall continue to be enrolled in his or her school of origin while he or she remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which he or she obtains permanent housing.

Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools. If a student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the district liaison will assist the student with placement and enrollment decisions and give priority to the views of the student in determining where he or she will be enrolled.

If after such consideration, the district determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, the district shall provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination. The explanation shall be in a manner and form understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth and shall include information regarding the right to appeal.

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies. However, the district may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The district liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous district, pursuant to Board policy. Homeless families are not required to prove residency regarding school enrollment.

School/Health Records:

The receiving school district may contact the district of origin for oral confirmation that the student has been immunized but must not be a barrier to enrollment. Oral confirmation between professionals is a sufficient basis to verify immunization with written confirmation to follow within thirty (30) days. The

instructional program should begin without delay after the enrollment process is initiated and should not be delayed until the procedure is completed.

The enrolling district's liaison will assist the parent/guardian/student in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

The district will support families with accessibility to health-related resources — not limited to access to a physician, dentist, and other specialty doctors.

The district may assist with transportation for access to medical providers as well as assist with overcoming barriers related to insurance.

Placement/Disputes/Complaints:

If the district is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the district shall administer tests or utilize appropriate means to determine the student's placement.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent/guardian/student will be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision on the dispute, including the right to appeal. The parent/guardian/student will be referred to the district liaison, who will carry out the state's grievance procedure as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied student, the district liaison shall ensure that the student is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

If disputes or complaints of noncompliance rise regarding the education of homeless students, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The person filing the complaint shall first contact the school or district through the district liaison, the principal, then the Superintendent to present their concerns to the people closest to the situation and, most likely, to be able to resolve it quickly.
2. If Step 1 is not successful or is not possible under the circumstances, contact should be made with the Homeless Project Education Liaison, or the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will accept complaints directly through the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.
3. Individual cases may be referred to the PDE's Office of Chief Counsel and the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, as needed, by the State Homeless Coordinator.

PDE will deliver a response within fifteen (15) business days of the receipt of the complaint. The complaint may arrive in the form of a copy of the school district letter or on the Dispute Letter Form, if given directly to a Liaison of the Homeless Initiative.

Education Records:

Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record subject to the protections of the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act (FERPA) and shall not be deemed to be directory information.

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other district students including, but not limited to: transportation services, school nutrition programs, vocational programs and technical education, preschool programs, programs for students with limited English proficiency, and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students.

Transportation:

The district shall provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin or the school they choose to attend within the school district.

If the school of origin is outside district boundaries or homeless students live in another district but will attend their school of origin in this district, the school districts shall agree upon the appropriate responsibility and costs of the transportation.

Transportation Coordinator:

Shawn Stivenson can be reached at 724-295-5143 x 1260 or stivenson@freeport.k12.pa.us

Fiscal Responsibilities:

The following guidelines will be followed in cases when the education of the student is provided by the district where the homeless student is temporarily living. The guidelines shall also apply in cases when the district of prior attendance, where that is not the district the student attended when permanently housed, will educate the student:

1. Homeless individuals not in facilities (shelters) or institutions, as well as homeless individuals living in hotels, motels, cars, tents, or doubled-up with a resident family, shall be reported and reimbursed as resident students.
2. For homeless individuals in temporary shelters, the educating school district will send a form for the determination of district residence for students in facilities or institutions to the presumed district of residence.
3. If the form is acknowledged by the resident district, the educating district will enter the student on its rolls as a nonresident student from the acknowledging resident school district. The educating district will bill the resident district for tuition and will report membership data according to state child accounting procedures.
4. If the form is disclaimed and a district of residence cannot be determined, the student will be considered a ward of the state. The educating district will enter the student on its rolls as a nonresident ward of the state and will report membership according to state child accounting procedures. The Department of Education will pay tuition to the educating districts based on membership reported to child accounting.

In cases when the education of the student is provided by the district of origin, where that is the district, the student attended when permanently housed, the district will continue to educate a homeless student for the period of temporary displacement and should maintain the student on its rolls as a resident student. In cases when the student becomes permanently housed during the academic year and continues in the school of origin, which is not the district of new residence, the educating district will continue to educate the formerly homeless student on its rolls as a nonresident student.

Training:

Offered by the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program.

The district's liaison shall arrange professional development programs for school staff, including office staff.

School personnel providing services to homeless students, including enrollment staff, shall receive professional development and support to:

1. Improve identification of homeless students.
1. Understand the rights of such children, including requirements for immediate enrollment and transportation, and
2. Heighten the awareness of, and capacity to respond to, the educational needs of such children.

Free and Reduced Meals:

Apply online for free/reduced benefits at <https://schoolcafe.com>. Financial assistance is available for families that need assistance paying for school meals. Eligibility for free/reduced meals must be established each school year, regardless of eligibility in previous years.

Family Engagement:

Families are a valued member of our community and an essential part of a child's success.

Opportunities for participation in school and building sponsored events are communicated in a variety of ways throughout the school year. If you need assistance to participate, please contact your building principals.

Community Partnerships:

The District partners with community agencies to support families through collaboration. Some community partnerships include but are not limited to:

- The ARC of Indiana/Armstrong Counties
- Wesley Family Services
- Family Counseling Center of Armstrong County
- Center for Community Resources (Butler and Armstrong counties)
- United Way (Butler and Armstrong counties)

Academic Supports:

Students have access to numerous academic supports — based on the need of each individual student. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Title 1 services
- Multi-Tiered Intervention Supports
- After School Tutoring
- Credit Recovery
- McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/K12/Homeless%20Education/mckinneyvento/Pages/default.aspx>

Care of School Property

To make our school a nice place in which to live six and one-half hours a day, it should be kept neat and clean by the students. Restrooms, classrooms, and desks should be kept free of pencil marks and litter.

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies and furniture supplied by the school.

Students who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.

If a textbook is misused or damaged, but is still usable, a partial fee for that book will be assessed. If a textbook or library book is lost or damaged beyond use, it is to be paid for according to the following schedule:

1 year old book	90% of cost price
2 year old book	80% of cost price
3 year old book	70% of cost price
4 year old book	60% of cost price
5 year old book	50% of cost price
6 year old book	40% of cost price
7 year old book	30% of cost price
8 year old book	20% of cost price

*The minimum cost assessed for a book will be the amount it would cost to have the book rebound.

Any students who intentionally damage school property or books will possibly face legal action as well as restitution.

Report cards may be withheld.

Assemblies

On occasion, students will report to the All Purpose Room for assemblies. Students are expected to be on their best behavior in the presence of outsiders and also in the presence of our faculty, administrators, and fellow students. Students who display improper conduct will be denied the privilege of attending assemblies and/or more severe punishment such as detention or suspension. When students accumulate excessive disciplinary infractions, their assembly and field trips privileges will be withdrawn.

Parties

At the Elementary level, three holiday parties are organized by the Parent Organizations. These celebrations include Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Any student who does not participate in school parties due to religious beliefs may be excused, **but not until the time of the party.**

On the day of the Halloween party, no student will be permitted to arrive at school wearing makeup or any part of a costume. Also, no costume accessories such as roller blades, or imitation guns, knives, or sharp objects are permitted.

Parent volunteers assisting with classroom parties are required to have all clearances filed and verified in advance at the individual school, as detailed in the District's Volunteer Policy (# 916), and outlined on the District website. Contact the school office with any questions.

Procedures Governing Expulsion and Suspension

The power to exclude a student from school shall be vested in the Freeport Area Board of Education and the Superintendent or Principal. All suspensions or expulsions will follow the procedures set forth in the Regulations and Guidelines on Students Rights and Responsibilities which became effective September 28, 1974.

SUSPENSION shall mean exclusion from school for a period of up to ten days. When a student is on suspension over three days, the parents, if they so desire, are entitled to an informal hearing within five days of the date of suspensions.

EXPULSION shall mean exclusion from school for an offense for a period exceeding ten school days, and may be permanent expulsion from school.

Suspension Offenses

During the time period in school, on school grounds, or on a school transportation vehicle, students may be suspended for any of, but not limited to the following actions:

1. Fighting
2. Smoking or use of tobacco on school property (including possession)
3. Indecent acts as defined by the Pennsylvania Penal Code
4. Use of vulgarity, racial and ethnic slurs, profane language or obscene gestures
5. Insubordination
6. Repeated class cutting
7. Unauthorized leaving of the school grounds
8. Failure to identify or giving false identification
9. Willful and persistent tardiness or truancy
10. Excessive display of affection
11. Throwing of food or rubbish in the school cafeteria
12. Creating a disturbance in the classroom, on a school bus or at a school activity
13. Possession, transfer, or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, narcotics, or controlled substances including look-alikes
14. Intent or act of causing bodily harm against pupils or school personnel
15. Inciting so as to cause a riot
16. Destruction of school property (plus liability for replacement or repair)
17. Theft (plus liability for restitution)
18. Extortion
19. Hazing
20. Harassment
21. Persistent incorrigibility and willful violation of school rules
22. Any action which would disrupt the harmony and good order of the school or interfere with the education of students
23. Throwing of anything in the halls, classrooms, cafeteria, or any area of the building
24. Carrying any possession that could create harm to another individual or property (including look alike items)
25. Violation of Dress Code

Involvement in any of these actions or any combination of these, may result in suspension or initiation of expulsion procedures. There are two types of suspensions: In-School Suspension and Out-of-School Suspension. Out-of-School Suspension is used for serious violations of the school regulations and also for those students who have been repeatedly assigned In-School Suspension. **The factors of the individual case will determine the recommended action by the disciplinary authority involved.**

STUDENTS SERVING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PERFORMANCES OR ATHLETIC GAMES THAT OCCUR ON THE DAY(S) OF THEIR SUSPENSION. STUDENTS ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE TO MAKE UP ANY WORK OR TESTS MISSED IN THEIR REGULAR CLASSES WHILE THEY WERE SERVING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION. ANY STUDENT SUSPENDED OUT-OF-SCHOOL MAY NOT COME ON SCHOOL PROPERTY OR TAKE PART IN OR ATTEND ANY SCHOOL FUNCTION ON OR OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY DURING THE TIME OF HIS/HER SUSPENSION. THE STUDENT COULD POSSIBLY FACE LEGAL ACTION IF HE/SHE WOULD VIOLATE THIS PROVISION OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION.

Students who have been suspended Out-of-School are to make arrangements with their teacher to have their assignments sent home to them. The student, while on suspension, is to REMAIN AT HOME during school hours and complete these assignments.

Transportation

If a parent requests for a child to ride a different bus a request must be submitted in writing and approved by the principal.

Student Rules of Conduct Pertain to Everyone Riding School Buses

- Rule 1 All seats will be assigned by the driver.
- Rule 2 Parents will be responsible for any damage to school buses by students.
- Rule 3 No eating, drinking, or smoking will be permitted on buses.
- Rule 4 Littering or throwing objects of any kind either inside or from buses will not be tolerated.
- Rule 5 Sticking heads, arms, or objects out the windows will not be tolerated.
- Rule 6 Radios of any type are prohibited on buses, State Law.
- Rule 7 Musical instruments shall not be played on buses.
- Rule 8 Obscene gestures or profane/foul language will not be tolerated inside the bus or directed toward people outside.
- Rule 9 Any noisy, rowdy, or inappropriate behavior which tends to distract the attention of the driver or in any way interfere with the safety of any or all passengers on the bus will not be tolerated. Harassing other students or the driver will be grounds for referral for disciplinary action by the appropriate Building Principal.
- Rule 10 Arguing, threatening, pushing/shoving, or fighting by students will not be tolerated within the bus or at bus stops.
- Rule 11 If it is necessary for the principal to refuse transportation to students because of violation of any of the above rules, or other misconduct, it shall be necessary for the parents to meet with the School Principal before the pupil is permitted to ride the bus. No students shall be put off en-route. The student is to be delivered to his destination and the matter put in the hands of school authorities.
- Rule 12 No student is permitted to leave the bus while en-route to or from school or at a stop other than his own. The only exception to this regulation would be with an approved request from parents to school officials indicating that they desire the student to leave the bus at a different point.
- Rule 13 Students must ride assigned buses and board buses at assigned stops. Violations are to be reported by the drivers to the proper school authorities for taking the steps necessary to alleviate the problem.

Bus Discipline Policy

Step 1

All bus drivers shall be provided with a set of Bus Disciplinary Referral Forms by the Building Principals.

Step 2

When an infraction warranting disciplinary action occurs, the bus driver will complete and submit one of these forms to the Building Principal. The name of the student(s), date, and infraction will be recorded on the report form.

Step 3: First Offense

The Principal will meet with the student(s) as reported upon completion of the report form filed in the Principal's office. Parental contact will be left to the discretion of the Principal. A copy of the action taken will be sent to the appropriate Bus Contractor for sharing with the Driver.

Step 4: Second Offense

Steps 2 and 3 will be repeated. In addition, the Principal will forward a letter to the parents or guardian of the student(s) stating that their son or daughter has been reported for misconduct on the bus on two separate occasions and the next infraction will involve a three day exclusion from the bus.

Step 5: Third Offense

Steps 2 and 3 will be repeated. In addition, a conference involving the Principal, parents or guardian, student(s), and bus driver will be held. At this conference, the parents or guardian will be informed that the child will be excluded from the bus for a period of three (3) school days.

Step 6: Fourth Offense

Steps 2, 3 and 5 will be repeated. At the conference, the parent or guardian will be informed that their child will be excluded from the bus for the remainder of the school year.

Any of the above steps may be eliminated in the event that a serious discipline situation should arise.

It will be the parent's responsibility to provide transportation during the period of suspension from the bus.

The Board of Directors supports all bus personnel, administration and faculty in the enforcement of the bus discipline policy.

It should be noted that the right to bypass steps due to circumstances has been reserved for the Administration. Latitude has also been given to treat each case individually based on these same circumstances rather than in a more militaristic manner.

Personal Property Search

Personal property including handbags, wallets, back packs, gym bags, and lunch boxes on school property or at a school function may be searched. A student's person may also be searched.

If any item(s) is confiscated or removed because it is unauthorized, illegal, or dangerous, the item(s) will be inventoried, the grounds for the inspection will be documented, the student will be given an opportunity to explain the presence of the confiscated or removed item(s), and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Confiscated item(s) may be retained by the school and used as evidence at a formal or informal hearing. These items, if in violation of law, will be turned over to law enforcement officials for further civil action.

Electronic Devices and Chromebooks

Per School Board Policy 237, the Board prohibits use of electronic devices by students during the school day in district buildings; on district property; on district busses and vehicles; and during the time students are under the supervision of the district. Electronic devices shall include, but are not limited to, all devices that can take photographs; record, play, or edit audio or video data; store, transmit or receive calls, messages, text, data or images; operate online applications; provide wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.

The Board prohibits use of electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time.

The building principal may grant approval for use of an electronic device by a student for the following reasons:

1. Health, safety, or emergency reasons
2. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) Or Section 504 Service Agreement
3. Classroom or instructional-related activities, under the supervision of the classroom teacher
4. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

Consequences:

1st Offense – Confiscate the item – Documented Warning;

2nd Offense – Confiscate the item – 1 detention

3rd and Subsequent Offenses – Confiscate the item – Parent must pick up item – deemed as Insubordination

Personally Owned Items Policy

The Freeport Area School District will not assume responsibility for personally owned articles that may be lost, stolen or damaged while being transported to or from school, while left on school premises, or used in school sponsored events. Full responsibility and security measures must be assumed by the parties involved in bringing articles to school at their own risk.

Student Conduct

Students in elementary schools are expected to exemplify the best behavior, and to realize that they are responsible for their behavior. Rules and regulations established by the Board of Education or by building administrators and teachers for local control are formulated for definite purposes and must be obeyed. Violators will be punished and may face suspension from school. The elementary schools are seen as the place for children to learn the acceptable patterns of school behavior; therefore, disciplinary procedures are generally corrective rather than merely punitive.

Civil Law Violations

Students whose misconduct on school property or at a school sponsored function that would be a violation of civil law would face legal action through the proper authorities.

Some examples would be the following, but not limited to these actions:

1. Malicious mischief.
2. Property damage.
3. Underage consumption, transfer, or possession of alcoholic beverages.
4. Assault
5. Possession, use or transfer of drugs, narcotics, or controlled substances.
6. False fire claims.
7. Bomb threats.
8. Fraudulent use of a telephone.
9. Terroristic threats.
10. Trespassing.
11. Coming on school property or attending school functions while serving Out-of-School Suspension.
12. Possession or use of fireworks.
13. Fighting.
14. Possession, use, or transfer of tobacco.

Cafeteria

All students must report to the cafeteria even if they do not plan to eat lunch, and remain there until the end of the period. No student will be permitted to leave the building during the lunch period.

In the elementary schools, cafeteria and milk money is collected on Monday or the first day of the week. Menus are distributed at the beginning of each month indicating what is available in the cafeteria during that month.

A free or reduced price lunch program has been established in our cafeteria system. Application blanks and qualification forms are sent home with each child at the beginning of September and can also be obtained from the office. The following link can also be utilized - <https://www.schoolcafe.com/>

Be careful of your manners. The lunch room in school and your behavior at the table should be at least as good as in your home environment. Students carrying their lunch should place their waste paper in the proper receptacles. All food is to be eaten in the cafeteria. Parents should encourage their children to use their very best table manners while at school.

Students who are allergic to milk or can't for some other reason drink milk, may request an alternative beverage if they bring a statement from home stating that the student has a medical reason for not drinking milk. These are to be presented to the Head Cook and will take a few days for processing.

The cafeteria is operated by the Board of Education for your convenience. You may take advantage of its benefits so long as you comply with the following procedures.

1. Take your turn in line.
2. Conduct yourself in an orderly fashion.
3. All food must be eaten in the cafeteria.
4. Return trays and all eating utensils to the proper places.
5. Dispose of refuse by placing it in containers provided for that purpose.
6. Chairs are not to be placed at the ends of the tables, as they block the aisles.
7. No food is allowed to be taken out of the cafeteria.
8. Snacks are to be eaten in the lunch room only.
9. Aggressive behavior will not be tolerated.
10. Loud yelling and screaming is discouraged.

In the elementary schools, students are served through our cafeteria lines using a “point of service” computer system. Each student will have a personalized confidential account which may be accessed by using their student ID number. Each transaction is recorded and either credited or debited to their account. Parents may check their child’s account balance and make payments towards that account anytime online. Any questions concerning this system or your child’s account balance should be directed to each school’s cafeteria or to our Food Service Director at (724)295-5141.

In the event any unpaid balance is placed for collections with a third party collector, all collection fees or costs incurred will be added to the total amount due and will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Such costs/fees include but are not limited to collection fees or commissions, attorney fees, court costs and accrued interest.

If an account is in the negative, there will be no cash sales or charging of a la carte items.

Inactive positive accounts will be donated to the food service fund on October 1 of each year if a refund request hasn’t been made. Refunds will not be made after this time.

Smoking/Tobacco Use/Vaping

The Board recognizes that smoking presents a health hazard which can make serious consequences both for the smoker and the nonsmoker and is, therefore, of concern to the Board.

For purpose of this Policy, “tobacco use” includes smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco or vaping product in any form such as a *“a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other lighted smoking product, vape pen or device, and smokeless tobacco in any form.”*

In order to protect students and staff from the safety hazards of smoking and from an environment noxious to non-smokers, the Board prohibits possession of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, or other smoking equipment. Also, possession of smokeless tobacco in any form, and smoking or use of tobacco by students in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, and during any school activity before, during, or after school hours, whether or not on school grounds or in school facilities is prohibited.

The Superintendent shall develop rules and procedures to implement this policy, which include:

- A. Informing all students and staff members of the smoking regulations.
- B. Inclusion of instruction on the potential hazards of the use of tobacco as a part of the health curriculum.
- C. Development of discipline procedures and penalties.

- D. In addition to standard disciplinary action for students, smoking is considered a summary offense. **Students found guilty of violating this policy will be subject to a fine plus court cost** (Act 145 of 1996), or admitted to alternative adjudication.

Activity Requests

Any school group or organization desiring to hold a function not listed on the school calendar must submit a request in writing through the principal to the Board of Education four weeks in advance of said activity.

No admission charge shall be made for school sponsored events other than sporting events and plays. Band concerts, etc. shall be open to the public, free of any charge or donation.

School sponsored events other than the above for which a charge is desired by the sponsoring group shall be cleared through normal channels.

Students using any open facilities under these conditions are subject to the usual rules of conduct describing acceptable behavior as contained in the handbook. The same restrictions apply to the exchange of illegal substances or items prohibited in School District Policy. Violations will be dealt with accordingly.

Lost and Found

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where they will be claimed by the owner. Lost items will be kept in the office for several weeks, then will be donated.

Cheating

If a student is caught cheating in any situation, the offenses will be as follows:

- 1st Offense – 1 detention – teacher phone call home
- 2nd Offense – 1 In-School Suspension – teacher phone call home
- 3rd Offense – 1 Out-of-School Suspension – teacher phone call home

Also, the student may be given a zero on the assignment or test.

Homework Policy

Philosophy

The Freeport Area School District believes that homework is an integral part of the educational program. A natural extension of the school-based learning experience, homework activities contribute to learning when they are well planned and assigned with a valid educational objective in mind.

Objectives

The objectives of homework are:

- To teach good study habits and study skills.
- To teach how to organize time and activities.

- To stimulate initiative and responsibility.
- To create a desire for self-improvement.
- To motivate independent learning.
- To enhance curiosity and creativity.
- To develop a sense of accomplishment.

Types of Homework

Homework assignments may be classified in four general categories:

Practice: This is the most common and simplest category of homework assignment given to help students master specific skills. Practice exercises should be limited to material already presented in class. Practice assignments require little abstract thinking.

Preparation: Preparation assignments are given to prepare students for subsequent lessons so that they may gain maximum benefit from upcoming class work.

Extension: Extension assignments give the student the opportunity to transfer a skill or concept to a new situation. Extension assignments differ from practice assignments in the degree of application and abstract thinking required.

Creative: Creative assignments require students to integrate many skills and concepts in the process of producing a response. Creative assignments often require a significantly longer period of time to complete than the other three types.

The Role of the Teacher

The teacher should:

- Make the purpose of the assignments clear.
- Provide direction that will enable the student to proceed independently.
- Be aware of other demands on the student's time.
- Evaluate/review all homework assigned in a timely and appropriate manner.
- Communicate to the student, at the beginning of the course, the method of evaluation of homework and its impact upon quarterly grades.
- Use homework as a learning tool, not as a disciplinary measure.
- Involve parents as much as possible, particularly as problems arise.

The Role of the Student

The student should:

- Make sure he/she understands and records the requirements of the assignments – purpose, method of preparation, format to be followed, due date.
- Ask the teacher questions if the assignment is not clearly understood.
- Develop regular and productive habits and schedules for home study.
- Do assignments carefully, neatly and thoroughly and submit them on time.
- Assume the responsibility for completion of individual assignments without constant dependence upon others for help.
- Utilize study helps and available resource materials.
- Use study time efficiently in school and at home.
- Carry out his/her part of any assignment involving the cooperation of one or more classmates

The Role of the Parent

The parent should:

- Exhibit a positive attitude toward homework.

- Provide an environment in which homework assignments can be completed with few distractions.
- Encourage the child to study at a regular time.
- Take the initiative to determine what the teacher requires in terms of homework.
- Show an interest in the nature of the homework assignment.
- Give only that kind of assistance which enables the child to learn HOW to do the assignment – DO NOT do the assignment for the child.
- Assist the child in learning to balance his/her outside activities to allow time for completion of homework assignment.
- Encourage daily independent reading BY the child and set an example FOR the child.
- Monitor the homework activities and products at home. CHECK IT OVER periodically and provide appropriate reinforcement.
- Support the teacher and work together toward mutual understanding and agreement for the child's benefit.

(Multi-Tiered System of Support Team)

The purpose of the grade level Multi-Tiered System of Supports Team (MTSS) is to identify and develop specifically designed plans for students who are struggling academically either due to lack of organizational skills, poor study habits, or who are having difficulties in specific academic areas. Grade level teams analyze student data and determine if there is a need for a MTSS plan and/or provide additional support. If it is determined that a student qualifies for an action plan, the team will contact the parent(s) or guardians(s) of the student and work together to create a plan that is specifically designed to meet the student's needs.

Arrival and Assembly of Students

Students arriving at school before the tardy bell should assemble in the space provided by individual schools but not before the following designated times:

Buffalo Elementary	8:35 AM	Homeroom
South Buffalo Elementary	8:35 AM	Homeroom

This is the earliest time for dropping off students at the elementary schools. School supervision for your child does not begin until 8:35 am unless prior arrangements are made with the school office.

School Attendance Policy

Students will be expected to be in attendance on all days and hours that school is in session unless appropriate reasons exist to justify their absence. Absenteeism from school will be categorized as excused, illegal, or unexcused.

Excused absence

- Illness of the student
- Medical care or therapy service rendered by licensed practitioner of healing arts
- Quarantine
- Family emergency

- Recovery from accident
- Death in family
- Urgent reasons (fire, flood, etc.)
- Excused educational absences pre-approved by the building principal
- Participation in project sponsored by statewide/countywide 4-H/FFA upon prior written request
- Required court attendance
- Observance of religious holiday observance by bona fide religious group upon prior written request
- Student college visit upon prior written request

Make immediate plans to do all make up work due to absence. **It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher to do make up work.** Your grades will reflect your absence if you do not get the work made up. Students will be given a day for each day of absence upon return to school to make up work missed while out of school.

A student whose attendance is irregular, and has accumulated a total of **ten (10)** days of absence without a doctor's excuse will be required to submit a doctor's excuse for each successive absence. If a doctor's excuse is not submitted each day after ten (10) days of absence, the days will be coded as illegal or unexcused.

Illegal absence

An illegal absence occurs when a student **under** seventeen years of age misses for a reason that cannot be attributed directly to one of the aforementioned reasons. Illegal absences are a direct violation of the Pennsylvania School Code.

Unexcused absence

An unexcused absence occurs when a student, seventeen years of age or older misses for a reason that cannot be attributed directly to one of the aforementioned reasons.

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

Since regular attendance is essential for success in school work, the following regulations relating to school attendance have been established at the Elementary School level:

- Have parents or guardians write an excuse. All excuses must be signed by a legal guardian. Forged excuses will be considered illegal/unexcused and subject to school disciplinary action.
- *Parents are encouraged to email parental or medical excuses to their respective elementary office: buffattendance@freeport.k12.pa.us for Buffalo Elementary and sbattendance@freeport.k12.pa.us for South Buffalo Elementary.*
- A student will have a total of three (3) days to submit an excuse for an absence.
- Failure to produce an excuse by the 4th day after an absence will result in an unexcused or illegal absence.

Procedure for Absent and Truant Children:

- On the child's 10th absence, a warning letter will be sent.
- **"Truant" = three or more school days of unexcused absences** during the current school year by a child subject to compulsory school attendance (8 to 17 years old).

- The school will notify the “person in parental relation” within ten (10) school days of the child’s 3rd unexcused absence and will offer a school attendance improvement conference, unless a conference was previously held. The child and parent are not legally required to attend the conference.

Procedure for Habitually Absent and Truant Children:

- **“Habitually Truant” = six or more days of unexcused absences** during the current school year by a child subject to compulsory school attendance.
- **For a child under age of 15**, the school shall refer the child for either:
 - School-based or community-based attendance improvement program.
 - The county children and youth agency for services or disposition as a dependent child; or
 - School may file citation in the office of the appropriate judge against the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the child
- **For a child age 15 or older**, the school shall either:
 - Refer the child to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program or service; or
 - File a citation in the office of the appropriate judge against the child or the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the child.
 - **If a child age 15 or older** continues to incur additional unexcused absences after referral to an attendance improvement program or refuses to participate, the school may refer the child to county children and youth agency for possible disposition as a dependent child.

For more detailed information about attendance, see District Policy # 204 on our website.

Pre-Approved Excused Absences

If you are going to be absent because of travel, college visits, religious programs, take a son/daughter to work day, or any absence that could be considered as excused educational absence, your parent or guardian must make arrangements with the building principal at least one (1) week prior to the absence. If arrangements are not made with the building principal prior to the absence, the day(s) will be unexcused or unlawful. This can only be done by a parent or guardian. Forms are available in the school office or online and must be completed at least one (1) week prior to the requested excused absence. Request for Excused Educational absences should contain the following information:

- a. Date of request
- b. Name of students(s)
- c. Date(s) of Excused Educational Absence
- d. Reason for request
- e. Signature of parent or legal guardian
- f. School and grade student attends
- g. Address and telephone number

Requests for pre-approved educational excused absences will be denied for students who are deemed truant and/or have a School Attendance Improvement Plan developed. *Students must be in-attendance on standardized testing days.* No pre-approved educational forms for dates aligned with standardized testing sessions will be approved. If a parent/guardian chooses to have their child miss school on a standardized test day (and turned in an educational absence form), it will be coded unexcused/illegal at that time. Consequently, students who have an unexcused/illegal absence on the given day cannot participate in extracurricular activities on that given day. If the students make up the testing session within the approved

testing window, the unexcused/illegal absence will be changed to educationally-excused. School attendance is a very vital part of the learning process, for which schools have been established.

Early Dismissal

Early dismissal will be granted for the same reasons allowable for legal absences. You are encouraged to schedule appointments with your doctor or dentist other than during school hours. However, when emergency demands, the appointment should be made as early or as late in the school day as possible.

To obtain an early dismissal slip, bring a written note signed by the parent or guardian requesting permission to leave and stating the reason for early dismissal. Children are dismissed from the office.

For your child's safety and protection, **no student** will be permitted to be dismissed early or to ride a different bus home unless the office receives **written permission from the parent or guardian**.

Truancy and Cutting Classes

Pennsylvania passed a Student Truancy Law (Act 29) effective March, 1996. **Fines for a truancy offense can range from \$5 to \$300 and can also require parents to go to parenting classes or to do community service.**

Tardiness

If you arrive late for school, you must report to the office for a late slip before going to any other area of the building.

At the Elementary School level, repeated tardiness will result in disciplinary action. Missing the bus, car problems, oversleeping and unexcused personal reasons will not be accepted as legitimate reasons for being tardy.

Student absences and tardiness will be accounted for according to the following guidelines:

- If a student arrives after 8:50 A.M. and before 11:30 A.M. he/she is tardy.
- If a student arrives after 11:30 A.M. he/she is absent 1/2 day A.M.
- If a student arrives after 2:00 P.M. he/she is absent full day.
- If a student leaves after 2:00 P.M. he/she is present full day.

THE FOLLOWING ARE APPROVED CONSEQUENCES FOR UNEXCUSED TARDIES:

5 Unexcused Tardies = 1 Lunch or Recess Detention
10 Unexcused Tardies = 2 Lunch or Recess Detentions
15 Unexcused Tardies = 1 After School Detention
20 Unexcused Tardies = 2 After School Detentions
Above 20 Late Notices = Administration Recommendation

Six Day Schedule

The elementary students will use a six day schedule. Instead of using the names of the days of the week, the days are designated by the numbers 1 through 6. For example, the first day of school is Tuesday, which is called “Day 1.” The next day, Wednesday, is called “Day 2.” Thursday will be “Day 3.” Friday will be “Day 4.” In the following week, Monday will be “Day 5” and Tuesday will be “Day 6.” Wednesday the cycle starts over and is “Day 1.”

This schedule is used so that the students are given the same number of special area classes (art, computer, library, music, and physical education) during the school year. With this system, special area classes are not affected by school closings.

Security

School and student safety has been enhanced by the use of various strategies including security officers, electronic locks and building security cameras. Camera recordings will be used to investigate various issues in the building as needed. Parents, in case of a school emergency, please do not come directly to the schools. Wait to receive notification from the district’s mass alerting system.

Safety Drills

As an important safety precaution, the elementary schools will conduct multiple emergency/ safety drills. These drills take place at regular intervals and include, but are not limited to the following: fire, severe weather, building evacuation, and intruder. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys orders promptly and follows established protocol. The principal and teacher in each classroom will give the students proper instructions that must be followed during any type of emergency drill to maximize the safety and welfare of students.

In the case of an actual emergency, parents are reminded not to come to the school, as this may interfere with the actions of emergency responders. The school will notify parents with information and instructions regarding the emergency as soon as possible.

School Bus Drill

The purpose of school bus evacuation drills is to have the bus driver and each pupil riding in the school bus know exactly what to do in case of an emergency. Emergencies may occur because of fires or accidents, and in every instance the school bus driver shall give the evacuation instructions. If the bus driver is unable to carry out his duties, assigned pupils should assume the leadership to do so. Two evacuation drills are scheduled by the school superintendent. These drills are at the beginning of the school term and in the spring of the year. It is for the child’s safety and welfare that these drills are held.

Transportation Notification of Video Monitors

Each school bus will be equipped with a housing unit capable of holding and utilizing a video and audio monitor for student rider surveillance. All buses will contain a camera(s) capable of recording video and audio. Bus drivers and student riders will not be provided with any knowledge of the presence or absence of cameras. It shall appear as though a camera is present on board and taping at all times and on all days.

Visitors to Schools

Visits to teachers or students are discouraged during school hours without making prior arrangements with the teacher and principal.

Parents and other persons on official school business must secure authorization from the principal in order to talk to a student. Organizations or groups must secure approval in order to appear on campus. Vendors are not permitted to visit personnel until the end of the day.

The following procedures have been developed for the safety and welfare of our students as well as to maximize their educational opportunities.

The following are guidelines that will be in effect during school hours:

1. All exterior doors will be locked after the staff and students have entered the building.
2. Visitors will be asked to state their name and reason for visit. The District-wide school visitor management system requires visitors to present a valid driver's license or State-issued I.D. badge which includes a photo. A badge will be printed for the visitor if building access is granted.
3. Parents or visitors wishing to drop-off an item to be delivered to a student will be given access to the school's front entrance, and be asked to leave any item on the table located in the breezeway of the main entrance. The breezeway area will also be used to sign-out students and wait for them when picking-up for appointments.
4. No visitor will be permitted entry to the building or main office area unless they have a previously scheduled appointment with school staff.
5. All visitors that will be entering the building, other than to drop something off in the breezeway, will be required to go through our Open Gate Detection System and meet with our School Police Officer prior to entry.

Students have the opportunity to visit the school counselor or principal and anonymously report items that may affect the safety and welfare of others or the building.

Bullying Prevention Program

Bullying is defined as an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, or a series of acts that are directed at another student or students and occurs in or related to the school settings, is severe, persistent, or pervasive and interferes with a student's education or disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying includes, but is not limited to physical, verbal, psychological or relational, or cyber-bullying. At the Elementary Level, The Freeport Area School District is utilizing the Responsive Classroom program for our bullying prevention activities. Any bullying incident as defined within the School District Policy

Manual will be addressed with specific measures outlined by elementary, middle, and secondary level action plans. The District's Bullying Policy (# 249) can be found as an addendum to this handbook.

Closing of School Due to Snow or Emergency

If it becomes necessary to close the schools due to extreme weather conditions or other emergency, the following radio stations will be notified and will carry the message as well as district website. The district will also use the SchoolMessenger messaging system to communicate pertinent information. Please do not call the school offices or the radio station.

Television

KDKA TV 2, WTAE-TV 4, and WPXI-TV 11

Radio

KDKA Radio AM 1020, WISR AM 600, WBUT AM 1050, and WLER 97.7 FM

Hall Passes

Any students in the halls during school time must have a hall pass, which is supplied to every room. The hall pass is for emergency use only. When a student uses a hall pass, he/she is only permitted to go to the nearest restroom or water fountain, to his/her room, or to the area specified on the sign-out sheet and the reason for using the hall pass must be listed. The hall pass does not entitle a student to walk around the building or to go to see a friend in another classroom and interrupt a class to see another student. Students who abuse the privilege of using a hall pass may be denied its use. An electronic hall pass system may be utilized.

Title I

The Freeport Area School District offers Title I services and programs to elementary-school aged students. Title I is a 100% Federally funded supplemental education program that provides financial assistance to local educational agencies to help ensure that all students “have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments” (U.S. Department of Education, 2014). In buildings with 40% or more of the student population defined as economically challenged, LEAs may create Schoolwide Programs and use the funds to meet the needs of all students in the school with programming and curricular upgrades, as determined through a comprehensive needs assessment. In buildings with less than 40% of the student population defined as economically challenged, targeted programs are designed to help specific children, as determined through academic need.

South Buffalo Elementary School qualifies to operate a Schoolwide Title I program. Both schools provide supplemental reading services as a component of an overall English Language Arts curricular program. For more information about the Freeport Area School District's Title I programs and services, visit the District website, or contact the School District's Title I Coordinator, Jeffrey S. Lesko, at 724-295-9510 or lesko@freeport.k12.pa.us.

Student Dress Code

Parents are responsible for the general appearance of students when they enter the school building/district grounds. The District acknowledges that it has a general expectation regarding the way students present themselves, mainly that all appear in clean and appropriate clothing that follows the following guidelines consistent with the Freeport Area Elementary Schools' dress code:

- Attire must not compromise school property or student safety.
- Dress must comply with all health and safety codes.
- Dress must not interfere with the educational process or the rights of others.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn considering the safety environment of individual classrooms (i.e. PE)
- Hats, hoods, visors, and other headgear such as bandanas, kerchiefs, and scarves etc., are not to be worn during school hours without administrative approval.
- Clothing should be worn in a fashion so as to completely cover the back, chest, midriff, buttocks, and undergarments while sitting and standing.
- Sunglasses or dark glasses unless experiencing a visual impairment documented by a doctor
- Obscene, profane language, sexual innuendo, references to alcohol or illegal substances (including pictures and words), or provocative pictures on clothing or jewelry, and clothing with double-meaning phrases are prohibited.
- For physical education class, students must wear clothing/footwear that will allow them to adequately and safely perform tasks/skills that are directed by the teacher.
- Students are prohibited from wearing clothing that mimics or ridicules other students or student groups.

Students will be asked to change their clothes on the first and second offense. The third dress code violation will be considered to be insubordination and will be a level II disciplinary offense.

Face Coverings

Students and staff may be required to wear certain Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) on district grounds, school sponsored events, and when being transported by school authorized vehicles if mandated by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to protective clothing, helmets, gloves, face shields, goggles, facemasks and/or respirators or other equipment designed to protect the wearer from injury or the spread of infection or illness. Face masks will be required to be worn as a form of PPE during classroom changes in the hallway, while being transported by bus, or while in close proximity to other students and teachers. Students may be asked to wear masks as conditions dictate.

Face masks should be made of cloth or other approved materials from the CDC. When worn, they should completely cover the mouth and nose of individuals. Students and staff with underlying medical conditions that may prevent them from wearing face masks will be given appropriate accommodations when provided with a written doctor's excuse.

Face masks should not include wording of any kind, inappropriate suggestive phrases/visuals that refer to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, and anything that could be deemed disruptive to the learning environment.

Enrollment of Kindergarten and First Grade

The normal entry age of children into kindergarten will be five years of age on or before the first day of September in the year of admission. The normal entry age of children into first grade will be six years of age on or before the first day of September in the year of admission.

A child must be a resident of the Freeport Area School District. The school district reserves the right of assignment for the child. Registration dates are announced in advance. The following information is necessary to register a child in the Freeport Area Schools:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Health record of immunization and childhood diseases
3. Social Security card
4. Emergency phone numbers
5. Proof of Residency

Recess

Any student who is unable to participate in outside recess due to illness, injury, or cold weather, should present a note from his/her parent or family physician to the homeroom teacher.

Preparation for School

School is a new adventure for all children. It is the first significant separation from home and a necessary step toward becoming independent and self-confident.

Before the start of school, have your child learn his whole name, his address and his telephone number. When your child enters school, he should be able to tie his shoes, manage his clothes, and use the restroom without assistance. Also children who ride buses should know where the bus stop is located. He or she should also understand good bus manners.

Gifts to Students

Gifts such as balloons, candy, or floral arrangements should not be delivered to the students during the school day. If they are delivered to the school, the parents/guardians will be called to pick them up. This practice is discouraged.

Student Pictures

Students in grades K-12 will have their pictures taken each year. Parents are given the opportunity to purchase these photos. A notice will be sent home prior to sittings so parents can take full advantage of this opportunity. Parents are not obligated to purchase the school pictures.

Throughout the year, the Freeport Area School District shares information with the public through news releases, slide presentations, videotaping, etc., or through publications such as *The Freeporter*. District publications and promotional material (newsletters, website, calendar, etc.) and local newspapers may contain pictures of students from the various schools in the district. If parents **DO NOT** wish to have their child's photograph used in any publication or in the media, please submit a written request stating so, to: Freeport Area School District, School and Student Events Coordinator, PO Drawer C, Freeport, PA 16229.

Parents need to submit a written request each year. Once received, the request will be kept on file for one year in the school office.

Withdrawal of Privileges

Individual teachers may withdraw privileges extended within the classroom for infractions of rules. Students may be denied school privileges by the building administrator for rule infractions.

Parents/Guardians who are not residents of the FASD will be charged tuition for the period of time in attendance. The child will then be withdrawn from the official roster.

School Trips

This policy is intended to address issues concerning school trips. Since the Freeport Area School District is concerned for the safety and well-being of its students on school trips or school related trips, the following provisions are to be implemented:

1. When circumstances dictate, the Freeport Area School District reserves the right to cancel or postpone student trips of any nature.
2. Parents still maintain the right to prohibit their children from attending school related or school sponsored trips.
3. Students who are withdrawn from trips by their parents will not be subject to academic and/or extracurricular discipline.

Field Trips

As part of the educational program, children **may** be taken on field trips supervised by classroom teachers. The merit of field trips involving teachers and students shall be decided upon by the principal and will be considered only if they provide equal opportunity for all pupils, are of educational value, and are relevant to a course of study. Students will be permitted to participate in field trips only with the written permission of their parents.

Parent volunteers assisting with field trips are required to have all clearances filed and verified in advance at the individual school, as detailed in the District's Volunteer Policy (# 916), and outlined on the District website. Contact the school office with any questions.

Interim Progress Reports

At the midpoint of each quarterly marking period, parents will be notified electronically via email, text, and/or phone call to check the “mid-marking” academic progress of their child(ren) in PowerSchool. Please note that paper copies of mid-marking progress reports will no longer be sent home with the students unless requested by a parent/guardian. However, paper copies of report cards will continue to be sent home with students at the conclusion of each quarterly period. Parents/Guardians are able and encouraged to check the academic progress of their child(ren) via PowerSchool at any point during the school year.

Parent-Teacher Organizations

Freeport Area School District encourages and welcomes such organizations. It is only through the cooperation of the home and the school that the ultimate goal will be attained — the growth and development of the child. These organizations help to develop a better understanding of the child and the school. All teachers and administrators are encouraged and urged to take an active part in these activities.

The following is a list of the active organizations:

- Buffalo P.T.O.
- South Buffalo P.T.O.

Grading

In elementary school, children are graded on a percentage grading scale. Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Students are also evaluated in physical education, vocal and instrumental music, and art.

There is no Kindergarten report card following the first nine-week period.

Special Events

The elementary school has an annual spring program involving both vocal and instrumental participants. The chorus does a program at Christmas time, also.

Use of Telephones

Students are not permitted to use the office telephones. They may use these phones only in an emergency or at the discretion of their teacher.

Student Accident Insurance

The School Board permits a Student Accident Insurance Program to be purchased within the school district. The accident insurance will be open to all students and staff members within the school district.

During the past several years the student accident programs have offered two choices:

1. A school time accident protection plan while attending school, on the way to or from school, and while school is in session.
2. An 'around the clock' plan giving complete accident protection 24 hours a day — at home, at school, at play, on weekends, during vacations, in camp.

Students who do not purchase or have insurance are not permitted to participate in school related activities such as chorus, intramurals, field trips, etc.

Guidance Programs

An elementary guidance program is available to all of our students. This program is developmental as well as an individualized program. Objectives are to develop an awareness of careers, agencies, and help to meet the needs of students, coordinate the services available to us from ARIN Intermediate Unit, and to develop self-awareness and self-worth. The elementary program currently has one guidance counselor for each building

Assessment

Our assessment program is two-phased. The first phase is teacher-made. This enables a teacher to assess how well each pupil has mastered certain knowledge and experience in specific subject matter areas. The second phase is called the standardized or achievement assessment. This program specifies each level, the area designed, selected, and used for a specific purpose.

During the school term, a wide variety of measures are or may be administered to the child, such as:

- Competency assessments to accompany the reading program. These are administered after each book or level is completed.
- Inventory assessments to provide information for the classroom teacher as to the student's strengths, weaknesses and who needs help.
- Individual assessments administered by a representative of the Intermediate Unit.
- Assessments to accompany the remedial reading program.
- Cognitive ability assessment.
- Standardized achievement assessment.
- Speech screening, for possible speech problem identification.
- Assessment as required by the state.

Guidelines for Acceptable Use of School Computers

These guidelines are based on a commitment to support ethical behavior. Students must use common sense and ethical behavior in the school to protect their privacy and access rights. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in suspension of computer privileges and/or disciplinary action.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer network, just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.
2. All authorized users must log in under their own username and password. Using someone else's password or trespassing in another's folders, work or files is strictly prohibited.
3. Computers must be used under the direct supervision of the person in charge of the particular area.
4. Use electronic mail for appropriate educational, instructional, and administrative purposes only. In addition, only approved school email accounts are to be accessed with teacher authorization.
5. All chat, text, and/or messaging sites or applications, peer-to-peer downloading sites or applications, and other unauthorized social media or communication sites and applications are strictly prohibited.
6. Users must have teacher's permission to download files or programs, or to make changes to device settings, restrictions, passcodes, etc.
7. Users are not permitted to transmit, receive, submit, or publish any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, offensive, or illegal material.
8. Computers are to be used for academic research and other educational purposes only.
9. Copyright protection given to software owners by federal law must be observed. It is against policy for any student, faculty, or staff member to copy or reproduce any licensed software on school computing equipment. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated.
10. Physical or electronic tampering with computer resources is not permitted. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks intentionally will result in cancellation of privileges. Students will be held liable for costs incurred to make repairs!
11. Do not waste computer supplies; excessive printing will not be tolerated. Print to authorized locations only.
12. Introduction of computer viruses and deletion or removal of software programs or files are violations of computer usage policies.
13. The district makes a best effort to block inappropriate content. Although students are supervised when using these resources in school, and their use is electronically monitored, there remains the possibility that students may gain access to material that may be considered inappropriate or not of educational value. Purposefully searching for or accessing these types of material may be considered an unacceptable use of school resources and could result in appropriate disciplinary action.
14. Freeport Area School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. We assume no responsibility for loss of data resulting from service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions or by accounts of nature. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. We specifically deny any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
15. People who administer the system may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities.

Any violations of these terms and conditions may result in a loss of computer access, as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Users are considered subject to all local, state, and federal laws.

Email Permission for Students

Student Email Guidelines

The Freeport Area School District provides electronic resources for students in grades 6-12, including Gmail accounts to be used to access the District's Google Apps, which is an integral part of the curriculum. The District expects behavior and language in the use of these Gmail accounts will be consistent with classroom standards. The guidelines listed below are intended to govern the use of District-provided Gmail accounts and Google Apps, whether the account is accessed in or outside of the school environment or on school-owned, public, or personal computers.

Proper Use of District-provided Gmail

Students will use their email accounts to communicate with their classmates, teachers, or other school community members about school related topics. While students can email teachers throughout the District, they should not expect teachers to email assignments to them or to provide private tutoring through email. Students should not ask for or respond to emails requesting personal information not related to a school project. Parents should not use their children's accounts as a way of communicating to their children's classmates, teachers, or other members of the school community.

Account Capabilities

All accounts will be accessible from both inside and outside the school network. All accounts will be password protected.

- Accounts for grades 6-12 will be "closed" accounts. Students with closed accounts can email students and staff within the District, but they cannot receive or send Emails from outside the system.
- Students in grades 9-12 will have the option of forwarding school Emails to a personal account of their choice.
- All incoming Email will be filtered for spam using a commercial spam filter. While the District has installed filtering software for all Email accounts, no filtering software is foolproof. There remains the possibility, however slim, that despite these safeguards, a student may access material that parents and/or District officials might find inappropriate. As the owner of the computer systems, the District reserves the right to monitor its computer systems to ensure that they are being used in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy and related Administrative Regulations. The Superintendent or designee reserves the right to terminate any individual's use of the District's computer systems. Misuse of the computer systems resulting in violations of these guidelines will be treated in accordance with existing procedures, and the Board's policy regarding Exclusion of Students.
- The District has reserved the right to conduct monitoring of these computer systems and can do so despite the assignment of passwords to individual students for system security. Any password systems implemented by the District are designed solely to provide system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user.

Student Responsibilities

Students are entirely responsible for the confidentiality of their Email accounts, passwords, personal information, and for any activities that occur in the use of their accounts. Students should have no expectation of privacy when using district-provided Email accounts. The student agrees to notify his/her teacher or principal immediately if any unauthorized use is made of his/her District-provided Email account. The student agrees to report immediately to his/her teacher or principal the receipt of any unwanted or inappropriate Emails. Most importantly, the District urges any student who receives any harassing, threatening, intimidating, or other improper message through the computer systems to report it immediately.

It is the District's policy that no student should be required to tolerate such treatment, regardless of the identity of the sender of the message.

While emailing, students are responsible for following all parts of the District Acceptable Use Policy.

Parents understand that Email access is conditional upon adherence to the Acceptable Use Policy. Although students are supervised when using these resources in school, and their use is electronically monitored, parents are aware of the possibility that students may gain access to material that may be considered inappropriate or not of educational value. Parents should read and discuss with their child this document.

PARENT WILL SUBMIT THIS FORM ELECTRONICALLY, IN INFOSNAP, INDICATING AGREEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

As a student, I understand and agree to abide by the Email agreement and applicable policy and guidelines. I further understand that violations may result in the loss of my account, network, and/or device privileges, and possibly other disciplinary or legal action.

As a parent, I understand that my child will be responsible for abiding by the above policy and guidelines. I have read and discussed this with her/him and they understand the responsibility they have while using their school email account. In the event that he/she violates this agreement, the district may suspend and inspect the account, and appropriately discipline my child.

Student Discipline Code Guidelines

Introduction

These Guidelines are an outgrowth of the Student Rights and Responsibilities regulations and the Pennsylvania School Code, and represent an attempt to more fully define those kinds of student behavior which are considered inappropriate. The Guidelines also inform students as to the type of disciplinary responses that may result from their inappropriate behavior.

The examples cited under the Infraction and Disciplinary Options sections are not intended to be a comprehensive and exhaustive listing of violations. They are designed to be exemplary of the kind of conduct that is subject to disciplinary action under the Code. They provide only a reference within each level. An infraction may be moved to a different level depending upon the seriousness of the offense or the frequency with which that offense is committed. Infractions are listed at the lowest level on which they will generally be applied. Inappropriate use of Safe2Say platform is a level IV offense of the Freeport Area School District Code of Conduct and is subject to any and all consequences set forth in the Code of Conduct. Administrative discretion will be taken into consideration.

All policies that support the Guidelines apply to students at all levels. Additionally, as these guidelines are not intended to cover all situations and circumstances, the Student/Parent Handbook should also be consulted for additional building level guidelines and information.

Explanation of the Guidelines

Levels: All misbehaviors have been classified under one of four levels. These levels progress from minor infractions through criminal offenses.

Infraction Examples: Listed here are examples of the kinds of misbehavior that fit the description of that particular level. The list is not comprehensive. It contains examples designed to serve as guidelines.

Procedures: The steps listed under this section are required actions on the part of staff and administration.

Disciplinary Options: Disciplinary Options listed are examples of the kinds of disciplinary techniques which may be used. They range from minor to major techniques and are designed to complement the degree of seriousness of the offense at that level. These options, either singly or in combination, will be applied through the judgment and discretion of the administration.

LEVEL I

Misbehavior on the part of the student that impedes orderly classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school. These misbehaviors can usually be handled by an individual staff member but sometimes require the intervention of other support personnel.

EXAMPLES OF INFRACTIONS

1. Tardiness for assigned class/area
2. Non-defiant failure to complete assignments or carry out directions
3. Littering
4. Invasion of other people's property or privacy
5. Violation of safety or health regulations
6. Abuse of hall pass regulations/privilege
7. Eating or drinking outside the cafeteria
8. Removal of food from the cafeteria
9. Other disobedience or misconduct
10. Horseplay
11. Open display of affection
12. Lying

PROCEDURES

1. Immediate and consistent intervention by the teacher who is supervising the student or who observes the misbehavior.
2. Possible administrative intervention

EXAMPLES OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. Verbal reprimand
2. Conference (student, parent, teacher)
3. Telephone call and/or written communicate to parent
4. Apology
5. Assigned seating
6. Clean-up area

7. Restriction to assigned area
8. Restriction of pass
9. Denial of privileges
10. Detention
11. Performance contract
12. Behavior modification
13. Referral to Counsel

LEVEL II

Misbehavior, through its frequency or seriousness, which disrupts the educational climate of the school but does not directly affect the health and safety of others. These infractions, which may result from the continuation of LEVEL I misbehaviors, require the intervention of personnel on the administrative level because the implementation of LEVEL I disciplinary options have failed to correct the situations.

EXAMPLES OF INFRACTIONS

1. Continuation of LEVEL I infractions
2. Tardiness for school
3. Defiant failure to complete assignments or carry out directions
4. Use of vulgarity, racial or ethnic slurs, profane language, or profane/obscene gestures
5. Truancy
6. Disrespect or abusive treatment of staff members
7. Failure to complete an assigned discipline
8. Unauthorized use of electronic devices
9. Disruptive behavior in the classroom, halls, cafeteria, school grounds, school bus, or at a school activity
10. Temporary or permanent defacing or destruction of property
11. Indecency/indecent acts as defined by the Pennsylvania Crime Code
12. Smoking, use or possession of tobacco/tobacco products on school property
13. Possession of offensive materials, pornographic in nature
14. Bullying/harassment
15. Excessive display of affection
16. Throwing anything in the halls, classrooms, cafeteria, or any other area of the building
17. Gaming activities which involve an exchange of money
18. Rough or boisterous activity which could result in personal harm or property damage
19. Parking/driving violations
20. Indecent exposure
21. Insubordination
22. Extreme dress or appearance which is in violation of building dress regulations and/or is disruptive to classroom/school climate
23. Other disobedience or misconduct

NOTE: LEVEL II EXAMPLES AND DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS ARE NOT LIMITED TO THOSE LISTED

PROCEDURES

1. Staff person observing the misbehavior intervenes and immediately refers the student/incident to the Administrator for action. A completed Discipline Referral is to be submitted to the office by the intervening teacher.

2. Possible administrative intervention

EXAMPLES OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. Any LEVEL I option not used
2. Parental conferences
3. Restitution for property and/or damages
4. Schedule changes
5. Curriculum changes
6. In-School Suspension
7. Out-of-School Suspension
8. Referral to outside agency recommended by administrator
9. Referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies
10. Parent escort

LEVEL III

These infractions sometimes result from the continuation of LEVEL I and/or LEVEL II misbehaviors or are acts directed against person or property which may endanger the health and/or safety of others in the school. These acts might be considered criminal but most frequently can be handled by the disciplinary mechanics of the schools. Corrective measures which the school may undertake, however, depend upon the extent of the school's resources for correcting the situation in the best interests of all students and personnel.

EXAMPLES OF INFRACTIONS

1. Continuation of unmodified LEVEL I and II infractions
2. Serious pushing or shoving
3. Rough or boisterous activity which does result in bodily harm to students or school personnel or damage to property.
4. Vandalism
5. Theft
6. Other disobedience or misconduct
7. Sexual harassment
8. False allegations
9. Verbal or physical harassment/intimidation
10. Extortion

NOTE: LEVEL III EXAMPLES AND DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS ARE NOT LIMITED TO THOSE LISTED

PROCEDURES

1. Staff person observing the behavior immediately intervenes and refers to the administration for action. A completed discipline referral is submitted to the office by the intervening teacher.
2. Administrator initiates disciplinary action by investigating the infraction and conferring with staff involved.
3. Administrator meets with the student(s) and notifies parents of the misconduct and the resulting disciplinary action.
4. A parent/student/Administrator conference may be required.

EXAMPLES OF DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS

1. Any LEVEL I or II option not used
2. In-School Suspension
3. Out-of-School Suspension
4. Expulsion
5. Restitution for property and/or damages
6. Referral to outside agency recommended by Administration
7. Referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies
8. Parent escort

LEVEL IV

Disciplinary action under LEVEL IV could result from the continuation of LEVEL I, II, and/or III offenses. Also included are acts which result in violence to another's person or property or which seriously endanger the health and/or safety of others in the school. These acts are clearly criminal in nature and are so serious that they always require administrative action resulting in the immediate removal of the student from the school. Actions by the Board of School Directors may also be required. Referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies is required.

EXAMPLES OF INFRACTIONS

1. Continuation of LEVEL I, II, and III infractions
2. Theft/possession/transfer of stolen property
3. Assault and/or battery
4. Possession/use/transfer of drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages or other controlled substances, or look-alikes, while under the school's jurisdiction.
5. Furnishing/selling/transfer of drugs, alcoholic beverages, drug paraphernalia or other controlled substances or look-alikes, while under the school's jurisdiction.
6. Leading, inciting, or participating in a riot/walkout
7. Bomb threats, false fire alarms, or terroristic threats
8. Arson
9. Possession/transfer/use of dangerous weapons, or any look-alike articles, while under the school's jurisdiction.
10. Possession/transfer/detonation of incendiary devices (fireworks, smoke bombs, etc.) while under the school's jurisdiction.
11. Inappropriate sexual behavior
12. Trespassing
13. Other crimes and offenses listed in the Pennsylvania Crimes Code
14. Other disobedience or misconduct
15. Fighting
16. Inappropriate use of Safe2Say platform

NOTE: LEVEL IV EXAMPLES AND DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS ARE NOT LIMITED TO THOSE LISTED

PROCEDURES

1. Staff person observing the behavior immediately intervenes and refers the student to the Administrator for action. A completed discipline referral is submitted to the office by the intervening teacher.
2. The Administrator verifies the offense, confers with appropriate staff, and meets with students.
3. The involved students(s) is (are) suspended from school.
4. Parents are notified and law enforcement officials are contacted.
5. When merited, a full due process hearing before the School Board is held.

EXAMPLES OF DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS

1. Out-of-School Suspension
2. Referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies (Mandatory)
3. Referral for psychological services
4. Referral for alcohol/drug rehabilitation/counseling
5. Prosecution
6. Expulsion

NOTE: Level IV examples and disciplinary options are not limited to those listed

Bullying Policy

FREEPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	SECTION: PUPILS TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING ADOPTED: August 12, 2015 REVISED: November 14, 2018; February 13, 2019; August 13, 2020; August 12, 2021; March 13, 2024; October 9, 2024; March 12, 2025
Purpose Definitions Authority	249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students. Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:^[1] 1. Substantially interfering with a student’s education. 2. Creating a threatening environment. 3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying. School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.^[1] The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.^[1] The Board encourages students who believe they or others have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee. Students are encouraged to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. The person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the student filing the complaint or those accused of a violation of this policy.

Delegation of Responsibility	The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Board directs that any complaint of bullying brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven to be bullying under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies. When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.^{[2][3]} <u>Discrimination/Harassment</u> Every report of alleged bullying that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination or harassment shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination or harassment are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination or harassment as well as the incidents of alleged bullying.^{[4][5]} <u>Confidentiality</u> Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the district's legal and investigative obligations. <u>Retaliation</u> Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying or participation in an investigation of allegations of bullying is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action. Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying. The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.^[1] The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.^[1] District administration shall annually provide the following information with the school safety and security incident report:^{[1][6]} 1. Board's Bullying Policy. 2. Report of bullying incidents.
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Guidelines	3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs. The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.^{[1][7][8]} This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district website.^[1] <u>Education</u> The district may develop, implement and evaluate bullying prevention and intervention programs and activities. Programs and activities shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.^{[1][9][10][11]} <u>Consequences for Violations</u> A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include.^{[1][7][12]} 1. Counseling within the school. 2. Parental conference. 3. Loss of school privileges. 4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus. 5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities. 6. Detention. 7. Suspension. 8. Expulsion. 9. Counseling/Therapy outside of school. 10. Referral to law enforcement officials.
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	Legal References 1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A 2. 24 P.S. 1302-E 3. Pol. 236.1 4. Pol. 103 5. Pol. 103.1 6. Pol. 805.1 7. Pol. 218 8. 22 PA Code 12.3 9. 20 U.S.C. 7118 10. 24 P.S. 1302-A 11. Pol. 236 12. Pol. 233 Pol. 113.1
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