

Jefferson Elementary School

1543 Chester Hwy
York, SC 29745

803-684-1942
Fax 803-684-1944

<http://www.york.k12.sc.us/JES>

Office Hours: 7:15 am- 4:00 pm
School Hours: 7:45 am – 2:15 pm

2026-2027 YSD1 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK ADDENDUM



Equal Opportunity:

York School District 1 offers opportunities for admission to students and employment for personnel. The programs and activities of the district are offered equally to all students without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability or sex. Inquiries should be directed to Mark Sanders, PO Box 770, York, SC 29745, phone (803) 684-9916.

Jefferson Elementary is dedicated to equality of opportunity. Jefferson Elementary does not practice or condone discrimination in any form against students, employees, or applicants on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

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JEFFERSON OFFICE STAFF

Principal:	Ms. Lindsey Lawson
Assistant Principal:	Ms. Vanessa Hefley
School Counselor:	Ms. Sydnie Stover
PowerSchool Clerk:	Ms. Tiffany Brown
Bookkeeper:	Ms. Tammy Harper
Nurse:	Ms. Kellie Baker

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Colors: Blue and Gray
2025-2026 Theme: Let Us Grow

Mascot:  Dolphin

OUR SCHOOL



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TEACHING AND LEARNING

Media Center

The William E. Lowry Media Center is the heart of our school, providing students with opportunities to explore, discover, and develop a lifelong love of reading. Throughout the school year, students will visit and actively use the library to check out books, conduct research, and engage in learning activities.

Each student will be assigned a student identification number to check out library materials. We encourage students to learn and use their ID number independently as they become responsible library patrons.

Books may be checked out for one week and can be renewed for an additional week if needed. There are no fines for overdue books; however, we encourage students to return materials on time so that all students have the opportunity to enjoy them.

We ask students to take good care of the books they borrow and treat them with respect. Families play an important role in fostering a love of reading by encouraging children to read regularly and by sharing books together at home.

We are fortunate that lost or damaged books are rare. Should a library book become lost or damaged, families may be asked to help cover the cost of replacement so that our collection can continue to serve all students for years to come.

Promotion/Retention

South Carolina law states, "Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a student must be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of third grade as indicated by scoring at the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment SC READY."

Some students with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and those who have been previously retained can receive a "good cause exemption" and be promoted to the fourth grade even if they are not reading at the required level. Other good cause exemptions exist for students who scored poorly on the state summative assessment, but who have demonstrated grade-level reading proficiency on other tests or through a reading portfolio.

The teacher(s) and principal of a school should know by the end of the first semester those students who are not making satisfactory progress. In cases when students are not progressing satisfactorily, the procedures below will be followed:

1. At the end of the first semester, the teacher will indicate in a letter or progress report all subjects a child is in danger of failing at this time.
2. The teacher must schedule a conference with the parent(s) at this time to discuss the student's program and progress.
3. During the conference, the following areas should be included in the discussion:
 - a. The student's present level of attainment.
 - b. The level of attainment required for promotion.
 - c. Specific problems the student is encountering.
 - d. Suggestions to the parent(s) of ways in which they can assist the student.
4. Final retention conferences, when needed, will be held during the fourth nine-week grading period.

Read 2 Succeed Law

At Jefferson Elementary, we are committed to helping every student become a confident, successful reader. The **Read to Succeed** law is a South Carolina initiative that supports this goal by ensuring all students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade.

Under this law, schools are required to:

- **Monitor your child's reading progress starting in kindergarten**
- **Provide extra reading support and interventions** for students who are not meeting grade-level expectations
- **Communicate with families regularly** about their child's reading development
- Identify third graders who aren't reading proficiently and invite them to attend *summer reading camp*
- By **summer 2026**, the camp requirement expands to include first graders, and by **summer 2027**, it will include second graders.

One important part of the Read to Succeed law is that **third-grade students who are not reading on grade level by the end of the year may be at risk of being retained**. This decision is never taken lightly and is based on multiple sources of data, including test scores, classroom performance, and teacher recommendations.

Here's how we support your child:

- Students are given regular reading assessments (like MAP, PAST, and ORF) to track progress
- Individual Reading Plans (IRPs) are created for students who need extra help
- Reading interventions are provided during the school day
- Parents are kept informed and involved in their child's progress

How you can help:

- Read with your child every day at home
- Ask questions about what they're reading
- Talk with your child's teacher about how you can support reading goals at home

Together, we can help your child become a strong, lifelong reader. If you ever have questions about your child's reading progress or the Read to Succeed law, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or a member of our school team.

Student Progress

Report cards will be distributed to parents quarterly following the conclusion of each nine-week grading period. The report card is aligned with the SC State Standards for English Language Arts and Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Music, and Art. Report cards must be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to school. Other reports concerning individual student progress may also be issued. Parents are urged to initiate conferences anytime by writing a note, sending a Parent Square, or calling the school. Teachers may request that parents attend special conferences.

The standards-based reporting system for academic progress in York School District 1 is for grades K-fourth and is as follows:

E Exceeds: Student consistently demonstrates an advanced understanding of grade-level expectations. The student is performing above grade level.

P Proficient: Student consistently demonstrates an understanding of grade level expectations.

NY Not Yet: Student is not yet consistently demonstrating an understanding of grade level expectations.

U Unsatisfactory: Student does not consistently demonstrate an understanding of grade level expectations. The student is performing below grade level.

The goal is for all students to reach "proficient" by the end of the school year.

Science and Social Studies: K through sixth grade should follow their long-range plan for teaching the SC State Standards in Science and Social Studies.

K, First, and Second Grades: "S" or "U" will be given for Social Studies and Science.

Third and Fourth grades: Students will receive letter grades and numerical averages for science and social studies. The grading scale is below for reference.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education beginning the 2016-2017 school year. Grading is based on a ten-point scale. Please see the table below for reference.

Letter Grade	Numerical Average
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	Below 60

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents are invited, on a scheduled basis, to meet with teachers to discuss their child's school progress. The Parent/Teacher conference offers the opportunity to ask questions relative to your child and to build an avenue of communication between home and school to better assist your child's progress. Throughout the school year, parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teacher whenever necessary. Parents are urged to initiate conferences anytime by writing a note, sending a Parent Square, or calling the school.

Daily Procedures

Arrival to School

Doors open for students at 7:15 a.m. Parents should not leave students at school before that time.

Students will go directly to their classrooms to begin their day.

Dismissal Method

No student will be allowed to go home in a different way from their regular travel unless permission is requested by a parent/guardian in writing. Due to concerns regarding student safety, Jefferson Elementary School personnel prefer not to accept messages over the telephone requesting that the child's mode of transportation to go home be changed. **Students are not permitted to ride a different bus than usual unless permission is granted by the transportation office at least 48-72 hours in advance. It is the responsibility of the parent to request a change in bus transportation through the office. (See guest rider policy from York School District One Rules for Riding School Bus).**

The normal mode of transportation can be altered under the following conditions:

1. The child comes to school with a signed and dated note from the parent. The note would be given to the classroom teacher, who would then forward it to the office.
2. The parent personally comes into the school office and makes the request. The office will call the child so the message can be relayed to him/her. The parent will also be asked to put the request in writing.
3. A parent calls the office **prior to 1:30 pm** and requests the child's mode of transportation be changed.

IF THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE, THE CHILD WILL BE SENT HOME ACCORDING TO HIS/HER USUAL MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.

Dismissal Times

Parents who come for their children should pick them up promptly at dismissal time. The dismissal schedule is as follows:

- 2:15 p.m. Bus riders are dismissed at the side of the building
- 2:15 p.m. Car riders are dismissed to the car rider line
- 2:30 p.m. Remaining students are brought to the office to wait for their ride

*Parents are asked to come only at these scheduled times.

***If a student remains at school after 3:30 PM and we have been unable to contact a parent/guardian, school district administration and York Police Department will be notified to help ensure the student's safety and supervision.**

Early Dismissal

Students are expected to remain in their class until the end of the instructional day (2:15 p.m.). For the safety of all students, no student will be dismissed early without a parent or legal guardian coming to the Main Office to sign the student out. We will not dismiss a student after 1:45 pm. Students dismissed after 1:45 will not be called to the office until 2:15. For the safety of all students, please bring a valid driver's license or state-issued photo ID when signing a student out of school.

Should there be a need for someone other than a parent or legal guardian to pick up a student early, the office will verify that the person is listed on the student's enrollment form.

Parents are asked to wait at the office for their child once dismissal arrangements have been made. Only the names appearing on the student's emergency form will allow access to the student. If your student's contacts change, it is your responsibility to alert the office immediately.

To maximize instructional time, we encourage families to limit early dismissals whenever possible. Please note that all early dismissals and tardies are documented as part of a student's attendance record.

Car Riders

School personnel will accompany students transported by car to the parent pick-up line at the school's dismissal areas. Please follow the arrows for parent pickup. Because of the number of students transported by personal vehicles and safety concerns, parents must wait in the parent pickup line to pick up their children. Parents must remain in line in their vehicle and display a car tag with the child's name.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

AM DROP OFF: Car Riders

Pre-K (Mrs. Gilcher and Mrs. Whetstine): All Pre-K car riders may be dropped off at 7:15. Please follow the red arrow and then turn and follow the green arrow to park. Please park your car in the parking lot closest to your child's class and walk your child to the side door.

Special Ed. (Ms. Talley and Ms. Lightsey) Students in these classes may be dropped off at 7:15. Please follow the red arrow and then turn and follow the green arrow to park. Please park your car in the parking lot nearest to the catwalk and walk your child to the side door.

5K-4th Grade: Car rider drop-off begins at 7:15. All other car riders, 5K- 4th grade, are to follow the **red line** for drop-off. Staff members are out front to help with drop-off. For the safety of our students and staff, parents should only drop off in the car line. Please do not allow your child to walk across from the parking lot.



PM PICK UP: Car Riders

All PreK- 4th grade car riders are picked up in the regular car rider line. Please follow the **blue line** for dismissal. The pick-up person remains in car. Pull forward in the line and a staff member will be there to get your student/s into the vehicles. If your child need help buckling in, please pull forward to allow other vehicles to load their students.



Special Ed. (Ms. Talley and Ms. Lightsey): Car Rider students are picked up in the back of the building.

Lost and Found

Articles found in the school building, on school grounds, or on the school buses are placed in the Lost and Found area in the room outside the gym where their owners may claim them. At the end of the year, unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. Parents are requested to label all removable articles of clothing, lunch boxes, and important school supplies with the child's first and last name.

Breakfast and Lunch Program

York One Schools is excited to announce for the 2026-2027 school year EVERY student will be able to receive breakfast and lunch, at school, without cost, thanks to the Federal USDA Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

As a CEP school district, all students will have breakfast and lunch available at no cost. A la carte items, such as snacks, chips, ice cream, juice, individual entrée items, and cookies are not included, and students must have funds in their account or cash to purchase these items. To add money to your child's lunch account, please visit [myschoolbucks.com](https://york.nutrislice.com/menu). School menus will continue to be available online for review at <https://york.nutrislice.com/menu>.

Students are encouraged to participate in the breakfast and lunch program. Students will be offered breakfast in the classroom each day. If you would like for your students to have breakfast at school, please have them to school by 7:35 to allow time for that. Instruction begins at 7:45.

All students will eat lunch in the cafeteria during lunch. Students bringing their lunches should not bring food that has to be heated in the microwave. No carbonated beverages/soda are allowed. If a student has a particular health need concerning lunch food, please contact the nurse.

Everyone visiting our cafeteria (family, visitors, volunteers, etc.) must check-in at the office with a valid state-issued ID. Visitors at lunch may sit at the designated cafeteria table for them to allow space to sit with your student. Visitors are also not allowed to follow students back to the classroom after lunch.

Family members are encouraged to eat lunch with their child(ren). Each adult must pay for his/her lunch by check or cash. We do not have the capability to process credit/debit cards in our cafeteria. The daily charge for lunch is \$5.85 for adult lunches. (*Meal prices are subject to change.)

For funding purposes, we ask that all families still complete the lunch application. The application for free/reduced-price meals is available online at <https://www.lunchapplication.com/> or on the school district's website. Paper applications are also available and can be found at the front office of each of the schools or the district office. Paper applications must be filled out in their entirety in ink and returned to your child's school cafeteria manager or the district office. ALL sections on the application must be completed to prevent delays in the approval process for your child. Please complete only one application per household. Please check with your child's school for serving times for meals.

Students must help keep their area neat and clean by clearing napkins, straws, or milk cartons from the table. Students are **not** allowed to take any food or drink from the cafeteria to eat on school grounds or in the classroom. To preserve our new flooring, we ask that students only bring clear beverages. Please do not bring colored beverages.

Visitors

Everyone coming into our school must first check in at the Main Office with a valid Driver's License. If you wish to speak with your child's teacher, please make an appointment with the office secretary. Teachers will NOT be called from the classroom to meet with a parent. All teacher conferences must be scheduled in advance. Visitors, parents, and guests entering the security door must present a valid driver's license will be given a visitor's pass to wear. Before leaving the school, visitors are asked to stop at the main office and sign out. Visitors will NOT be allowed entry without a driver's license.

Recess

All classes will have 20 minutes of recess. Whenever it is possible, and in the best judgment of the teacher and/or the administrator, recess time will be spent outside the building. Of course, when conditions such as extreme cold or soaking rains are evident, recess will be held inside.

Telephone Use/Messages

The school telephone number is (803) 684-1942. The telephone is for school business. Students will not be called from class for incoming calls unless it is an emergency. Parents are asked not to phone students unless it is necessary. Parents wishing to confer with teachers on the phone are requested to limit their calls to before or after school unless a teacher has requested a call during his/her planning period.

Attendance

York School District One will comply with these laws and regulations as set forth by the Local and State Boards of Education, SC CODE R43-274, SC CODE 59-65-90 and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

1. Students are expected to attend school each day in accordance with the approved school calendar. Students should not be tardy or leave school early except for extreme and unavoidable circumstances
2. If a student is absent from school, the parent/guardian must send a note to the school explaining the absence within 3 days of the student returning to school. If the school has not received a written excuse from the parent/guardian within 3 school days of the student's return, the absence(s) may be recorded as "UNLAWFUL."
3. Students that miss school due to a death in the family should send a note to the school stating the reason for the absence, the name of the deceased, and documentation verifying the death (i.e., newspaper clipping or funeral program).
4. Students who are out of school for medical reasons should provide the school with a doctor's note upon returning to school. If a student is out due to illness and returns to school with a doctor's note, the absences will be recorded as "MEDICAL."
5. For yearlong courses, after ten lawful or unlawful absences, or any combination of the two, the principal of the school will approve or disapprove each succeeding absence. For semester courses, after five lawful or unlawful absences, or any combination of the two, the principal of the school will approve or disapprove each succeeding absence. The school will be allowed to "EXCUSE" no more than 10 school days with a parent/guardian note. Parent/guardian notes sent after the 10th day will be recorded as "UNLAWFUL" (unless for bereavement – see #3).
6. In accordance with the law, excessive absences can determine a student's promotion or retention status
7. Attendance letters will automatically be sent out to each parent when a child has reached the 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 10th day of absences – excluding medical (by doctor's note only) and bereavement (3 days maximum).

Truancy

The attendance laws state that a Truant Child is defined as "A child ages 6 to 17 years that has accumulated 3 consecutive unlawful absences or a total of 5 unlawful absences." Schools are required by law to have a face-to-face meeting with every parent/guardian of a Truant Child and develop an "Attendance Intervention Plan." Parent(s)/Guardian(s) who fail to attend the scheduled Intervention Plan meeting or refuse to cooperate with the intervention planning may be referred to Family Court in accordance with SC CODE 59-65-50, and a report may be filed against the parent(s)/guardian(s) with the Department of Social Services in compliance with SC CODE Ann 20-7-490(2)(c) (Supp. 2002).

Student Conduct

Behavior Expectations

At Jefferson Elementary, we are committed to providing a safe, productive, and positive learning environment where all students can thrive. Students are expected to take responsibility for their actions and make appropriate choices related to academics, behavior, and interactions with others. To support this, we've established clear expectations and tools to help students grow as learners, leaders, and members of our school community.

As we begin the **2026-2027 school year**, we have **updated** our school-wide behavior initiative to reflect our theme: **Let us Grow.**

This theme is more than just words—it's a mindset we want all students to embody. We want our students to:

- **Lead** with kindness and honesty
- **Learn** from challenges and take responsibility for growth
- **Grow** their behavior habits by setting goals and striving for success

We will also continue reciting the **Jefferson Elementary Pledge**, which serves as the foundation for our expectations:

Jefferson Elementary Pledge:

At Jefferson, we WELCOME everyone with kindness, are ALWAYS honest, and help others, we VALUE our school and the people in it, we ENGAGE with a positive attitude, and always strive for SUCCESS. Together we ride the WAVES!

Students will recite the pledge each morning during the daily news broadcast, which ends with our school-wide expectations:

Lead. Learn. Grow.

Daily Communication Log

To support these expectations, every student will bring home a **Daily Communication Log**. This tool is designed to:

- Promote reflection and accountability
- Celebrate positive behavior choices
- Identify specific areas where students can grow
- Strengthen the connection between school and home

Each day, students will check off ways they demonstrated the Jefferson Pledge—such as using kind words, staying on task, and encouraging others. They will also note any areas they are working to improve, like following directions or managing frustration. Teachers may leave brief comments, and students are encouraged to reflect on what went well or what they want to improve the next day.

Parents and guardians are asked to review and initial the log daily. This ongoing communication supports our shared goal of helping each student lead themselves well, learn from their choices, and level up each day—both behaviorally and academically.

Consequences & Interventions

While our focus is on reinforcing positive behavior, consequences for misbehavior may be used when needed and could include (but are not limited to):

- Teacher-student conference
- Reset time
- Loss of privileges
- Parent contact (note, phone call, email, or in person)
- Referral to the school counselor or behavior interventionist
- Morning or lunch detention
- In-school or out-of-school suspension

Our goal is not only to address misbehavior, but to teach students how to make better choices moving forward. By reinforcing the Jefferson Pledge daily and partnering with families, we believe every student can grow into a respectful, responsible, and confident leader.

Toys and Personal Items

To support a focused and productive learning environment, students should **leave all toys, trading cards, slime, electronics (other than school-approved devices), and other distracting objects at home**. These items can disrupt instruction, become lost or damaged, and cause unnecessary conflict among students.

If a student brings a distracting item to school, the following steps may be taken:

1. The item may be collected by the teacher and returned at the end of the day.

2. Repeated offenses may result in the item being held in the office until a parent or guardian can retrieve it.
3. The school is **not responsible** for any lost, stolen, or damaged personal items that are brought to school against this policy.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep classrooms focused and learning-centered!

York School District One Cell Phone Policy

Per the FY 2024-25 Appropriations Act and Proviso 1.103 students in South Carolina's public schools are not permitted to access their cell phones or any other personal electronic device during the school day (beginning bell to ending bell).

In compliance with the above law, beginning August 1st, the following rules will be in place on all school campuses (elementary, middle, and high school):

- Students may only access their cell phones before the start of the school day and then after the school day ends.
- Students may not access and use their cell phones at any point during the school day, which includes transitions between classes, in hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, etc.
- Students may use their cell phones during after school activities.
- As a best practice, cell phones should be turned off at the beginning of and throughout the school day and placed in bookbags, handbags, or personal storage space, and out of visibility.

Students will be expected to follow all rules and procedures associated with this state law. Any student who chooses to access their cell phone at any time during the school day or participates in unauthorized use of a cell phone will be subject to consequences outlined in Board Policy AR-JICJ-R Possession/Use of Electronic Communication Devices in School.

YSD1 Clear Bag Guidelines and Procedures

Ensuring the safety of students, staff, and guests of York School District One is a top priority. Clear bags provide another level of safety and security recommended by the Department of Homeland Security. In keeping with this recommendation, York School District One will implement Clear Bag Guidelines and Procedures to ensure that our venues are safe for all. As students, staff, and guests' approach and enter event venues, law enforcement and staff workers can more easily spot prohibited items providing the ability to resolve safety or security concerns before they become an issue or threat. Additionally, YSD1 Clear Bag Guidelines and Procedures promote the Department of Homeland Security's "See Something, Say Something" campaign.

Students, staff, and guests of after-school Athletic and Performing Arts events held at York School District One venues will be expected to comply with Clear Bag Guidelines and Procedures.

Students, staff, and guests are allowed one large clear bag plus a small purse-type clutch. The large clear bag must be no larger than 12"x 6" x 12" and made of clear material that is easily searched. A gallon Ziploc-style bag is a readily available clear bag that meets these requirements. The small purse-type clutch can be used to carry more personal items but remains subject to search. The clutch must be no larger than 4.5"x 6.5." Medically necessary items are approved but subject to search. Every spectator, including children, is allowed to enter the venue with one clear bag.

The following prohibited bags include, but are not limited to:

Purses larger than a clutch bag, briefcases, backpacks, fanny packs, cinch/drawstring bags, luggage of any kind, computer bags, diaper bags, binocular cases, and camera bags.

1. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, the following: weapons, alcohol, animals, (other than service animals as defined by ADA), drugs, lasers, fireworks, or outside food and drinks.
2. If a spectator attempts to enter the venue with a clear bag, the event staff member should visually inspect the contents of the bag by looking through the outside of the clear bag. In the majority of cases, a visual inspection through the outside of the clear bags should be sufficient to determine that no contraband is being brought into the venue. If the event staff member determines that he/she is unable to adequately screen the bag's contents from the outside bag, he/she is permitted to feel the bag or open it to look for any concealed items. Event staff members should be aware of the possibility that contraband may be concealed within blankets/garments carried in the clear bag or within a smaller bag stored inside the clear bag.
3. If a spectator attempts to enter the venue with a permissible non-clear bag such as a small purse, "clutch," or medical device the bags are subject to search.
4. If a member of the media with proper credentials attempts to enter with an equipment bag, the event staff member should conduct a search of the bag prior to allowing entry.
5. If a spectator does not comply with a request to search a bag, he/she will be asked to return the bag to his/her vehicle. No spectator should be authorized to enter a venue without first complying with this procedure.
6. On occasion, event staff members may encounter non-compliant or verbally aggressive individuals during the screening process who do not agree with the application of the rules to their person or property. If this occurs, the event staff should remain calm and attempt to de-escalate the situation by re-explaining the rules. If the situation persists, the event staff member should stop the interaction and the uncooperative individual should be asked to step outside of the venue until a supervisor and/or nearby law enforcement officer can be notified and respond. At no time should the event staff member make the interaction personal or do anything that would escalate the situation.
7. If contraband is located, the appropriate event supervisor or law enforcement officer should be notified.

School Communication

Communication to Non-Custodial Parents

Non-custodial parents may contact the school office to receive copies of school communications. We encourage noncustodial parents to stay involved in their children's education and to focus on the needs and progress of their children through opportunities like Parent/Teacher Conferences. Parents may at any time eat lunch with a student, unless court documents specify that visitation is supervised.

Electronic Communication

We communicate through electronic connections (ParentSquare [formerly Remind]/email/Blackboard) and social media (Facebook). Please update Final Forms, when changes to your contact information changes. We can also provide you with a paper copy of information only if requested.

Written Communications

- School Information through Wednesday folders or Blackboard.
- Daily Behavior Communication Log
- Weekly parent communication from classroom teachers
- Parent Square (formerly Remind App) (FREE)
- School handbook for parents and students (outlining school policies and procedures)
- School website (updated with calendar of events and school information)
 - Web Address: <http://www.york.k12.sc.us> (click on elementary schools and then Jefferson Elementary)

- JES Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/york1JES/>
- School marquee (displays upcoming events)
- YSD1 and SchoolMsg apps (FREE)
- York School District 1 and YSD1Transportation Facebook pages
- School Newsletter: Dolphin Digest

Telephone Communications

Teachers, Administrators, and other JES staff may reach out to families with phone calls. The nurse may get in touch via telephone if your child is sick or injured. An automated calling system for school and district announcements and emergency communications. Please update the contact information in Final Forms.

Title One

Title I Parent Right to Know Information



Dr. Heath Branham, Superintendent

Parents/Guardians of students in York School District One may request information about a teacher from the principal of the school to which your child is assigned. Under federal law, parents have the right to know:

- Whether a teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether a teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of a teacher and any other graduate certificate or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

If you have any questions about your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to call:

Ms. Megan Hoyt Cotton Belt Elementary School 1176 Black Highway York, SC 29745 684-1947	Ms. Crystal Sandifer Harold C. Johnson Elementary 400 East Jefferson Street York, SC 29745 Phone: (803) 818-6040	Ms. Heather Montgomery Hunter Street Elementary 1100 Hunter Street York, SC 29745 684-1926
Mr. Keith McSwain Hickory Grove-Sharon Elementary 4901 Hickory Grove Road Hickory Grove, SC 29717 925-2116	Ms. Lindsey Lawson Jefferson Elementary School 1543 Chester Highway York, SC 29745 684-1942	Ms. Hannah Rescigno York Intermediate School 1280 Johnson Road York, SC 29745 684-2311
Ms. Marilyn Milton York Middle School 1010 DeVinney Road York, SC 29745 684-5008	Ms. Jenna Markey York Comprehensive High School 275 East Alexander Love Highway York, SC 29745 684-2336	Dr. Lee Green Floyd D. Johnson Technology Ctr. 275 East Alexander Love Highway York, SC 29745 684-1910
Mr. Rob Farris York One Academy		

37 Pinckney Street York, SC 29745 684-2381		
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Jefferson Elementary School is a Title One School. To raise academic achievement for all students, this school-wide program permits a school to use funds from Title I, Part A, and other Federal education program for funds and resources to upgrade the entire educational program of the school. If you have any questions concerning this program or would like to make recommendations as to how these funds are spent, please call Ms. Lindsey Lawson at 803-684-1942.

York School District One Parent Involvement Policy

All schools in York School District One are Title I eligible. For the 2026-2027 school year, the Title I schools are: Cotton Belt Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, and Harold C. Johnson Elementary School.

2026-2027 School Year

I. Policy Involvement

The Parent Involvement Policy is jointly developed with, agreed upon with, and distributed to, all of the parents of participating children. We will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency and parents with disabilities. Furthermore, we will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities at the school level with other federal, state, and district programs. The Parent Policy will be presented for discussion and approval with parents and the community during the initial open house meeting. The Policy will be updated as needed and reviewed annually by a team of people – including parents, community members, school and district administrators, and school faculty and staff members – in order to continuously meet the changing needs of our parents, our students, and the school.

II. Shared Responsibility: Parent–School Compact

School – Parent Compact, jointly developed with, agreed upon with and distributed to all parents, will describe how parents, students, and the entire school staff, will share in the responsibility for high student achievement. A team of people – including parents, community members, school and school faculty, and staff – will annually review the School Compact.

III. Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the stakeholders for student achievement, we will:

- assist parents in understanding South Carolina’s academic and achievement standards and the school’s Title 1 participation by disseminating pamphlets and handouts and conducting parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, and Open House,
- communicate and monitor a child’s progress by interim report cards, quarterly report cards, IEP (Individual Education Plan) meetings, telephone calls, parent-teacher conferences, dissemination of PACT information, and academic plans,
- assist parents in helping them improve achievement of their children through parenting workshops, adult education, newsletters that provide activities and suggestions, and students’ weekly folders,
- educate teachers and other staff members, with the assistance of parents, in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents through PTO, conferences, workshops, and staff development,

- send information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to the parents in a format and language they can understand through school-generated newsletters, PTO meetings, school improvement council meetings, school calendar, parent/student handbook, and student planner,
- provide opportunities for parents to communicate with the school through open door policy, suggestion box, designated time to meet with principal and/or teachers, and parenting workshops,
- provide other activities to promote parental involvement through National Volunteer Week, field trips, parenting workshops, volunteer programs, and tutoring programs, and
- provide reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

Title One Home-School Compact

“A Shared Responsibility for High Student Achievement”

Research clearly indicates that effective learning only takes place when there is a combination of **effort, interest** and **motivation**. Research also states that learning is greatly enhanced when there is a cooperative effort between the student, school and home. With this in mind, the faculty and staff of Jefferson Elementary School pledge to do our very best to improve the academic, social and emotional success of all students enrolled.

School compacts make sure that everyone owns the responsibility of helping children achieve high academic standards. Our Jefferson Compact is a promise from all participants to work together for the betterment of the student. We sincerely believe that this compact can only be fulfilled by our team effort, for it is only through the team effort that your child will reach his/her highest potential. We look forward to working with you to provide the best possible education for your child.

AS A PRINCIPAL, I WILL:

- Provide a safe and productive learning environment for all students
- Set high expectations for all students
- Provide the framework for high-quality curriculum and instruction
- Enforce school rules fairly and consistently
- Provide ongoing communication with all parents on information such as student progress, school programs, and testing results.
- Seek parent participation in decisions pertaining to school programs and governance and encourage parents to share opinions
- Provide opportunities for parents to meet with teachers, visit and observe in classrooms and volunteer
- Provide ample opportunity for parent-teacher conferences
- Make special arrangements when necessary to help parents participate in school activities

AS A TEACHER, I WILL:

- believe that each child can learn
- make all decisions that are in the best interest of the student
- show respect for each child and his/her family
- help each child grow to his/her fullest potential
- come to class each day prepared to teach and learn
- provide a safe, productive and nurturing learning environment
- model professional behavior and a positive attitude
- ensure fairness and equity in adherence to school, district and classroom rules
- recognize and celebrate the cultural diversity of my students

- maintain an open line of communication with students and parents
- provide a variety of opportunities for parents to become involved in school activities
- be flexible when scheduling parent communication
- provide parents with appropriate information and resources
- provide meaningful and appropriate homework; and
- consult and coordinate with other teachers about the specific needs of each child

AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN, I WILL:

- recognize that I am my child's first and most important teacher
- provide a home environment that encourages my child to learn
- strive to develop the parenting skills needed to help my child succeed
- consistently stress the importance of a quality education and acceptable behavior
- read to or listen to my child read every night
- make sure my child attends school regularly and arrives to school each day on time and well groomed
- provide my child with adequate school supplies for successful learning
- encourage my child to be independently responsible
- communicate regularly with my child's teacher
- review my child's progress reports
- provide educational opportunities for my child throughout the year; and
- if possible, volunteer in my child's school

AS A STUDENT I WILL:

- do my very best in my work and in my behavior
- come to school each day prepared with all my assignments and supplies
- assume total responsibility for my actions
- obey all school and bus rules
- be respectful at all times
- be an active participant in school and community service; and
- read aloud or silently every day

By agreeing to this Compact, you have made one of the most important commitments you will ever make. Thank you for taking the time to make a difference in the life of a child.

Together, we can make a difference!

By signing the acknowledgement form in the student handbook, both the student and the parent agree that you have read and understand the Title One Home-School Compact for Jefferson Elementary School.

Staying Home from School or Childcare When Your Child is Sick

UPDATED JUNE 2025



If you think that your child has an illness that can be spread to others, please keep him or her home from school or childcare. Contact your healthcare provider or clinic if you think medical attention is needed.

The School and Childcare Exclusion List was updated in June 2025.

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Help your child stay healthy and ready to learn! We hope that your child never has to miss school or childcare because of sickness. For many illnesses it is OK to go to school, especially when symptoms are mild. Frequent handwashing and staying up to date with vaccinations can help prevent illnesses.

Questions to Consider When Your Child is Sick:

1. Does your child's illness keep him/her from comfortably taking part in activities?
2. Does your sick child need more care than the staff can give without affecting the health and safety of other children?
3. Could other children get sick from being near your child?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes," please keep your child out of school or childcare.

Should my child stay home?

DPH publishes the School and Childcare Exclusion List each year. The Exclusion List explains how long ill children should stay out of school or childcare, and what is needed before returning. Your child's healthcare provider can also help if you have questions about your child's health.

Information for specific illnesses can be found on the School and Childcare Exclusion List on the web at the following address: <https://dph.sc.gov/health-wellness/child-teen-health/school-exclusion>

A Quick Reference for Parents/Caregivers of Children

Cough

A mild cough does not necessarily mean that a child needs to stay home. Your child will need to stay home if the cough is constant, causes shortness of breath, problems breathing, or if they have a fever.

Diarrhea

Keep your child home if he or she has 3 or more loose stools in 24 hours. Your child may return when they have no more than 2 stools above their normal and stool is contained in the diaper for diapered children.

Fever

Keep your child home for a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher AND experiencing behavior change or other signs of illness. Your child may return when they no longer have a fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medicine.

Rash

Keep your child home if the rash is associated with change in behavior, fever, tenderness, oozing, or is an open wound that can't be covered.

Vomiting

Keep your child home if unexplained vomiting has occurred 2 or more times in a 24-hour period. Your child may return when well enough to participate in routine activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

When should sick children stay home from school or childcare? If your child feels too sick to go to school or childcare and is unable to participate in activities, please keep him or her at home.

Does my child need to stay home when the child just has a cold?

Most children with mild colds who have no fever (without taking fever reducing medication) and who feel well enough to go to school or childcare do not need to stay home.

Does my child need to be out of school or childcare if the child has pinkeye?

No. It is helpful to think of pinkeye like the common cold—it usually clears up without medicine.

How long will my child need to stay home if the child is sick? The School and Childcare Exclusion List explains how long children should stay home after they become sick with certain illnesses.

When would my child have to stay home if my child is not sick? Sometimes children will have to stay home from school

or childcare if they are exposed to certain diseases. Your school, childcare center, or local health department will discuss the amount of time with you.

What illness might keep my child from participating in other activities?

Children with illnesses that can be spread to others may not be allowed to participate in some sports, physical education, or other school activities.



DPH Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section

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<https://dph.sc.gov/health-wellness/child-teen-health/schoolexclus>