

2026-27

DISTRICT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Webster Groves School District

Inspiring students' lives and communities through learning

400 E. Lockwood Avenue | Webster Groves, MO 63119
314.961.1233 | Fax 314.963.6411 | www.webster.k12.mo.us

Table of Contents

This handbook provides district information and selected policy excerpts for families during the 2026-27 school year.
The current and controlling versions of all Board policies are available at www.webster.k12.mo.us.

District Information for Parents & Guardians

District Calendar	3
District Mission & Vision	4
Board of Education	5
District Directory	7
Weather Emergency Information	9
Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment	10
Public Information	11
Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissal	12
Parent and Family Involvement and Engagement	14
Audio/Video Recording	16
MO HealthNet for Kids Program	18

Required Parental Notifications / Policies

Public Concerns and Complaints (Policy KL)	18
Public Concerns and Complaints Regarding Federal Programs (Policy KLA)	19
Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation (Policy AC)	21
Equity	28
Wellness	29
Section 504	30
Special Education	31
Gifted Program	32
Homelessness	32
Migratory Students	36
English Language Learners	37
Surveying, Analyzing or Evaluating Students	40
Sexual Health Instruction	41
Assessments	42
Virtual Courses	43
Policy Publication	43
Graduation Requirements	47
Early Graduation	49
Staff/Student Records	50
Staff/Student Relationships	53
Student Health Services	53
Administration of Medications	57
Immunization of Students	60
Suicide Awareness	61
Lunch Eligibility	63
Food Service Management	63

Student Discipline Policies

Student Searches	65
Bullying	66
Student Discipline	68
Discipline of Students with Disabilities	79

2026-2027 Calendar



Webster Groves School District

Inspiring students' lives and communities through learning

July '26				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

August '26				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September '26				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October '26				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November '26				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

December '26				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

FIRST SEMESTER IMPORTANT DATES	
July 3	District Closed - Independence Day Holiday Observed
Aug. 14 – 18	New Teacher Orientation
Aug. 14 – 24	Professional Development Days/ Two Teacher Work Days
Aug. 14 – 24	K-5 Jump Start Conferences
Aug. 25	*First Day of School*
Sept. 7	No School PK – 12 Labor Day Holiday Observed
Oct. 12 – 14	HX & HS Conferences
Oct. 12 – 14	WAFC Fall Conferences
Oct. 15	No School PK-5 Students – Teacher PD Day
Oct. 15	No School HX & HS Students – Full Day Teacher Conferences
Oct. 16	No School PK-12 (due to conferences)
Nov. 3	No School PK-12 Students – Teacher Records & PD Day
Nov. 16 – 19	K-5 Conferences
Nov. 25 – 27	No School PK-12 - Thanksgiving Holiday Observed
Dec. 18 – 22	HS Exam Days (8:25 am – 11:40 am)
Dec. 23 – 31	No School PK-12 - Winter Recess

SECOND SEMESTER IMPORTANT DATES	
Jan. 1	No School PK-12 - New Years Day and Winter Recess Continued
Jan. 4	No School PK-12 Students – Teacher Records & PD Day
Jan. 5	School Resumes
Jan. 18	No School PK-12 - Dr. ML King Day Holiday Observed
Feb. 12	No School PK - 12 Students – Teacher Records & PD Day
Feb. 15	No School PK-12 - Presidents' Day Holiday Observed
Mar. 8 – 11	PK-12 Conferences
Mar. 12	No School PK-12 (due to conferences)
Mar. 15 – 19	No School PK-12 - Spring Break
May 7	Early Dismissal K-5 Students Only - PM Teacher Records Day No School PK (Ambrose) – Professional Development Day
May 26 – 28	HS Exam Days (8:25 am – 11:40 am)
May 28	*Last Day of School*/Early Dismissal - PK-12 Students Teacher Record Day PM
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday Observed
June 1	Summer School Begins WGHS 9-12 Program
June 7	Summer School Begins K-8 Students
June 7	Jumpstart to Kindergarten Begins
June 18	Juneteenth Holiday Observed
July 2	Summer School Ends K-12 Students

Board Approved January 09, 2025

	End of Semester/Term 1	End of Semester/Term 2	End of Term 3
Grades K-5	October 30	February 12	May 28
HX and HS	December 18	May 28	

	Summer School Start Date	Summer School End Date
Elementary	June 7	July 2
Hixson Middle	June 7	July 2
High School	June 1	July 2

	Summer School Start Date	Summer School End Date
J2K Session 1	June 7	June 17
J2K Session 2	June 21	July 1

January '27				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

February '27				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

March '27				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

April '27				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

May '27				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

June '27				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

July '27				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2

Late Start Times

K - 5 9:05 am
6 - 12 9:40 am

Early Dismissal Times

WAFC: 11:15 am
Elementary: 11:45 am
Middle: 12:32 pm
High School: 12:32 pm

○ = Late Start Days/2nd & 4th Monday
/ = Early Dismissal
◇ = Schools Closed & District Offices Open

■ = First & Last Day of School
■ = District Offices Closed
■ = Professional Development
■ = Teacher Records & PD Day
■ = Records Day
■ = No School Ambrose
■ = Summer School Dates
June 1 to July 2

WGSD Purpose and Principles

Our Purpose

Inspiring students' lives and communities through learning.

Our Principles

We ensure academic excellence and continuous growth.

We promote a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment. We nurture trusting and supportive relationships.

We hear and value diverse voices and multiple perspectives.

We prioritize personal well-being and the well-being of others.

We empower lifelong learners to embrace challenges and explore creative solutions.

Our Profile of a Graduate

WGSD students will develop the following knowledge, skills, and traits to flourish as global citizens.

Self-Aware

- Believe in their capacity to learn and grow. Understand and appreciate their uniqueness.
- Prioritize care for their physical, social, and emotional well-being. Identify and access the necessary support for their needs.
- Demonstrate independence, confidence, and resilience.
- Exemplify personal accountability and effective work habits.

An Effective Communicator

- Listen to understand others with an open mind.
- Interact with all people in an inclusive and respectful manner. Articulate well thought-out and clear ideas.

Engaged and Empathetic

- Seek to understand the varied experiences and realities of others. Advocate for themselves and others using a lens of equity and inclusion.
- Demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior. Stand up for what they believe.
- Show care and compassion for others.

A Creative and Critical Thinker

- Identify and critique sources for credibility when exploring questions and issues.
- Demonstrate curiosity and adaptability when seeking unique solutions to problems.
- Utilize new and existing resources to efficiently solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.
- Demonstrate a growth mindset and embrace failure as an opportunity to grow.

Knowledgeable

- Demonstrate mastery of core content knowledge. Apply knowledge to novel situations.
- Make thoughtful and informed decisions.

A Collaborator

- Invest in shared goals, work, and responsibilities.
- Value, respect, and leverage the diverse thoughts, strengths, and talents of others to achieve common goals.
- Advocate for their ideas and demonstrate willingness to seek and respond to constructive feedback.

WGSD Board of Education

About the Board

The Webster Groves School District Board of Education has seven members who serve three-year terms. Board members are elected by district voters and serve without compensation.

Role of the Board

The Board governs the district by hiring and evaluating the superintendent, adopting policy, approving the annual budget, and monitoring district performance. The superintendent is responsible for implementing Board policy and managing day-to-day district operations.

Current Board Members

Board Member	Office
Kita Quinn	President
Tara Scheer	Vice President
Dr. Grace Lee	Secretary
Allen Todd	Director
Miriam Townsend	Director
Christine Keller	Director
Fran Petruso	Director

Questions and Concerns

Families are encouraged to begin with the staff member closest to the concern, such as the teacher, principal, or appropriate district administrator. Matters that remain unresolved may be referred to the superintendent and, when permitted by Board policy, presented to the Board in writing.

Board membership and officer information reflects the district’s official Board webpage as of July 2026.

Board Meetings & Public Participation

Regular Meetings

Regular Board meetings are generally held at 6:30 p.m. Meeting dates, times, formats, and locations are subject to change. Consult the district's Board of Education calendar and meeting portal for the current schedule.

Agendas, Minutes, and Video

Current Board meeting agendas and materials are available through the district's Simbli meeting portal. Recordings are posted on the Webster Groves School District YouTube channel following meetings.

Public Comment

Public-comment procedures and deadlines are published with each meeting agenda. Questions may be directed to Jennifer Davis, Secretary to the Board and Custodian of Records, at davis.jennifer@wgmail.org or 314-961-1233.

Closed Session

The Board may meet in closed session only for purposes authorized by Missouri law, including certain personnel, student, legal, and real-estate matters.

Board Resources

Board of Education: www.webster.k12.mo.us/board-of-education
Board calendar: www.webster.k12.mo.us/board-of-education/board-of-education-calendar
District YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/WebsterGrovesSchoolsMO/videos
District office: 400 E. Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119

District Administration

Position / Name	Contact
Superintendent Dr. Jana Parker	314-918-4005 ext. 10005 parker.jana@wgmail.org
Assistant Superintendent for Learning Dr. Jason Adams	314-918-4008 ext. 10008 adams.jason@wgmail.org
Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Dr. Sandy Wiley Skinner	314-918-4002 ext. 10002 wileyskinner.sandy@wgmail.org
Assistant Superintendent / Chief Financial & Operating Officer Jacob Myers	314-918-4020 ext. 10020 myers.jacob@wgmail.org
Director of Staff Services LaNita Harrison	314-918-4309 ext. 10009 harrison.lanita@wgmail.org
Director of Business Services Emilie Vaughan	314-918-4015 ext. 10015 vaughan.emilie@wgmail.org
Director of Communications Derek Duncan	314-918-4006 ext. 10006 duncan.derek@wgmail.org
Director of Learning Support Services Tina Clark-Scott	314-918-4378 ext. 10992 scott.tina@wgmail.org
Director of Special Education Dr. Stephanie Berry	314-989-8487 ext. 10922 berry.stephanie@wgmail.org
Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Dr. Shane Williamson	314-918-1021 ext. 10021 williamson.shane@wgmail.org
Director of Technology Zach Klestinske	314-918-4650 ext. 11966 klestinske.zach@wgmail.org
Director of Student Assessment, Data & Learning Technologies Tim Brown	314-918-4159 ext. 10022 brown.tim@wgmail.org
Director of Operations Jason Mueller	314-918-4012 ext. 10012 mueller.jason@wgmail.org
Director of Dining Services Brittany Richars	314-918-4156 ext. 11935 richars.brittany@wgmail.org

Main district number: 314-961-1233 | WGSD Service Center: 3232 S. Brentwood Blvd., Webster Groves, MO 63119

Schools & Quick Reference

School	Address	Phone	Fax
Ambrose Family Center	222 W. Cedar Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119	314-963-6440	314-968-9259
Avery Elementary	909 N. Bompert Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119	314-963-6425	314-963-6490
Bristol Elementary	20 Gray Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119	314-963-6433	314-963-6438
Clark Elementary	9130 Big Bend Blvd., Webster Groves, MO 63119	314-963-6444	314-963-6446
Edgar Road Elementary	1131 Edgar Road, Webster Groves, MO 63119	314-963-6472	314-963-6477
Givens Elementary	701 N. Rock Hill Road, Rock Hill, MO 63119	314-963-6460	314-963-6471
Hudson Elementary	9825 Hudson Ave., Rock Hill, MO 63119	314-963-6466	314-963-6478
Hixson Middle School	630 S. Elm Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119	314-963-6450	314-918-4624
Webster Groves High School	100 Selma Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119	314-963-6400	314-963-6483

Quick Reference

Enrollment	Contact the school or call 314-961-1233
Bus Transportation	Contact the student's home school
Learning Support Services	314-918-4378
Food Service	314-963-6400, ext. 11935
Facility Rental	314-961-1233
Volunteering	Contact the school principal

School Closing / Delayed Start

Communication

If weather or another emergency may affect school operations, the district will make and communicate a decision as early as practical through the following channels:

- ParentSquare notifications to families and staff
- District website: www.webster.k12.mo.us
- District Facebook and Instagram accounts
- Local television and radio outlets, as appropriate

Late Start and Early Dismissal

The district may use a late start or early dismissal when conditions warrant. Students should arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before the announced start time. Bus routes will operate one hour and 15 minutes later than their regular morning schedules on late-start days.

School/Group	Late Start	Early Dismissal
Webster Groves High School	9:40 a.m.	12:32 p.m.
Hixson Middle School	9:40 a.m.	12:32 p.m.
Elementary Schools	9:05 a.m.	11:45 a.m.
Ambrose Preschool	9:30 a.m.	11:15 a.m.

Families should follow the most recent ParentSquare message for instructions about transportation, meals, activities, athletics, and before- or after-school programs during a closure or schedule change.

ACCOUNTABILITY/COMMITMENT TO ACCOMPLISHMENT

The Board accepts ultimate responsibility for all facets of the operations of the school district. Because it is accountable to the patrons of the district, the Board will maintain a program of accountability that will help to accomplish the following objectives:

- ▶ Clearly state expectations and purposes as these relate to district operations, programs, departments and positions.
- ▶ Provide necessary resources and support to enable the professional and support staff to achieve stated expectations and purposes subject to the financial resources of the district.
- ▶ Evaluate district operations, programs, services, and instructional activities to determine how well expectations and purposes are being met.
- ▶ Evaluate the efforts of the employees of the Board and of the Board itself in accordance with stated objectives.

The first purpose of personnel evaluation will be to help each individual make a maximum contribution to the goals and objectives of the school district.

The superintendent shall implement procedures to ensure continued progress and improvement of the district operations through a program of meaningful evaluations and assessments, including compliance with annual districtwide reporting requirements set forth by law.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM

Open communication with the district's students, parents/guardians, employees and the public is essential for the school district to operate effectively. The Webster Groves School District Board of Education places high importance on conveying information concerning the district's goals, achievements, activities and operations to these groups.

The district will make a systematic effort to communicate with the public using a variety of communication channels. The Board of Education authorizes the expenditure of funds for the purpose of preparing and distributing information to the general public. Employees and Board members will maintain an effective working relationship with the news media.

Spokespersons

The superintendent, Board president or designee will serve as official spokespersons for the district. All employees and Board members will direct requests for official statements about district business from the public or members of the media to the district's spokespersons. Board members should emphasize to the media and members of the public that they may only speak as individual Board members unless empowered by the Board to speak on its behalf.

Communications Plan

The Board directs the superintendent or designee to develop and disseminate written guidelines to further the goals of this policy, including a communications plan that aligns with relevant Board policies and administrative procedures and addresses:

1. Guidelines for employees communicating with the media.
2. Communicating during emergency situations.
3. Use of the district's website and social media.
4. Sharing information within the district.
5. Sharing information with the public.

Effective Communications

The district recognizes that Board members and employees have regular contact with students, parents/guardians and the public in general. When interacting with the public, all district employees and Board members are responsible for communicating accurate information about district policies and programs and promoting effective school-home-community partnerships.

In all communications, the Board and its employees will:

1. Disseminate accurate and timely information about district policies, programs, procedures, achievements, decisions and critical issues.
2. Eliminate rumors and misinformation.
3. Observe confidentiality and other restrictions imposed by law and Board policy.
4. Promote a climate of trust.

Specific Information

The district will provide information to parents/guardians and members of the public as required by law. Board policies and related documents, including current versions of district handbooks, will be posted on the district's website. School and district report cards may be posted on the district's website and will be distributed to the public as determined by the superintendent or designee. The district will post notice of Board meetings and make copies of these notices available to representatives of the news media upon request. Other public information will be available in the district's buildings or administrative offices for viewing by the public during the office's normal business hours, as required by law and in accordance with policy BDDL.

The superintendent or designee will develop a communication plan for the exchange of information between the district and staff, students, parents/guardians and others when school or school activities are canceled. Notice of the closing and reopening of school or cancellation of activities will be publicized through local media, the district's website and other district information dissemination options.

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Board recognizes the importance of regular student attendance to a successful learning experience. Attendance is crucial to improving student achievement. The Board further recognizes that:

1. State law reflects the importance of regular attendance by establishing compulsory school attendance and charging this Board to enforce that law.
2. State law authorizes school boards to make all rules for organization and governance in the district.
3. Frequent absences of students from regular classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process.
4. The benefits of classroom instruction, once lost, cannot be entirely regained.
5. The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences and study in order to meet the district's student achievement goals.
6. Holding students and their parents/guardians responsible for attendance is part of the district's larger mission to educate students to achieve academic and personal success.

Therefore, regular and punctual patterns of attendance will be expected of each student enrolled in the Webster Groves School District.

Development of Rules and Procedures

The superintendent, with the assistance of building-level administrators and other administrative and professional staff, shall establish rules, regulations and procedures for student attendance within the district. The primary purpose of the district's attendance rules and procedures shall be to change behavior, not to punish students. Such rules and regulations shall be published on the district's website and in appropriate handbooks and shall be subject to review by the Board of Education. The administration will develop rules and procedures that minimally include:

1. Clear and reasonable attendance standards with consistently enforced consequences for violating those standards.
2. Early intervention strategies for students in primary and elementary grades.
3. Targeted intervention strategies.
4. Strategies to increase engagement with students and families.

In developing these rules and procedures, the administration will collect data to determine why students are absent. Data collected will include, but not be limited to:

1. Reasons for student absences.
2. Family attitudes toward school attendance.
3. The extent to which frequently absent students feel engaged with the school.
4. The extent to which family members of students who are frequently absent feel engaged in student learning.
5. Academic needs of frequently absent students.
6. Nonacademic needs of frequently absent students.

In response to the data collected, the superintendent or designee will implement one or more of the following strategies:

1. Academic support programs for students and families.
2. Use of alternative educational methods, such as distance learning and homebound instruction.
3. Use of available, appropriate community resources.
4. Staff-Student advisory or mentoring programs designed to increase student engagement with the school.
5. Procedures for student and family contact when students are absent.

No rule or procedure will preclude a student from making up work missed due to any type of absence, including absences due to suspension. Procedures and rules must include a due process component that includes notice before consequences are imposed and that allows students and their parents/guardians to appeal any imposed consequence to the superintendent. The Board will not hear appeals of consequences for excessive absences.

The district will maintain a comprehensive system of attendance records for each student. Each teacher is responsible for the accurate reporting of daily attendance in the classroom. The building principal is responsible for supplying information to parents/guardians about student absences and for submitting attendance information to the superintendent's office.

The district will contact the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services or the local prosecutor in cases where the district has a reasonable suspicion that a student's lack of attendance constitutes educational neglect on the part of the parents/guardians or that parents/guardians are in violation of the compulsory attendance law. No such action will be taken unless other strategies and interventions have been implemented and proven ineffective.

STUDENT DISMISSAL PRECAUTIONS

It is the goal of the Webster Groves School District to provide a safe environment for students. The district recognizes that rules regarding the dismissal of students are a necessary part of the district's safety program. District administrators will publicize this policy to parents and create procedures regarding the dismissal of students.

Dismissal from School

District administrators will create student dismissal procedures that protect the safety of students while also addressing the necessary flow of traffic to and from school. These procedures may vary depending on the age of the student. District personnel will monitor the parking lot and other locations where students board the district's transportation or meet parents or others. At the request of a parent, school personnel will verify the identity of a parent or other authorized person before releasing the student. District staff may refuse to release a student and will notify the principal if they have concerns regarding the student's safety or whether a person is authorized to transport the student. Otherwise the district will assume that the student knows with whom he or she may leave.

Early Dismissal

Students shall not be excused into any person's custody without the direct prior approval and knowledge of the building principal or designee. Each building principal will establish procedures to validate requests for early dismissal to assure that students are released only for proper reasons and only to authorized person(s).

Procedures must adhere to the following rules:

- ▶ Students will only be released to the parent, guardian or designee of the parent or guardian or to other individuals or agencies as permitted or required by law.
- ▶ Students who are 17 years old and living independently and students 18 or older must validate their own attendance and dismissal.
- ▶ Telephone requests for early dismissal of a student shall be honored only if the caller can be identified as the student's parent or guardian.
- ▶ Any person requesting release of a student must present proper identification prior to release of the student.
- ▶ Children of single-parent families will be released only upon the request of the custodial parent; i.e., the parent who by court order is entitled to custody at the time the child is released.

For the purposes of this policy, a parent is defined as a biological or adoptive parent, including parents who are unmarried; a guardian; or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of the parent or guardian.

Additional precautions may be taken by the school administration, appropriate to the age of students, and as needs arise. Parents shall provide documentation concerning parental rights, including divorce decrees and restraining orders if any.

Dismissal from School Activities

If an activity occurs immediately after school, the district will follow the same procedures used for dismissing students from the regular school day. Otherwise, students are expected to return from activities with the student's parents or the same person(s) who transported them to the activity. If the district provides the student transportation to an activity, the student is expected to return using district transportation. However, district administrators may develop procedures for releasing students from a school activity to parents or other authorized persons, keeping the safety of students in mind.

PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

The Webster Groves School District Board of Education believes that engaging parents/families in the education process is essential to improved academic success for students. The Board recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the district, parents, families and other members of the community during the entire time a student attends school. The Board believes that the district must create an environment that is conducive to learning and that strong, comprehensive parent/family involvement is an important component. Parent/Family involvement in education requires a cooperative effort with roles for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district, parents/families and the community.

Parent/Family Involvement Goals and Plan

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of eliminating barriers that impede parent/family involvement, thereby facilitating an environment that encourages collaboration with parents, families and other members of the community. Therefore, the district will develop and implement a plan to facilitate parent/family involvement that shall include the following six goals:

1. Promote regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school.
2. Promote and support responsible parenting.
3. Recognize the fact that parents/families play an integral role in assisting their children to learn.
4. Promote a safe and open atmosphere for parents/families to visit the schools their children attend, and actively solicit parent/family support and assistance for school programs.
5. Include parents as full partners in decisions affecting their children and families.
6. Use available community resources to strengthen and promote school programs, family practices and the achievement of students.

The district's plan for meeting these goals is to:

1. Provide activities that will educate parents regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their children at all age levels. This will include promoting cooperation between the district and other agencies or school/community groups (such as parent-teacher groups, Head Start, Parents as Teachers, etc.) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development.
2. Implement strategies to involve parents/families in the educational process, including:
 - ▶ Keeping parents/families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation in various programs.
 - ▶ Providing access to educational resources for parents/families to use together with their children.
 - ▶ Keeping parents/families informed of the objectives of district educational programs as well as of their child's participation and progress within these programs.
3. Enable families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For example, parents/family members should be given opportunities to provide input into district policies and volunteer time within the classrooms and school programs.
4. Provide professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent/family involvement strategies.
5. Perform regular evaluations of parent/family involvement at each school and at the district level.
6. Provide access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.
7. If practical, provide information in a language understandable to parents.

Title I, Migrant Education (MEP) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Programs

The Board also recognizes the special importance of parent/family involvement to the success of its Title I, MEP and LEP programs. Pursuant to federal law, the district and parents will jointly develop and agree upon a written parental involvement policy that will be distributed to parents participating in any of these programs.

Title I Program Parent Involvement

The district and parents of children participating in the Title I program will jointly develop and agree upon a written parent involvement policy that will describe how the district will:

1. Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I program plan and in the process of reviewing the implementation of the plan and suggesting improvements.
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinate and integrate Title I parental involvement strategies with those of other educational programs.
5. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content of the parental involvement policy and its effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools served. This will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.
6. Involve parents in the activities of the schools served.

Each school receiving Title I funds will jointly develop with and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program a written parental involvement policy agreed upon by such parents in accordance with the requirements of federal law:

1. The policy must be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
2. The policy shall contain a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children.
3. Each school participating in the Title I program will convene a meeting annually to inform parents about Title I and to involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement policy.

Migrant Education Program Parent Involvement

Parents of students in the MEP will be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation and evaluation of the Migrant Education Program.

Parents of MEP students will receive instruction regarding their role in improving the academic achievement of their children.

Limited English Proficiency Program Parent Involvement

Pursuant to federal law, parents of LEP students will be provided notification regarding their child's placement in and information about the district's LEP program.

Parents will be notified of their rights regarding program content and participation.

Policy Evaluation

The district, with parent/family involvement, will review and evaluate the content and effectiveness of this policy and each school-level policy at least annually. The district will revise this policy as necessary to improve or create practices that enhance parent/family involvement.

AUDIO AND VISUAL RECORDING

Because the district predominantly serves minors, is subject to a number of confidentiality laws, respects parent/guardian and community concerns about privacy, and seeks to minimize disruption to the education environment, the district prohibits audio and visual recordings on district property, district transportation or at a district activity unless authorized in this policy.

Any recording activity, even activity permitted under this policy, will be prohibited if the activity creates a disruption to the education environment. No recording equipment will be used or placed in areas of the building where the occupant would have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restroom facilities or locker rooms.

Definitions

Audio Recording – Registering sounds on tape, digitally or by other mechanical or electronic means.

Outside Entity – Any individual, group, organization or corporation other than the administration, officers, staff or students of the Webster Groves School District or individuals authorized to act for the district.

Visual Recording – Registering visual images on film, tape, digitally or by other mechanical or electronic means.

Recording by Outside Entities

The Webster Groves School District prohibits the use of visual or audio recording equipment on district property or at district activities by outside entities, including parents and guardians, without permission from the superintendent or designee unless otherwise authorized by law. This prohibition shall not apply to:

1. Performances or activities to which the general public is invited such as athletic competitions, concerts and plays.
2. Recording of staff for the sole purpose of professional training or development.
3. Open meetings of the Webster Groves School District Board of Education or committees appointed by or at the direction of the Board.
4. Recording of an event sponsored by an outside entity using or renting district facilities in accordance with Board policies and established administrative procedures.

Recording by District Personnel or District Agents

The district or designated agents of the district may make audio or visual recordings to provide security, to maintain order, for professional staff development use, for educational purposes or for other purposes related to furthering the educational mission of the district. This may include the use of visual recording equipment in district buildings and on district transportation. Recordings by or on behalf of district personnel that include students will be considered student records and will be maintained in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable laws.

Pre-Service and Student Teachers

The district may allow student teachers or pre-service teachers to record themselves teaching or otherwise interacting with students when the recording is used for educational purposes in the student teacher or pre-service teacher preparation program. The student teacher or pre-service teacher must obtain permission to do so from the cooperating teacher and the building principal and must have signed Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment permission forms from all students and adults who will appear in the recordings if those recordings will be viewed by any person who is not employed by the district. The district reserves the right to refuse to allow recording or to limit the time and place for such recordings in order to minimize disruption to the educational process.

Recording by Students

The Webster Groves School District prohibits the use of visual or audio recording equipment on district property or at district activities by students except:

1. If required by a district-sponsored class or activity.

2. At performances or activities to which the general public is invited, such as athletic competitions, concerts and plays.
3. At open meetings of the Board of Education or committees appointed by or at the direction of the Board.
4. As otherwise permitted by the building principal.

Recording of Meetings

The Board of Education prohibits the use of audio, visual or other recording devices at meetings held pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as other meetings among district employees and between district employees and parents/guardians. Exceptions to this prohibition will be made only in accordance with Board policy and law. Requests for such exceptions must be made within a reasonable period of time prior to the scheduled meetings. This prohibition does not apply to conversations held within view of district security cameras.

Secretive Recording or Transmission

The district prohibits secretive recordings where persons involved do not consent to the recording and it is not otherwise obvious that recording equipment is present or being used, unless the superintendent or designee determines in rare circumstances that such recordings are necessary for educational or security reasons. The district prohibits the simultaneous electronic transmission of any conversation by any person to a third party without the consent of all involved in the conversation, even if the conversation is not recorded.

Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

All unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) operators seeking to operate a UAS on or over district property or at a district event must receive authorization from the superintendent or designee. Authorization will be granted only when such operation is on behalf of the district, supports the mission of the district or otherwise serves a public purpose.

All UAS with the potential to capture or produce visual images of district property or district events must be operated in accordance with applicable Federal Aviation Administration regulations or safety guidelines.

MO HealthNet for Kids Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

The Federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), part of the MO HealthNet for Kids program, is a health insurance program for uninsured children of low-income families who do not have access to affordable health insurance. To be eligible for this benefit program, you must be a resident of Missouri and meet all of the following:

- Either 18 years of age and under **or** a primary care giver with a child(ren) 18 years of age and under, and
- A U.S. Citizen, National, or a Non-Citizen legally admitted into the U.S, and
- Uninsured (and ineligible for Medicaid).

To learn more, please visit the [Missouri HealthNet for Kids](#) page.

For more information on Missouri MO HealthNet for Kids, please call (translation services available):

[1-888-275-5908](tel:1-888-275-5908)

You may also send an e-mail message to:

mcplus@dss.mo.gov

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

The Board recognizes that matters of concern to parents/guardians or the public may arise about the operation of the district. Such matters are best resolved by addressing them at the level where the concern originated through communication with the appropriate staff members. The administration has developed procedures for addressing those issues, copies of which are available at each building. Any concern regarding federal programs administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) may also be appealed to DESE or the United States Department of Education as permitted or required by law.

If a complaint has been made and appealed in accordance with administrative procedures, the parent/guardian or member of the public may appeal the issue to the Board by submitting a written request to the superintendent or the secretary of the Board. The Board will address the complaint in an appropriate and timely manner.

PUBLIC SOLICITATIONS/ADVERTISING IN DISTRICT FACILITIES

It is the intent of the district to operate a nonpublic forum and, except as allowed in this policy, advertisement is prohibited on district property. For the purposes of this policy, advertisement includes, but is not limited to, in-person solicitation; signage; verbal announcements using communication equipment; pamphlets; handouts; distribution through district technology; and other distribution or solicitation of information. This policy does not prohibit speech in circumstances where it is protected by law.

General Rule

The district may control the content of advertising as defined above, as allowed by law. Minimally, advertisement on district property or at district events may not include information or materials that:

1. Are obscene to minors.
2. Are libelous.
3. Contain any indecent or vulgar language.
4. Advertise any product or service not permitted to minors by law.
5. Constitute insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses other people (e.g., threats of violence, defamation of character or of a person's race, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, socioeconomic level, gender identity or sexual orientation).
6. Present a clear and present likelihood that, either because of their content or their manner of distribution, they will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities or will cause the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school procedures.

District-Sponsored Advertisement

This policy is not intended to limit the use of district resources or forums by district personnel to distribute district-sponsored information or advertisements. District-sponsored groups may distribute advertisement to employees and students and their parents or guardians as determined appropriate by the superintendent or designee and school principal. Materials from extracurricular organizations or groups created by the district are considered district sponsored.

Groups Affiliated with the District

The district may allow groups affiliated with the district to advertise on district property in the same manner and to the same extent that district-sponsored groups are allowed to advertise. For the purpose of this policy, a group is affiliated with the district if it is recognized by the Board and 1) working collaboratively with the district, such as a business partner, or 2) is a group that is created solely to work with the district, its staff, students and parents and to raise funds for district activities such as parent-teacher associations or booster clubs. The superintendent shall maintain a list of all affiliated groups.

Curriculum-Related Advertisement

District staff may use resources with reasonable advertising content when such resources are consistent with and related to the district's curriculum and compliant with the district's wellness policy and procedures. District staff may distribute advertisements regarding programs, events, contests and other activities that are not sponsored by the district when those events are consistent with and related to the district's curriculum. District staff may invite companies, organizations or individuals to advertise during school hours or school events if the school principal determines that the information provided is consistent with and related to the district's curriculum.

Distribution Directly to Students

Only curriculum-related advertisement, district-sponsored advertisement and advertisement by groups affiliated with the district may be distributed directly to students by placing the item in the student's backpack, folder or other conveyance; handing the material to students; placing the material at the student's assigned place; or instructing the student to pick up material at a designated location. Placing items in a designated location where they are available to students is not direct distribution if students are not instructed to pick up the materials.

Distribution to Staff

The district's intercampus mail, staff mailboxes and district e-mail are reserved for communication between employees regarding district business or for distribution of district-sponsored advertisement or advertisement from groups affiliated with the district.

Advertising from any other person or group will be made available to staff by placement in staff work areas or on designated bulletin boards not easily accessible to students. Such advertising must be provided first to the school principal and must clearly state that the district does not sponsor or endorse the information. School principals may establish uniform rules about the length of time an advertisement will be available and may limit the number of advertisements available at one time.

Distribution by Students

Students may distribute district-sponsored advertisements on district property during non-instructional time as allowed by the school principal and group sponsor. Students may distribute noncurricular student publications and other advertisements not sponsored by the district during non-instructional time only in accordance with Board policy IGDBA.

Distribution by Student-Initiated Noncurricular Groups

Student-initiated noncurricular groups that meet in district facilities shall have the same access to district communication tools and media, including publications, websites and intercom, and are subject to the same provisions on the distribution and content of materials as district-sponsored noncurricular groups. The district may require these groups to clearly state on any advertisement or information that the group is not sponsored by the district.

Advertisement in Designated Locations

School administrators may designate a bulletin board, table or other specific location where information regarding nonprofit community events targeting students and parents may be posted or otherwise advertised. All groups fitting this description will be allowed to submit advertising to be placed at the designated location. Such advertising must be provided to the school administrator first and must clearly state that the district does not sponsor or endorse the information. School administrators may establish uniform rules about the length of time an advertisement will be available and may limit the number of advertisements available at one time.

Districtwide Community Electronic Bulletin Board

The superintendent may establish a community bulletin board accessible through the district's website where information regarding nonprofit community events targeting students and parents may be posted or otherwise advertised. All groups fitting this description will be allowed to submit advertising to be placed on the community bulletin board. Such advertising must be provided to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee first, and must clearly state that the district does not sponsor or endorse the information. The superintendent may establish rules about the length of time an advertisement will be available and may limit the number of advertisements available at one time, and may organize and categorize advertising to facilitate ease of access by students and parents. School principals may include a link to the district's community bulletin board on the website for the principal's school.

Distribution at District Events and Meetings

Only district-sponsored advertisement and advertisement from groups and individuals affiliated with the district may be distributed at district events, unless the district sells advertisement opportunities as described below.

Groups Using District Facilities

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other Title 36 youth groups and their official affiliates who meet in district facilities pursuant to the Board's policy on use of facilities may distribute advertising during any meeting, activity or event held in accordance with that policy and applicable procedures but otherwise have no greater ability to advertise or distribute information in schools than groups not using district facilities.

Revenue-Generating Advertising on District Property or in District Publications

The district may accept or solicit advertising for use on the district's website and in gymnasiums, athletic fields and other facilities primarily used for extracurricular activities. Any such advertising will be limited to the name, address, phone number, Internet address and logo of the advertiser.

The district may accept or solicit advertising on extracurricular activity schedules, programs, newspapers, yearbooks or other district-sponsored publications at the discretion of the principal of the school involved. Advertising generally will be limited to the name, address, phone number, Internet address and logo of the advertiser except that publications may also provide the advertiser with a selection of greetings, phrases or graphics that can be included if the advertiser so chooses.

Student publications and the advertising in those publications are district-sponsored speech subject to editorial control over content in accordance with law.

All such advertising must be compliant with the district's wellness policy and procedures.

Collecting, Disclosing or Using Information for Marketing

In general, the district will not collect, disclose or use personal information from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose unless required by law. For the purposes of this policy, "personal information" means individually identifiable information, including a student's or parent's first and last name, a home or other physical address, a telephone number and Social Security number.

In the rare case where the district may collect or disclose students' personal information or allow another group or entity to collect or disclose students' personal information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information, the district will directly notify the parents/guardians in accordance with law at least annually at the beginning of the school year of the specific or approximate dates when such information will be collected. Parents/Guardians, upon request, may inspect any instrument used to collect personal information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information before the instrument is administered or distributed to a student. All parents/guardians and students of appropriate age may decline to provide the information requested.

This portion of the policy does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for or to students or educational institutions, to the extent allowed by law and Board policy.

PROHIBITION AGAINST ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION

The Webster Groves School District Board of Education is committed to maintaining a workplace and education environment that is free from discrimination and harassment in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, services, activities and facilities. In accordance with law, the district strictly prohibits discrimination and harassment against employees, students or others on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law in its programs, activities or in employment. The board also prohibits retaliatory actions against those who report or participate in the investigation of prohibited discrimination or harassment. The Webster Groves School District is an equal opportunity employer.

Facilities

The district also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America and other designated youth groups in accordance with federal law.

School Nutrition Programs

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs (including the district), are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by the USDA. These programs include the National School Lunch Program, the Special Milk Program, the School Breakfast Program and the Summer Food Service Program.

Any person or representative alleging discrimination based on a prohibited basis has the right to file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action with the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or the district's compliance officer using the process outlined in policy EF.

Individuals with Disabilities

The district will identify, evaluate and provide a free, appropriate education to all students with disabilities in accordance with law. Anyone who knows or believes that a child may have a disability—regardless of whether

the child is currently enrolled in the Webster Groves School District—is encouraged to contact the district's compliance officer listed below.

Anyone who, because of a disability, requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or requires a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service or activity should contact the compliance officer listed below as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

Reporting

The district's nondiscrimination policy and grievance forms are located on the district's website at <https://www.webster.k12.mo.us/> or at any district office. The following compliance officer has been designated to address inquiries, questions and grievances regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies:

Director of Student Services

Webster Groves School District

400 E Lockwood Webster Groves, MO 63119

Phone: 314-961-1233 / Fax: 314-918-4023

In the event that the compliance officer is unavailable or is the subject of a grievance that would otherwise be made to the compliance officer, reports should instead be directed to the acting compliance officer:

Superintendent of Schools

Webster Groves School District

400 E Lockwood Webster Groves, MO 63119

Phone: 314-961-1233 / Fax: 314-918-4023

Inquiries about the application of Title IX or any complaint alleging sexual harassment should be directed to the Title IX coordinator.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Webster Groves School District

400 E Lockwood Webster Groves, MO 63119

Phone: 314-961-1233 / Fax: 314-918-4023

Inquiries may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, the USDA or the U.S. Department of Justice if applicable.

The Board also prohibits:

1. Retaliatory actions including, but not limited to, acts of intimidation, threats, coercion or discrimination against those who:
 - a. Make complaints of prohibited discrimination or harassment.
 - b. Report prohibited discrimination or harassment.
 - c. Participate in an investigation, formal proceeding or informal resolution, whether conducted internally or externally, concerning prohibited discrimination or harassment.
2. Aiding, abetting, inciting, compelling or coercing discrimination, harassment or retaliatory actions.
3. Discrimination, harassment or retaliation against any person because of such person's association with a person protected from discrimination or harassment in accordance with this policy.

All employees, students and visitors must immediately report to the district for investigation any incident or behavior that could constitute discrimination, harassment or retaliation in accordance with this policy. If a student alleges sexual misconduct on the part of any district employee to any person employed by the district, that person will immediately report the allegation to the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services in accordance with state law. In accordance with this policy and as allowed by law, the district will

investigate and address discrimination, harassment and retaliation that negatively impact the school environment, including instances that occur off district property or are unrelated to the district's activities.

Additional Prohibited Behavior

Behavior that is not unlawful or does not rise to the level of illegal discrimination, harassment or retaliation might still be unacceptable for the workplace or the educational environment. Demeaning or otherwise harmful actions are prohibited, if directed at personal characteristics including, but not limited to, socioeconomic level, gender identity, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation.

Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act

As required by law, the district will provide equal access to district facilities and related benefits and services and will not discriminate against any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America or any other youth group designated in applicable federal law.

Interim Measures

When a report is made or the district otherwise learns of prohibited potential discrimination, harassment or retaliation, the district will take immediate action to protect the alleged victim, including implementing interim measures. For example, the district may alter a class seating arrangement, provide additional supervision for a student or suspend an employee pending an investigation. The district will take immediate steps to prevent retaliation against the alleged victim, any person associated with the alleged victim, or any witnesses or participants in the investigation.

These steps may include, but are not limited to, notifying students, employees and others that they are protected from retaliation, ensuring that they know how to report future complaints, and initiating follow-up contact with the complainant to determine if any additional acts of discrimination, harassment or retaliation have occurred.

Consequences and Remedies

If the district determines that prohibited discrimination, harassment or retaliation have occurred, the district will take prompt, effective and appropriate action to address the behavior, prevent its recurrence and remedy its effects.

Employees who violate this policy will be disciplined, up to and including employment termination. Students who violate this policy will be disciplined, which may include suspension or expulsion. Patrons, contractors, visitors or others who violate this policy may be prohibited from district property or restricted while on district property. The superintendent or designee will contact law enforcement or seek a court order to enforce this policy when necessary or when actions may constitute criminal behavior.

Students, employees and others will not be disciplined for speech in circumstances where it is protected by law. In accordance with law and district policy, any person suspected of abusing or neglecting a child will be reported immediately to the CD.

Remedies provided by the district will attempt to minimize the burden on the victim. Such remedies may include, but are not limited to: providing additional resources such as counseling, providing access to community services, assisting the victim in filing criminal charges when applicable, moving the perpetrator to a different class or school, providing an escort between classes, or allowing the victim to retake or withdraw from a class. The district may provide additional training to students and employees, make periodic assessments to make sure behavior complies with district policy, or perform a climate check to assess the environment in the district.

Definitions

Compliance Officer – The individual responsible for implementing this policy, including the acting compliance officer when he or she is performing duties of the compliance officer.

Discrimination – Conferring benefits upon, refusing or denying benefits to, or providing differential treatment to a person or class of persons in violation of law based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law, or based on a belief that such a characteristic exists.

Grievance – A verbal or written report (also known as a complaint) of discrimination, harassment or retaliation made to the compliance officer.

Harassment – A form of discrimination, as defined above, that occurs when the school or work environment becomes permeated with intimidation, ridicule or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive enough that it unreasonably alters the employment or educational environment.

Behaviors that could constitute illegal harassment include, but are not limited to, the following acts if based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such a characteristic exists: graffiti; display of written material, pictures or electronic images; name calling, teasing or taunting; insults, derogatory remarks or slurs; jokes; gestures; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; physical acts of aggression, assault or violence; theft; or damage to property.

Sexual Harassment – A form of discrimination, as defined above, on the basis of sex. Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct that occurs when a) benefits or decisions are implicitly or explicitly conditioned upon submission to, or punishment is applied for refusing to comply with, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or conduct of a sexual nature; or b) the school or work environment becomes permeated with intimidation, ridicule or insult that is based on sex or is sexual in nature and that is sufficiently severe or pervasive enough to alter the conditions of participation in the district's programs and activities or the conditions of employment. Sexual harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite sex. The district presumes a student cannot consent to behavior of a sexual nature with an adult regardless of the circumstance.

Behaviors that could constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Sexual advances and requests or pressure of any kind for sexual favors, activities or contact.
2. Conditioning grades, promotions, rewards or privileges on submission to sexual favors, activities or contact.
3. Punishing or reprimanding persons who refuse to comply with sexual requests, activities or contact.
4. Graffiti, name calling, slurs, jokes, gestures or communications of a sexual nature or based on sex.
5. Physical contact or touching of a sexual nature, including touching of intimate parts and sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching or rubbing.
6. Comments about an individual's body, sexual activity or sexual attractiveness.
7. Physical sexual acts of aggression, assault or violence, including criminal offenses (such as rape, sexual assault or battery, and sexually motivated stalking) against a person's will or when a person is not capable of giving consent due to the person's age, intellectual disability or use of drugs or alcohol.
8. Gender-based harassment and acts of verbal, nonverbal, written, graphic or physical conduct based on sex or sex stereotyping, but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.

Working Days – Days on which the district's business offices are open.

Compliance Officer

The Board designates the following individuals to act as the district's compliance officers:

Director of Learning Support and Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Webster Groves School District

400 E. Lockwood

Webster Groves, MO 63119

Phone: 314-961-1233 / Fax: 314-918-4023

In the event the compliance officer is unavailable or is the subject of a report that would otherwise be made to the compliance officer, reports should instead be directed to the acting compliance officer:

Superintendent of Schools

Webster Groves School District 400 E. Lockwood

Webster Groves, MO 63119

Phone: 314-961-1233 / Fax: 314-918-4023

The compliance officer or acting compliance officer will:

1. Coordinate district compliance with this policy and the law.
2. Receive all grievances regarding discrimination, harassment and retaliation in the Webster Groves School District.
3. Serve as the district's designated Title IX, Section 504 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator, as well as the contact person for compliance with other discrimination laws.
4. Investigate or assign persons to investigate grievances; monitor the status of grievances to ensure that additional discrimination, harassment and retaliation do not occur; and recommend consequences.
5. Review all evidence submitted in disciplinary matters to determine whether additional remedies are available, such as separating students in the school environment.
6. Determine whether district employees with knowledge of discrimination, harassment or retaliation failed to carry out their reporting duties and recommend disciplinary action, if necessary.
7. Communicate regularly with the local law enforcement agency to determine whether any reported crimes constitute potential discrimination, harassment or retaliation.
8. Oversee discrimination, harassment or retaliation grievances, including identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems and reporting such problems and patterns to the superintendent or the Board.
9. Seek legal advice when necessary to enforce this policy.
10. Report to the superintendent and the Board aggregate information regarding the number and frequency of grievances and compliance with this policy.
11. Make recommendations regarding changing this policy or the implementation of this policy.
12. Coordinate and institute training programs for district staff and supervisors as necessary to meet the goals of this policy, including instruction in recognizing behavior that constitutes discrimination, harassment and retaliation.
13. Periodically review student discipline records to determine whether disciplinary consequences are applied uniformly.
14. Perform other duties as assigned by the superintendent.

Public Notice

The superintendent or designee will continuously publicize the district's policy regarding prohibited discrimination, harassment and retaliation and disseminate information on how to report discrimination, harassment and retaliation. Notification of the district's policy will be posted in a public area of each building used for instruction or employment or open to the public. Information will also be distributed annually to employees, parents/guardians and students as well as to newly enrolled students and newly hired employees. District bulletins, catalogs, application forms, recruitment material and the district's website will include a statement that the Webster Groves School District does not discriminate in its programs, services, activities, facilities or with regard to employment. The district will provide information in alternative formats when necessary to accommodate persons with disabilities.

Reporting

Students, employees and others may attempt to resolve minor issues by addressing concerns directly to the person alleged to have violated this policy, but they are not expected or required to do so. Any attempts to voluntarily resolve a grievance will not delay the investigation once a report has been made to the district.

Unless the concern is otherwise voluntarily resolved, all persons must report incidents that might constitute prohibited discrimination, harassment or retaliation directly to the compliance officer or acting compliance officer. All district employees will instruct all persons seeking to make a grievance to communicate directly with the compliance officer. Even if the suspected victim of discrimination, harassment or retaliation does not file a grievance, district employees are required to report to the compliance officer any observations, rumors or other information regarding actions prohibited by this policy. If a verbal grievance is made, the person will be asked to submit a written complaint to the compliance officer or acting compliance officer. If a person refuses or is unable to submit a written complaint, the compliance officer will summarize the verbal complaint in writing. A grievance is not needed for the district to take action upon finding a violation of law, district policy or district expectations.

Even if a grievance is not directly filed, if the compliance officer otherwise learns about possible prohibited discrimination, harassment or retaliation, including violence, the district will conduct a prompt, impartial, adequate, reliable and thorough investigation to determine whether unlawful conduct occurred and will implement the appropriate interim measures if necessary.

Student-on-Student Harassment

Building-level administrators are in a unique position to identify and address discrimination, harassment and retaliation between students, particularly when behaviors are reported through the normal disciplinary process and not through a

grievance. Administrators have the ability to immediately discipline a student for prohibited behavior in accordance with the district's discipline policy. Administrators will report all incidents of discrimination, harassment and retaliation to the compliance officer and will direct the parent/guardian and student to the compliance officer for further assistance. The compliance officer may determine that the incident has been appropriately addressed or recommend additional action. When a grievance is filed, the investigation and complaint process detailed below will be used.

Investigation

The district will immediately investigate all grievances. All persons are required to cooperate fully in the investigation. The district compliance officer or other designated investigator may utilize an attorney or other professionals to conduct the investigation.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes discrimination, harassment or retaliation, the district will consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, the relationships between the parties involved, past incidents, the context in which the alleged incidents occurred and all other relevant information. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all of the facts and surrounding circumstances. If, after investigation, school officials determine that it is more likely than not (the preponderance of the evidence standard) that discrimination, harassment or other prohibited behavior has occurred, the district will take immediate corrective action.

Grievance Process Overview

1. If a person designated to hear a grievance or appeal is the subject of the grievance, the compliance officer may designate an alternative person to hear the grievance, or the next highest step in the grievance process will be used. For example, if the grievance involves the superintendent, the compliance officer may designate someone outside the district to hear the grievance in lieu of the superintendent, or the grievance may be heard directly by the Board.
2. An extension of the investigation and reporting deadlines may be warranted if extenuating circumstances exist as determined by the district's compliance officer. The person filing the complaint will be notified when deadlines are extended. If more than twice the allotted time has expired without a response, the appeal may be taken to the next level.
3. Failure of the person filing the grievance to appeal within the timelines given will be considered acceptance of the findings and remedial action taken.
4. To the extent permitted by law, the district will investigate all grievances, even if an outside enforcing agency such as the Office for Civil Rights, law enforcement or the Children's Division (CD) is also investigating a complaint arising from the same circumstances.
5. The district will only share information regarding an individually identifiable student or employee with the person filing the grievance or other persons if allowed by law and in accordance with Board policy.
6. Upon receiving a grievance, district administrators or supervisors, after consultation with the compliance officer, will implement interim measures as described in this policy if necessary to prevent further potential discrimination, harassment or retaliation during the pending investigation.

Grievance Process

1. Level I – A grievance is filed with the district's compliance officer. The compliance officer may, at his or her discretion, assign a school principal or other appropriate supervisor to conduct the investigation when appropriate. Regardless of who investigates the grievance, an investigation will commence immediately, but no later than five working days after the compliance officer receives the grievance. The compliance officer or designee shall conduct a prompt, impartial, adequate, reliable and thorough investigation, including the opportunity for the person filing the grievance and other parties involved to identify witnesses and provide information and other evidence. The compliance officer or designee will evaluate all relevant information and documentation relating to the grievance. Within 30 working days of receiving the grievance, the compliance officer will complete a written report that summarizes the facts and makes conclusions on whether the facts constitute a violation of this policy based on the appropriate legal standards. If a violation of this policy is found, the compliance officer will recommend corrective action to the superintendent to address the discrimination, harassment or retaliation; prevent recurrence; and remedy its effects. If someone other than the compliance officer conducts the investigation, the compliance officer or acting compliance officer will review and sign the report. The person who filed the grievance, the victim if someone other than the victim filed the grievance, and any alleged perpetrator will be notified in writing, within five working days of the

completion of the report, in accordance with law and district policy, regarding whether the district's compliance officer or designee determined that district policy was violated.

2. Level II – Within five working days after receiving the Level I decision, the person filing the grievance, the victim if someone other than the victim filed the grievance, or any alleged perpetrator may appeal the compliance officer's decision to the superintendent by notifying the superintendent in writing. The superintendent may, at his or her discretion, designate another person (other than the compliance officer) to review the matter when appropriate. Within ten working days, the superintendent will complete a written decision on the appeal, stating whether a violation of this policy is found and, if so, stating what corrective actions will be implemented. If someone other than the superintendent conducts the appeal, the superintendent will review and sign the report before it is given to the person appealing. A copy of the appeal and decision will be given to the compliance officer or acting compliance officer. The person who initially filed the grievance, the victim if someone other than the victim filed the grievance, and any alleged perpetrator will be notified in writing, within five working days of the superintendent's decision, regarding whether the superintendent or designee determined that district policy was violated.

3. Level III – Within five working days after receiving the Level II decision, the person filing the grievance, the victim if someone other than the victim filed the grievance, or any alleged perpetrator may appeal the superintendent's decision to the Board by notifying the Board secretary in writing. The person filing the grievance and the alleged perpetrator will be allowed to address the Board, and the Board may call for the presence of such other persons deemed necessary. The Board will issue a decision within 30 working days for implementation by the administration. The Board secretary will give the compliance officer or acting compliance officer a copy of the appeal and decision. The person who filed the grievance, the victim if someone other than the victim filed the grievance, and the alleged perpetrator will be notified in writing, within five working days of the Board's decision, in accordance with law and district policy, regarding whether the Board determined that district policy was violated. The decision of the Board is final.

Confidentiality and Records

To the extent permitted by law and in accordance with Board policy, the district will keep confidential the identity of the person filing a grievance and any grievance or other document that is generated or received pertaining to grievances. Information may be disclosed if necessary to further the investigation, appeal or resolution of a grievance, or if necessary to carry out disciplinary measures. The district will disclose information to the district's attorney, law enforcement, the CD and others when necessary to enforce this policy or when required by law. In implementing this policy, the district will comply with state and federal laws regarding the confidentiality of student and employee records. Information regarding any resulting employee or student disciplinary action will be maintained and released in the same manner as any other disciplinary record. The district will keep any documentation created in investigating the complaint including, but not limited to, documentation considered when making any conclusions, in accordance with the Missouri Secretary of State's retention manuals and as advised by the district's attorney.

Training

The district will provide training to employees on identifying and reporting acts that may constitute discrimination, harassment or retaliation. The district will instruct employees to make all complaints to the district's compliance officer or acting compliance officer and will provide current contact information for these persons. The district will inform employees of the consequences of violating this policy and the remedies the district may use to rectify policy violations. All employees will have access to the district's current policy, required notices and complaint forms. The district will provide additional training to any person responsible for investigating potential discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

The district will provide information to parents/guardians and students regarding this policy and will provide age-appropriate instruction to students.

Equity

The Webster Groves School District (WGSD) rejects all forms of racism and bias as destructive to the district's mission, vision, values and goals. The district is committed to the following principles:

1. Establishing and sustaining a school district community that shares the collective responsibility and is held accountable to address, eliminate and prevent actions, decisions and outcomes that result from and perpetuate racism and bias.
2. Cultivating the unique gifts, talents and interests of every student.
3. Eliminating inequitable practices to end the predictive value of social or cultural factors such as race, socioeconomic status or gender on student success.
4. Respecting and validating diversity.
5. Acknowledging that racism and biases are often compounded by other forms of discrimination including, but not limited to, those protective classes referenced in policy AC, which prohibits discrimination or harassment based upon any characteristics protected by law.

Purpose

With respect to the school district's mission, vision, values, goals and WGSD equity resolution, the WGSD is committed to being inclusive of staff members, students, families and community members.

We will examine and find adaptive solutions to issues in order to address the root causes and systems that hinder students' growth emotionally, socially and academically. In doing this, WGSD will be committed to learning each student's story, build relationships that are sincere, accept all children unconditionally in order to teach them with equity and quality. Administrators and staff members will be effectively educated in comprehensive terms of providing equity to all and not making assumptions about students' needs. Bias education, concrete data and common language will be evident in positive relationships among staff, staff to students, and students to students. The district acknowledges that complex societal and historical factors contribute to the inequity within the educational environment. Rather than accepting the resulting disparities, the district must address and overcome this inequity, providing all students with the support and opportunity to succeed.

These directives are designed to eliminate any individual, institutional or structural racism and bias in the WGSD. The Board directs the following actions:

Policy Communication

1. Each school shall post the WGSD equity resolution, approved by the Board on May 31, 2017, in a location visible to all who enter the school. The district will also post the WGSD equity resolution in high traffic building locations and on the district website.
2. This policy shall be included in student handbooks provided to students and families. At the start of the school year, building administrators will, in a developmentally appropriate manner, ensure students are made aware of this policy, including its purpose and how it will support the needs of all district students.
3. All board members and district staff will receive in-person development on this policy annually

Learning

1. It is the responsibility of each WGSD staff member to continue learning about the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion in order to deepen one's understanding and better apply the principles in one's work.
2. The district shall design and implement an annual diversity, equity and inclusion professional development plan for all district staff. The development shall include an understanding of racism and bias and how each leads to inequitable environments, practices and outcomes for students.

3. Our process to develop curriculum and select instructional materials for all grades will prioritize cultural and racial diversity and include a range of perspectives and experiences, particularly those of historically underrepresented groups of color.
4. Students at each grade level will learn about the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.
5. The district shall explore and develop in-school and out-of-school activities that shall be designed to provide opportunities for cross-cultural and cross-racial interactions to foster respect for cultural and racial diversity.

DISTRICT WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Board recognizes the relationship between student well-being and student achievement as well as the importance of a comprehensive district wellness program. Therefore, the district will provide developmentally appropriate and sequential nutrition and physical education as well as opportunities for physical activity. The wellness program will be implemented in a multidisciplinary fashion and will be evidence based.

Wellness Committee

The district will establish a wellness committee that consists of at least one parent, student, nurse or other school health professional, physical education teacher, school food service representative, Board member, school administrator and member of the public. If available, a qualified, credentialed nutrition professional will be a member of the wellness committee.

Wellness Program Coordinator

The Board designates the following individual as wellness program coordinator: Director of Student Services. Only employees of the district who are members of the wellness committee may serve as wellness program coordinators. The wellness coordinator, in consultation with the wellness committee, will be in charge of implementation and evaluation of this policy. Meetings, records and votes of the wellness committee will adhere to the requirements of the Missouri Sunshine Law.

The wellness program coordinator is responsible for ensuring that each school in the district is in compliance with this policy.

Nutrition Guidelines

It is the policy of the Webster Groves School District that all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day on any property under the jurisdiction of the district will meet the nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). These nutrition standards apply to all food and beverages sold to students, including those sold in vending machines, school stores and through district-sponsored fundraisers, unless an exemption applies. For the purposes of this policy, the school day is the time period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the official school day.

Nutrition Promotion and Education

The district will provide nutrition education aligned with the Show-Me Standards and Missouri's Frameworks for Curriculum Development in Health/Physical Education in all grades. In addition, the district will disseminate nutrition messages and other nutrition-related materials received from the USDA to students, staff and the community through a variety of media and methods. The wellness program coordinator, in consultation with the wellness committee, will develop procedures that address nutrition education and promotion.

Physical Activity and Education

The district will provide physical education and opportunities for physical activity in accordance with state requirements and aligned with the Show-Me Standards and Missouri's Frameworks for Curriculum Development in Health/Physical Education in all grades. The wellness program coordinator, in consultation with the wellness committee, will develop procedures that address physical education and physical activity.

Other School-Based Activities

The wellness program coordinator, in consultation with the wellness committee, is charged with developing procedures addressing other school-based activities to promote wellness.

Evaluation

The wellness committee will assess all education curricula and materials pertaining to wellness for accuracy, completeness, balance and consistency with the states and district's education goals and standards. The wellness program coordinator shall be responsible for devising a plan for implementation and evaluation of the district wellness policy and is charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that schools meet the goals of the district wellness policy. The wellness program coordinator will report to the Board periodically regarding the content and implementation of the wellness program and make recommendations for modifications to this policy as appropriate. The report will be made available to the public on the district's website or by other appropriate means.

ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

No qualified student with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any district program, including nonacademic services and extracurricular activities. The district seeks to identify and evaluate students who may have disabilities as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The district will provide students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education as required by law.

The superintendent or designee is directed to create procedures to assist the district in properly identifying, evaluating and serving students with disabilities who need accommodation to participate in the district's educational programs.

Section 504 and ADA Compliance Officer

The district designates the compliance officer listed in policy AC as the district's Section 504 and ADA compliance officer. All complaints or concerns regarding illegal discrimination must be brought to the attention of the compliance officer.

Notice and Child Find

District publications will include notification to students and the public that the district does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs or activities. The notice will provide district contact information for members of the public to notify the district if they know or believe that a child may have a disability.

Grievance Procedure

All complaints alleging discrimination, violation of law or failure to follow district policies or procedures regarding the education or accommodation of students with disabilities will be made to the compliance officer and will be investigated immediately. The district will use the grievance procedure outlined in policy AC. Complaints may be made at any time to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate public education for students with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Missouri State Plan for Special Education (State Plan), the district's local compliance plan or assurances made to the state, and applicable state and federal laws. The district works cooperatively with a special school district to provide special education services to its students.

Child Find

Any individual who knows or believes that a student has a disability and is in need of accommodation or special education should contact the school's principal or the district administration immediately.

The district will notify all parents/guardians and students of its obligations under this policy and the law.

Students Placed in Private Schools by Their Parents/Guardians

For the purpose of this policy, a "private school" is defined to include home schools and religious/parochial schools.

The Webster Groves School District will, in cooperation with a special school district, provide special education and related services pursuant to state and federal law to eligible students who are placed in private school by their parents/guardians and not enrolled in the district. However, no child with a disability enrolled in a private school by his or her parents/guardians has an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services the child would receive if enrolled in a public school.

Mediation

The Board of Education authorizes the special education director, after appropriate consultation with the Board of Education, to legally bind the school district to a mediation agreement developed in accordance with the IDEA and Missouri law and further authorizes the special education director to contact an attorney for legal advice prior to making any decisions. In the absence of the special education director, the Legal Compliance Officer, SSD, is authorized to perform his or her duties under this section.

Resolution

The Board of Education designates the special education director to represent the school district in resolution meetings and gives the special education director decision-making authority on behalf of the district. The special education director has the authority to sign and legally bind the district to a settlement agreement reached at the resolution meeting. In the absence of the special education director, the Legal Compliance Officer, SSD, is authorized to perform his or her duties under this section. All other settlement agreements must be approved by the Board.

Students Served by Special School District, Subject to Assignment

A student, once receiving services through a special school district, will only be assigned to a district classroom as required by the individualized education program (IEP) of the student.

Professional Development and Access to Resources

To better assist and integrate students receiving special education services into the regular education environment, all district personnel may be required to attend professional development or other activities developed by the district or the special school district. Special education teachers will have access to instructional supports, such as computers and media resources, generally available to all teaching staff.

PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

Gifted students come from all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds and possess unique abilities and/or potential and are, therefore, a unique segment of the district's student population. The Board authorizes programs for meeting the truly exceptional needs of identified gifted and talented students (both academically gifted and those gifted in the arts) by supporting educational opportunities that will challenge and develop, to the highest degree, each student's potential. The Board of Education will make every effort to provide the level of monetary support necessary to sustain the gifted programs.

The program will:

1. Include a systematic process for identification of gifted and talented students at grade levels 1–12 for the academically gifted program and grades 3–12 for the gifted fine arts program. Recognizing that exceptional abilities are present in students from all cultural groups and across all economic strata, the identification process will include alternative identification plans designed to identify academically gifted students who are traditionally under represented and underserved, such as students with language differences, cultural differences, special education needs, and those from families living in poverty.
2. Provide a minimum of 150 minutes per week of contact time in which gifted program personnel work exclusively with identified gifted students.
3. Utilize instructional personnel with the appropriate certification for the gifted program services they are providing.
4. Have class sizes and caseloads in accordance with Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines and Board policy.
5. Include activities beyond the level usually provided in regular school programs that particularly contribute toward meeting the identified unmet needs of participating students.

The superintendent will designate a member of the district's professional staff to serve as the coordinator of gifted education.

PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Webster Groves School District Board of Education recognizes that homeless students are particularly vulnerable and need special assistance to access and benefit from the education environment. Therefore, the district, in accordance with state and federal law and the Missouri state plan for education of the homeless, will give special attention to ensure that homeless students in the district are promptly identified and have access to a free and appropriate public education and related support services.

Homeless students are individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and include the following:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
4. Migratory children who meet one of the above-described circumstances.

District Liaison for Homeless Students

The Board designates the following individual to act as the district's liaison for homeless students (homeless liaison):

Director of Learning Support
Services Webster Groves School
District 400 E. Lockwood
Webster Groves, MO 63119-3125
314-918-4002

The homeless liaison shall designate and train another district employee to serve as the homeless liaison in the absence of the homeless liaison.

School of Origin

For the purposes of this policy, "school of origin" is defined as the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including a public preschool. When the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the term shall then include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

Enrollment

The selected school shall immediately enroll the homeless student even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization or other health records, proof of residency, or other documentation, and even if the student has missed any application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness. Outstanding fines, fees or absences shall not present a barrier to enrollment of the student. However, the district may require a parent/guardian of a homeless student to submit contact information.

Immediately upon identifying the student as being eligible for homeless services, the selected school shall ensure that the student is attending class and participating fully in school activities.

Placement

The district will consider the best interest of the homeless student, with parental involvement, in determining whether he or she should be enrolled in the school of origin or the school in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living. In determining the best interest of the student, the district will:

1. Presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the student's parent/guardian or the student if unaccompanied by a parent/guardian.
2. Consider student-centered factors related to the student's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health and safety of homeless students, giving priority to the request of the homeless student's parent/guardian or the unaccompanied student.

The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the homeless student lives with his or her parents/guardians or has been temporarily placed elsewhere. If the student is unaccompanied, the district liaison shall assist the student in placement or enrollment decisions, shall give priority to the views of the student, and shall provide the student with notice of his or her right to appeal the district's decision.

If the district determines that placement should be in the school of origin, the student will continue his or her education in the school of origin for the duration of the homelessness when the student's family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year, and for the remainder of the academic year even if the student becomes permanently housed during the academic year.

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

The written explanation will include:

1. A description of the action proposed or refused by the district;
2. An explanation of why the action was proposed or refused;

3. A description of any other options the district considered;
4. The reasons other options were rejected;
5. A description of any other relevant factors to the district's decision and information related to the eligibility or best interest determination, including the facts and evidence relied upon and their sources;
6. Appropriate timelines to ensure any relevant deadlines are not missed; and
7. Contact information for the local liaison and the state coordinator for homeless students (state coordinator) and a brief description of their respective roles.

Services

Each homeless student shall be provided services comparable to the services offered to other students in the district including, but not limited to, transportation services; education services for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, such as education programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted students, programs in career and technical education; school nutrition programs; preschool programs; before- and after-school care programs; and programs for English learners. Homeless students will not be segregated in a separate school or program within a school based on the students' status as homeless.

The district will coordinate services for homeless students with local social service agencies and other agencies or entities providing services to homeless students and their families, including services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. The district will also coordinate transportation, transfer of school records and other interdistrict activities with other school districts.

Transportation

If the homeless student's school of origin, including a public preschool, and temporary housing are located in the Webster Groves School District, the district will provide transportation to and from the school of origin at the request of the parent/guardian or homeless liaison, provided it is in the best interest of the student.

If the homeless student's school of origin and temporary housing are located in two different school districts, the districts may agree on a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing transportation to the school of origin. If no agreement is reached, the districts will equally share the responsibility and costs for transporting the student. If a homeless student becomes permanently housed in the middle of the school year, the district will continue to provide transportation to the school of origin for the remainder of the school year.

Transportation to the school of origin shall be provided even if a homeless preschooler who is enrolled in a public preschool moves to another district that does not provide a widely available or universal preschool.

Records

When a homeless student enrolls in the district or a district school, the district will immediately contact the school the homeless student last attended in order to obtain academic or other relevant records.

Any records ordinarily kept by the school for each homeless student (including immunization or other health records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs) shall be maintained so that the district is equipped to provide the student with appropriate services, make necessary referrals and transfer records in a timely fashion when a homeless student enters a new school district. Copies of records shall be made available upon request to students or parents/guardians in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and shall not be deemed to be directory information under FERPA.

Homeless Liaison Responsibilities

The homeless liaison will attend all required professional development and other technical assistance activities as determined appropriate by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The district shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the homeless liaison. The homeless liaison will ensure that:

1. Homeless students, including homeless preschool-age children, are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
2. Homeless students are enrolled in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools in the district.
3. Homeless families and students have access to and receive education services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and Early Head Start, early intervention services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and preschool programs administered by the district, as well as referrals to healthcare services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services and other appropriate services based on their assessed needs.
4. The parents/guardians of homeless students are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their students and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their students.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated in locations frequented by parents/guardians, youth and unaccompanied youth, including schools, family shelters, public libraries and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents/guardians and youth.
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law.
7. The parents/guardians of homeless students and unaccompanied students are fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation to the selected school.
8. Unaccompanied students will be assisted in placement or enrollment decisions, their views will be considered, and they will be provided notice of the right to appeal.
9. School personnel providing services to homeless students and their parents/guardians receive professional development and other support.
10. Unaccompanied students:
 - ▶ Are enrolled in school;
 - ▶ Have opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic standards that are established for other students; and
 - ▶ Are informed of their status as independent students under laws applicable to higher education and that they may obtain assistance from the homeless liaison in order to receive verification of this status for the purposes of applying for federal student aid.
11. Students who need to obtain immunizations or medical or immunization records will receive assistance.
12. The district collects and reports reliable, valid and comprehensive data to DESE regarding homeless students.
13. All homeless high school students receive information and individualized counseling regarding college readiness, college selection, the application process, financial aid and the availability of on-campus supports.
14. Every effort is made to enroll preschool-age homeless children in preschool if they are not already enrolled.

Disputes

Parents/Guardians or unaccompanied students may appeal district decisions regarding eligibility, enrollment or placement in accordance with the Standard Complaint Resolution Process adopted by DESE. The district will make every effort to resolve complaints or disputes at the district level. The homeless liaison will inform the parent/guardian or unaccompanied student of the district's complaint resolution process when a question or complaint arises concerning the education of a homeless student.

1. If the parent, guardian or unaccompanied student has a complaint regarding the education of a homeless student, the person (complainant) must notify the homeless liaison. The homeless liaison serves as the intermediary between the homeless student and the school the student attends. The homeless liaison shall provide a copy of or access to the district's policies addressing the education of homeless students and the district's complaint form to the complainant.
2. The complainant can file a complaint in writing with the homeless liaison. The homeless liaison will provide a written resolution of the dispute or a plan of action within five days of the date the complaint was received by the homeless liaison. The parties may mutually agree to an extension of time; however, every effort should be made to resolve the complaint in the shortest possible time.

3. If the dispute is not resolved by the homeless liaison, the complainant may file a written complaint with the superintendent or designee for review. The superintendent or designee will provide a written resolution or plan of action within five days of the date the complaint was received. The parties may mutually agree to an extension of time; however, every effort should be made to resolve the complaint in the shortest amount of time.
4. If the dispute is not resolved at the superintendent level, the complainant may file a written complaint with the Board of Education. The Board will provide a written resolution of the dispute or a plan of action within 30 days of the date the complaint was received by the Board. If the dispute is not resolved by the Board in a manner satisfactory to the complainant, an appeal may be brought to DESE in accordance with the state complaint resolution process, which the homeless liaison will provide to the complainant.

While the dispute process is ongoing, the student in question must be enrolled in school. If the dispute revolves around which school is the school of best interest for the student, the student shall be enrolled at the school to which the parent/guardian or unaccompanied student seeks enrollment while the final resolution of the dispute is pending. The student shall be allowed to fully participate in school activities and receive transportation, if requested.

If the parent/guardian or unaccompanied student are English learners, use a native language other than English, or need additional supports due to a disability, the district shall make translators, interpreters or other support services available without charge and in the appropriate language.

PROGRAMS FOR MIGRATORY STUDENTS

The Webster Groves School District Board of Education recognizes that migratory students face many educational challenges that may interfere with their ability to succeed in the regular education program and meet the same challenging state achievement standards as other students. The district is committed to creating and supporting a migrant education program (MEP) designed to help migratory students and their families overcome these challenges.

The superintendent or designee will develop an MEP that includes the following components:

1. A written procedure for identifying students who may be migratory that provides for notification to appropriate personnel designated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of potentially eligible students.
2. A procedure to help identify and recruit, throughout the school year, those students residing in the district who have family members who have been or are engaged in seasonal or temporary agriculture-related work.
3. Assessment of the educational, health and social needs of each student identified as migratory and development of objectives to address those needs so that migratory students are able to meet Missouri learning standards.
4. Advocacy to allow students and families to gain access to health, nutrition and social services.
5. Review of existing programs and resources to determine which can help meet the needs of migratory children and ensure that the children have access to them.
6. A full range of educational services for migratory students.
7. Instructional programs for migratory students that supplement existing educational programs.
8. An opportunity for meaningful participation in the program by parents/guardians and families of migratory students.
9. A parent advisory committee to consult with district officials and staff in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the program.
10. Professional development for teachers that is designed to improve the quality of education for migratory students, including required training by DESE's Migrant Education and English Language Learning (MELL) program.
11. Provision of information to district personnel about any required participation in professional development provided by DESE's MELL program.
12. Assistance for secondary school students transitioning from school to postsecondary education, employment or military service.
13. Provision of needs assessment, evaluation, financial and other information needed for DESE to carry out its duties.

14. A process for prioritizing the provision of services in order to ensure that if there are limited resources, students most at risk of failing receive services ahead of other students.

Parent and Family Involvement and Engagement

Information about the district's MEP will be disseminated throughout the community and to parents/guardians of students in the program. Parents/Guardians and families will be invited and encouraged to participate in parent/guardian and family involvement and engagement activities developed pursuant to policy IGBC. The district will, whenever possible, communicate with migratory students' parents/guardians who are not proficient in English in a language understandable to the parents/guardians.

Records

The superintendent or designee will maintain and regularly update education and health records of students eligible to receive migrant services, including the date identified, the date approved for services and the services provided. Maintained records will be subject to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The superintendent or designee will also maintain records of all other aspects of the MEP, including teacher training, use of community resources, and program evaluations. Records of parent and family involvement activities, including copies of notices, agendas and meeting minutes, will also be maintained.

The district will provide the results of need assessments, evaluations, financial information and other information as requested by DESE.

Nonpublic Students

The district will provide services to migratory students in nonpublic schools in accordance with law.

Program Evaluation

The superintendent or designee will regularly evaluate the MEP to determine whether the program is meeting the assessed needs of identified migratory students and whether all migratory students have access to the program. Further, the evaluation will determine whether services and resources for migratory students are comparable to the services and resources available to other students in the district.

PROGRAMS FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to provide equal educational opportunities for all students in the district. Therefore, if the inability to speak and understand the English language excludes a student from effective participation in the educational programs offered by the district, the district shall take appropriate action to rectify the English language deficiency in order to provide the student equal access to its programs.

Definitions

English Learner (EL) – Any student who:

1. Is age 3–21, and
2. Is enrolled or is preparing to enroll in the district, and
3. Has difficulties speaking, reading, writing or understanding English that may be sufficient to deny the individual the ability to attain proficiency on state assessments, the ability to be successful in a classroom where instruction is in English, or the opportunity to participate fully in society, and
4. Meets one of the following additional requirements:
 - ▶ Was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English, or
 - ▶ Is Native American, an Alaska Native or a native resident of the outlying areas who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the individual's level of English language proficiency, or
 - ▶ Is a migratory individual whose native language is a language other than English and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant.

Immigrant Student – A student between the ages of 3 and 21 who was not born in a state of the United States of America and who has not been attending schools in any one state for more than three full academic years.

Identifying EL Students

The district will screen for EL students by administering the Language Use Survey (LUS) created by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to all enrolling students. The LUS will be administered in a language the parent/guardian understands using translation or interpretation. This survey may be incorporated into district enrollment forms provided to all students.

Students whose LUS indicates a language other than English and possible language barriers will be referred to the superintendent or designee for additional screening using the DESE-adopted screening tool for determining the level of English language proficiency. The screening results will be used to identify students eligible for EL services and assist in a program placement that meets the students' needs. The district will make every effort to complete the screening process within 30 days of the first day of school or, for students who enroll after the first day, within 30 days of the student's enrollment.

The completed LUS and all other screening results will be retained in the student's permanent record.

Placement of EL Students

Students will be placed in a language instruction educational program (LIEP) based on their current level of English proficiency and in accordance with the standards established by DESE. The district's program is designed to increase English proficiency and academic achievement. Students in these programs will be held to the same academic achievement standards established for all students. If the district offers more than one type of LIEP, students will be placed in an LIEP that is in their best educational interest.

Students will transition out of an LIEP only after meeting state-established exit standards.

Parental Information

The district will, through parental involvement and outreach activities, provide parents/guardians of English learners with information about how the parents/guardians can be active participants in helping their students learn English, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects and meet state-established learning standards.

The parents/guardians of each student identified as an EL student will be informed of:

1. The reasons for identifying their student as an English learner in need of placement in the district's LIEP.
2. The student's level of English proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening; how that level was assessed; and the status of the student's academic achievement.
3. The method of instruction that will be used in the program the student is or will be participating in and the methods of instruction used in available alternative programs, including how such programs differ in content, instructional goals and the use of English and a native language in instruction.
4. How the program will meet the educational strengths and needs of the student.
5. How the program will help the student learn English and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation.
6. The specific exit requirements of the program, including expected rate of transition from such programs into classrooms that are not tailored for EL students.
7. The expected rate of graduation from high school, including four-year and extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates for the program if Title III funding is used in high schools.
8. If the student has an individualized education program (IEP), how the LIEP will meet the student's IEP objectives.

Parental Rights

Parents/Guardians will be notified within 30 days after the opening of school enrollment if their student is identified for participation in or is participating in an LIEP. For those students who were not identified as EL prior to the beginning of the school year, but are identified during the school year, such notice shall be provided within two weeks of the student being placed in an LIEP.

Parents/Guardians of EL students have the right to decline the placement of their student in an LIEP, choose an LIEP other than the one recommended by the district (if other programs are offered by the district) or have their student immediately removed from an LIEP upon their request.

Parents/Guardians may opt their student out of the district's LIEP by contacting the EL coordinator and attending a meeting with the coordinator and one or more LIEP instructors to discuss the results of the student's screening assessment and information about the LIEP. Parents/Guardians who decline language instruction will be asked to sign a waiver

exempting their student from instruction. Students removed from the district's LIEP will continue to receive language supports in the regular classroom, and the district will continue to monitor the student's progress toward English proficiency. Parents/Guardians may not refuse regular classroom supports and may not opt their students out of statewide assessments to determine English proficiency.

A written copy of these rights, which may be a copy of this policy, will be provided to parents/guardians of EL students and, to the extent practicable, will be provided in a language the parents/guardians understand.

Parental Notification

Pursuant to federal law, if the district's English language program fails to make progress on annual measurable achievement objectives, the district will notify parents/guardians of students participating in the district's program. Such notice shall be provided within 30 days after the district learns of the failure.

EL Coordinator

The district's EL program coordinator is the Director of Student Services.

The EL coordinator shall have the following duties:

1. Provide parents/guardians with notice of and information regarding the LIEP as required by law.
2. Ensure that any student who's LUS indicates a language other than English will be further screened and assessed for English proficiency using the state-provided instruments.
3. Determine the appropriate instructional environment for EL students.
4. Maintain records relating to the LIEP and prepare reports for submission to DESE.
5. Reach out regularly to parents/guardians of EL students, assist them in becoming active participants in their students' learning, and provide information about the district's parent and family involvement and engagement activities.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of the LIEP and make recommendations for revisions.
7. Prepare reports on immigrant students for submission as required by DESE.

LIEP Staff

Teachers and paraprofessionals working in the district's LIEP will have all required state and federal certifications and other qualifications required by law. In addition, teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to English learners will be comparable in terms of education, experience and effectiveness to teachers and paraprofessionals who are providing services to students who are not English learners.

Assessment

In addition to other required assessments, the district will annually assess the English proficiency of EL students in accordance with state and federal law and the district's assessment policy.

Nonpublic Participation

The district will consult with representatives of nonpublic schools as required by federal law.

SURVEYING, ANALYZING OR EVALUATING STUDENTS

Inspection

Any parent may inspect, upon request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum and all instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, films, tapes or other supplementary material, that will be used in connection with any survey, analysis or evaluation as part of any applicable program. Further, a parent may inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. The term "instructional material" does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

In general, the district will not collect, disclose or use personal student information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing the information to others for that purpose. In the rare case where the district may collect information from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information, parents may inspect any instrument used before the instrument is administered or distributed to a student, upon request and in accordance with Board policy.

Consent Required

In accordance with law, no student, as part of any program wholly or partially funded by the U.S. Department of Education, shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis or evaluation (hereafter referred to as "protected information survey") that reveals any of the following information without written consent of a parent:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Sex behavior or attitudes.
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent
8. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

Notice and Opportunity to Opt Out

In accordance with law, parents will receive prior notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

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

The district will directly notify parents at the beginning of the school year of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the above-listed activities will occur or are expected to be scheduled.

Notification of Policy and Privacy

In accordance with law, parents will be directly notified of this policy at least annually at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in the policy.

The district will take measures to protect the identification and privacy of the students participating in a protected information survey, regardless of the source of funding. These measures may include limiting access to the completed surveys and the survey results as allowed by law. All student educational records will be protected in accordance with law and Board policy JO.

The provisions of this policy applicable to parents will transfer to a student who is 18 years old or emancipated

SEXUAL HEALTH INSTRUCTION

The Board of Education recognizes that parents/guardians should be the primary source of sexuality education for their children. The Board also recognizes that effective sexuality education, taught in concert with parents/guardians, helps students avoid risks to their health and academic success and prepares them to make informed decisions as adults.

The district will offer instruction in human sexuality and will provide instruction regarding sexual abuse as required by law. All instruction will be appropriate to the age of the students receiving the instruction, and students may be separated by gender for the instruction.

Notice and Opt-Out

The district will notify parents/guardians of the basic content of the district's human sexuality and sexual abuse instruction. The district will also notify parents/guardians of their right to remove their student from any part of the district's instruction on these topics upon written request. The district will make all curriculum materials used in the district's human sexuality and sexual abuse instruction available for inspection prior to the use of such materials in actual instruction.

Human Sexuality and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

As required by state law, any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases shall be medically and factually accurate and shall:

1. Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relation to all sexual activity for unmarried students because it is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity. Students shall be advised that teenage sexual activity places them at a higher risk of dropping out of school because of the consequences of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy.

2. Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious, possible health hazards of sexual activity. Students shall be provided with the latest medical information regarding exposure to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), human papillomavirus (HPV), hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases.

3. Present students with the latest medically factual information regarding both the possible side effects and health benefits of all forms of contraception, including the success and failure rates for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, or present students with information on contraceptives and pregnancy in a manner consistent with the provisions of federal abstinence education law.

4. Include a discussion of the possible emotional and psychological consequences of preadolescent and adolescent sexual activity and the consequences of adolescent pregnancy, as well as the advantages of adoption, including the adoption of special needs children, and the processes involved in making an adoption plan.

5. Teach skills of conflict management, personal responsibility and positive self-esteem through discussion and role playing at appropriate grade levels to emphasize that the student has the power to control personal behavior. Students shall be encouraged to base their actions on reasoning, self-discipline, sense of responsibility, self-control and ethical considerations, such as respect for one's self and others. Students shall be taught not to make unwanted physical and verbal sexual advances or otherwise exploit another person. Students shall be taught to resist unwanted sexual advances and other negative peer pressure.

6. Teach students about consent, sexual harassment and sexual violence. Specifically, students will be taught that:

- A) Consent is a freely given agreement to the conduct at issue by a competent person, and that:

- < An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct does not constitute consent.
 - < Lack of verbal or physical resistance does not constitute consent.
 - < Submission resulting from the use of force, threat of force or fear does not constitute consent.
 - < A current or previous dating, social or sexual relationship between two parties does not by itself constitute consent.
 - < The manner of dress chosen by a person does not constitute consent.
- B) Sexual harassment is unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature, especially by a person in authority toward a subordinate.
- C) Sexual violence is causing or attempting to cause another to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force, threat of force, duress or without the person's consent.
7. Advise students of the laws pertaining to their financial responsibility to children born in and out of wedlock and advise students of the provisions of Missouri law pertaining to statutory rape and statutory sodomy.
 8. Teach students about the characteristics of and ways to identify sexual predators.
 9. Teach students safe and responsible Internet use, including the dangers of online sexual predators, when using electronic communication methods such as the Internet, mobile phones, text messages, chat rooms, social media, e-mail and instant messaging.
 10. Instill in students the importance of having open communication with responsible adults, reporting any inappropriate situation, activity or abuse to a responsible adult and, depending on intent and content, to local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's "CyberTipline." 1
 11. Explain the potential consequences, both personal and legal, of inappropriate text messaging and sexting, even among friends

The district will not permit a person or entity to offer, sponsor or furnish in any manner any course materials or instruction relating to human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases to its students if the person or entity is a provider of abortion services. District personnel or agents, acting in their official capacities, will encourage any students to have an abortion.

Sexual Abuse

In accordance with law, the district will provide trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate training to students in grades 6–12 regarding sexual abuse including, but not limited to, instruction on:

1. How to recognize sexual abuse;
2. How to report an incident of sexual abuse;
3. How to obtain assistance and intervention; and
4. Resources for students affected by sexual abuse.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The district will use high-quality academic assessments as one indication of the success and quality of the district's education program. Further, the Board recognizes its obligation to provide for and administer assessments as required by law. The Board directs the superintendent or designee to create procedures governing assessments consistent with law and Board policy.

In cooperation with the administrative and instructional staff, the Board will regularly review student performance data and use this information to evaluate the effectiveness of the district's instructional programs, making adjustments as necessary.

The district will comply with all assessment requirements for students with disabilities mandated by federal and state law, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Participation

In order to achieve the purposes of the student assessment program and comply with state and federal law, the district requires all enrolled students to participate in all applicable aspects of the district assessment program, including statewide assessments.

District Assessment Plan

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district has a written assessment plan that will test competency in the subject areas of English, reading, language arts, science, mathematics, social studies and civics, as required by law.

The purposes of the districtwide assessment plan are to facilitate and provide information for the following:

1. *Student Achievement* – To produce information about relative student achievement so that parents/guardians, students and teachers can monitor academic progress.
2. *Student Guidance* – To serve as a tool for implementing the district's student guidance program.
3. *Instructional Change* – To provide data that will assist in the preparation of recommendations for instructional program changes to:
 - ▶ Help teachers with instructional decisions, plans and changes regarding classroom objectives and program implementation.
 - ▶ Help the professional staff formulate and recommend instructional policy.
 - ▶ Help the Board of Education adopt instructional policies.
4. *School and District Evaluation* – To provide indicators of the progress of the district and individual schools toward established goals.
5. *Accreditation* – To ensure the district obtains and maintains accreditation.

There shall be broad-based involvement of staff and others with appropriate expertise in the development of the assessment program and its implementation. Instructional staff will be given training and responsibilities in coordinating the program. Every effort will be made to ensure that testing contributes to the learning process rather than detracts from it and that cultural bias does not affect the accuracy of assessments.

Reading Assessment

The district will administer a reading assessment to students in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades to determine whether additional reading instruction and retention are needed, as required by law. The district will also administer a reading assessment to all students who transfer to the district in grades four, five or six, and to all students attending summer school due to a reading deficiency, as required by law.

The reading assessment will be a recognized method, or combination of methods, of assessing a student's reading ability. Results of assessments will be expressed as reading at a particular grade level. The superintendent or designee will determine which methods of reading assessment the district will utilize.

English Proficiency Assessments

The district will annually assess the English reading, writing and oral language skills of district English Learner students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Statewide Assessments

The district will implement the components of the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) in order to monitor the progress of all students in meeting the challenging academic standards set forth by the Missouri State Board of Education. The assessments will be the same for all students in the district, including those students identified as migratory or homeless, students in foster care and students with a parent/guardian who is an active duty member of the armed forces or who serves on full-time National Guard duty.

End-of-course (EOC) assessments will be administered in accordance with law and the rules of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). In courses where EOC assessments are given, the superintendent or designee will determine what percent of the course grade will be decided by performance on EOC assessments.

If a student is taking a course that requires an EOC assessment and is failing the course or for some other reason may be required to retake the course, the district may choose to delay administration of the EOC assessment until the student has completed the course the second time. A team consisting of the course instructor, the principal and a counselor will determine when delayed administration of an EOC assessment is appropriate. In the case of a student with an individualized education program (IEP), the IEP team will make the determination.

EOC examinations may be waived for:

1. Students receiving special education services whose IEP teams have determined that the MAP-A alternative is the appropriate assessment;
2. English learner students who have been in the United States 12 or fewer months at the time of administration, in some circumstances; and
3. Foreign exchange students.

The School Board authorizes the superintendent or designee to establish a process designed to encourage the students of this district to give their best efforts on each portion of any statewide assessment, which may include, but is not limited to, incentives or supplementary work as a consequence of performance.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

If chosen, the district will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress as required by law.

Assessments in Preparation for Postsecondary Education and Work Opportunities

The district encourages students to prepare for postsecondary education or work opportunities prior to graduating from the district. District staff will encourage students to take assessments necessary for pursuing postsecondary education, career training and employment. Such assessments may include, but are not limited to, the ACT, the ACT Plus Writing Assessment, the ACT Work Keys assessments (Work Keys) and the SAT. When the district determines it is economically feasible, the district may provide access to assessments at the district's expense. The superintendent or designee will work with testing companies to provide eligible students access to fee waivers and other resources so that all district students may access these assessments.

ACT/Work Keys at State Expense

DESE may require school districts to administer the ACT as part of statewide testing requirements. When that occurs and the state funds the test, any student who would be allowed or required to participate in the ACT will have the opportunity, on any date within three months before the ACT administration, to participate in the Work Keys at the state's expense in lieu of taking the ACT. Any student who participated in a state-funded administration of the Work Keys shall not participate in any state-funded administration of the ACT.

ACT/Work Keys at District Expense

Students who are required or allowed to participate in the ACT at district expense will have the opportunity, on any date within three months before the ACT administration, to participate in the Work Keys at district expense. The district may also require the student to take the ACT.

High School Equivalency Examination

The district participates in the Missouri Option Program, a competency-based program that allows eligible students to earn a district diploma if the student passes the state high school equivalency examination.

Parental Notice

At the beginning of each school year, the district shall notify the parents/guardians of each student that the district will provide, upon request and in a timely manner, information regarding any state or district policy regarding student participation in any assessments. Such notice shall include information about state or local policies that would allow students to opt out of assessments. Missouri has no such policy, and the district expects all students to participate in all district or statewide assessments.

The district shall post on the district's website and, where practicable, on the website of each school in the district for each grade level in the district, information on any assessments required by state or federal law, including any assessments required by the district. The information shall include the subject matter being assessed, the purpose for the assessment, the source of the requirement for the assessment, and where the information on the assessment is available. The information shall also include the amount of time students will spend taking the assessments, the schedule for the assessments, and the time and format for disseminating the results, when available.

If the district does not operate a website, the district shall determine how to make the information widely available, including dissemination through the media, public agencies or directly to the parents/guardians.

The district will provide parents/guardians information, if available, on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student on each of the statewide assessments in which the student participates. The district will provide the information in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent possible, the information will be written in a language the parent/guardian can understand. If it is not practical to provide written translations to parents/guardians, the information shall be orally translated for them. Upon request by a parent/guardian with a disability, the district will provide the information in an alternate format that is accessible to the parent/guardian.

Policy Publication

The district will notify employees, students and parents/guardians of this policy by posting this policy on the district's website and providing information about the policy to district employees. The district may also include information about the policy in appropriate district publications and student handbooks.

Because virtual instruction can be an effective education option for some students, the district may offer virtual courses to students through district staff or by contracting for those services as part of the district-sponsored curriculum. In addition, eligible students may enroll in virtual courses offered through the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP). The district will accept all grades and credits earned through district-sponsored virtual instruction and MOCAP.

The district will pay the costs of a virtual course only if the district has first approved the student's enrollment in the course as described in this policy. Even if a student or his or her parents/guardians pay the costs for a virtual course, the student or parents/guardians should meet with the principal or designee prior to enrollment to ensure that the course is consistent with the student's academic and personal goals.

The district is not required to provide students access to or pay for courses beyond the equivalent of full-time enrollment. The district will provide supervision for students who take virtual courses in district facilities but will not provide supervision for students taking virtual courses offsite.

Students taking courses virtually are subject to district policies, procedures and rules applicable to students enrolled in traditional courses including, but not limited to, the district's discipline code and prohibitions on academic dishonesty, discrimination, harassment, bullying and cyberbullying.

Enrollment in Virtual Courses

The superintendent or designee will establish open enrollment periods and registration deadlines for students to enroll in virtual courses offered by the district or through MOCAP. These enrollment periods and registration deadlines will be strictly enforced unless the superintendent or designee determines that an exception is warranted due to circumstances such as a change in a student's health or the long-term suspension of a student. Enrollment periods and registration deadlines must align with the district's academic calendar and assessment schedule to the extent practicable.

A student or parent/guardian must notify the student's principal or designee before the student may enroll in a district-sponsored virtual course or a MOCAP virtual course through the district. The student will be enrolled unless the principal or designee, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians and relevant staff, such as the school counselor or district special education director, determines that there is good cause to refuse the student enrollment in the course. For enrollment in a MOCAP course, good cause is limited to situations where it is not in the best educational interest of the student to enroll in the course.

Students or parents/guardians who disagree with the principal's or designee's determination about a MOCAP course can appeal the decision to the Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as detailed later in this policy. For all other virtual courses, students or parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the superintendent or designee, and the superintendent's or designee's decision will be final. The superintendent or designee is authorized to consult the district's attorney prior to making a decision.

Students with Disabilities

In general, students with disabilities may enroll in district-sponsored virtual courses or MOCAP virtual courses using the same approval process applicable to other students. However, in accordance with federal law, if a student receives special education services, the student's individualized education program (IEP) team may determine that a virtual course is not appropriate for the student even if the course has otherwise been approved. Any appeal of that decision must be made through the special education process rather than to the superintendent or designee or the Board.

If a student who is receiving accommodations for a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) is enrolled in a virtual course, the student's Section 504 team will determine whether any additional accommodations are necessary for the student.

Attendance and Completion

Students who enroll in district-sponsored virtual courses or MOCAP courses through the district are expected to actively participate in those courses with the goal of completing the course. If a student does not actively participate in a course or is not successful in the course, the district may remove the student from the virtual course and refuse to enroll the student in virtual courses in the future.

Students enrolled in virtual courses are expected to complete all course requirements in the time allotted for the course. Extensions of time to complete a virtual course will be permitted only in situations where completion of the course in the allotted time would be impossible due to factors not controlled by the student.

Students enrolled in a district-sponsored or MOCAP course through the district will be considered in attendance for state aid purposes in accordance with law. A completed virtual course shall be counted as no less than 95 percent attendance for purposes of A+ eligibility.

End-of-Course (EOC) Examinations

Students are required to take state-required EOC examinations administered by the district regardless of whether the course for which the examination is required was taken virtually or in the traditional classroom.

Notice

The district will inform students and parents/guardians in handbooks, registration documents and on the homepage of the district's website of the option to enroll in virtual courses, including courses offered through MOCAP, as required by law.

MOCAP

In accordance with state law, the district will pay the cost of student enrollment in MOCAP virtual courses as long as:

1. The student meets eligibility requirements;
2. The student has approval for enrollment in accordance with this policy; and
3. Taking the course does not cause the student to exceed full-time enrollment in the district.

In addition to the requirements listed above and in accordance with law, a student is eligible to enroll in a MOCAP course through the district if:

1. The student resides in and is enrolled in the district on a full-time basis;
2. The student has attended a public school or charter school for at least one semester immediately prior to enrolling in a MOCAP course;* and
3. The enrollment is approved by the principal or designee.

*A student will be excused from this requirement if he or she has a documented medical or psychological diagnosis or condition that prevented the student from attending a school in the district during the previous semester.

The district is not obligated to provide students computers, equipment or Internet access to take a MOCAP course unless otherwise required by law to accommodate a student with a disability.

District counselors or certificated staff will develop an individual career and academic plan (ICAP) for district students enrolled in three or more virtual courses. If a student already has an ICAP, the plan will be reviewed and modified as necessary. In accordance with law, school counselors cannot be required to make the final decision regarding a student's enrollment in a MOCAP course.

Appeal

If the principal or designee determines that it is not in a student's best educational interest to take a virtual course, the student and the parents/guardians will be notified in writing, provided an explanation for the decision and informed that the student or parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the Board. However, if the student is receiving special education services, the student's IEP team will make the final decision regarding student enrollment in a virtual course in accordance with federal law, and the decision must be appealed through the special education process rather than through the Board.

If the student or parent/guardian appeals to the Board, the principal or designee will provide the Board written reasons for denying the student's enrollment, and the student or parent/guardian will provide written reasons the student should be allowed to take the course. Both documents will be retained by the Board and will be incorporated into the minutes.

In addition, the student, parents/guardians and the principal or designee will be allowed to present their arguments at a Board meeting.

The appeal to the Board shall be held in closed session. The Board will consider the information presented and release a written decision within 30 calendar days of the meeting. The student or parents/guardians may appeal the decision to DESE. The appeal to DESE must be filed within seven days of the Board's final decision.

Payment

The district will pay a MOCAP course provider a monthly pro rata amount based on a student's completion of assignments and assessments, subject to the cost limitations in state law. The district will stop making monthly payments if a student discontinues enrollment. The superintendent or designee is authorized to negotiate lower course rates with MOCAP course providers when possible.

Monitoring and Reporting

The district will monitor the progress and success of students enrolled in MOCAP courses. The district may remove a student from a course if it does not meet the educational needs of the student. The district may terminate access to a course or refuse to allow students to enroll in a MOCAP course if the district determines that the course is not meeting the educational needs of the students enrolled in the course.

All concerns regarding the quality or delivery of a MOCAP course will be reported to DESE. The district may consider concerns regarding the quality of a course when making approval decisions for other students. In addition, the district will consider recommendations made by DESE regarding continued or future enrollment in MOCAP courses.

Transfers

The district will accept transfer credits students earn by successfully passing approved MOCAP courses if the course provider gives the district an official record of the completed course and the grade earned. Students who transfer to the district while enrolled in MOCAP courses will be allowed to continue enrollment in those courses even if the course provider is not one used by the district.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education for the Webster Groves School District establishes the following graduation requirements as a condition of receiving a diploma. The superintendent or designee will regularly communicate these requirements to students and parents/guardians and recommend modifications to the Board when necessary.

Requirements

A student must meet the following requirements in order to graduate from the Webster Groves School District, unless otherwise exempted. The student must:

1. Complete a total of 24 credits, including credits required by the State Board of Education and the Webster Groves High School course description book.
2. Pass examinations on the provisions and principles of American history, American institutions, American civics, and the Missouri and the United States Constitutions. (§§ 170.011, .345, RSMo.)
3. Successfully complete a course of instruction, at least one semester in length, on the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments; the United States government; and the electoral process. (§ 170.011, RSMo.)
4. Have earned credit in the Webster Groves School District's educational program between the ninth and twelfth grades.
5. Have taken all required end-of-course (EOC) examinations. (DESE Graduation Guidance)
6. Have received 30 minutes of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction and training in the proper performance of the Heimlich maneuver or other first aid for choking. (§ 170.310, RSMo.)

Exceptions

1. Graduation requirements for a student with a disability receiving special education services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) may be determined according to the student's individualized education program (IEP). Any specific graduation requirement may be waived if recommended by the student's IEP team. (DESE Graduation Guidance)

2. Students transferring from other Missouri school districts or charter schools, private or parochial schools, home schools, unaccredited schools, and schools in other states or countries will have their credits transferred in accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and will be required to meet all Webster Groves School District graduation requirements. (DESE Graduation Guidance)
3. The district will waive the requirement to pass examinations on the provisions and principles of American history, American institutions and the Missouri and the United States Constitutions for students who transfer from a school outside Missouri if they can document the successful completion of a course of instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of state government, including local governments, the United States government and the electoral process. Such instruction must have been completed in grades nine through twelve. The district will waive the requirement to pass a civics examination when recommended by the student's IEP team. (§ 170.011, RSMo., DESE Graduation Guidance)
4. In unique situations, the district will work with the student and the parents/guardians to develop a program of studies that will result in graduation if successfully completed.
5. Graduation requirements for foster care students will be modified or waived in accordance with law and Board policy IGBE. (§ 160.1990, RSMo.)
6. Students in the household of an active duty member of the military, including students in the household of certain veterans who are deceased or injured as defined by law, who transfer to the district may have graduation requirements modified or waived in accordance with law. (§ 160.2000, RSMo.)
7. Eligible students who successfully complete the Missouri Option Program will be awarded a Missouri Options high school diploma. (5 C.S.R. 20-500.330)

Earning Credit, Substituting Credit and Alternatives

1. The superintendent or designee is directed to assign credit values for courses offered by or through the school district and to develop formulas and procedures for awarding credit to students who transfer from a district that uses a different standard for awarding credit.
2. The Webster Groves School District recognizes units of credit obtained through accredited schools and school districts, including credits earned through courses delivered primarily through electronic media, such as online courses. For the purposes of this policy, an "accredited school" is a Missouri public school, a Missouri charter school, the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP); a private agency where students with disabilities are placed by a public school; or any school or school district accredited by the Missouri State Board of Education, AdvancED or the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). If a school or school district is located in another state, that school or school district must be accredited by that state's department of education, AdvancED, ISACS or the equivalent organizations. (§ 161.670, RSMo., DESE Graduation Guidance)
3. Students may earn advanced-standing credit by successfully completing high school–level courses prior to entering the ninth grade. Advanced-standing credit may be counted toward meeting all graduation requirements, including state minimum requirements. (DESE Graduation Guidance)
4. The district may waive one unit of academic credit in English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies, whichever is most appropriate, for students who successfully complete an eligible three-unit career/technical program. Students must request this credit waiver prior to enrolling in the career/technical program for which the waiver is sought. Students must take the end-of-course exam required for any waived course. Unless otherwise waived by law, students who waive a social studies unit under this section are still required to complete a course of at least one semester in length on the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, and of the government of the United States and the electoral process. Students are also required to meet state requirements regarding American civics. (DESE Graduation Guidance)
5. In addition to the waiver of credit above, a student may fulfill one unit of academic credit with a district-approved agriculture or career and technical education course for any English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies unit required for high school graduation in any combination up to fulfilling one requirement in each of the four subject areas. The substitution may not be made for courses that require an end-of-course assessment. Unless otherwise waived by law, students who waive a social studies unit under this section are still required to complete a course of study of at least one semester in length covering the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, and of the government of the United States

and the electoral process. Students are also required to meet state requirements regarding American civics. (§ 170.017, RSMo.)

6. The district may allow a student to fulfill one credit of any district-required mathematics, science or practical arts unit with a district-approved computer science course as long as the student has taken or is on track to take all courses that require end-of-course examinations for math and science. The district will notify all students relying on this provision that some institutions of higher education may require four units of academic credit in mathematics for college admission. The district will require the parent, guardian or legal custodian of each student to acknowledge in writing that taking a computer science course to fulfill a unit of academic credit in mathematics may have an adverse effect on college admission decisions. (§ 170.018, RSMo.)
7. Students may earn credit for a subject that has been embedded into another subject-area course in accordance with guidelines established by DESE. (DESE Graduation Guidance)
8. Students may earn credit by other means as approved by the Board and in accordance with law.

Diplomas and Certificates

Students who complete the district's graduation requirements or are otherwise entitled to a diploma in accordance with law and district policy will receive a district diploma.

District Diploma for Coursework Completed in Other Districts

In accordance with law and DESE guidance, the district may be required to issue a diploma to students who did not complete their education in the district but who graduated based on the district's graduation requirements. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, situations where a foster student transfers from the district to another school or district or a student in the household of an active duty member of the military transfers to another district, in accordance with law. (§§ 160.1990, .2000, 167.019, RSMo.)

Diplomas from Other Districts

Students in the household of an active duty member of the military, including students in the household of certain veterans who are deceased or injured as defined by law, who transfer to the district at the beginning of or during their senior year and who will not meet the graduation requirements of the district by the end of the senior year may receive a diploma from the school district they are transferring from if they are able to meet the graduation requirements of that district. (§ 160.2000, RSMo.)

Foster care students who enroll in the district at the beginning of or during their senior year who cannot meet the district's graduation requirements by the end of the senior year, even after all alternatives have been considered, may receive a diploma from the previous school attended if they are eligible to receive a diploma from the previous school. (§ 160.1990, RSMo.)

Certificate of Attendance

Students with disabilities who reach age 21 or otherwise terminate their education and who have met the district's attendance requirements but have not completed the requirements for graduation may receive a certificate of attendance as directed by the student's IEP team. (DESE Graduation Guidance)

Career and Technical Education Certificate

In addition to receiving their graduation diploma, students may earn a career and technical education certificate (CTE) if they meet the standards created by the State Board of Education. (§ 170.029, RSMo.)

Seal of Biliteracy

The district may award a Missouri Seal of Biliteracy to students who have attained proficiency in English and at least one other language before high school graduation in accordance with rules established by DESE.

EARLY GRADUATION

Students who wish to graduate early will be required to meet with a school counselor and submit written notification to the principal. The school counselor will notify the student's parents or guardians of the student's decision if the student is a dependent. The student will receive a diploma if the student has met the Webster Groves School District's graduation requirements.

The student who chooses early graduation will be allowed to participate in the spring graduation ceremonies but will be considered an alumni for all other activities.

PERSONNEL RECORDS

It is the intent of the Board of Education to maintain complete and current personnel files for all district employees. Personnel records will include, but are not limited to: documentation of necessary certifications and licenses; compensation records; documentation of benefits received or offered and overtime or compensatory time earned; performance evaluations; records of disciplinary actions; and other records the district determines are necessary to effectively manage the employment relationship and verify compliance with relevant state and federal laws. Personnel records will be retained in accordance with the Missouri Secretary of State's applicable retention manuals.

Confidentiality

The district creates and maintains personnel records for district purposes, and in general personnel records will only be available to district employees or independent contractors who are authorized by the district to access the information. In accordance with law, individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings and records pertaining to employees, former employees or applicants for employment are closed and not accessible to the public. However, the names, positions, salaries and lengths of service of employees must be available to the public upon request. In addition, the district will provide access to personnel records to the district's legal counsel, to state and federal agencies with appropriate authority, and in situations where the record is used to defend the district in a legal or administrative action.

Storage

Personnel records will be stored in accordance with good data management practices and in such a manner that only authorized personnel who need to know the information as part of their duties with the district have access to the records. Files containing immigration records and medical information regarding an employee will be kept separate from other personnel files.

Parent/Guardian Access

In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of each school year the district will notify the parents/guardians of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that they may request information regarding whether the:

1. Student's teacher is certified to teach in the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Student's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional certification status.
3. Student is provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

Employee Access

Upon request to and in the presence of the appropriate administrative official, any employee may inspect his or her own personnel file during regular working hours, with the exception of the ratings, reports and records created or obtained prior to the employment of the individual, including confidential placement papers and letters of reference.

Board Member Access

An individual Board member has no greater access to confidential personnel records than any member of the public unless the Board member has been granted access by action of the Board or is serving in a capacity that requires such access.

If an individual Board member wants to view an employee evaluation or other confidential personnel information, the Board member may ask for the item to be put on the agenda for the next closed Board meeting. At the meeting, the

Board member must explain why he or she has requested access to the record. If access is granted by the Board, the record will be available for all Board members to view at the meeting.

Employment contracts are not considered confidential personnel records, and individual Board members may inspect or copy these contracts upon request.

STUDENT RECORDS

In order to provide students with appropriate instruction and educational services, it is necessary for the district to maintain extensive and sometimes personal information about students and families. These records must be kept confidential in accordance with law, but must also be readily available to district personnel who need the records to effectively serve district students.

The superintendent or designee will provide: the proper administration of student records in accordance with law, appropriate procedures for maintaining student records and standardized procedures for the collection and transmittal of necessary information about individual students throughout the district. The superintendent and building principals will maintain a student records system that includes protocols for releasing student education records. Principals are responsible for maintaining and protecting the student education records in each school. The superintendent or designee will make arrangements so that all district employees are trained annually on the confidentiality of student education records, as applicable for each employee classification.

Definitions

Eligible Student – A student or former student who has reached age 18 or is attending a postsecondary school.

Parent – A biological or adoptive parent of a student, a guardian of a student, or an individual acting as a parent or guardian in the absence of the student's parent or guardian.

Student – Any person who attends or has attended a school in the school district and for whom the district maintains education records.

Health Information

Student health information is a type of student record that is particularly sensitive and protected by numerous state and federal laws. Student health information shall be protected from unauthorized, illegal or inappropriate disclosure by adherence to the principles of confidentiality and privacy. The information shall be protected regardless of whether the information is received orally, in writing or electronically and regardless of the type of record or method of storage.

Parent and Eligible Student Access

All parents may inspect and review their student's education records, seek amendments, consent to disclosures and file complaints regarding the records as allowed by law. These rights transfer from the parent to the student once the student becomes an eligible student; however, under the Missouri Sunshine Law, parents maintain some rights to inspect student records even after a student turns 18. The district will extend the same access to records to either parent, regardless of divorce, custody or visitation rights, unless the district is provided with evidence that the parent's rights to inspect records have been legally modified.

If a parent or eligible student believes an education record related to the student contains information that is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's privacy, the parent or eligible student may use the appeals procedures created by the superintendent or designee to request that the district amend the record.

The district will annually notify parents and eligible students of their rights in accordance with law.

Directory Information

Directory information is information contained in an education record of a student that generally would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed without the consent of a parent or eligible student. The district will designate the types of information included in directory information and release this information without first obtaining consent from a parent or eligible student unless a parent or eligible student notifies the district in writing as directed. Parents and eligible students will be notified annually of the information the district has designated as directory information and the process for notifying the district if they do not want the information released.

Even if parents or eligible students notify the district in writing that they do not want directory information disclosed, the district may still disclose the information if required or allowed to do so by law. For example, the district may require

students to disclose their names, identifiers or district e-mail addresses in classes in which they are enrolled, or students may be required to wear, publicly display or disclose a student identification card or badge that exhibits information that is designated as directory information.

The following personally identifiable information regarding students has been designated by the district as directory information and may be routinely released:

General Directory Information – The following information the district maintains about a personally identifiable student may be disclosed by the district to the school community through, for example, district publications, or to any person without first obtaining written consent from a parent or eligible student:

- a. Student's name;
- b. Student's address;
- c. Student's date and place of birth;
- d. Parents' names;
- e. Parents'/Guardians' home address, telephone number and e-mail address
- f. Grade level;
- g. Enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time);
- h. Student identification number;
- i. Participation in district-sponsored or district-recognized activities and sports;
- j. Weight and height of members of athletic teams;
- k. Dates of attendance;
- l. Degrees, honors and awards received; artwork or course work displayed by the district;
- m. Schools or school districts previously attended; and
- n. Photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sound unless such records would be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy.

Law Enforcement Access

The district may report or disclose education records to law enforcement and juvenile justice authorities if the disclosure concerns law enforcement's or juvenile justice authorities' ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records are released. The officials and authorities to whom such information is disclosed must comply with applicable restrictions set forth in federal law.

If the district reports a crime committed by a student with a disability as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the district will transmit copies of the special education and disciplinary records to the authorities to whom the district reported the crime as allowed by law.

Law enforcement officials also have access to directory information and may obtain access to student education records in emergency situations as allowed by law. Otherwise, law enforcement officials must obtain a subpoena or consent from the parent or eligible student before a student's education records will be disclosed.

Children's Division Access

The district may disclose education records to representatives of the CD when reporting child abuse and neglect in accordance with law. Once the CD obtains custody of a student, CD representatives may also have access to education records in accordance with law. CD representatives may also have access to directory information and may obtain access to student education records in emergency situations, as allowed by law.

Military and Higher Education Access

The district will disclose the names, addresses and telephone numbers of secondary school students to military recruiters or institutions of higher education as required by law unless the parent or student notifies the district in writing not to disclose the information to those entities.

STAFF/STUDENT RELATIONS

Definitions

Educational Purpose – A purpose associated with the staff member's duties in the district including, but not limited to: instruction, counseling, the treatment of a student's physical injury, or coordination of an extracurricular activity, depending on the staff member's job description.

Staff Member – For the purposes of this policy, a staff member is any individual employed by the district, including part-time and substitute employees and student teachers.

Student – Individuals currently enrolled in the Webster Groves School District.

General

Staff members are expected to maintain courteous and professional relationships with students. All staff members have a responsibility to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning through consistently and fairly applied discipline and the maintenance of physical and emotional boundaries with students. These boundaries must be maintained regardless of the student's age, the location of the activity, whether the student allegedly consents to the relationship or whether the staff member directly supervises the student. Maintaining these boundaries is an essential requirement for employment in the district.

Although this policy applies to the relationships between staff members and district students, staff members who inappropriately interact with any child may be disciplined or terminated when the district determines such action is necessary to protect students.

Absolute Prohibitions

There are some interactions between staff members and students that are never acceptable and are absolutely prohibited including, but not limited to:

1. Touching, caressing, fondling or kissing students in a sexual or sexually intimate manner.
2. Dating a student or discussing or planning a future romantic or sexual relationship with a student. The district may presume that this provision has been violated if a staff member begins a dating or sexual relationship with a student a short time after graduation or immediately after a student has left the district.
3. Making sexual advances toward a student or engaging in a sexual relationship with a student.
4. Engaging in any conduct that constitutes illegal harassment or discrimination as defined in policy AC or that could constitute a violation of that policy if pervasive.
5. Engaging in any conduct that violates Board policies, regulations or procedures or constitutes criminal behavior.

Exceptions to This Policy

The goal of this policy is to protect students from harm and staff members from allegations of misconduct by requiring staff members to maintain professional boundaries with students. The district does not intend to interfere with or impede appropriate interactions between staff members and students.

An emergency situation or an educational purpose might justify deviation from some of the professional boundaries set out in this policy. Likewise, staff members might be related to students or have contact with students outside the school environment through friends, neighborhood or community activities, or participation in civic, religious or other organizations. These contacts might justify deviation from some of the standards set in this policy, but under no circumstance will an educational or other purpose justify deviating from the "Absolute Prohibitions" section of this policy. The staff member must be prepared to articulate the reason for any deviation from the requirements of this policy and must demonstrate that he or she has maintained an appropriate relationship with the student. To avoid confusion, the district encourages staff members to consult with their supervisors prior to engaging in behaviors or activities that might violate or be perceived to violate professional boundaries as defined in this policy.

Failure to Maintain Boundaries

Unless an educational purpose exists or an exception as defined in this policy applies, examples of situations where professional physical and emotional boundaries are violated include, but are not limited to:

1. Being alone with a student in a room with a closed or locked door or with the lights off. Counselors or others who need to work with students confidentially must discuss with their supervisors the appropriate manner of meeting with students.
2. Meeting students in nonwork settings without the parent/guardian's notification.
3. Associating with students in any setting where students are provided, are consuming or are encouraged to use or consume alcohol, tobacco, drugs or any other product or service prohibited to minors.
4. Communicating with students about sexual topics verbally or by any form of written, pictorial or electronic communication.
5. Discussing the staff member's personal problems with or in the presence of students.
6. Sponsoring parties for students outside of school unless as part of an extracurricular activity that is appropriately supervised by an additional adult.
7. Inviting students to the staff member's home.
8. Being present when students are fully or partially nude.
9. Sending students on personal errands.
10. Allowing a student to drive the staff member's vehicle.
11. Providing a student (other than the staff member's children, stepchildren or other children living in the staff member's home) transportation in the staff member's personal vehicle without a supervisor's approval, unless another staff member or the student's parent/guardian is also present in the vehicle.
12. Giving gifts to individual students without appropriate rationale.
13. Frequently pulling a student from another class or activity to be with the staff member.

Electronic Communication

Staff members are encouraged to communicate with students and parents/guardians for educational purposes using a variety of effective methods, including electronic communication. As with other forms of communication, staff members must maintain professional boundaries with students while using electronic communication regardless of whether the communication methods are provided by the district or the staff member uses his or her own personal electronic communication devices, accounts, webpages or other forms of electronic communication.

The district's policies, regulations, procedures and expectations regarding in-person communications at school and during the school day also apply to electronic communications for educational purposes, regardless of when those communications occur. Staff communications must be professional, and student communications must be appropriate. Staff members may use electronic communication with students only as frequently as necessary to accomplish the educational purpose.

1. When communicating electronically with students for educational purposes, staff members must use district-provided devices, accounts and forms of communication (such as computers, phones, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and district-sponsored webpages or social networking sites), when available. If district-provided devices, accounts and forms of communication are unavailable, staff members communicating electronically with students must do so in accordance with number two below. Staff members may communicate with students using district-provided forms of communication without first obtaining supervisor approval. These communications may be monitored. With district permission, staff members may establish websites or other accounts on behalf of the district that enable communications between staff members and students or parents/guardians. Any such website or account is considered district sponsored and must be professional and conform to all district policies, regulations and procedures.
2. A staff member's supervisor may authorize a staff member to communicate with students using the staff member's personal telephone numbers, addresses, webpages or accounts (including, but not limited to, accounts used for texting) to organize or facilitate a district-sponsored class or activity if the communication is determined necessary or beneficial, if a district-sponsored form of communication is not available, and if the communication is related to the class or activity. The district will provide notification to the parents/guardians of students participating in classes or activities for which personal electronic communications have been approved. Staff members may be required to send the communications simultaneously to the supervisor if directed to do so. Staff members are required to provide their supervisors with all education-related communications with district students upon request.

3. Staff use of any electronic communication is subject to the district's policies, regulations and procedures including, but not limited to, policies, regulations, procedures and legal requirements governing the confidentiality and release of information about identifiable students. Employees who obtain pictures or other information about identifiable students through their connections with the district are prohibited from posting such pictures or information on personal websites or personal social networking websites without permission from a supervisor.
4. The district discourages staff members from communicating with students electronically for reasons other than educational purposes. When an electronic communication is not for educational purposes, the section of this policy titled "Exceptions to This Policy" applies, and if concerns are raised, the staff member must be prepared to demonstrate that the communications are appropriate. This policy does not limit staff members from communicating with their children, stepchildren or other persons living within the staff member's home who happen to be students of the district.

Consequences

Staff members who violate this policy will be disciplined, up to and including termination of employment. Depending on the circumstances, the district may report staff members to law enforcement and the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services for further investigation, and the district may seek revocation of a staff member's license(s) with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Reporting

Any person, including a student, who has concerns about or is uncomfortable with a relationship or activities between a staff member and a student should bring this concern immediately to the attention of the principal, counselor or staff member's supervisor. If illegal discrimination or harassment is suspected, the process in policy AC will be followed.

Any staff member who possesses knowledge or evidence of possible violations of this policy must immediately make a report to the district's administration. All staff members who know or have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse shall immediately report the suspected abuse in accordance with Board policy. Staff members must also immediately report a violation or perceived violation of the district's discrimination and harassment policy (AC) to the district's nondiscrimination compliance officer. Staff members may be disciplined for failing to make such reports.

The district will not discipline, terminate or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against a staff member for reporting in good faith any action that may be a violation of this policy.

Training

The district will provide training to district staff that includes current and reliable information on identifying signs of sexual abuse in children and potentially abusive relationships between children and adults. The training will emphasize legal reporting requirements and cover how to establish an atmosphere where students feel comfortable discussing matters related to abuse.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education will maintain a districtwide coordinated student health services program. The district nursing staff has oversight of the coordinated student health services program and will work with the district's wellness committee to incorporate community priorities and values into the district's student health services. The meetings, records and votes of the SHAC will adhere to the requirements of the Missouri Sunshine Law.

Nurses employed to staff the health services program shall serve under the direction of the superintendent or designee and, to the extent required by law, under the supervision of a physician or registered nurse, who may be offsite. The nurse or designee will be responsible for all notifications to parents/guardians regarding health services. The services provided by the nursing staff will include:

1. Administration of laws that protect the health of children attending public schools in Missouri, including:
 - a) Ensuring compliance with immunization requirements.
 - b) Excluding students who have contagious diseases from attendance when authorized by law.
 - c) Reporting the presence or suspected presence of diseases mandated for reporting by law.

2. Emergency first aid treatment for injury or illness occurring during the school day.
3. The administration of medication, including emergency medications stocked by the district, pursuant to Board policy.
4. Assistance in carrying out the district's responsibilities outlined in Section 504 plans, individualized health plans (IHPs) or individualized education programs (IEPs).
5. Guidance and counseling concerning health problems of students.
6. Maintenance of student health records, including the maintenance of emergency information forms for each student. The nurse will store health records in a secure location, and any health information provided to the nurse orally will be documented and stored appropriately. The superintendent or designee shall have access to student health records when there is a legitimate educational purpose or access is necessary to supervise staff. District employees shall not share information regarding a student's health in front of other students or staff members who do not have a need to know the information. Student records will be stored and disclosed in accordance with Board policy.
7. Age-appropriate health education in the district's instructional program, in accordance with Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) Standards and Missouri Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs), including information about the prevention and control of communicable diseases, the use of standard precautions when handling bodily fluids, allergy prevention and response, diabetes, asthma and other chronic conditions. The nurse will maintain information developed by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) relating to human papillomavirus (HPV) and may provide this information directly to parents/guardians but not to students. The nurse will also provide parents/guardians and students information that is produced by or similar to information produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on influenza and influenza vaccinations.
8. Screening for health conditions in accordance with Board policy and administrative procedures.
9. Notification of the school principal if informed of a condition that could require accommodation under federal law.
10. Sharing information with parents/guardians about publicly available health insurance options for students.
11. Annual review of the Health Services Plan.
12. Training staff as necessary to implement the district's health and safety program.
13. Such other services as assigned by the supervising principal or superintendent.

Contraceptives

The district and its agents may not provide contraceptive devices or contraceptive drugs. Referral to the family practitioner for such devices or drugs will be made only in accordance with the parental notification checklist requirements of state law.

Physical Examinations and Screenings

"Screening" is the use of a procedure to examine a large population to determine the presence of a health condition or risk factor in order to identify those who need further evaluation. Screening tests for various health conditions (such as vision, hearing and speech) will be conducted in accordance with administrative procedures. Subject to a written agreement, the district may solicit or permit an outside entity to assist with student health screening. The agreement will include a provision requiring the entity to turn over all records collected during the screening, destroy the information after providing it to the district, keep all student information confidential and hold the district harmless for the entity's actions. The superintendent or designee may contact the district's attorney for assistance in drafting the agreement.

Parents/Guardians will receive a written notice of any screening result that indicates a condition that might interfere with a student's academic progress or health.

In general, the school district will not conduct physical examinations of students without parental consent unless the immediate health or safety of the student or others is in question or unless by court order.

Further, parents/guardians will be notified of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening administered by the district is conducted that is:

1. Required as a condition of attendance.
2. Administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance.

3. Not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or other students. As used in this policy, the term "invasive physical examination" means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision or head lice screening. Parents/Guardians or eligible students will be given the opportunity to opt out of the above-described nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening. Students who wish to participate in certain extracurricular activities may be required to submit proof of a physical examination to verify their ability to participate in the activity. Students participating in activities governed by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) will be required to follow the rules of that organization. All parents/guardians will be provided information at least at the beginning of the school year of the district's policy on physical examinations and screening of students. Parents/Guardians will also be notified within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in the policy.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS TO STUDENTS

Definitions

Authorized Prescriber – Includes a healthcare provider licensed or otherwise authorized by state law to prescribe medication.

Diabetes Medical Management Plan – A document developed by the student's personal healthcare team that sets out the health services needed by the student at school and that is signed by the student's personal healthcare team and parent/guardian.

Medications – For the purposes of this policy, medications include prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs, including herbal preparations and vitamins. Medications also include substances that claim or purport to be medicinal or performance enhancing, including essential oils.

General

The Webster Groves School District prohibits students from possessing or self-administering medications while on district grounds, on district transportation or during district activities unless explicitly authorized in accordance with this policy. However, the Board recognizes that some students may require medication for chronic or short-term illnesses to enable them to remain in school and participate in the district's education services. The Board directs the superintendent or designee to employ, contract with and train the necessary personnel to administer medications to students. Medications will be administered at school only when it is not possible or effective for the student to receive the medication at home. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to submit any relevant information regarding the medications their student needs, including a diabetes medical management plan or other information the district may use to develop an individualized education program (IEP), Section 504 Plan or individualized health plan (IHP). The district will review all information submitted by the parents/guardians and work with them to create a plan to meet the student's medical needs while at school or school activities.

The Board directs the superintendent or designee to maintain procedures for storing and administering medication for any student pursuant to state and federal law.

Nurses and Other Personnel

The administration of medications is a nursing activity that must be performed by or under the supervision of a registered professional nurse (RN). Other district personnel may be required to administer medications to a student as long as they have been appropriately trained and are supervised by an RN. An appropriately licensed member of the nursing staff will be responsible for:

1. Developing procedures for the training of unlicensed personnel in the administration of medications;
2. Devising protocols for the administration of medications by unlicensed personnel; and
3. Training unlicensed personnel in the administration of medications.

District employees who administer medications must maintain documentation of all medications provided to students and stored on district property.

Nurses and other staff administering medications will take precautions when administering medications and, when necessary, will clarify authorized prescriber orders prior to administering medications.

In accordance with law, any trained or qualified employee will be held harmless and immune from civil liability for administering medication in good faith and according to standard medical practices. A qualified employee is one who has been trained to administer medication according to standard medical practices.

For all medications administered, the school nurse or designee must maintain a thorough record documenting the student's name, date, time, name of medication, reason for administration, dosage administered, any adverse effect of medication and signature of the individual who administered the medication.

Over-the-Counter Medications

Written permission must be obtained from the parent/guardian to administer over-the-counter medications. This permission must be renewed at least annually. Administration of over-the-counter drugs does not require a prescription as long as one administers the over-the-counter drugs according to the specific directions outlined on the manufacturer's label. All over-the-counter medications must be delivered to the school principal or designee in the manufacturer's original packaging and will only be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's label. Students may not self-administer or possess over-the-counter medications except in accordance with this policy.

Prescription Medications

The district may administer prescription medication to a student if the district has received permission to do so from the parent/guardian and appropriate direction on how the medication is to be administered. The prescription label will be considered an equivalent of the physician's order for short-term medication. Students may not self-administer or possess prescription medications except in accordance with this policy.

Medications District Personnel Will Not Administer

Unless required by law to administer a medication to accommodate a disability, nurses who question the necessity of administering a particular medication during the school day may, after consultation with the superintendent or designee, require a written directive by the student's healthcare provider that states why the medication must be administered at school. The district may also refuse to administer any medication for other reasons listed in this policy. The district will not administer any medication that is not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The district may refuse to administer medications in an amount exceeding the recommended daily dosage listed in the *Physician's Desk Reference (PDR)* or other recognized medical or pharmaceutical text unless the district has verified the dosage with the prescriber. Except for the medications that are used only in an emergency situation, the district will not knowingly administer the first dose of any medication. The district expects parents/guardians to administer medications at home or by coming to the school to administer the medications themselves when possible.

Staff, students and all other individuals are prohibited from possessing or administering any medication that is illegal pursuant to state or federal law on district grounds, on district transportation or during district activities. The superintendent or designee is authorized to obtain a legal opinion from the district's attorney when there is a question regarding the legality of administering any medication.

Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol (CBD) Oil

The district does not permit the possession or administration of marijuana or marijuana-infused products for medicinal purposes on district property or at district events since these products are prohibited under federal law.

In accordance with state law, parents/guardians with a valid hemp extract registration card may possess Epidiolex or other drugs containing CBD oil not prohibited by federal law on district property for the purpose of administering it to their students who are less than 18 years old for the treatment of epilepsy. Students 18 and older with a valid hemp extract registration card may possess Epidiolex or other lawful drugs containing CBD oil that are regulated by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) on district property for the limited purpose of bringing it to the health office where it will be stored with other medications and administered to the student by the nursing staff for the treatment of epilepsy. Students who have an actual prescription for a medication regulated by the FDA containing CBD and not prohibited under federal law will be permitted to possess the prescribed medication and have it administered in accordance with this policy.

The permitted administration of prescription medication containing CBD by district staff shall be administered in the same manner used to administer other prescription medication.

Student Possession and Self-Administration of Medications

The district prohibits students from possessing or self-administering medications unless the student is allowed by law to do so and has been given permission in accordance with this section.

A student with an IEP or Section 504 plan may possess and self-administer medications in accordance with the IEP or Section 504 plan. Students who do not have an IEP or Section 504 plan may possess and self-administer medications in accordance with 1) or 2) below:

1. Students with Diabetes: Upon written request of the parent/guardian and upon authorization by a student's diabetes medical management plan, the district will permit a student with diabetes to perform blood glucose checks, administer insulin through the student's insulin delivery systems, treat hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, and otherwise attend to the care and management of the student's diabetes. The district will permit the student to possess on his or her person at all times all necessary supplies and equipment to perform these monitoring and treatment functions. The student shall have access to a private area for performing diabetes care tasks should the parent/guardian or student request such access. Students with diabetes who wish to possess and self-administer medications are subject to the same requirements (below) as students with other health conditions.
2. Students with Other Chronic Health Conditions: Students may possess and self-administer medications for the treatment of asthma, anaphylaxis and other chronic health conditions in accordance with this policy and law. The district will not permit students to possess and self-administer medications unless all of the following requirements are met:
 - ▶ The medication was prescribed or ordered by the student's physician.
 - ▶ The physician has provided a written treatment plan for the condition for which the medication was prescribed or authorized that includes a certification that the student is capable of and has been instructed in the correct and responsible use of the medication and has demonstrated to the physician or the physician's designee the skill level necessary to use the medication.
 - ▶ The student has demonstrated proper self-administration technique to the school nurse.
 - ▶ The student's parent/guardian has signed a statement authorizing self-administration and acknowledging that the district and its employees or agents will incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of such medication unless such injury is a result of negligence on the part of the district or its employees or agents.

Permission to possess and self-administer medications may be revisited if there is evidence that the student is not handling or administering the medication appropriately or that the student's actions may be harming his or her own health or the health and safety of others.

Emergency Medications

All student-occupied buildings in this district are equipped with prefilled epinephrine auto syringes, asthma-related rescue medications and naloxone. The school nurse or another employee trained and supervised by the school nurse may administer these medications when they believe, based on training, that a student is having a serious or life-threatening reaction or episode. A prescription or written permission from a parent/guardian is not necessary to administer these medications in an emergency situation.

Epinephrine, naloxone and asthma-related rescue medications will be administered only in accordance with written protocols provided by an authorized prescriber. Naloxone (brand name Narcan) will be administered by nurses and other trained employees to students suspected of having an opioid-related drug overdose. The Board will purchase an adequate supply of prefilled epinephrine auto syringes, asthma-related rescue medications and naloxone based on the recommendation of the school nurse, who will be responsible for maintaining adequate supplies based on previous use levels and replacing expired syringes and medications.

The school principal or designee will maintain a list of students who cannot, according to their parents/guardians, receive epinephrine, naloxone or asthma-related rescue medications. A current copy of the list will be kept with the medications at all times.

IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS

It is the policy of the Webster Groves School District that all students attending the district schools shall be immunized in accordance with law.

The district will not allow a student to attend school until the district has satisfactory evidence on file demonstrating that the student has been immunized, that the immunization process has begun and satisfactory progress is being accomplished or that the student is exempted from obtaining immunizations in accordance with law.

A student is exempted from obtaining immunizations if the district has the completed, original forms from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) necessary to prove that the student will not be immunized for religious or medical reasons. An exemption for medical reasons requires certification by a licensed doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy that either the immunization would seriously endanger the child's health or life or that the child has documentation of laboratory evidence of immunity to the disease. An exemption for religious reasons requires written certification from one parent or guardian that immunization of the student violates his or her religious beliefs.

Homeless students in the custody of the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services and students in the household of an active duty member of the military who do not have an exemption and who cannot provide evidence of having received immunizations required under Missouri law shall be immediately enrolled and given 30 days to provide satisfactory evidence that the student has completed all age appropriated immunizations or has begun the process of immunization. If the student has begun the process of immunization, the student may continue to attend as long as the process is being accomplished according to the schedule recommended by DHSS.

The district will exclude from school all students who are not immunized or exempted as required by law.

The district must report to the (DHSS) the name of any parent or guardian who neglects to immunize or refuses to permit the immunization of a nonexempt student. The district will also report any instance of educational or medical neglect. Pursuant to law, any contacts with parents/guardians regarding immunizations will also include information about influenza and influenza vaccines.

District-Sponsored Preschool, Daycare Centers and Nursery Schools

No child is permitted to enroll in or attend district-sponsored preschools, daycare centers or nursery schools until the district has satisfactory evidence demonstrating that the child has been immunized unless:

1. There is satisfactory proof that immunizations are in progress and that the process is being accomplished in accordance with the schedule recommended by DHSS; or
2. The student is homeless or in the custody of the CD and cannot provide satisfactory evidence of required immunizations. Such students will be given 30 days to provide satisfactory evidence that immunizations are in process
3. A parental, medical or religious exemption is on file. Exemptions must be on original forms from DHSS.

Upon request from a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in or attending district-sponsored preschools, daycare centers or nursery schools, the district will inform the parent/guardian whether any student enrolled or currently attending the facility in which the district-sponsored preschool, daycare center or nursery school is located has an immunization exemption on file. The district will verify only whether any student has an exemption on file. The district will not release any information that would identify a particular student with an exemption or a particular type of exemption.

The district will notify parents/guardians at the time of initial enrollment of their student in district-sponsored preschools, daycare centers or nursery schools that they may request notice from the district as to whether any students currently enrolled in or attending the facility have an immunization exemption on file with the district.

SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Purpose

Suicide is a leading cause of death among youths in Missouri and is a public health concern impacting all Missouri citizens. The Webster Groves School District is committed to maintaining a safe environment to protect the health, safety and welfare of students.

This policy will outline key protocols and procedures the district will use to educate employees and students on the resources and actions necessary to promote suicide awareness and prevent suicide. The goal of the district is to help students who may be at risk of suicide without stigmatizing or excluding students from school. No student will be excluded from school based solely on the district's belief that the student is at risk of suicide.

Definitions

Crisis Response Team (CRT) – A team of district employees trained in suicide awareness and prevention.

Student at Risk of Suicide – A student who is demonstrating individual, relationship, community or societal factors that are associated with suicide and that in combination indicate that an individual might be contemplating suicide.

Suicide Crisis – A situation in which a person is attempting to kill him- or herself or is seriously contemplating or planning suicide. Planning may include, but is not limited to, a timeframe and method for attempting suicide or obtaining or attempting to obtain the means to attempt suicide. A suicide crisis is considered a medical emergency requiring immediate intervention.

Crisis Response Team

The district will establish a district-level CRT and, if practical, a team in each building. CRT members will include administrators, counselors and the school nurse and may also include school social workers, school resource officers, teachers and community members as appropriate. The CRT will be responsible for implementation of the district's response plan.

The district will use an evidence-based/informed tool for determining whether a student is at risk of suicide or is having a suicide crisis. The CRT members, the building administrator and a designee will receive training and coaching in using this tool to assist in making these determinations and appropriately responding.

Response Plan

District employees will respond immediately in situations where they have a reasonable belief that a student may be at risk of suicide or may be having a suicide crisis.

Students Who May Be at Risk of Suicide

Any district employee who has a reasonable belief that a student may be at risk of suicide, even though the student is not having a suicide crisis as defined in this policy, will take the following steps:

1. Make every effort to locate the student immediately, and do not leave the student alone.
2. Notify a CRT member or the building administrator or designee. If the employee cannot reach the building administrator, designee or any of the CRT members, the employee will contact the student's parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian is also unavailable, or at the parent's/guardian's request, the employee will contact emergency services.

When a CRT member or the building administrator or designee receives notification that a student may be at risk of suicide, he or she will take the following steps:

1. If the student cannot be located or leaves after being located, a CRT member or the building administrator or designee will contact the parent/guardian to explain the district's concern.
2. If the student has been located, a CRT member or the building administrator or designee will use an evidence-based/informed tool to determine whether the student is at risk of suicide and the appropriate response. Regardless of the determination, the building administrator or designee will contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss the concern.
3. If it is determined that the student may be at risk of suicide, a school counselor and a CRT member will meet with the student and his or her parents/guardians to discuss support and safety systems, available resources, coping skills and collaborative ways to support the student.

Students Who May Be Having a Suicide Crisis

If an employee reasonably believes that a student is having a suicide crisis, the employee will take the following steps:

1. Make every effort to locate the student immediately, and do not leave the student alone.
2. Immediately report the situation to a CRT member or the building administrator or designee. If the employee cannot reach the building administrator, designee or any of the CRT members, the employee will notify the student's parent/guardian and contact emergency services. The employee may also contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255) for assistance. As soon as practical, the employee will notify the building administrator or designee.

When a CRT member or the building administrator or designee receives notification that a student is believed to be having a suicide crisis, he or she will take the following steps:

1. If the student cannot be located or leaves after being located, a CRT member or the building administrator or designee will contact the parent/guardian to explain the district's concern.
2. If the student has been located, the CRT member or the building administrator or designee will, based on his or her training and an assessment of the student, determine the appropriate action, including whether to call emergency services, and implement the appropriate response.
3. At an appropriate time after the crisis has passed, a school counselor and a CRT member will meet with the student and his or her parents/guardians to discuss support and safety systems, available resources, coping skills and collaborative ways to support the student.

Confidentiality

Employees are required to share with the CRT and administrators or their designees any information that may be relevant in determining whether a student is at risk of suicide, is having a suicide crisis or is otherwise at risk of harm. Employees are prohibited from promising students that information shared by the student will be kept secret when the information is relevant to the student's safety or the safety of another person.

Release of a student's individually identifiable education records will be made in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In accordance with FERPA, information contained in a student's education records may be revealed at any time to the student's parents/guardians and school personnel who have a legitimate interest in the information. Education records may be shared with other appropriate persons when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or others.

Abuse and Neglect

If any employee of the district has reasonable cause to believe a student has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes the student being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, the employee will contact the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline in accordance with law and Board policy.

Accommodating a Disability

If at any time a parent/guardian informs the district that a student has a medical condition or impairment that could require accommodation, district employees will contact the district's compliance coordinator to determine whether the student has a disability.

School and Community Resources

The district will, in collaboration with local organizations and the Missouri Department of Mental Health, identify local, state and national resources and organizations that can provide information or support to students and families. Copies of or links to resources will be available to all students and families on the district's website and in all district schools.

A school counselor or a CRT member will periodically follow up with students and parents/guardians of students who have been identified as being at risk of suicide or who have had a suicide crisis to offer additional assistance.

Response to Incidents Impacting the School

When the school community is impacted by the attempted suicide or death by suicide of a student, staff member or other person in the school community, the superintendent or designee will confer with the district-level CRT and, when appropriate, confer with local community resources and professionals to identify and make available supports that may help the school community understand and process the behavior or death.

The CRT and the superintendent or designee will determine appropriate procedures for informing the school community of an attempted suicide or death by suicide and the supports that will be offered. Staff and students who need immediate attention following an attempted suicide or death by suicide will be provided support and resources available through the district and will be given information about other resources.

Staff Education on Suicide Prevention and Response Protocol

All district employees will receive information regarding this policy and the district's protocol for suicide awareness, prevention and response. This information will be provided to current employees and each new employee hired. The information will focus on the importance of suicide prevention, recognition of suicide risk factors, strategies to strengthen school connectedness, and response procedures.

The district will also provide opportunities for district staff to participate in professional development regarding suicide awareness and prevention. Opportunities may include district-led training, access to web-based training, or training provided in other school districts or by local organizations or health professionals.

Suicide Prevention Education for Students

Starting no later than fifth grade, students will receive age-appropriate information and instruction on suicide awareness and prevention. Information and instruction may be offered in health education, by the counseling staff or in other curricula as may be appropriate.

Trauma Informed Parent Resources can be found on the Missouri Department of Education's Website at https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/cnsl-traumainformed_parent_resources

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE FOOD SERVICE

School officials will determine student eligibility for free and reduced-price meals, snacks and milk in accordance with state and federal law. Eligible students will be provided meals, snacks and milk either free or at a reduced price if state and federal resources for school food programs are available. The superintendent or designee may establish rules and procedures as needed to accomplish this goal.

The criteria for determining a student's need and the procedures for securing free and reduced-price meals, snacks and milk for the student will be outlined and publicized each year by the district in accordance with law. The criteria and procedures are established at the state and federal level.

The district will establish a school breakfast program or will adopt a resolution requesting a waiver excusing the district from this requirement, in accordance with law. The resolution, if adopted, will be filed with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The students who participate in the free or reduced-price meals, snacks or milk program will not be overtly identified, distinguished or served differently than other students and will have the same choice of meals, snacks or milk as other students. The district may charge all students for à la carte menu items. No person other than employees and contracted food service personnel responsible for the administration of the free and reduced-price meals program will have access to information:

1. Obtained from an application for free or reduced-price meals.
2. Received for the purpose of direct verification.
3. Pertaining to eligibility status for free or reduced-price meals, snacks or milk, unless specifically authorized by law.

The superintendent or designee will investigate whether the district can continue to provide meals to students receiving free and reduced-price meals when schools are closed for an extended period due to an emergency or health crisis. The superintendent or designee will determine whether such a program is practically and financially feasible by consulting with:

1. Food service personnel regarding purchasing and supplies.
2. Facilities staff to determine storage options.
3. Local emergency planners to develop a preparation and delivery system.

FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT

The food service program provided by the school district is designed to provide nutritious school meals, snacks and milk to district students in accordance with law. The food service program operates as an integral part of the total school program and contributes to the district's efforts to improve student achievement.

The superintendent, in cooperation with the food service director, is charged with implementing Board policy as it pertains to the school food service program and making recommendations to the Board about the program. Food service personnel in the schools will be directly responsible to the food service provider.

The school food service program will comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and procedures pertaining to health, sanitation, storage and the service of foods. The district will meet all state and federal requirements necessary for participation in school meal programs. The superintendent or designee is authorized to work with the necessary parties to ensure district compliance and, when necessary, submit appeals on behalf of the district.

The principal of each school shall administer the food service program in his or her school. Each building principal is responsible for ensuring a safe dining environment and, where possible, coordinating the food service program with instructional activities and other school and district programs as appropriate.

The school food service program will comply with all rules and procedures pertaining to health, sanitation, internal accounting procedures and service of foods. The district will meet all state and federal requirements necessary for participation in state and federal meal programs. All school food service receipts must flow through the district chart of accounts and be used only to pay allowable food service costs, in accordance with law.

Any sale of food and beverages to students during school hours will be under the supervision of the school food service department. The revenue from such sales will be deposited and accrued to the food service revenue budget.

Meal Prices and Charges

Meal prices shall be established by the Board of Education in accordance with law.

Unless meals are provided at no charge, the district expects students and employees to pay for meals prior to or at the time of receipt. The ability to charge meals is a privilege, not a right, and is subject to the limitations established in administrative procedures.

Contracted Food Services

The district may contract with a third party to administer its meal services if the Board, after consultation with the superintendent, determines it is in the best interest of the district and its students to do so. Contracted food services will be bid in accordance with state and federal law and Board policy.

Nondiscrimination Statement and Complaint Process

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs (including the district), are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by the USDA. These programs include the National School Lunch Program, the Special Milk Program, the School Breakfast Program and the Summer Food Service Program.

All information the district uses to inform parents/guardians, students and the public about the district's food service program will include a nondiscrimination statement and information on how a complaint may be filed with the USDA.

Any person or representative alleging discrimination based on a prohibited basis has the right to file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action with the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or the district's compliance officer listed in policy AC. Only the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture may extend the time for filing a complaint.

Any person who files a complaint will be advised of the application of confidentiality laws, such as the Privacy Act of 1974.

District staff who receive a complaint alleging illegal discrimination in the district's nutrition program will forward the complaint to the district's compliance officer immediately. The compliance officer will note whether the allegation was made verbally or in person and will transcribe the complaint if it is not provided in writing. As required by the USDA, the compliance officer will forward the complaint to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights immediately and will not first attempt to resolve the complaint prior to contacting the USDA. However, once the complaint has been directed to the USDA, the district will take action to investigate the concern and make necessary corrections as required by this policy.

Community Use of Food Service Facilities

Outside organizations that use food service facilities may be charged a fee in accordance with Board policy. The food service director will ensure that supplies provided for the regular food service program, including USDA commodities, are not used by outside organizations.

SEARCHES OF STUDENTS

Searches by School Personnel

School lockers, desks and other district property are provided for the convenience of students and, as such, are subject to periodic inspection without notice.

Student property may be searched based on reasonable suspicion of a violation of district rules, policy or law. Reasonable suspicion must be based on facts known to the administration, credible information or reasonable inference drawn from such facts or information. Searches of student property shall be limited in scope based on the original justification of the search. The privacy and dignity of students shall be respected. Searches shall be carried out in the presence of adult witnesses and not in front of other students, unless exigent circumstances exist.

It is a privilege, not a right, to park on school grounds. The school retains the authority to conduct routine patrols of any vehicle parked on school grounds. The interior of a student's automobile on school premises may be searched if the school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that such a search will produce evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or district policy.

The administration will contact law enforcement officials to perform a search if the administration reasonably suspects that a student is concealing controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, weapons, stolen goods or evidence of a crime beneath his or her clothing and the student refuses to surrender such items. Law enforcement officials may be contacted for assistance in performing a search in any case in which a student refuses to allow a search or in which the search cannot safely be conducted.

During an examination, and if reasonable under the circumstances, school employees may require students to empty pockets or remove jackets, coats, shoes and other articles of exterior clothing that when removed do not expose underwear. Employees may also remove student clothing to investigate the potential abuse or neglect of a student, give medical attention to a student, provide health services to a student or screen a student for medical conditions.

School employees and volunteers, other than commissioned law enforcement officers, shall not strip search students, as defined in state law, except in situations where an employee reasonably believes that the student possesses a weapon, explosive or substance that poses an imminent threat of physical harm to the student or others and a commissioned law enforcement officer is not immediately available. If a student is strip searched, as defined in state law, by a school employee or a commissioned law enforcement officer, the district will attempt to notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible.

School Resource Officers

The school resource officer (SRO) may interview or question students regarding an alleged violation of law. A school resource officer may also accompany school officials executing a search or may perform searches under the direction of school officials.

Interview with Police or Juvenile Officers/Other Law Enforcement Officials

When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or during periods of extracurricular activities, the school principal or designee will be present and the interview will be conducted in private. The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and request an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school. Questioning will be permitted provided there seems to be reasonable evidence to support such an inquiry.

Law enforcement officials may wish to interview students regarding their knowledge of suspected criminal activity and may wish to interrogate students who are themselves suspected of engaging in criminal activity. Such interviews and interrogations are discouraged during class time, except when law enforcement officials have a warrant or other court order or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist. It is the responsibility of the principal or designee to take reasonable steps to prevent disruption of school operations while at the same time cooperating with law enforcement efforts.

Removal of Students from School by Law Enforcement Officials

Before a student at school is arrested or taken into custody by a law enforcement official or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the official's identity. To the best of his or her ability, the principal will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student. The school principal will attempt to notify the student's parents/guardians that the student is being removed from school.

Interview with the Children's Division

Representatives of the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services may meet with students on campus. The district liaison will work with CD to arrange such meetings so they are minimally disruptive to the student's schedule. If the student is an alleged victim of abuse or neglect, CD may not meet with the student in any school building or child care facility where the abuse of the student allegedly occurred. The principal will verify and record the identity of any CD representatives who request to meet with or take custody of a student.

Contacts by Guardian Ad Litem and Court-Appointed Special Advocate

When a court-appointed guardian ad litem or special advocate finds it necessary to interview a student during the school day or during periods of extracurricular activities, the school principal or designee must be notified. The principal will verify and record the identity of the individual through the court order that appoints him or her. The interview must be conducted in a private setting and with the least disruption to the student's schedule.

BULLYING

General

In order to promote a safe learning environment for all students, the Webster Groves School District prohibits all forms of bullying. The district also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying among or against students.

Definitions

Bullying – In accordance with state law, bullying is defined as intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property; that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities or benefits of any student without exception; or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft, or property damage; oral, written, or electronic communication, including name-calling, put-downs, extortion, or threats; or threats of reprisal or retaliation for reporting such acts.

Cyberbullying – A form of bullying committed by transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer or pager. The district has jurisdiction over cyberbullying that uses the district's technology resources or that originates on district property, at a district activity or on district transportation. Even when cyberbullying does not involve district property, activities or technology resources, the district will impose consequences and discipline for those who engage in cyberbullying if there is a sufficient nexus to the educational environment, the behavior materially and substantially disrupts the educational environment, the communication involves a threat as defined by law, or the district is otherwise allowed by law to address the behavior.

School Day – A day on the school calendar when students are required to attend school.

Designated Officials

The principal of each building is hereby designated as the individual to receive and investigate reports of bullying. Each building principal shall designate at least two teachers or administrators in the building who are authorized to receive and investigate reports of bullying in the principal's absence or at the principal's discretion.

The Director of Student Services will serve as the districtwide antibullying coordinator. The antibullying coordinator will receive all completed investigative reports from all buildings and analyze the reports to identify any information that would inform the district's antidiscrimination and antibullying education and training programs. In addition, the antibullying coordinator will assist in making any relevant reports as required by state and federal law.

Reporting Bullying

School employees, substitutes or volunteers are expected to intervene to prevent student bullying, appropriately discipline the perpetrator, assist the victim and report the incident to the building principal or designee for further investigation and action. Any school employee, substitute or volunteer who witnesses or has firsthand knowledge of bullying of a student must report the incident to the building principal or designee as soon as possible, but no later than two school days after the incident.

Students who have been subjected to bullying, or who have witnessed or have knowledge of bullying, are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to a school employee. Any school employee receiving such a report shall promptly transmit the report to the building principal or designee.

If the bullying incident involves students from more than one district building, the report should be made to the principal or designee of the building in which the incident took place or, if more appropriate, to the principal or designee of the building attended by the majority of the participants in the incident.

Investigation

Within two school days of receiving a report of bullying, the principal or designee will initiate an investigation of the incident. Reports that involve students from multiple buildings will be investigated cooperatively by the principals of each building involved, or those principals may request that the district's compliance officer designated in policy AC conduct the investigation. If at any time during the investigation the principal determines that the bullying involves illegal discrimination, harassment or retaliation as described in policy AC, the principal will report the incident to the compliance officer designated in that policy, who will assist in the investigation. If the alleged bullying involves a special education student or a student with disabilities, the principal will also notify the special education director.

The investigation shall be completed within ten school days of the date the report of bullying was received unless good cause exists to extend the investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, the principal will decide whether bullying or harassment occurred and, if so, whether additional discipline is warranted in accordance with the district's student discipline code. The principal will generate a written report of the investigation and findings and send a copy of the completed report to the district's antibullying coordinator. The principal or designee will document the report in the files of the victim and the alleged or actual perpetrator of bullying. All reports will be kept confidential in accordance with state and federal law.

If the incident involved allegations of illegal discrimination or harassment, the principal's decision may be appealed in accordance with policy AC. Student discipline may be appealed when allowed by law in accordance with Board policy. The principal or other appropriate district staff will work with victims and their families to access resources and services to help them deal with any negative effects that resulted from the incident.

Consequences

Students who participate in bullying or who retaliate against anyone who reports bullying will be disciplined in accordance with the district's discipline code. Such discipline may include detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and removal from participation in activities, exclusion from honors and awards, and other consequences deemed appropriate by the principal or superintendent. The district will also contact law enforcement when required by law or notify social media companies of inappropriate online activity when appropriate.

Even in situations where the district does not have jurisdiction to discipline a student for bullying, such as when the acts take place off campus and there is an insufficient nexus to the district, the principal or designee will take appropriate actions to assist student victims. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, contacting the parents/guardians of the victim and the alleged perpetrators, communicating that this behavior is not allowed on district grounds or at district activities, notifying the appropriate district staff to assist the victim, and taking additional action when appropriate, such as notifying law enforcement or social media companies of inappropriate online activity.

District employees and substitutes who violate this policy will be disciplined or terminated. Discipline may include suspension with or without pay, a negative evaluation, and prohibition from being on district property or at district activities, mandated training or other appropriate remedial action. Volunteers who violate this policy will no longer be permitted to volunteer.

Policy Publication

The district shall annually notify students, parents/guardians, district employees, substitutes and volunteers about this policy and the district's prohibition against bullying. A copy of this policy shall be included in student handbooks and posted on the district's website.

Training and Education

The district's antibullying coordinator will provide information and appropriate training designed to assist employees, substitutes and volunteers who have significant contact with students in identifying, preventing and responding to incidents of bullying.

The district will provide education and information about bullying and this policy to students every year. The principal of each school, in consultation with school counselors and other appropriate school employees, will determine the best methods for facilitating the discussion. Methods may include, but are not limited to: assemblies; homeroom presentations; class meetings; team or club meetings; special presentations by counselors, social workers or mental health professionals; and open-house events. When practical, parents/guardians will be invited to attend.

In addition to educating students about the content of this policy, the district will inform students of:

1. The procedure for reporting bullying.
2. The harmful effects of bullying.
3. Any initiatives the school or district has created to address bullying, including student peer-to-peer initiatives.
4. The consequences for those who participate in bullying or engage in reprisal or retaliation against those who report bullying.

School counselors, social workers, mental health professionals, school psychologists or other appropriate district staff will educate students who are victims of bullying about how to overcome the negative effects of bullying including, but not limited to:

1. Cultivating the student's self-worth and self-esteem.
2. Teaching the student to defend him- or herself assertively and effectively without violence.
3. Helping the student develop social skills.
4. Encouraging the student to develop an internal locus of control.

Additional School Programs and Resources

The Board directs the superintendent or designee to implement programs and other initiatives to address bullying, respond to such conduct in a manner that does not stigmatize the victim, and make resources or referrals available to victims of bullying. Such initiatives may include educating parents/guardians and families on bullying prevention and resources.

Student Discipline

Discipline will be equitably applied and viewed as a learning opportunity with the ultimate goal of improving behavior, safety, and the school climate. The district seeks to minimize the unnecessary exclusion of students from classrooms and school and encourages the superintendent and district staff to exclude students only when necessary to maintain a safe and appropriate learning environment.

The superintendent or designee is authorized to contact the district's attorney for advice on the legality of district discipline or the discipline process. The board encourages the superintendent to recommend changes to board policy related to student discipline as needed.

The code of conduct will be distributed to all students and their parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year, which may be accomplished by directing students and parents/guardians to the district's website. These policies, regulations, and procedures will apply to all students in attendance in the district's instructional and support programs as well as at district-sponsored activities.

Philosophy

Discipline imposes the necessary order upon individuals so that instructional goals can be met. Punishment is a penalty given for misbehavior and is sometimes an appropriate aspect of discipline. The approach to discipline includes:

1. Identify the problem or unacceptable behavior;
2. Inform the individual(s) about the unacceptable nature of their behavior or the problem that exists;
3. Instruct the person by word or example about one or more corrective responses available;
4. Provide, when useful, an appropriate penalty that has been established for the problem or misbehavior.

It is not practical to specify consequences for every kind of undesirable or unacceptable behavior. Because circumstances vary greatly from case to case and from one age group to another, the district desires to take each set of circumstances into account and to take steps that are most likely to prevent a recurrence of misbehavior, promote an environment conducive to teaching and learning, and help the individual student become a responsible citizen.

Equity

All district staff are required to enforce district policies, regulations, and procedures in a manner that is consistent, developmentally appropriate, and equitable. District staff who increase or decrease the consequences for student misconduct based on individual circumstances must document the reasons for the variance. The superintendent or designee will regularly review district discipline data to determine whether district policies are being equitably enforced and, when necessary, make recommendations to the board for policy changes, training, or resources to further the district's goals for providing equitable education to all students.

Discipline for Off Campus Misconduct

Students may be disciplined for misconduct that occurs off district grounds and outside a district activity when allowed by law including, but not limited to, the following situations:

1. The district's technology is used.
2. The student's conduct negatively impacts the education environment or there is a nexus to the education environment and the conduct is not otherwise protected by law.
3. The student has been charged with, convicted of, or pled guilty to the commission of a felony in a court of general jurisdiction (not a juvenile court). The board may suspend such students after a hearing in accordance with law.
4. The student has been indicted on, charged with, or convicted of one of the specific crimes listed in § 167.171, RSMo. (see in policy JEC) or a petition has been filed or adjudicated in juvenile court involving one of the specific crimes listed in § 167.171, RSMo. The district shall exclude such students from school or from the general education environment after appropriate due process.
5. The student transfers to the district during a suspension or expulsion from another public school or a private or parochial school, and the district determines that the conduct would have resulted in a suspension or expulsion in this district. The district may honor a student's suspension or expulsion in such cases after providing appropriate due process when necessary.

Immediate Removal

The board authorizes the immediate removal of a student upon a finding by a principal or superintendent that the student poses a threat of harm to self or others, as evidenced by the prior conduct of such student. Any such removal will be subject to the appropriate due process procedures and in accordance with law.

Pursuant to law, no student will be confined in an unattended locked space except in an emergency situation while awaiting the arrival of law enforcement personnel. For the purpose of this policy, a student is unattended if no person has visual contact with the student, and a locked space is a space that the student cannot reasonably exit without assistance.

Enforcement

Building principals are responsible for the development and enforcement of additional student conduct rules needed to maintain proper behavior in schools under their supervision. All such rules shall be consistent with board-adopted discipline policies and regulations.

Teachers have the authority and responsibility to make and enforce necessary rules for discipline in the classroom, subject to review by the building principal. The board expects each teacher to maintain a satisfactory standard of conduct in the classroom.

All district staff enforcing student discipline should seek to minimize, as much as possible, the amount of instructional time the student loses.

Training

All district employees shall annually receive instruction related to the specific contents of the district's comprehensive code of conduct and any interpretations necessary to implement its provisions including, but not limited to, confidentiality requirements and the approved methods for dealing with acts of school violence, and disciplining students with disabilities.

Student Conduct

Students in attendance in the Webster Groves School District (WGSD) are expected to obey the standards of conduct set forth in this policy and to conduct themselves in a manner that will not jeopardize the health or safety of themselves or others, the security of property, or in any way limit or interrupt the learning situation of the school or classes. The board authorizes the immediate removal of a student upon a finding by a principal, superintendent, or board that the student poses a threat of harm to self or others, as evidenced by the prior conduct of such student. Any such removal will be subject to the appropriate due process procedures set forth for suspensions. Students who have been charged, convicted, or pled guilty in a court of general jurisdiction for commission of a felony may be suspended in accordance with law.

WGSD recognizes that age and degree of maturity of students affect the degree of their responsibility and, accordingly, should affect the consequences of their acts. It also recognizes that it cannot in this policy describe each and every breach of conduct that will necessitate disciplinary action and the consequence of such a breach. It believes that the consequences of failure to obey the standards of conduct set forth in this policy must be evaluated in terms of the best educational interest of the student and the student body. It therefore determines that said consequences for elementary school students need not be the same as those for secondary school students.

A progressive range of consequences includes, but is not limited to, teacher-student conference; failure to earn credit for classroom work in some cases, such as cheating; referral to administrator or counselor; notification of parent or guardian; suspension; and expulsion. Guidelines for the consequences are specifically stated for some conduct, which guidelines may be subject to modification on a case-by-case basis depending on aggravating or mitigating circumstances. In extraordinary circumstances where the minimum consequence is judged by the superintendent or designee to be manifestly unfair or not in the interest of the district, the superintendent or designee may reduce the consequences listed in this policy, as allowed by law.

This code includes, but is not necessarily limited to, acts of students on district property, including playgrounds, parking lots, and district transportation, or at a district activity, whether on or off district property. The district may also discipline students for off-campus conduct that negatively impacts the educational environment, to the extent allowed by law.

The following are descriptions of prohibited conduct and potential consequences for violations. Building-level administrators are authorized to more narrowly tailor potential consequences as appropriate for the age level of students in the building within the ranges established in this policy.

*Indicates “acts of violence” and “serious violations.”

Academic Dishonesty – Cheating on tests, assignments, projects or similar activities; plagiarism; claiming credit for another person's work; fabrication of facts, sources or other supporting material; unauthorized collaboration; facilitating academic dishonesty; and other misconduct related to academics, including unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), such as large language models (chatbots).

First offense: No credit for the work, grade reduction, or replacement assignment. Conference, detention, in-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): No credit for the work, grade reduction, course failure, or removal from extracurricular activities. Conference, detention, in-school suspension.

***Arson** – Starting or attempting to start a fire or causing or attempting to cause an explosion.

First offense: Restitution if appropriate, 11-180 days out-of-school suspension or expulsion, notification to law enforcement officials, and documentation in student's discipline record.

Subsequent offense(s): Restitution if appropriate, expulsion, notification to law enforcement officials, and

documentation in student's discipline record.

***Assault**

1. Using physical force, such as hitting, striking or pushing, to cause or attempt to cause physical injury; placing another person in apprehension of immediate physical injury; recklessly engaging in conduct that creates a serious physical injury or risk of death; causing physical contact with another person knowing the other person will regard the contact as offensive or provocative; or any other act that constitutes criminal assault in the third or fourth degree.

- a. Against Another Student

First offense: May result in detention or suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Suspension for more than 10 days or expulsion.

- b. Against an Employee of the School District

Any offense: Suspension or expulsion.

2. Knowingly causing or attempting to cause serious physical injury or death to another person, recklessly causing serious physical injury to another person, or any other act that constitutes assault in the first or second degree.

First offense: 10-180 days out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

Subsequent offense(s): Expulsion.

Automobile/Vehicle Misuse – Uncourteous or unsafe driving on or around district property, unregistered parking, failure to move vehicle at the request of school officials, failure to follow directions given by school officials or failure to follow established rules for parking or driving on district property.

First offense: Suspension or revocation of parking privileges, detention, or in-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Revocation of parking privileges, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

***Bullying and Cyberbullying (see board policy JFCF)** –Intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property; that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities or benefits of any student without exception; or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft or property damage; oral, written or electronic communication, including name-calling, put-downs, extortion or threats; or threats of reprisal or retaliation for reporting such acts. Cyberbullying is a form of bullying committed by transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer or pager.

First offense: Conference, detention, in-school suspension or 1-180 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): 1-180 days out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

Bus Violations (see board policy JFCC) – Any offense committed by a student on transportation provided by or through the district shall be punished in the same manner as if the offense had been committed at the student's assigned school. In addition, transportation privileges may be suspended or revoked. Offenses include, but are not limited to:

1. Eating on the bus.
2. Using tobacco on the bus.
3. Standing while bus is in motion.
4. Using profane language or loud noise.
5. "Horseplay."
6. Throwing of any object.
7. Sitting in driver's seat.
8. Touching bus operating controls.
9. Not following directions of driver.

Dishonesty – Any act of lying, whether verbal or written, including forgery.

First offense: Nullification of forged document. Parental communication, counseling, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Nullification of forged document. Parental communication, counseling, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-180 days out-of-school suspension.

Disparaging or Demeaning Language – Verbal, written, pictorial or symbolic words or gestures meant to harass or injure another person; i.e., threats of violence or defamation of a person's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or ethnic origin. Constitutionally protected speech will not be punished.

First offense: Principal/student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): In-school suspension or 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion, and possible documentation in student's discipline record.*

Disrespectful Conduct or Speech/Defiance of Authority (see board policies AC and ACA if illegal harassment or discrimination is involved) – Verbal, written or symbolic language or gesture directed at a staff member that is in violation of district policy or is otherwise rude, vulgar, defiant, or considered inappropriate to public settings.

First offense: Principal/student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): In-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion, and possible documentation in student's discipline record.*

Disruptive Speech or Conduct – Conduct or verbal, written, pictorial or symbolic language that materially and substantially disrupts classroom work, school activities or school functions.

First offense: Principal/student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): In-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion, and possible documentation in student's discipline record.*

***Drugs/Alcohol (see board policies JFCH, JFCI, and JHCD)**

1. Possession of drug paraphernalia or possession of or attendance while under the influence of any unauthorized prescription drug, alcohol, illegal drug, controlled substance (including marijuana and marijuana-infused products) as defined under schedules I, II, III, or IV of the Controlled Substances Act, unauthorized inhalant, counterfeit substance, imitation controlled substance, any substance intended to create a false negative on a drug test, or any substance prohibited on district property by law or policy.

First offense: Suspension for at least 10 days. Consequence could be reduced if student participates in an approved drug/alcohol program.

Subsequent offense(s): 11-180 days out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

2. Sale, purchase, manufacture, or distribution of any unauthorized prescription drug, alcohol, illegal drug, controlled substance (including marijuana and marijuana-infused products) as defined under schedules I, II, III, or IV of the Controlled Substances Act, unauthorized inhalant, counterfeit substance, imitation controlled substance, any substance intended to create a false negative on a drug test, any substance prohibited on district property by law or policy, or drug-related paraphernalia.

All offenses: Suspension for not fewer than 10 days or expulsion.

Extortion – Threatening or intimidating any person for the purpose of obtaining money or anything of value.

First offense: Principal/student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): In-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion, and possible documentation in student's discipline record.*

Failure to Care for or Return District Property – Loss of, failure to return, or damage to district property including, but not limited to, books, computers, calculators, uniforms, and sporting and instructional equipment.

First offense: Restitution. Principal/Student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Restitution. Detention, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension.

Failure to Meet Conditions of Suspension, Expulsion or Other Disciplinary Consequences – Violating the conditions of a suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary consequence including, but not limited to, participating in or attending any district-sponsored activity or being on or near district property or the location where a district activity is held. See the section of this policy titled, "Conditions of Suspension, Expulsion or Other Disciplinary Consequences."

As required by law, when the district considers suspending a student for an additional period of time or expelling a student for being on or within 1,000 feet of district property during a suspension, consideration shall be given to whether the student poses a threat to the safety of any child or school employee and whether the student's presence is

disruptive to the educational process or undermines the effectiveness of the district's discipline policy.

First offense: Verbal warning, detention, in-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion. Report to law enforcement for trespassing if expelled.

Subsequent offense(s): In-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion. Report to law enforcement for trespassing if expelled.

False Alarms – Tampering with emergency equipment, setting off false alarms, making false reports; communicating a threat or false report for the purpose of frightening or disturbing people, disrupting the educational environment or causing the evacuation or closure of district property.

First offense: Restitution, principal/student conference, in-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion, possible documentation in student's discipline record* and immediate report to law enforcement.

Subsequent offense(s): Restitution, in-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion, possible documentation in student's discipline record,* and immediate report to law enforcement.

***Fighting (see also "Assault")** – Mutual combat in which both parties have contributed to the conflict either verbally or by physical action.

First offense: Detention, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Suspension or expulsion.

Gambling – Betting on an uncertain outcome, regardless of stakes; engaging in any game of chance or activity in which something of real or symbolic value may be won or lost. Gambling includes, but is not limited to, betting on outcomes of activities, assignments, contests and games.

First offense: Principal/Student conference, loss of privileges, detention, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Principal/Student conference, loss of privileges, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Gang-Related Activity – As used herein, the phrase “gang-like activity” shall mean any conduct engaged in by a student 1) on behalf of any gang; 2) to perpetuate the existence of any gang; 3) to effect the common purpose and design of any gang; or 4) to represent a gang affiliation, loyalty or membership in any way while on district property or while attending a district function. These activities include recruiting students for membership in any gang and threatening or intimidating other students or employees to commit acts or omissions against his/her will in furtherance of the common purpose and design of any gang. For purposes of district policy, the term “gang” shall be defined as any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of a criminal act, which has a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of gang activity.

All offenses: Suspension or expulsion.

Harassment, including Sexual Harassment (see board policies AC and ACA and note that additional provisions of the code of conduct may apply to the student's behavior)

1. Use of material of a sexual nature or unwelcome verbal, written or symbolic language based on gender, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability or any other characteristic protected by law.

All offenses: Suspension or expulsion.

2. Unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature or that is based on gender, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability or any other characteristic protected by law.

All offenses: Suspension or expulsion

3. Student is found "responsible" for sexual harassment under Title IX upon conclusion of a formal complaint under policy ACA.

Any Offense: 10-180 days out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

Hazing (see board policy JFCG) – Any activity that a reasonable person believes would negatively impact the mental or physical health or safety of a student or put the student in a ridiculous, humiliating, stressful or disconcerting position for the purposes of initiation, affiliation, admission, membership or maintenance of membership in any group, class, organization, club or athletic team including, but not limited to, a grade level, student organization or district-sponsored activity. Hazing can occur even when all students involved are willing participants.

First offense: Detention, in-school suspension or 1-180 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): 1-180 days out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

Incendiary Devices or Fireworks – Possessing, displaying or using matches, lighters or other devices used to start fires unless required as part of an educational exercise and supervised by district staff; possessing or using fireworks.

First offense: Confiscation. Warning, principal/student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Confiscation. Principal/Student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Nuisance Items – Possession or use of items such as toys, games, and other devices that are not authorized for educational purposes.

First offense: Confiscation. Warning, principal/student conference, detention, or in-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Confiscation. Principal/Student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Public Display of Affection (PDA) – Consensual physical contact that is inappropriate for the school setting including, but not limited to, kissing and groping.

First offense: Principal/Student conference, detention, or in-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): In-school suspension, or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Secret Organizations – Any organization composed wholly or in part of district students, which seeks to perpetuate itself by admitting additional members from the Webster Groves student body on the basis of the decision of its membership rather than upon the free choice of any student in the school who is qualified, shall be deemed a secret organization and membership in same shall be prohibited. All school organizations must have the aim of meeting all

or at least some of the goals of the district as set forth in policies JG and AD, and such aims must not contradict or subvert any of the goals. All district students who meet the age, academic or grade qualifications, if any, of a school organization shall be eligible for membership therein.

All offenses: Suspension or expulsion.

Sexting and/or Possession of Sexually Explicit, Vulgar or Violent Material (see board policies AC and ACA) –

Students may not possess or display, electronically or otherwise, sexually explicit, vulgar or violent material including, but not limited to, pornography or depictions of nudity, violence or explicit death or injury. This prohibition does not apply to curricular material that has been approved by district staff for its educational value. Students will not be disciplined for speech in situations where it is protected by law.

First offense: Confiscation. Principal/Student conference, detention, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Confiscation. Detention, in-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion.

Sexual Activity – Consensual acts of sex or consensual simulations of sex including, but not limited to, intercourse or oral or manual stimulation.

First offense: Principal/Student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-180 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Detention, in-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion.

Technology Misconduct (see board policy EHB and procedure EHB-AP1)

1. Attempting, regardless of success, to: gain unauthorized access to a technology system or information; use district technology to connect to other systems in evasion of the physical limitations of the remote system; copy district files without authorization; interfere with the ability of others to utilize district technology; secure a higher level of privilege without authorization; introduce computer viruses, hacking tools, or other disruptive/destructive programs onto or using district technology; or evade or disable a filtering/blocking device.

First offense: Suspension or loss of user privileges, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, possible notification of law enforcement and documentation in student's discipline record.*

Subsequent offense(s): Suspension or loss of user privileges, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, expulsion, possible notification of law enforcement and documentation in student's discipline record.*

2. Using, displaying or turning on pagers, phones, personal digital assistants, personal laptops or any other personal electronic devices during the regular school day, including class change time, mealtimes or instructional class time, unless the use is part of the instructional program, required by a district-sponsored class or activity, or otherwise permitted by the teacher or building principal.

First Offense: Confiscation, principal/student conference, detention, or in-school suspension.

Subsequent Offense(s): Confiscation, principal/student conference, detention, in-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion.

Theft – Theft, attempted theft or knowing possession of stolen property.

First offense: Return of or restitution for property. Principal/Student conference, detention, in-school suspension, or 1-180 days out-of-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Return of or restitution for property. 1-180 days out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

Tobacco

1. Possession of any tobacco products, electronic cigarettes (vaping products), or other nicotine-delivery products or imitation tobacco products, as defined in policy AH, on district property, on district transportation or at any district activity. Nicotine patches or other medications used in a tobacco cessation program may be possessed only in accordance with district policy JHCD.

First offense: Principal/Student conference, detention, or in-school suspension, confiscation of prohibited product, possible notification of law enforcement officials.

Subsequent offense(s): In-school suspension or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, confiscation of prohibited product, possible notification of law enforcement officials.

2. Use of any tobacco products, electronic cigarettes (vaping products), imitation tobacco products or other nicotine-delivery products, as defined in policy AH, on district property, on district transportation or at any district activity. Nicotine patches or other medications used in a tobacco cessation program may be used only in accordance with district policy JHCD.

All offenses: In-school suspension or 1-3 days out-of-school suspension, confiscation of prohibited product, possible notification of law enforcement officials.

Truancy or Tardiness (see board policy JED and procedures JED-AP1 and JED-AP2) – Absence from school without the knowledge and consent of parents/guardians and the school administration; excessive non-justifiable absences, even with the consent of parents/guardians; arriving after the expected time class or school begins, as determined by the district.

First offense: Principal/Student conference, detention, or 1-3 days in-school suspension.

Subsequent offense(s): Detention or 3-10 days in-school suspension, and removal from extracurricular activities.

Vandalism (see also board policy ECA) – Willful damage or the attempt to cause damage to real or personal property belonging to the district, staff or students.

First offense: Restitution. Principal/Student conference, detention, in-school suspension, 1-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion.

Subsequent offense(s): Restitution. In-school suspension, 11-180 days out-of-school suspension, or expulsion.

***Weapons**

1. Using any weapon, as that term is defined in policy JFCJ.

All offenses: Suspension or expulsion.

2. Possession, provision or display of any weapon or weapon replica, as those terms are defined in policy JFCJ, or any component of a weapon.

First offense: Suspension or expulsion

Subsequent offense(s): Suspension or expulsion.

3. Possession or use of ammunition or a component of a weapon.

First offense: Suspension or expulsion

Subsequent offense(s): Suspension or expulsion.

4. Bringing to school a weapon, as that term is defined in policy JFCJ.

First offense: Suspension for a period of not less than one year or expulsion, subject to the recommendation by the superintendent for modification on a case-by-case basis.

Subsequent offense: Expulsion.

Acts of Violence and Serious Violations* of Discipline Policy

The following are considered by the district to be acts of violence and/or serious violations of this discipline policy if they result in an out-of-school suspension of more than ten days: fighting, assault; intentional infliction or attempt to inflict serious physical injury or death to any person; possession, consumption, sale or provision of any controlled substance; using, possessing, providing, displaying or bringing to school any weapon, weapon replica or component of any weapon; and arson. There shall be compiled and maintained by the district for each student a record of any such act of violence and/or serious violation of this discipline policy committed by such student.

Conditions of Suspension, Expulsion and Other Disciplinary Consequences

All students who are suspended or expelled, regardless of the reason, are prohibited from participating in or attending any district-sponsored activity, or being on or near district property or the location of any district activity for any reason, unless permission is granted by the superintendent or designee. When appropriate, the district may prohibit students from participating in activities or restrict a student's access to district property as a disciplinary consequence even if a student is not suspended or expelled from school. Likewise, a student may become ineligible for or be required to forfeit any honors and awards as a disciplinary consequence.

In accordance with law, any student who is suspended for any offenses listed in policy JGF that are required to be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency as a serious violation of school discipline, shall not be allowed to be within 1,000 feet of any district property or any activity of the district, regardless of whether the activity takes place on district property, unless one of the following conditions exist:

1. The student is under the direct supervision of the student's parent, legal guardian, custodian or another adult designated in advance, in writing, to the student's principal by the student's parent, legal guardian or custodian, and the superintendent or designee has authorized the student to be on district property.

2. The student is enrolled in and attending an alternative school that is located within 1,000 feet of a public school in the district.
3. The student resides within 1,000 feet of a public school in the district and is on the property of the student's residence.

Students who violate the prohibitions in this section may be suspended or expelled in accordance with the offense, "Failure to Meet Conditions of Suspension, Expulsion or Other Disciplinary Consequences," listed above.

Enforcement

District personnel, including volunteers, who are responsible for the care or supervision of students are authorized and directed to hold each student accountable to the provisions of this policy. In enforcing this policy each of such personnel is authorized to apply reasonable and necessary measures to:

1. Quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others including with physical restraint in accordance with board policy JGGA.
2. Obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person of or in control of a student.
3. Defend themselves.
4. Protect persons or property.
5. Correct direct defiance of an order.
6. Prevent or terminate any violation of this discipline policy.

Any incident in which physical restraint is used shall be reported in accordance with board policy JGGA.

Corporal Punishment and Physical Restraint (See also board policy JGA.)

Corporal punishment is prohibited in accordance with policy JGA.

Law Enforcement or Emergencies

School officials have the option, when they determine the situation warrants it, to handle emergencies by calling in the appropriate organizations, such as the local fire department, police department, and county or state law enforcement groups, provided that school officials shall report to the appropriate law enforcement agency certain conduct as specified by policy JGF.

There will be the fullest possible cooperation with law enforcement officials, consistent with the protection of the student. If police officers, or other law enforcement officials, come to the school to question students, administrators will follow policy JFG.

Liability

Missouri statute provides that authorized school district personnel, including volunteers, will not be civilly liable for actions taken in conformity with this policy.

Building Guidelines

The administrator responsible for each school shall annually review, distribute and post a set of guidelines for administering this discipline policy. The guidelines will include rules that make clear that student actions will be considered disorderly conduct at a particular school due to the unique nature of the site or building or activity. Building guidelines should reflect the philosophy and goals of the district and are encouraged to include a section reinforcing positive behavior

Communication of Policy

A written copy of this policy and policies JGA, JGB, JGD, JGE and JGF shall be provided at the beginning of each school year to every student and parent or guardian of every student enrolled in the district and shall also be available in the superintendent's office during normal business hours for public inspection.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

It is the goal of the Webster Groves School District to provide a safe and productive learning environment for all students. The district does not believe in a double standard for misbehavior and holds the welfare and safety of all persons in the district in highest regard. Students with disabilities will be disciplined in accordance with the district's discipline code applicable to all students, subject to the modifications mandated by law. All students, including those with disabilities, will be referred for law enforcement action when required by law and when their conduct constitutes a crime.

The district will comply with all state and federal laws governing the discipline of students with disabilities, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, applicable regulations and state and local plans for compliance with the law. In addition to the process outlined in special education law, students with disabilities will receive the same due process afforded other students.

The Board delegates to the superintendent or designee the authority to seek the removal of a student with a disability as allowed by federal or state law to an alternative educational setting through the state hearing process or to seek a court injunction ordering removal or a different educational placement.

The superintendent or designee will provide all district employees training on violence prevention, the district's discipline code and the legal requirements for disciplining students with disabilities. The Board delegates to the superintendent or designee the authority to contact the district's legal counsel for legal advice or training on the district's responsibilities.