

Student Handbook 2026-2027



**Wadsworth City Schools
Elementary (K-4)**

ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS

Building	Principal	Secretary	Office Telephone	Attendance Telephone
Franklin	Sunaina Kelly	Patti Keith	330-335-1470	330-335-1467
Isham	Chris Dulka	Stacey Hornfeck	330-335-1440	330-335-1333
Lincoln	Laura Maslyk	Emilee Dillemath	330-335-1460	330-335-1461
Overlook	Haley Duerr	April Jira	330-335-1420	330-335-1424
Valley View	Keri Hamsher	Holly Musacchia	330-335-1430	330-335-1431

SCHOOL DAY (Franklin, Isham, Lincoln, Overlook, Valley View)

8:55 a.m. Students released to classrooms

9:05 a.m. Tardy Bell: Grade KG – 4

3:30 p.m. Dismissal

MORNING SUPERVISION

Students are not supervised until the following times. Please do not drop students off at buildings until this time. Playgrounds are not open to students before school.

Franklin	8:40 a.m.
Isham	8:40 a.m.
Lincoln	8:45 a.m.
Overlook	8:45 a.m.
Valley View	8:45 a.m.

Walkers and bikers are encouraged **not** to arrive until 8:45 a.m.

District Mission Statement

Wadsworth City Schools, in cooperation with families, school personnel, and community, is committed to providing a quality education that will empower students to reach their highest potential while promoting a culture of mutual respect and acceptance of all.

- We believe that all students have a right to an education that provides an opportunity to reach their highest potential in an ever-changing global community.
- We believe that each student's education should lead to responsible citizenship and a productive, meaningful life.

- We believe that education should be conducted in a safe environment – mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially.
- We believe families, school personnel, and the community should accept joint responsibility for the educational needs of students.
- We believe that our schools should provide the best resources possible to meet the current and future needs of students.

While many of these handbook policies, procedures, and fees are outlined, the administration reserves the right to adjust, add, or delete policies, procedures, or fees during the school year if it serves the best interests of the district.

VISITORS

- We welcome parent involvement and encourage your support. For the safety of all students, visitors must enter the main doors by the office and use the buzzer to request entrance.
- All guests will be required to check in by scanning their driver's license at the VisitU kiosk located in the main lobby.
- Guests will be provided with a visitor's badge that must be worn and clearly visible for the duration of their stay.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

EXCUSED ABSENCES

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3301-69-02, the Board considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:

- Illness of the child. The approving authority may require the written statement of a physician/mental health professional if it is deemed appropriate;
- Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child. The approving authority may require the written statement of a physician and an explanation as to why the child's absence was necessary, if it is deemed appropriate;
- Quarantine of the home. The absence of a child from school under this condition is limited to the length of quarantine as determined by the proper health officials;
- Death of a relative. The absence arising from this condition is limited to a period of eighteen school hours unless a reasonable cause may be shown by the applicant child for a longer absence;
- Medical, behavioral or dental appointment. The approving authority may require the written statement of a physician, mental health professional or dentist if it's deemed appropriate;

- F. Observance of religious holidays. Any child shall be excused if his/her absence was for the purpose of observing a religious holiday consistent with his/her truly held religious beliefs;
- G. College visitation. The approving authority may require verification of the date and time of the visitation by the college, university, or technical college;
- H. Pre-enlistment reporting to military enlistment processing station. The approving authority may require verification of the date and time of the reporting;
- I. Absences due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status;
- J. Absences due to a student being homeless;
- K. Children of military families. Absences due to deployment activities of a parent, legal guardian, or custodian consistent with section 3301.60 of the Revised Code;
- L. Emergency or other set of circumstances in which the judgment of the superintendent of schools constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school;
- M. And, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, attendance at a driver's education course for up to two (2) hours on no more than four (4) days (limited to a total of eight (8) hours during the school year), provided that the absence does not occur during a core curriculum subject course

Medical excused absences are those listed in reasons A, B, C and E above.

**All absences, both excused and unexcused, are counted toward attendance requirements.*

REPORTING ABSENCES

- Parents are required to call the school prior to 9:30 a.m. in order to report their child's absence. Attendance lines have a 24-hour-a-day voicemail, and calls can be made anytime to report an absence.
- A written note signed by the parent or notification to the office is required if the child is dismissed during the school day.
- Parents must sign students in and out at the office if they arrive late or are dismissed early.
- If a parent doesn't call the school when the child is absent, that child will be marked as truant until a note from home is sent to the office explaining the absence.

ABSENCE CODES

Unexcused Absence: A parent/guardian notifies the school of an absence, but it does not fall into one (1) of the categories listed under excused absence above.

Truant: A parent/guardian does not contact the school and does not respond when a call is placed notifying the parent/guardian that a student is not in school.

Habitually Truant: A student who misses thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) or more hours in a month, or seventy-two (72) hours in a school year without a legitimate excuse. Students deemed Habitually Truant will be referred to an Absence Intervention Team.

The Absence Intervention Team, which includes the student's parent/guardian(s), creates a plan to assist with the student's attendance issues. Legitimate excuses are those defined under excused absence.

LATE STUDENTS

- If your child arrives after 9:05 AM, he/she must be signed in by an adult in the main office.

EARLY DISMISSAL OF PUPILS

- Students who will be leaving early should provide a note with the time of dismissal to be sent to the office in the morning when advance notice is possible.
- All students are to be picked up and signed out in the office by a parent/guardian or other adult identified by the parent.
- A note signed by the doctor/dentist is needed to verify appointments in order to be counted as an excused absence.

VACATION

- Students are permitted to go on vacation during the school year without penalty, except during the week of state-mandated testing. The purpose of this administrative guideline is to accommodate parents who must take their vacations during the school year and the desire to enjoy that time as a family.
- Prior to the vacation, you must send written notification to the principal in order for the absence to be reviewed and approved. The length of absence should be made clear. Student attendance will be reviewed prior to approval being granted.
- The district will only approve a student's absence for a vacation when she/he will be in the company of his/her own parent or other family relatives, but not other students' parents, unless there are extenuating circumstances deemed appropriate by the principal.

CAFETERIA

- Wadsworth City Schools participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast program.
- Students may qualify for free or reduced-priced meals. Applications are available online under **Parent Information → District Forms → Food Service Forms**.
- We encourage all families to apply to determine eligibility.
- Lunch and breakfast are served in all buildings to students in grades K-4.
- Meal times are designated by each individual building. Menus and pricing information are posted online at www.wadsworthschools.org under Frequent Links: Lunch/Breakfast Menus.
- Food Services operates under a Point of Sale (POS) system using the child's Student ID Number.
- Money can be deposited in person or online (**WCS Home Page → Departments → Food Service**).
- Money in an account can be used for meals and à la carte items.
- All money left on the account at the end of the school year stays with the student and will transfer to the next grade. Thus, refunds are only granted if a student withdraws.
- POS has the ability to block specific purchases or honor parental requests.
- Students can charge lunch when they do not have money on their account. Unpaid balances turn into student fees at the end of the school year.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES

- Students are expected to use good manners and conduct themselves responsibly in the lunchroom.
- Students are to sit at the assigned tables for their grade levels.
- Students will be expected to clean up their area and raise their hands to request to be excused.
- Students are not to bring soda pop to school for lunch.
- For safety reasons, no glass containers are permissible.

BUS RIDERS

- Bus riders will be put on the bus unless the office is notified prior to the bus dismissal by note or phone call from the parents of alternate end-of-day transportation plans.
- If there is a change in transportation plans, a written note by the parent/guardian must be submitted to the office identifying the day(s) of the change in transportation. **IF NO NOTE IS**

RECEIVED, YOUR CHILD WILL BE SENT HOME BY REGULAR MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

- If someone other than a parent/guardian will be picking up student(s), please identify them in the note. That person must have proper identification to show to a school employee before student(s) will be released to him/her.

WALKERS

- Students who are walkers should walk on the sidewalks and designated walkways. They will not be permitted to walk through the parking lot or between parked cars. They are expected to go directly home.

BIKE & SCOOTER RIDERS

- Students are encouraged to wear helmets.
- Bikes and scooters must be parked in the bike rack.
- Students are expected to walk their bikes and scooters while on school property.

ITEMS FROM HOME

- Students should not bring toys from home unless permitted by the teacher for a special event. Items may be easily lost, stolen, or broken and causing classroom distractions. School personnel cannot assume responsibility for missing items.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- In compliance with our District Health and Wellness policy and allergies, food treats are not permitted. Stickers, pencils, erasers, or other non-edible treats are welcome to be distributed instead.
- Birthday invitations cannot be passed out at school unless every student receives one.
- Student addresses cannot be provided to families.

LOST & FOUND

- Students should check the lost and found periodically for missing items.
- Parents are encouraged to label all student items (coats, boots, lunchboxes, bookbags, etc.) with the student's name.
- At breaks in school (Winter, Spring Break, Summer), leftover items are donated.

MEDICATIONS

- Before any prescription medication may be given to a student by school personnel, a

medical form requesting the administration of medication must be completed and signed by the doctor. This form is available in the office or online (**WCS Home Page→Departments→HealthServices→Documents→Action Plans**).

- An over-the-counter form must be completed by the parent/guardian if over-the-counter medications need to be administered. This form is available in the office or online (**WCS Home Page→Departments→HealthServices→Documents→Action Plans**).
- All medications must remain in the original packaging or RX bottle with the original label.
- Students carrying their own inhalers or Epi-Pens must also have a medication form on file.

SCHOOL CLOSING

- In the event of school closing or a two-hour delay, accurate information will be made available to parents and staff members through the following stations: WEWS TV 5, FOX TV 8, WKYC TV 3, WOIO/WUAB TV 19, ohio.com, and WAKR/WQX.
- The *automated* Phone Calling System will also be utilized.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES SCREENINGS

- Each school year, vision and hearing screenings will be done in preschool, kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 3. These are state-mandated screenings for all students in these grades.
- Vision or hearing screenings may also be done as a result of a school staff or parent referral in any grade.
- For more information on school screenings, go to www.wadsworthschools.org, click on “Departments”, then click on “School Health Services” on the WCS web page.

SCREENING EXEMPTION

- Any child may be exempted from the school hearing screening at the parent’s request.
- A child may be exempted from the school vision screening at the parent’s request.

HEALTH AIDES

- All schools will have a school health aide in the clinic for several hours a day.
- The school health aide has been trained in basic first aid, will administer medications, and do vision and hearing screenings.
- The school nurse will supervise the school health aides.
- Please contact the district nurse by calling 330.335.1403, extension 55142, if you have questions or concerns about your child’s medical condition.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

- October 8, 2026: 8:10 a.m. -3:40 p.m.
- October 21, 2026: 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- November 5, 2026: 11:30 a.m. -7:00 p.m.
- February 18, 2027: 4:30 p.m. - 8:00p.m.

GRADING PERIODS

- Trimester 1: August 20, 2026- November 17, 2026
- Trimester 2: November 18, 2026- February 26, 2027
- Trimester 3: March 1, 2027- May 27, 2027

GRADING SYSTEMS

Grades KG - 2

- Standards-based report cards are used in Grades K-2 to share information about your child's progress toward Ohio content standards.

(M) Mastered: Mastered grade-level standard

(P) Progressing: Progressing at an appropriate pace toward the grade-level standard

(N) Needs Improvement: Not progressing at an appropriate pace toward the grade-level standard

(NA) Standard Not Assessed

(UW) Unfinished Work

Grades 3 & 4

- Traditional "A-F" marks are used for reporting achievement in Grades 3-4.

93 – 100 A

90 - 92 A-

87 – 89 B+

83 - 86 B

80 - 82 B- (-): Not meeting grade level expectations

77 - 79 C+ **(N/A):** Not yet assessed

73 - 76 C **(UW):** Unfinished work

70 - 72 C-

67 - 69 D+

63 – 66 D

60 – 62 D-

0 – 59 F

DISTRICT-PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY

- 1:1 Device for PS - Grade 1: iPads
- 1:1 Device for Grades 2-4: Chromebooks

- Students in PS-Grade 4 will not be permitted to take devices home.
- Students use technology tools to do research, practice skills, and create projects.
- All students are expected to use the technology provided to Wadsworth City Schools in an approved, ethical manner in accordance with Board Policy 7540.03 for completion of classroom assignments.
- Board Policy concerning the use of technology is available at <https://go.neola.com/wadsoh-oh/policy>. Students who misuse technology through damage, maliciousness, non-educational use, cheating, bypassing the Internet content filter, or excessive printing will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

PERSONAL DEVICES

- Cell phones, smart watches, electronic games, or other electronic devices are not permitted during school hours.
- Personal devices brought to school must be turned off.
- The security of any personal device brought to school is the sole responsibility of the student.

GUIDANCE COUNSELING

- A counselor is available for classroom and small group counseling throughout the year. If you have concerns, please call your student's school.

STUDENT SERVICES

- This department oversees special education, home instruction, tutoring, speech therapy, testing, and kindergarten screening for the district.
- This department is at the administrative office (330-336-3571).

PARENT / COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

- Any individual who wishes to volunteer in our kindergarten through 4th grade classes *may* need to complete a background check and be approved by the WCS Board of Education..

Type of Volunteer Position	Description	Requirements
Tier #1	No unsupervised interaction with students.	No Board approval No background check
Tier #2	Unsupervised interaction with students.	Board Approval Background Check (BCI&I and FBI)

- Ohio Revised Code requires both the BCI&I (Ohio) and FBI (National) checks.

- Please notify your child's school if you are interested in being a parent volunteer.

Wadsworth City School District

Bylaws & Policies

DRESS CODE

The Board of Education recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parent/guardian(s) to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices interfere with the educational program of the schools. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish a reasonable dress code in order to promote a safe and healthy school setting and enhance the educational environment. The dress code shall be incorporated into the Student Code of Conduct or Discipline Code.

Accordingly, the Superintendent shall establish such grooming guidelines as are necessary to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes. Such guidelines shall prohibit student dress or grooming practices that:

- A. present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school;
- B. materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- D. prevent the student from achieving the student's own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Such guidelines shall establish the dress requirements for members of the athletic teams, bands, and other school groups when representing the District at a public event.

In regard to dress code, the following applies:

- A. The Principal is designated as the arbiter of student dress and grooming at the building level.
- B. The participation of staff, parent/guardian(s), and students in the preparation of a dress code, which may specify prescribed dress and grooming practices, but may not amplify the rationale for prohibition established by Board policy, is desired.
- C. Staff members are instructed to demonstrate by example and precept toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance;
- D. All rules implementing this policy shall impose only minimum and necessary restrictions on the exercise of the student's taste and individuality.

Students who violate the foregoing rules may not be admitted to class and may be suspended from school.

5610 - REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, AND PERMANENT EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of the schools, whether by emergency removal, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or permanent exclusion, is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student in this District, and one that cannot be imposed without due process. However, the Board has zero tolerance of violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior by its students.

No student is to be removed, suspended out-of-school, expelled and/or permanently excluded unless the student's behavior represents misconduct as specified in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code approved by the Board and/or the student's actions pose imminent and severe endangerment to the health and safety of other students or employees. The Code shall also specify the procedures to be followed by school officials when implementing such discipline. In determining whether a student is to be suspended or expelled, District Administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. In addition to the procedural safeguards and definitions set forth in this policy and the student/parent handbook, additional procedures and considerations shall apply to students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (See Policy 5605 "Suspension/Expulsion of Disabled Students.")

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board but where such conduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board, or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a District official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.

For purposes of this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, the following shall apply:

- A. "Emergency removal" shall be the exclusion of a student who poses a continuing danger to District property or persons in the District or whose behavior presents an ongoing threat of disrupting the educational process provided by the District. (See Policy 5610.03- Emergency Removal)
- B. "Suspension" shall be the temporary exclusion of a student by the Superintendent, principal, assistant principal, or any other administrator from the District's instructional program for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. Suspension shall not extend beyond the current school year if, at the time a suspension is imposed, fewer than ten (10) days remain in the school year.

The Superintendent may instead require a student to participate in a community service program or another alternative consequence for a number of hours equal to the remaining part of the period of the suspension. The student shall be required to begin such community service program or alternative consequence during the first full week day of summer break.

The Superintendent may develop a list of appropriate alternative consequences, and set forth such list in the applicable guidelines.

In the event, the student fails to complete the required community service or the assigned alternative consequence, the Superintendent may determine the next course of action. Such course of action, however, shall not include requiring the student to serve the remaining time of the suspension at the beginning of the following year.

The procedures for suspension are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Policy 5611 - Due Process Rights.

Students are permitted to make up all work missed during a suspension for full credit.

- C. "Expulsion" shall be the exclusion of a student from the schools of this District for a period not to exceed the greater of eighty (80) school days or the number of school days remaining in a semester or term in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place or for one (1) year as specifically provided in this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code. Only the Superintendent may expel a student. The procedures for expulsion are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Board Policy 5611- Due Process Rights. When making a determination whether or not a student will be expelled or permanently excluded under this policy, the Superintendent shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

a. Firearm or Knife

Unless a student is permanently excluded from school, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one (1) year for bringing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to a school building or on to any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, except that the Superintendent may reduce this period on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. Similarly, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one (1) year for possessing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at school or on any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, at interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or at any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, except the Superintendent may reduce this period on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. The expulsion may extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place. The Superintendent shall refer any student expelled for bringing a firearm (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)) or weapon to school to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system serving the District.

A firearm is defined as any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to

or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device. A destructive device includes, but is not limited to any explosive, incendiary, poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter (1/4) ounce, mine, or other similar device.

A knife capable of causing serious bodily injury is defined as any weapon or cutting instrument consisting of a blade fastened to a handle; a razor blade; or any similar device (including sharp, metal martial arts weapons such as ninja throwing stars) that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.

The Superintendent may, in the Superintendent's sole judgment and discretion, modify or reduce such expulsion in writing, to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, upon consideration of the following:

- i. the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.
- ii. the degree of culpability given the age of the student and its relevance to the misconduct and/or punishment and/or evidence regarding the probable danger posed to the health and safety of others, including evidence of the student's intent and awareness regarding possession of the firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury and/or
- iii. applicable State or Federal laws and regulations relating to students with disabilities (for example, where the incident involves a student with a disability and the misconduct is determined by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child to be a manifestation of the student's disability).

The reinstatement of a student who is expelled for bringing a firearm to school is subject to the reinstatement process summarized in Section (C)(4) of this policy.

2. Violent Conduct

If a student commits an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity and the act:

- a. would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult;
and
- b. results in serious physical harm to person(s) as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5), or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6),

the Superintendent may expel the student for a period of up to one (1) year. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion

as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in the Superintendent's sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, upon consideration of the following:

- a. applicable State or Federal laws and regulations relating to students with disabilities (for example, where the incident involves a student with a disability and the misconduct is determined by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child to be a manifestation of the student's disability);
- or
- b. other extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

3. Bomb Threats

If a student makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat, the Superintendent may expel the student for a period of up to one (1) year. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in the Superintendent's sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, for the following reasons:

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

- a. for students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, upon recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs;
- or
- b. other extenuating circumstances, including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

4. Imminent and Severe Endangerment to Health and Safety of Students or Employees

The term “imminent and severe endangerment” means any of the following actions taken by a student:

- a. Bringing a firearm or a knife capable of causing severe bodily harm to a school operated by the Board or other property owned or controlled by the Board, or to any interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other program or activity sponsored by the School District or in which the District is participating;
- b. Committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5) or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6) while the student is at a school operated by the Board, on property owned or operated by the Board, or at any other program or activity that is sponsored by the District or in which the District is participating;
- c. Making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat; or
- d. Making an articulated or verbalized threat, including a hit list, threatening manifesto, or social media post, that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the pupil poses a serious threat.

The Superintendent may expel a student for up to 180 school days for actions that the Superintendent determines pose imminent and severe endangerment to the health and safety of other students or school employees regardless of whether the actions qualify for permanent exclusion.

Upon expelling a student for actions that pose imminent and severe endangerment to others, the Superintendent will develop conditions that the student must satisfy before the student may be reinstated. A copy of the conditions will be provided to the Board, the student, and the student’s parent/guardian at the beginning of the expulsion period. One of the conditions shall be an assessment that is performed by a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist employed or contracted by the District to determine whether the student poses a danger to themselves, other students, and/or school employees. The District and the student’s parent/guardian will mutually agree on the individual who will conduct the assessment. If the individual is not employed by the District, the cost of the assessment shall be referred for payment through the student’s health insurance. Any remaining costs not covered by the student’s insurance will be paid by the District. If the individual is employed or contracted by the District, the District will pay the full cost of the assessment. In addition to including a determination of whether the student poses a danger to themselves or others, the psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist may also make recommendations for the contingent conditions for the student’s reinstatement.

At the end of the initial expulsion term or any subsequent term, the Superintendent will determine whether the student has demonstrated sufficient rehabilitation to be reinstated to school. If the Superintendent determines the student has not demonstrated such rehabilitation, then the Superintendent may extend the expulsion for an unlimited number of additional periods of up to ninety (90) school days each. The Superintendent shall make the determination about whether the student has demonstrated rehabilitation in consultation with a multidisciplinary team selected by the Superintendent. The Superintendent will take into consideration the assessment of the psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist and whether or not the student met the conditions developed by the Superintendent at the beginning of the expulsion period. If the Superintendent extends the expulsion period, the Superintendent shall develop conditions for the pupil to satisfy prior to reinstatement. The conditions may be the same as those developed for the initial term of expulsion. A copy of the conditions shall be provided to the Board, the student, and the student's parent/guardian.

The Superintendent may extend the initial or subsequent term of expulsion into the next school year. The Superintendent may also reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in their sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than 180 school days for the initial term, or less than ninety (90) school days for any additional term, on a case-by-case basis, for the following reasons:

- a. for students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, upon recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs; or
- b. other extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

Prior to the end of the initial expulsion term or any extension, the student's parent/guardian may request that the Superintendent complete an early assessment of the student. The Superintendent will assess the student and make a determination of whether the student meets the requirements for reinstatement as outlined in this section. The Superintendent will rely on the reasons permitted for the reduction of an expulsion term outlined in this section to determine whether the student may be reinstated before the end of the current expulsion term. A parent/guardian may request an early assessment one (1) time for the initial, and one (1) time for any subsequent expulsion term.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop contingent conditions for a student's reinstatement. The conditions may include the conditions developed for the original expulsion term as well as any recommendations made by the psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist who assesses the student under this section. The Superintendent will establish a duration under which the student must meet the contingent conditions, which may extend to the student's graduation date. The Superintendent will provide a copy of

these conditions to the Board, the student, and the student's parent/guardian when the Superintendent makes the decision to reinstate the student. If the student fails to adhere to the contingent conditions, the Superintendent may revoke the student's reinstatement and establish an extended expulsion period under the same process as outlined in this section.

For students who do not have an individualized education plan ("IEP"), the Superintendent shall, in consultation with the student and parent/guardian, develop a plan for the continued education of the student. This may include education by the District in an alternative setting such as home instruction, enrollment in another district, enrollment in another type of public or nonpublic school, or any other form of instruction that complies with state law. The plan will be developed no later than fifteen (15) school days after the beginning of the original expulsion period or any extension. For students who have an IEP, the Superintendent will also consult with the student's IEP team in developing the plan, and the plan will be developed within ten (10) school days after the beginning of the original expulsion period or any extension.

The Board will provide the Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") records of each expulsion issued under this section, as well as any changes to the student's expulsion status. The records will not include the name of the student, but will include the following:

- a. the name of the student's school;
- b. the reason(s) for the student's expulsion;
- c. the duration of the student's expulsion and any extensions of the expulsion;
- d. the total number of students expelled by the District in the school year as of the date of the report; and
- e. the student's age, gender, race, and other demographic information requested by DEW.

The District will provide records of an expulsion issued under this section if requested by any other district or school to which the student transfers. These records may not be withheld due to any outstanding debt attributed to the student.

The Board will establish guidelines for appropriate conditions that the Superintendent may develop pursuant to this section.

The Superintendent will develop a list of alternative educational options for students who are expelled under this section.

- D. "Permanent exclusion" shall mean the student is banned forever from attending a public school in the State of Ohio. (See Policy 5610.01- Permanent Exclusion of Nondisabled Students)

If a student is expelled for more than twenty (20) school days or for any period of time that extends into the next school year, the Superintendent shall provide the student and the student's

parents/guardians with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of those public or private agencies in the community which offer programs or services that help to rectify the student's behaviors and attitudes that contributed to the incident(s) that caused the expulsion.

Suspension or Expulsion of Students in Grades Pre-Kindergarten through Three (3)

Except as permitted by law, suspension or expulsion proceedings shall not be initiated against a student in any of grades Pre-kindergarten through three unless the student has committed the following acts:

- A. The student brings a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to a school building or on to any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, or possesses a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at school or on any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, at an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board.
- B. The student commits an act at school, on other school property, an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity and the act: 1) would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult; and 2) results in serious physical harm to person(s) as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5) or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6).
- C. The student makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat.
- D. The student engages in behavior of such a nature that suspension or expulsion is necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, the student's fellow classmates, the classroom staff and teachers, and/or other school employees.

Prior to suspending or expelling a student in any of grades Pre-K through three (3), the Principal shall, whenever possible, consult with a mental health professional under contract. If the events leading up to the student's suspension or expulsion from school indicate that the student is in need of additional mental health services, the student's Principal or the District's mental health professional shall assist the student's parent or guardian with locating providers or obtaining such services, including referral to an independent mental health professional, provided such assistance does not result in a financial burden to the District or the student's school.

If a student in any of grades Pre-K through three (3) is suspended or expelled, the student shall be afforded the same notice and hearing, procedural, and educational opportunities as set forth in Board policy and the law. The suspension or expulsion of a student in any of grades Pre-K through three (3) shall not limit the Board's responsibilities with respect to the provision of special education and related services to such student in accordance with Board policy and the law. Further, the Board shall not be limited in its authority to issue an in-school suspension to a student in any of grades Pre-K through three (3), provided that the in-school suspension is served in a supervised learning environment.

If the Superintendent or other designated District personnel determines that a student's behavior on a school vehicle violates school rules, the Superintendent may suspend the student from school bus-riding privileges for the length of time deemed appropriate for the violation and remediation of the behavior. Before a suspension from bus/vehicle riding privileges is imposed, the Superintendent or other designated District personnel will provide a student with notice of an intended suspension and an opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or other designated District personnel.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide options to suspension/expulsion of a student from school which may include alternative educational options.

The Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion must be imposed for the same duration it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

The Board may temporarily deny admittance to any student who has been expelled from the schools of another Ohio district or an out-of-state district if the student's expulsion period set by the other district has not expired. The expelled student shall first be offered an opportunity for a hearing. This provision also applies to a student who is the subject of a power of attorney designating the child's grandparent as the attorney-in-fact or caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the child's grandparent and is seeking admittance into the schools of this District in accordance with Policy 5111.

The Board may temporarily deny admittance to any student who has been suspended from the schools of another Ohio district if the student's suspension period set by the other district has not expired. The suspended student shall first be offered an opportunity for a hearing.

When a student is expelled from this District, the Superintendent shall send written notice to any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under the College Credit Plus Program at the time the expulsion is imposed. The written notice shall indicate the date the expulsion is scheduled to expire.

If the expulsion is extended, the Superintendent shall notify the college of the extension.

The Superintendent may require a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of a suspension or expulsion. The Board may adopt guidelines to permit the Superintendent to impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the expulsion into the following school year.

Searches

In accordance with Policy 5771, school officials may search a student or a student's property when there are reasonable grounds to suspect the presence of contraband that violates the law or school rules. Dogs trained in the detection of illegal drugs and/or weapons may patrol school facilities and premises. A dog altering to an object is considered reasonable grounds for a search. Vehicles on school property are also subject to search. Student lockers are the property of the Board and are

subject to search based on reasonable suspicion of the violation of the law or school rules and to random searches without regard to reasonable suspicion.

Times and Places Applicable

Unless otherwise noted in the individual section, this code shall be applicable to any conduct: on school grounds or property adjacent to school grounds; during, before and after school hours, on school grounds at any other time when the school or the school grounds are being used by a school-related group; off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, function or event; on a school bus or conveyance; or at any other time when the student is subject to the authority of the school. The rules and standards also apply to conduct off school premises which is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property. The rules and standards also apply to any misconduct, regardless of where it occurs, that is directed at a District employee or official or the property of such employee or official.

Substantive Provisions

Misconduct for which suspension/expulsion may be imposed:

- A. Tobacco: students shall not possess, use, transmit, conceal or sell cigarettes or tobacco. State law prohibits students from smoking in any school building. This includes possession or the use of matches and/or lighters. No warning will be given for smoking violations. A student is considered smoking when seen with a cigarette, leaving a discarded one or any other evidence indicating smoking. The term "tobacco" includes any product that contains tobacco, is derived from tobacco, contains nicotine, or e-cigarettes and other electronic smoking devices (including but not limited to "JUULs").
- B. Dress and Appearance: Students shall not violate school rules relating to dress and appearance. Students shall attend school dressed in a manner which is clean, not hazardous to their safety or the safety of others, and which does not distract from the educational environment.
- C. Truancy, Tardiness or Class Cutting: Students shall not be absent from all or any portion of the regularly scheduled classes or other mandatory activities without school authorization and parental consent. A student is considered tardy to first period if s/he is not in his/her assigned seat when the late bell rings.
- D. Profane, Vulgar or Improper Language or Gestures: Students shall not speak or write profane, vulgar, derogatory, demeaning or other improper or inappropriate language, or use profane, vulgar or other improper inappropriate gestures or signs or engage or attempt to engage in profane, vulgar or other improper or inappropriate actions. Student attire containing profanity or obscenity is prohibited.
- E. Insubordination (also referred to as Failure to Comply with Directives): This is defined as failing to follow the directives of school personnel or otherwise acting in defiance of school authority. Students shall comply with directives, requests and orders of teachers, student teachers,

substitute teachers or other appropriate school personnel.

- F. Failure to Accept Discipline or Punishment: Students shall not refuse to accept discipline or punishment from teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, educational aides, bus drivers, principals or other appropriate school personnel.
- G. Harassment, Hazing and/or Sexual Harassment: Students shall not threaten, act or participate in or attempt to threaten, act or participate in an act or acts that injures, degrades, disgraces or tends to injure, degrade or disgrace any student. This includes any unwanted sexual advances which may be verbal, visual or physical contact.
- H. Violations of School Bus Conduct Requirement: Students shall not act or participate in any act or acts or attempt to act or participate in any act which poses or tends to pose a danger to the safe operation of a school bus or conveyance, including, but not limited to, failing to remain seated, throwing objects as passengers, the driver or out of the window, extending arms or objects out of the window, shouting and other disorderly conduct which could cause physical harm, emotional stress or diversion of the driver's attention.
- I. Disrespect: Students shall not act so as to intimidate, insult or otherwise abuse, orally or in writing, any member of the school staff or student body.
- J. Disruption of School: Students shall not by use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, harassment, intimidation, fear, passive resistance or any other conduct, cause, attempt or threaten to cause the disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, activity or function of the school. Students shall not urge other students to engage in such conduct for the purpose of causing, attempting or threatening to cause the disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, activity or function of the school. While this list is not intended to be all-inclusive, the following acts illustrate the kinds of misconduct prohibited by this rule:
 - 1. occupying any school building, school grounds or part thereof;
 - 2. blocking the entrance or exit of a school building or corridor or room therein;
 - 3. setting fire or attempting to set fire to or damaging or attempting to damage or defacing or attempting to deface any school building or property;
 - 4. making, by telephone call, letter or other means, a threat to damage or destroy any school property or to disrupt any school-sponsored or related activity, function or event on or off school grounds. Any bomb threat to a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring will subject the offender to a one-year (1) expulsion;
 - 5. activating or attempting to activate an emergency alarm system in the absence of an emergency;
 - 6. preventing or attempting to prevent by physical act or verbal utterance the convening or continuing function of any school, class or activity or any lawful meeting or assembly on

or off the school property;

7. preventing or attempting to prevent students from attending a class or any school-sponsored or related activity or event;
 8. except under the direct instruction of the principal or other authorized school personnel, blocking pedestrian or vehicular traffic on school property or at the site of any school-sponsored activity or event; or
 9. continuously making noise or acting in a manner so as to interfere with a teacher's ability to conduct a class or an extracurricular activity.
- K. Damage, Destruction, Theft or Unauthorized Removal of School Property: Students shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or steal or attempt to steal school property or engage in or attempt to engage in or participate or attempt to participate in the unauthorized removal of school property.
- L. Damage, Destruction, Theft, or Unauthorized Removal of Private Property: Students shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property of students, teachers, school personnel or other persons or steal or attempt to steal private property or engage or attempt to engage in or participate or attempt to participate in the unauthorized removal of private property.
- M. Physical or Verbal Assault on or Abusive Language Toward a School Employee, Authorized Visitor or Another Student: Intentionally or recklessly causing or threatening physical or emotional harm to another student or behaving in such a manner as to present an imminent risk of such harm. Students shall not use vulgar, profane or abusive gesture toward any school employee, authorized school visitor or another student, not cause or attempt to cause physical injury, or behave in such a way as could threaten to cause physical injury to a school employee, authorized school visitor or another student.
- N. Weapons, Dangerous Instruments, Fireworks and Explosives: Students shall not violate this District's policy against dangerous weapons in school Policy 5772. Students shall not use, possess, handle, transmit, sell, conceal or barter for, or bring upon school grounds, to a school activity or on to a school vehicle any object that can be classified as a weapon or dangerous instrument. Weapons and dangerous instruments shall include any object which is used or may be used to inflict physical harm or property damage or to threaten to inflict such harm or damage. Items that have the appearance of a weapon or dangerous instrument are also prohibited.

Students shall not possess, handle, transmit, conceal, sell or barter for, or bring upon school grounds, to a school activity or on to a school vehicle any fireworks, explosives, inflammables, munitions or other objects that could cause physical harm or property damage. Students shall not ignite, explode, detonate or attempt to ignite, explode or detonate fireworks, explosions, munitions, inflammables or other objects that could cause physical harm or property damage.

Violations of this section of the Student Code of Conduct may be subject to a one-year (1) or more expulsion as detailed in policy 5772. Violations of this section will also result in notification

to the registrar of motor vehicles and the county juvenile judge.

O. Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Look-Alike Drugs and Stimulant or Depressant Drugs:

1. Students shall not possess, use, transmit, sell, conceal, or consume any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant or any of the drugs of abuse while on school property and/or involved in school activities. Likewise, students shall not consume or have discernible odor of any alcoholic beverages or intoxicant or drug of abuse at a time before the student's arrival at school or a school-sponsored or related event or activity. Examples of drugs of abuse include, but are not limited to, narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, hemp and hemp products, glue, butane, cocaine, nonmedically prescribed anabolic steroids or other substances that could modify behavior.

Where a student is found to have violated this paragraph by using or consuming unauthorized drugs, drugs of abuse or intoxicants, s/he may be required to submit a letter from a psychiatrist or physician stating that the student is physically and mentally able to resume his/her studies prior to his/her reentry on the school premises or participation in school-related activities.

Use of drugs as authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician shall not be considered in violation of this rule provided proper documentation has been completed and filed with the school office. However, selling, transferring or otherwise providing prescription drugs to a student to whom the drugs are not prescribed is a violation of this rule.

2. Students shall not possess, use, transmit, sell, consume or conceal any drug or look-alike drugs of abuse, instruments or drug paraphernalia (i.e., hypodermic needle, syringe, water pipe, roach clip, etc.).
3. Students who are knowingly in the presence of other students who are engaging in substance abuse and who fail to report such substance abuse to school authorities may also be in violation of this policy forbidding alcohol and drug use.
4. Violations of this section may also result in notification to the registrar of motor vehicles and the county juvenile judge.

P. Trespass:

1. Students shall not enter upon school grounds or premises of a school building to which the students are not assigned during or after school hours except with the express permission of the school principal of that building or to attend or participate in a school-sponsored event in which their regularly assigned school is involved or where students from their regularly assigned school have been invited to attend or participate.
2. Students already under suspension, expulsion or emergency removal shall not enter upon grounds or premises of the students regularly assigned or other school buildings

without the express permission of the principal.

- Q. Misconduct Away From School: Students who sell or transmit any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, cocaine, marijuana or other controlled substance or drug of abuse off school property or at a nonschool-sponsored or related activity, function or event, or on school property before or after school, may in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.C. 3313.66, be subject to suspension or expulsion from school if the Superintendent determines that the student's continued presence in the school is reasonably certain to disrupt or interfere with the educational process or endanger the health or safety of the students or others.

Students who engage in an assault upon a school employee or other student off school property, at a nonschool-sponsored or related activity, function or event, or on school property before or after school hours may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.C. 3313.66, be subject to suspension or expulsion from school if it is determined that the student's continued presence in the school is reasonably certain to disrupt or interfere with the educational process or endanger the health or safety of the students or others.

- R. Falsification or Misstatement of Facts or Other Information: Students shall not forge the writing of another or falsely use the name of another person or falsify times, dates, grades, addresses or other data on school forms or school-related correspondence. Cheating and/or plagiarism on school assignments is considered fraud. Lying is considered fraud.
- S. Gambling: Students shall not engage in or promote games of chance, placing bets or risk anything of value.
- T. Obtaining Property or Things of Value by Use of Coercion and Related Misconduct: Students shall not use or attempt to use an express or implied threat, violence, harassment, coercion or intimidation to obtain money or any other type of property belonging to another student, a school employee or others.
- U. Public Display of Affection or Sexual Acts: Students shall not engage in kissing, embracing or any sexual acts or displays not appropriate to the educational environment.
- V. Repeated Violations: Students who repeatedly engage in acts which violate this code shall be subject to more severe punishment, including suspension or expulsion, for subsequent violations. The District shall be entitled to maintain records of each student's misconduct and consider such records in arriving at the type and severity of punishment to be imposed for a violation of this code.
- W. Violation of Rules: Students shall not violate the policies of the Board, school rules, classroom rules or regulations. Such policies and rules and regulations will be posted in a conspicuous place. Students are responsible for becoming familiar with those items.
- X. Personal Communication Devices: Students are not permitted to use personal communication devices in a manner contrary to Wadsworth City School District Policy 5136: Personal Communication Devices. Personal communication devices include: computers, tablets (e.g.,

iPads and similar devices), electronic readers ("e-readers"; e.g., Kindles and similar devices), cell phones (e.g., mobile/cellular telephones, smartphones (e.g., BlackBerry, iPhone, Android devices, Windows Mobile devices, etc.)), telephone paging devices (e.g., beepers or pagers), and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

Y. Aiding and Abetting: Aiding and abetting any violation of this Student Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action.

Z. Failure to Provide Evidence/Providing False Information/Lying: Students are expected to be honest concerning violations of the Code of Conduct and to help school officials establish the truth about a possible violation of the Student Code of Conduct. In establishing the facts concerning an incident, students shall be expected to cooperate with school officials. Students shall not give or assist in giving false or fictitious accounts to any school official, policy official, fire official or any other person acting in an official or lawful capacity.

AA. Violating Acceptable Use Policy: Students shall not use school-owned computers in a manner that violates the school's Acceptable Use Policy.

BBB. Violation of Student Publications Policy: Students shall not violate the Student Publications Policy, Policy 5722, with respect to content of student and nonstudent publications and requirements before distributing such publications.

CCCC. Other Misconduct: Any misconduct which is contrary to the school's educational mission is prohibited.

A copy of this policy is to be posted in a central location in each school and made available to students and parent/guardian(s) upon request. Key provisions of the policy should also be included in the student handbook.

5611 - DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

The Board of Education recognizes that students have limited constitutional rights when it comes to their education.

Accordingly, the Board establishes the following procedures, which District Administrators shall use when dealing with students:

A. Student Subject to Suspension

When a student is being considered for an out-of-school suspension by the Superintendent, Principal, or other administrator:

1. The student will be informed in writing of the potential suspension and the reasons for the proposed action.
2. The student will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension and to explain his/her actions.

3. An attempt will be made to notify parents or guardians by telephone if a suspension is issued.
4. Within one (1) school day of the suspension, the Superintendent, Principal, or other administrator will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student. The notice will include the reasons for the suspension and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend. If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.
5. Notice of this suspension will also be sent to the:
 - a. Superintendent;
 - b. student's school record (not for inclusion in the permanent record).
6. If a student leaves school property without permission immediately upon violation (or suspected violation) of a provision of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code or prior to an administrator conducting an informal hearing as specified above, and the student fails to return to school on the following school day, the Principal, Assistant Principal, Superintendent, or any other administrator, may send the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) notice of the suspension, and offer to provide the student and/or his/her parents an informal hearing upon request to discuss the reasons for the suspension and to allow the student to challenge the reasons and to explain his/her actions, any time prior to the end of the suspension period.

Appeal of Suspension to the Board or its Designee

The student who is eighteen (18) or older or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing, which may be held in executive session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian, if held before the Board.

The procedure to pursue such an appeal will be provided in regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer or the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend.

While a hearing before the Board may occur in executive session, the Board must act in public.

Appeal to the Court

Under Ohio law, an appeal of the Board's or its designee's decision may be made to the Court of Common Pleas.

B. Students Subject to Expulsion

When a student is being considered for expulsion by the Superintendent:

1. The Superintendent will give the student and parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of the intended expulsion, including reasons for the intended expulsion.
2. The student and parent or representative have the opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or designee to challenge the proposed action or to otherwise explain the student's actions. The written notice will state the time and place to appear, which must not be earlier than three (3) school days nor later than five (5) school days after the notice is given, unless the Superintendent grants an extension upon request of the student or parent.
3. Within one (1) school day of the expulsion, the Superintendent will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student and the Treasurer of the Board. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date of the notice of expulsion. If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.

Appeal of Expulsion to the Board

A student who is eighteen (18) or older or a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the expulsion by the Superintendent to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and will be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing, which may be held in executive session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian, if it is held before the Board.

The procedure to pursue such an appeal will be in accordance with regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date of the Superintendent's decision to expel with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent.

While a hearing before the Board may occur in executive session, the Board must act in public.

Appeal to the Court

Under State law, the decision of the Board or its designee may be further appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

C. Students Subject to Emergency Removal

Students whose conduct warrants emergency removal shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.03 - Emergency Removal.

D. Students Subject to Permanent Exclusion

Students whose conduct is that for which permanent exclusion is warranted shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.01 - Permanent Exclusion of Nondisabled Students.

E. Students Subject to Suspension from Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges

Students whose conduct warrants suspension from bus riding and/or transportation services shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.04 - Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges.

In determining whether disciplinary action set forth in this policy is to be implemented, District Administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. Further, any individual charged with making a disciplinary determination under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

In addition, this statement of due process rights is to be placed in all student handbooks in a manner that will facilitate understanding by students and their parents.

These procedures shall not apply to in-school disciplinary alternatives, including in-school suspensions. An in-school suspension is one served entirely in a supervised learning environment within a school setting. Nor shall these disciplinary alternative procedures apply to students who are prohibited by authorized school personnel from all or part of their participation in co-curricular, interscholastic, and/or noninterscholastic extra-curricular activities.

District Bullying Policy

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board will not tolerate

any gestures, comments, threats, or actions that cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

- A. any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student(s), staff or third parties exhibit toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or
- B. violence within a dating relationship.

"Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means cyberbullying through electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistance (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s), staff or third parties exhibit toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Building Principal or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the Building Principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The Building Principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such a report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action, shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

If the investigation finds an instance of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying/cyberbullying by an electronic act or otherwise, has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. This may include suspension or up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyberbullying, the Principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517 – Anti-Harassment.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying, and/or other aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

The District shall implement intervention strategies to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation following such a report.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If, after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the Building Director or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification, care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

If, after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the Building Director or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the custodial parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such a student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

Complaints

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such reports shall be reasonably specific, including the person(s) involved, the number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the Building Director for review, investigation, and action.

Students, parents/guardians, and school personnel may make informal or anonymous complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator, or other school personnel. Such complaints shall be reasonably specific, including the person(s) involved, the number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. A school staff member or administrator who receives an informal or anonymous complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the information provided. This written report shall be promptly forwarded by the school staff member and/or administrator to the Building Director for review, investigation, and appropriate action.

Individuals who make informal complaints as provided above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. Anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action shall be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

When an individual making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such a complaint shall be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint, subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

All records generated under this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Reporting Requirement

At least semi-annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the President of the Board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District website (if one exists). The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

Allegations of criminal misconduct and suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Child Protective Services in accordance with statute. District personnel shall cooperate with investigations by such agencies.

Immunity

A school district employee, student, or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and R.C. 3313.666 if that person reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying promptly, in good faith, and in compliance with the procedures specified in this policy. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student, or volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be **annually** circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. At least once each school year, a written statement describing the policy and consequences for violations of the policy shall be sent to each student's custodial parent or guardian.

The statement may be sent with regular student report cards or may be delivered electronically.

The policy and an explanation of the seriousness of bullying by electronic means shall be made available to students in the District and to their custodial parents or guardians.

State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedures.

Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying and violence within a dating relationship. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and its accompanying administrative guidelines.

All training regarding the Board's policy and administrative guidelines about aggressive behavior and bullying in general will be age and content-appropriate.

Annually, the District shall provide all students enrolled in the District with age-appropriate instruction regarding the Board's policy, including a written or verbal discussion of the consequences for violations of the policy.

Students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) shall receive age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education, including instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships. Parents who submit a written request to the Building Director to examine the dating violence prevention instruction materials used in the school will be afforded an opportunity to review the materials within a reasonable period of time.

The District shall provide training, workshops, and/or courses on this policy for school employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students. Time spent by school staff in these training programs shall apply toward mandated continuing education requirements.

In accordance with Board Policy 8462, the Superintendent shall include a review of this policy on bullying and other forms of harassment in the required training in the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development.

5516 - STUDENT HAZING

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with and disruptive to the educational process, and prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property if the misconduct is connected to or associated with Board-sponsored activities (e.g., extracurricular teams, clubs, or groups) or incidents that have occurred on school property. No administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of the District shall encourage, permit, authorize, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. The preceding prohibition includes recklessly permitting the hazing of any person associated with the District. Additionally, no student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, employees, faculty members, teachers, and other people contracted directly or indirectly (through a third-party provider) with the board of education or volunteers of the District shall be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent. Additionally, no administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of the District who is acting in an official and professional capacity shall recklessly fail to immediately report the knowledge

of hazing to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the victim of hazing resides or in which the hazing is occurring or has occurred. Students, administrators, employees, faculty members, and teachers who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law. Likewise, other people contracted directly or indirectly (through a third-party provider) with the board of education, and volunteers associated with the District who fail to abide by this policy may be prohibited from continuing their involvement and/or participation in activities associated with the District and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

The Superintendent shall distribute this policy to all students, Board employees, consultants, and volunteers, and shall incorporate it into building, staff, and student handbooks. It shall also be posted on the District's website. This policy shall be the subject of discussion at employee staff meetings or in-service programs.

Board employees, other people contracted directly or indirectly (through a third-party provider) with the board of education, and volunteers shall not intentionally remain ignorant of hazing or potential hazing activities.

Drug Prevention Memorandum to Parents

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials.

The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which s/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

Directory Information

According to Wadsworth City School District Board of Education policy 8330: Student Records, the District intends to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information". The Board designates as student "directory information": a student's name.

Directory information shall not be provided to any organization for profit-making purposes.

Parents and eligible students may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the Superintendent's annual public notice.

Inspection of Instructional Information

The Director of Instruction and Professional Development is responsible for coordinating inspections of instructional materials at each school. The Director of Instruction and Professional Development's office is located at 625 Broad St., Wadsworth, OH 44281, and can be reached at 330-336-3571.

Parents' Right to Inspect, Review, and Request Amendments to Student Educational Records

A parent or adult student has the right to:

- A. Inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five (45) days after the School receives a request for access or within such shorter period as may be applicable to students with disabilities. The School has a form that can be used to submit such a request. The Custodian of Records ("COR") (building principal) will notify the parent or adult student of the time and place where the records can be inspected. Parents and adult students are not permitted to inspect and review the education records of other students. If there is a valid reason why a parent or adult student cannot personally inspect and review a student's education records, or if the parent or adult student specifically requests copies of education records, the COR may arrange for copies of the requested records to be delivered to the parent or adult student directly. The Board may charge a reasonable fee for the copying of records, which may be waived under circumstances of unusual hardship.
- B. Request the amendment of the student's education records if the parent or adult student believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. Parents or adult students who believe that a change is necessary should ask the COR to correct the record. Such a request should be made in writing and should identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the record is not changed to the parent's or adult student's satisfaction or if the COR informs the parent or adult student that the record does not appear to be misleading, inaccurate, or in violation of any privacy right, the parent or adult student will be informed of his/her right to request a hearing. The parent or adult student may submit a written request for a hearing. The hearing will be conducted by a hearing officer who will submit his/her findings to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will make the final decision concerning whether to change the record. A parent or student who remains dissatisfied with the final decision of the Superintendent may request that an explanatory statement be placed in the student's file explaining the basis for the disagreement. The school has a form that may be used to identify which information in the record the parent or adult student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or a violation of the student's privacy rights, and to specify why it is inappropriate.

Parent's Right to Request Educational Program and Staff Information

According to Wadsworth City Board of Education Policy 2261.02: Title I-Parent's right to Know and in accordance with the requirement of Federal law, for each school receiving Title I funds, the Superintendent shall make sure all parents of students in that school are notified that they may request, and the Board will provide the following information on the student's classroom teachers:

- A. Whether the teacher(s) have met the State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas they are teaching.
- B. Whether the teacher(s) is teaching under any emergency or provisional status in which the State requirements have been waived.
- C. The undergraduate major of the teacher(s) and the area of study, and any certificates for any graduate degrees earned.
- D. The qualifications of any paraprofessionals providing services to their child(ren).
- E. In addition, the parents **shall** be provided:
 - 1. information on the level of achievement of their child(ren) on the required State academic assessments;
 - 2. timely notice if the student is assigned to a teacher who is not "highly qualified" as required, or if the student is taught for more than four (4) weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Parent/Student Right to File a Complaint

Any parent or student who believes that the School District has failed to comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") or the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment ("PPRA"), may file a complaint directly with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-8520".

Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information

According to Wadsworth City Board of Education policy 2416: Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information, the Board respects the privacy rights of parents and their students. No student shall be required, as part of the school program or District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals certain information that is detailed in this policy. Parents also have the right, upon request, to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum of the student.

Audio/Video Surveillance

This facility uses audio/video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment to observe, monitor, and/or record the behavior and activity of all persons on school property or grounds, or participating in school functions, and may be disclosed for Law enforcement purposes. Questions about the audio/video surveillance/electronic monitoring system are directed to the Building Principal.

Civil Rights Compliance

District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators") (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Director of Student Services
330-335-1316
625 Broad St.
Wadsworth OH 44281

Wadsworth High School Principal
330-335-1400
625 Broad St.
Wadsworth, OH 44281

Director of the Four Cities Compact
330-336-3571
625 Broad St.
Wadsworth OH 44281

Wadsworth Middle School Principal
330-335-1410
150 Silvercreek Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually on the School District's website.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.



Department of
Education & Workforce
Department of
Mental Health & Addition Services

