

2026-2027

Ava Elementary School

STUDENT HANDBOOK



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Welcome to Ava Elementary!

At Ava Elementary, our staff is committed to providing the highest quality education for every child. We believe this can only be achieved by setting and striving to meet high expectations—for our students, our staff, and our school community. Achieving this goal requires strong support and collaboration from our parents and district patrons.

We take great pride in being part of a school that is central to our community. Strong schools don't happen by chance—they are built through shared effort, communication, and cooperation among educators, families, and community members.

Our staff is dedicated to working hand-in-hand with you to ensure every student receives the full benefits of a supportive and successful school experience. This handbook has been created to help answer common questions about our policies and give you a better understanding of daily life at Ava Elementary.

Together, we can make this school year a rewarding one for your child!

Mrs. Becky Heinlein
Ava Elementary Principal

Address:

**Ava R-1 Schools
Elementary Building
507 NE Spring St.
Ava, MO 65608**

Phone Numbers:

**Administration Office: 683-4717
Elementary School: 683-5450
Middle School: 683-3835
High School: 683-5747**

www.avabears.net

Motto

ENGAGE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.

1. Develop and enhance quality educational/instructional programs to improve performance and enable students to meet their personal, academic, and career goals.
 2. Recruit, attract, develop, and retain highly qualified staff to carry out the LEA/District mission, goals, and objectives.
 3. Provide and maintain appropriate instructional resources, support services, and function and safe facilities.
 4. Promote, facilitate, and enhance parent, student, and community involvement in LEA/District educational programs.
 5. Govern the LEA/District in an efficient and effective manner providing leadership and representation to benefit the students, staff, and patrons of the district.
-

Mission

ENGAGE MINDS, INSPIRE CURIOSITY, EMPOWER FURUTES

Philosophy

The district believes that every child should have the opportunity to acquire a quality education. The district recognizes the necessity of education for all children, in a partnership with the home and community, beginning at birth. The district provides a well-balanced, up-to-date, and challenging curriculum in a safe, positive, and comfortable environment.

The district believes the school has an obligation to prepare all students for life through an environment that is fair and orderly and has high expectations for student achievement. The district further believes that all students will learn from both structured and unstructured situations when sequenced into the proper state of learning opportunities.

The district believes that change is an ongoing and a natural process that includes school, home, and community. We all must change as rapidly as the world around us in order to meet the present and future needs of our students in a global community.

Overview

- The Ava R-1 School District, organized in 1956, has grown to an area of 383 square miles.
- The school district is fully accredited, the highest possible rating, by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- The elementary school has certified employees and support staff who work together to provide outstanding education opportunities to the children of Ava Elementary.
- Special teachers are provided in the elementary school in the subject areas of physical education, art, music, and library media services.

Board of Education

Mark Henry, President
Brandi Stanifer, Vice-President
Chance Dry, Secretary
Jennifer Register, Member
Phyllis Burkdoll, Member
Michael Stewart, Member
Seth Thompson, Member

Administration

Aaron Dalton, Superintendent
Melissa Payne, Asst. Superintendent
Tamitha Ritter, HS Principal
John Johnson, Asst. HS Principal
Katy Chapman, MS Principal
Colleena Frazier, Asst. MS Principal
Becky Heinlein, Elementary Principal
Morgan Loftin, Asst. Elementary Principal
**Courtney Johnson, Special Education
Director**

Faculty & Staff

Office Staff:

Becky Heinlein, Principal
Morgan Loftin, Asst. Principal
Dakotah Jones, Secretary
Debbie Towell, Secretary

Pre-K & PAT

Jamie Brown, ECSE
Stephanie Hall, PreK
Debbie Byers, PreK
Cindy Hailey, PreK
Sarah Nuckols, PAT

Special Area Teachers

Jessie Lehmann, Physical Ed.
Jennifer Pitts, Library/Reading
Intervention
Rebecca White, Music
Casey Merrifield, Physical Ed.
Pete Leonard, physical Ed.
Scott Payne, Physical Ed.
Rachel Irby, Art

Kindergarten

Sarah Goss
Shila Currier
Lani Black
Devin Donley
Amy McDowell

First Grade

Shanna McDonald
Leanna Elliott
Meghan Ritter
Rachel Akers
Ginger Gastineau

Second Grade

Kendall Gradner
Kylie Loftin
Tara Lininger
Mikaela Milla
Amy Lansdown

Third Grade

*

Sammi Neuenschwander
Cira Bray
Ginessa McFarlin
Missy Lawler

Fourth Grade

Morgan Emerich
Flint Sallee
Debbie Boeddeker
April Nash

Special Education

Kristen Lafferty- SC
Anna Gamboa- K-2
Raquel Maldonado- 3-4

Counselor

Cara Roberts
Lacie Shields (MOCH)

Nurse's Office

Wendy Brooke

Paraprofessional

Melissa Johnston
Cayla Downs
Christy Albritton
Samantha Gruchow
Jo Johnson
Becky Nelson
Katy Groth

Intervention

Carrie Stewart, K-2 Reading
Lynn Wagner, Barton
Rebecca Pitts, Reading
Christy Neighbors, Reading Coach

Custodial

Roger Pearson
Lester Platt
Barbara Sanders

Bears Den

Kristy Elliott, Program Director

Daily Schedule

7:45 a.m.	Students are dismissed from the lunchroom to go the classrooms
8:00 a.m.	Morning bell, Attendance, Tardy bell, Announcements, Instruction begins
3:30 p.m.	Instruction ends
3:30 p.m.	Parent pick-up students are dismissed from classrooms
3:38 p.m.	Kindergarten/1 st grades leave the building
3:40 p.m.	2 nd grade leaves the building
3:42 p.m.	3 rd and 4th grades leave the building
3:44 p.m.	MS releases
3:44 p.m.	HS releases
3:49 p.m.	Buses leave campus

*Students not picked up by 3:50 will be sent to Bears Den.

Ava R-ISchools 507 N. Spring Street Ava, MO 65608	
Aug 13-14	New Teacher Orientation
Aug 17-20	Professional Development Days
Aug 24	First Day of School for Students
Sep 7	Labor Day - No School
Sep 14	Monday in Session
Sep 21	Teacher PD Day
Oct 12	Teacher PD Day
Oct 16	End of 1st Qtr
Oct 19	Monday in Session/P-T Conferences
Nov 9	Monday in Session
Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 23-Jan 4	Christmas Break
Jan 4	Teacher PD Day
Jan 5	2nd Semester Begins
Feb 1	Monday in Session
Feb 8	Teacher PD Day
March 8	Monday in Session
Mar 12	End of 3rd Qtr
Mar 17-Mar 20	Spring Break
Mar 22	Monday in Session
Mar 26	Good Friday
Apr 5	Teacher PD Day
Apr 19	Monday in Session
Apr 26	Monday in Session
May 14*	Scheduled Last Day of School

Contract Days
FD Days (2 "floating")

Make Up Days:		Days per Quarter/Semester	
Parent/Teacher Conferences	12		
Student Attendance Days	11	1st Qtr	
	15	2nd Qtr	
		1st Semester	75
		3rd Qtr	
		4th Qtr	
		2nd Semester	78

Student Attendance Days Per Month

Aug 6	Jan 16
Sep 19	Feb 17
Oct 19	Mar 17
Nov 15	Apr 20
Dec 16	May 8

Parent Teacher Conferences
First & Last Day of School

Speech and Language Clinician

Students are referred to the speech and language clinician by teachers and parents for evaluation of sound usage, language skills, voice quality, and fluency of speaking. Students in need of speech and language services meet with the clinician for individual or small group classes.

Guidance Counselor

A school guidance counselor, Mrs. Cara Roberts, is available to work with students. Guidance and counseling is an integral part of our school's educational program. Mrs. Roberts will assist students in learning the skills and attitudes necessary to be successful learners. She conducts classes and hosts small groups that are designed to help students within the school environment. Parents should contact Mrs. Roberts if they feel she can be of assistance to their child.

Library Services

During the scheduled class periods the students are taught basic library skills as well as a variety of media forms. Students will work on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Mathematics) and Makerspace projects. In addition to the skills development, the students are allotted time for book check out. Individual and group research projects are also encouraged.

Art

The art program is designed to provide experiences that contribute to the expressive and visual development of every child. The children will create in various media styles. Art will be showcased each year during the Ava Elementary Art Show.

Music

The goal of the music program is to help students build a relationship with music that provides them with enjoyment, personal growth, and an enhanced quality of life. All students participate in singing, playing musical instruments, rhythm activities, and learning. There are various programs throughout the school year put on by the Music teacher. The dates of these events will be communicated with parents.

Physical Education

The physical education department provides a comprehensive sequence of activities which consists of calisthetics, rhythms, tumbling, relays, sport skills, motor skills, and games. Also, throughout the year, students will study topics concerning health, safety, and self-esteem.

Please note: Tennis shoes are required.

Parents as Teachers

The Parents as Teachers program provides information, support, and encouragement to parents during the early years of their children's life. We serve participants with home visits, developmental screenings, and service referrals. Our parent educator is Sarah Nuckols.

Ava Preschools

Our preschool programs are designed for 4 year olds. Currently, we have 4 preschool classrooms. Our three full-day programs have a capacity of 60 total students, three teachers and three aides. Our ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) is a needs based program that operates under one teacher and two aides. Our preschool programs use the ELLC curriculum to support early learning. We collaborate with Headstart to serve as many students as we can.

Our facility is not equipped to handle diapering, this includes pull-ups in our full-time preschool classrooms. Due to this, we will allow a two-week grace period when children begin school for them to adjust to a new routine and school. After this grace period, should your child have 5 accidents in one semester they will be sent home for one week to be potty trained. Potty trained means they are able to stay dry through a complete school day including rest time, they are not in a pull ups, and they are able to wipe themselves. After one week, your student will be able to come back to school. If they have three more accidents, they will be removed from the preschool program.

Bears Den

Bears Den is funded through district funds and the federal 21st CCLC grant. The cost of the program is dependent on student lunch status. Full priced students are \$3 each day, reduced price students are \$2 each day, and free lunch students are \$1 each day. Students attending both the morning and afternoon programs are only charged once per day. Due to the program receiving government funding, no child or family will be denied services. Scholarships are available for families who need financial assistance. Forms are available in the office or with the gatekeeper at check-out. Paperwork must be completed for scholarships to be granted. Bears Den does offer Day Camps when school is not in session due to teacher inservice or teacher professional development days. Bears Den does not offer Day Camps during Holiday Breaks.

Bears Den is not available when school is canceled due to inclement weather and will not be available when school releases early due to inclement weather.

The morning program runs from 6:45 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. and is held in the elementary cafeteria. Parents will drop students at the cafeteria gate and will not accompany them while at morning care.

The afternoon program runs from 3:45 until 5:45 p.m. Students are to be picked up at the Elementary Office.

The Bears Den program director is Kristy Elliott. She can be reached at 417-260-1138 from 3:30-5:45 p.m.

Special Services

The Ava R-1 School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness, and young children with a developmental delay.

All responsible agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including the children attending private schools, children who live outside the district but are attending private schools within the district, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, children who are wards of the state, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of a special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

The Ava R-1 School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the state in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The Ava R-1 School District assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures of the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Ava R-1 School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed at the Ava R-1 Special Services Office from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Melissa Dalton at 417-683-5450 for further questions.

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

Notice of Services for students who are homeless, migrant, or speak English as a second language

Missouri school districts are responsible for meeting the educational needs of an increasingly diverse student population by providing a wide range of resources and support to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed and be college prepared and career ready. Our school district has programs designed to help meet the unique educational needs of children working to learn the English language, students who are advanced learners, students with disabilities, homeless students, the children of migrant workers, and neglected or delinquent students. For more information please contact Melissa Payne at 417-683-4717 or mpayne@avabears.net.

Notice of rights Pursuant to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Ava R-1 School District has adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Ava R-1 School District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Ava R-1 School District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Ava R-1 School District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the district has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at the time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this direct notification requirement:

Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing, sales, or other distribution.

- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral and applicants for employment, and all professional organizations that have entered into agreements with the Ava R-1 School District are hereby notified that the School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. In addition, the School District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.

Any persons having inquiries concerning the School District's compliance with the laws and regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), The Age Discrimination Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) or the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act it directed to the respective Compliance coordinator listed below, who oversees the School District's efforts to comply with the laws and regulations implementing the laws and regulations cited above.

The School District has established grievance procedures for persons unable to resolve problems arising under the statutes above. The School District's Compliance Coordinator will provide information regarding those procedures upon request.

Any person who is unable to resolve a problems or grievance arising under any of the laws and regulations cited above may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114; telephone (816) 268-0550.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, children who live outside the district but are attending a private school within the district, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, children who are wards of the state and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The public school district assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with a developmental delay.

The public school district assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The public school district assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The public school district has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the Implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed during regular school hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) on days school is in session, in the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

The member districts of the Tri-Lakes Special Services Cooperative: Ava R-1, Billings R-IV, Bradleyville R-I, Forsyth R-III, Kirbyville R-VI, Lutie R-VI, Mark Twain R-VIII, Taneyville R-II, Plainview R-VIII, Hurley R-I, Chadwick R-I, Sparta R-III, Spokane R-VII, Shell Knob #78, Exeter R-VI, Niangua R-V, Thornfield R-I, and Clever R-V do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Lorri Osbourn, Director, Tri-Lakes Special Services Cooperative, PO Box 140 Kirbyville, MO 65679; 417-320-5040. For further information on notice of non-discrimination visit <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/nondisc.html> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area or call 1-800-421-3481.

504 PUBLIC NOTICE

The Districts of the Tri-Lakes Special Services Cooperative (listed below), as recipients of federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Education and operator of a public elementary or secondary education program and/or activity, is required to undertake to identify and locate every qualified person residing in the District who is not receiving a public education; and take appropriate steps to notify disabled persons and their parents or guardians of the District's duty.

The Tri-Lakes Special Services Cooperative member districts assures that it will provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each qualified disabled person in the District's jurisdiction regardless of the nature or severity of the person's disability. For purposes of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the provision of an appropriate education is the provision of regular or special and related aids and services that (i) are designed to meet individual education needs of disabled persons as adequately as the needs of nondisabled persons are met and (ii) are based on adherence to procedures that satisfy the requirements of the 504 federal regulations.

The Tri-Lakes Special Services Cooperative member district has developed a 504 Procedures Manual for the implementation of federal regulations for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Subpart D. This Procedures Manual may be reviewed at the Tri-Lakes Special Service Cooperative Administrative Office, 2404 State Hwy 248, Suite 4 Branson, MO from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on days that school is in session.

Published on behalf of Ava R-1, Billings R-VI, Bradleyville R-I, Forsyth R-III, Kirbyville R-VI, Mark Twain R-VIII, Taneyville R-II, Plainview R-VIII, Hurley R-I, Chadwick R-I, Sparta R-III, Spokane R-VII, Shell Knob #78, Exeter R-VI, Thornfield R-I, Niangua R-V, Lutie R-VI, and Clever R-V.

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

SURROGATE PARENT PROGRAM

Pursuant to the requirements of state law, the State Board of Education is required to appoint a surrogate parent at such time as it becomes evident that a child with a disability does not have a parent or a person acting as a parent to participate in matters dealing with the provision of special education. For purposes of surrogate parent appointment, "parent" is defined as a biological parent, a guardian, or a person acting as a parent of a child including but not limited to, a grandparent, a step parent, or a foster parent with whom the child lives. The term does not include the State if the child is a ward of the State. The term does not include a person whose parental rights have been terminated.

The local school district is given the responsibility to determine when a child with a disability who requires special education and who resides in the district is without a parent. The district must notify the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the need to appoint a surrogate parent. Training for persons serving as surrogate parents will be provided by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the District.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve as a surrogate parent more information can be obtained from the district's Director of Special Services at 417-320-5040.

Published on behalf of Ava R-1, Billings R-VI, Bradleyville R-I, Forsyth R-III, Kirbyville R-VI, Mark Twain R-VIII, Niangua R-V, Taneyville R-II, Plainview R-VIII, Hurley R-I, Chadwick R-I, Sparta R-III, Spokane R-VII, Shell Knob #78, Exeter R-VI, Thornfield R-I, Clever R-V, and Lutie R-VI.

Health Services

The Health Office is open to students that have turned in their Health Update form for the current year. Nurses will NOT give acetaminophen or antacids without the Health Update form on file. Emergency treatment will be given to students who have not turned in their form. Guardians should update this form as a student's health conditions warrant by calling the school nurse at 417-683-0421.

In compliance with the immunization laws set forth by the State of Missouri, all students must have their immunization records up-to-date and on file prior to the first day of school. Students with a medical or religious exemption from immunizations must have a signed form on file. These forms can be obtained from the school nurse.

All prescription medications must be brought in to the nurse's office by a parent. All over the counter medications must include a note from the parent that states the time for administration and reason for the medication to be given. Cough drops should be brought in by the student if they are needed. They will be treated as any other over the counter medication.

Students requiring a special diet due to chronic illness or a food allergy should contact the school nurse as soon as possible. Special diets must be documented by a physician and the physician's note should be on file in the nurse's office.

Students will be sent home for having a temperature of 100 degrees or greater. Due to school policy, students with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater are required to stay home the next day. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without the use acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc. This policy discourages the spread of the flu and flu-like illnesses.

Students will be sent home for communicable diseases such as/but not limited to: pink eye (bacterial conjunctivitis), impetigo and head lice. Students with head lice must be re-examined by the school nurse before returning to class the next day.

The school nurse provides vision, hearing, dental and growth/development screenings each year.

Please keep all home phone numbers, cell numbers and emergency contact numbers up to date and on file throughout the year so that we may help insure the safety of your child. You can reach the school nurse at 683-0421 or by email wbrooke@avabears.net.

Emergency Medication

All student-occupied buildings in this district are equipped with prefilled epinephrine auto syringes that can be administered by the school nurse or other school employee trained and supervised by the nurse when the nurse or trained employee believes, based on his or her training, that a student is having a life threatening anaphylactic reaction. In accordance with the law, qualified employees will be held harmless and immune from civil liability for administering epinephrine in good faith and according to standard medical practice.

Epinephrine will only be administered in accordance with written protocols provided by an authorized prescriber. The Board will purchase an adequate number of prefilled epinephrine auto syringes based on the recommendation of the school nurse, who will be responsible for maintaining an adequate supply. The school principal will maintain a list of students who cannot, according to their parents/guardians, receive epinephrine. A current copy will be kept with the devices at all times.

Info on MO HealthNet for Kids

DOES YOUR CHILD NEED HEALTHCARE COVERAGE?

MO HealthNet for Kids may be the answer.

MO HealthNet for Kids provides healthcare coverage for children under age 19 whose family income falls within certain guidelines. (See back for income guidelines.)

Who Is Eligible?

A child:

- who is under age 19;
- who applies for a social security number;
- who lives in Missouri and intends to remain;
- who is a United States citizen or an eligible qualified non-citizen (NOTE: receipt of MO HealthNet benefits does NOT subject qualified non-citizens to public charge consideration), and
- who is countable family income meets the income guidelines.

NOTE: The parent/caretaker must cooperate with Child Support Enforcement (CSE) in the pursuit of medical support.

TYPES OF COVERAGE AVAILABLE:

MO HealthNet for Kids Non-SCHIP

- 196% FPL for children under age 1
- 148% FPL for ages 1-18

MO HealthNet for Kids (SCHIP) Non-Premium

- family gross income over 148% FPL up to 150% FPL;
- must be uninsured

MO HealthNet for Kids (SCHIP) Non-Premium

- family gross income over 148% FPL up to 150% FPL;
- must be uninsured

MO HealthNet for Kids (SCHIP) Premium

- family gross income over 150% FPL up to 300% FPL;
- they are uninsured for 6 months; effective: 7/1/14 uninsured for 3 months;
- children in families with gross income over 150% FPL without access to affordable health insurance (from \$74 to \$185 per month, based on family size and income) and the family must pay a monthly premium. Premium amounts change in July of each year. The premium is based on family size and income to insure that no family pays more than 5% of their income for coverage.

Apply on line at www.mydss.mo.gov by choosing the "Apply for Health Benefits" option or request an application from 1-855-FSD-INFO.

Wellness Policy

The Ava R-I School District has adopted a state recommended Wellness Policy and can be found in the central administration office or our district website, www.avabears.net. The following guidelines have been suggested and will be followed.

Classroom Snacks: If classroom snacks are allowed, the foods must be on the approved healthy snack list. See List below.

Approved Snacks: raisins, popcorn, bagels, cereal bars, fresh fruit, pudding, beef jerky, whole grain cereals low in sugar, canned fruit (natural or light syrup), pretzels, nuts, graham crackers, trail mix, cheese cubes, string cheese, whole wheat crackers, roasted soy nuts, granola bars, baked chips, rice crispy treats, lean deli meats, dried fruit, rice cakes, animal crackers, jello cups, precut raw veggies, applesauce

Beverages: no calorie water, skim or low fat milk, 100% fruit juice, sports drinks that contain less than 35% sugar or 50% real fruit juice, low calorie or diet sodas

Physical Activity: Students will walk or run laps prior to free play during recess time. Teachers will schedule brief periods of time throughout the day for students to stretch and move their bodies to enhance thinking ability.

Water: Students will be allowed to take water into the classroom, provided that the water is in a clear, non-breakable, capped container, such as a water bottle to prevent spills.

Food: All foods and beverages the district provides or makes available to students during the school day will meet or exceed the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. This includes, but is not limited to, foods and beverages provided or made available to students for celebrations, classroom parties and birthdays, regardless of the source of the food. The district will provide parents/guardians and district employees a list of foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards and a list of healthy party ideas, including nonfood celebration ideas. Foods and beverages should not be used as a reward or withheld as punishment.

Virtual Courses

Virtual courses are available through LAUNCH and Missouri Course Access/Virtual School Program (MOCAP). Information regarding virtual courses can be found on our school website www.avabears.net.

Building Regulations

1. Entrance doors will be unlocked from 7:45 AM- 8:00AM. The main office door is equipped with a buzz in security system for visitors during school hours. All doors remain locked throughout the school day and after school.
2. Students going to the Before School Care Program will use the lunchroom entrance on East Broadway. (See Before and After School care Program for more details)
3. All students arriving before 7:45am will go to the Cafeteria for Bears Den Morning Care held in the cafeteria.
4. Students will be dismissed from the lunchroom at 7:45 AM to go to their classrooms.
5. The morning bell will be at 8:00 AM. Announcements are to be played in classrooms and instruction begins immediately with the school day ending at 3:40 PM.
6. Parents should call the school **before 2:00 p.m.** if a change in transportation is needed for their child. **Changes will not be made after 2:30 p.m.**
7. All visitors are to report to the office upon entering the building for security reasons. All visitors are required to sign-in at the office and wear a visitor's badge.
8. Students will follow the BEAR Code (See Expectation Matrix).

Change of Information

When there is a change in the information listed on your child's enrollment form, please send this information to the school office. Report any change of address, place of employment, telephone number, doctor, or dentist. If the telephone number is unlisted we still need it for emergency situations. In an emergency situation, the wrong phone number means a delay in informing you of a situation requiring your immediate attention. For your child's sake, always keep the school informed of changes in home or work phone numbers. You can also make changes to your Parent Portal through Infinite Campus.

Child Custody

In most cases, when parents are divorced, both the mother and the father continue to have equal rights where their children are concerned. If there is a court order that limits the rights of one of the parents, like custody or visitation or education rights, the office MUST have a copy of this court order. If we do not have a court order we assume both parents have equal rights to pick up children at school, equal rights to educational records and all other contact situations.

Students Not Riding A Bus

Only buses and vehicles with parking permits will be allowed on East Main Avenue (the street in front of the elementary school) between the hours of 7:30-8:30 and 2:45 – 3:30. Vehicles without permits will be given tickets from the police department.

Morning Drop-Off

Students who do not ride a bus will enter the building on the north side of the building on Broadway Avenue. Students arriving before 7:45 a.m. will go to the lunchroom entrance on Broadway. Students arriving after 7:45 a.m. may use the upper classroom doors on Broadway. Students need to be dropped off on the school side of the street. Parents should NOT park on the residential side of the street and walk students across.

Parents may not walk their children to class. Normal visitor procedures must be followed.

Afternoon Parent Pick up

Students who do not ride the bus will be picked up by their parents on Broadway Avenue. A staff member will walk the students to the car that is picking them up. Please remain in your car so the flow of traffic will move smoothly. Please do not walk to the gate or come into the building to pick up your child. Students not picked up by 3:50 will be sent to Bears Den.

Notes From Home

Parents are asked to either send a note of explanation or notify the school if their child is to go anywhere other than their normal destination at the end of the school day. Otherwise, the child will be put on the bus, sent to parent pick up or Bears Den as usual. We ask that any changes be done by 2:30 PM so that we can get the notes to the teachers in a timely manner.

Daily Schedule

7:45 a.m.	Students are dismissed from the lunchroom to go the classrooms
8:00 a.m.	Morning bell, Attendance, Tardy bell, Announcements, Instruction begins
3:30 p.m.	Instruction ends
3:30 p.m.	Parent pick-up students are dismissed from classrooms
3:38 p.m.	Kindergarten/1 st grades leave the building
3:40 p.m.	2 nd grade leaves the building
3:42 p.m.	3 rd and 4th grades leave the building
3:44 p.m.	MS releases
3:44 p.m.	HS releases
3:49 p.m.	Buses leave campus

*Students not picked up by 3:50 will be sent to Bears Den.

Attendance

The staff and administration of the Ava Elementary School believe regular attendance in school is of extreme importance. Therefore, the Ava Board of Education has adopted the following policy for the Ava Elementary School students.

1. Upon a student's absence, the district will use an automated phone call to notify parents of an absence.
2. Ten (10) days absence each semester will be the maximum allowed for normal circumstances. Students **MUST** have either a note or phone call from a parent or guardian after each absence.
3. After the fifth and tenth absence, a formal letter indicating the number of days missed will be completed and mailed to the home. Upon returning to school after the tenth absence, the student must bring a doctor's note to verify the absence. Unusual or extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

All absences, including those approved in advance by parents or school officials, will count against the student's total days absent, except those for school sponsored activities. The school encourages doctor and dental appointments after school hours whenever possible to reduce the number of classes missed for medical reasons.

Our district policy when there are attendance concerns is as follows: The district will contact the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services or the truancy court in cases where the district has a reasonable suspicion that a student's lack of attendance constitutes educational neglect on the part of the parents/guardians or that parents/guardians are in violation of the compulsory attendance law.

Parents are asked to send a note of explanation, or notify the school by phone and send a doctor's appointment slip when their child is absent from school. The explanation is recorded along with the absentee of the student.

Extra Curricular Activities/Attendance

Students must be present at least four periods within the school day to attend any extra-curricular activities that evening or weekend. **Students who owe \$50 or more in fines or fees will not be allowed to go on school-sponsored trips unless the student has a payment plan in place of at least 10% of the total owed.**

Truant

Students who have ten unverified absences are identified truant to the Missouri Department of Education.

Pre-Arranged Vacations

Pre-arranged vacations need to be approved through the office at least one week prior to the planned vacation. Request forms may be picked up in the principal's office. Forms must be completed by the parents and signed by the principal at least one week before the trip.

Reporting Pupil Progress

All Students will receive four computer generated progress reports. Grades will be posted on Parent Portal for third and fourth grades. Parents may view Parent Portal at any time after signing up for a password.

Standards Based Grading Scale K-4

- 4- Advanced (Exceeding Standards)
- 3- Proficient (Meeting Standards)
- 2- Basic (Working Toward Meeting Standards)
- 1- Below Basic (Not Meeting Standards)

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parents will have an individual conference with the teacher at the end of the first quarter. An appointment time will be scheduled for each child. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend these conferences.

Parents are urged to consult with the teacher of their children and should feel free to do so at any time throughout the school year. These contacts and consultations should be made outside the regular classroom hours or during teacher planning time.

Please call for an appointment.

Make-up Work

When a student is absent, parents should call the office at 683-5450 before 9:30 a.m. to explain the reason and to request homework. Missed homework assignments may be picked up in the office after school. Two days are allowed for each day a student misses to make up missed assignments.

Testing and Assessments

The district will use assessments as one indication of the success and quality of the district's education program. Following are the standardized tests administered to all students in the Ava Elementary Schools, and the purpose of administering each.

- Students entering kindergarten will be screened using the state provided Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). This tool measures being able to write their name, number recognition, counting objects, writing numbers, letter recognition, cutting, pencil grip, and more.
- Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)-Given to students in grades 3 and 4. This is a criterion referenced test required by the State of Missouri/tests student mastery on key skills identified by the state and helps to identify curricular strengths and weaknesses.

Testing and Assessments Cont.

- STARR – Given to students in K-3 grade. This is a criterion referenced test that monitors student progress through brief, direct, and continuous assessment of basic skills needed to read proficiently.
- Evaluate- A monthly benchmark assessment given to students to measure mastery of Missouri Learning Standards.
- Target tests- Given to students in grades 3-4. This district made assessment monitors student progress of basic skills needed to be proficient and is used to guide our curriculum in the classroom for preparation for the state required tests.
- Placement tests – Students new to the district without school records may be given a placement test prior to being placed in a classroom.
- Informal speech and language screenings

State Mandated Reading Assessment

Reading Assessment: MAP, STARR, Evaluate

Reading Improvement Plan: A minimum of 30 hours of additional reading instruction or practice outside of the regular school day.

Summer School: A minimum of 40 hours of reading instruction and practice.

The following students are exempt from the state-mandated reading assessment program: Students receiving special education services under an Individualized Education Program (IEP); Students receiving services pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 whose service plan includes an element addressing reading; Students who have limited English proficiency; Students who have been determined prior to the beginning of the school year to have a cognitive ability insufficient to meet the required reading levels set out in this section. The district must still provide reading improvement plans to these students.

Reading Assessment: STARR

All students grades K-3 complete an assessment to determine reading proficiency. Students that fall below the given indicators will receive a Reading Success Plan. This plan should provide parents with information regarding deficits, current interventions, and resources available to encourage growth in reading.

Dyslexia Screening

Ava Elementary, shall conduct dyslexia screenings for students in the appropriate year consistent with the findings and recommendations of the task force created under section 633.420. "Dyslexia screening" is a short test conducted by a teacher or school counselor to determine whether a student likely has dyslexia or a related disorder in which a positive result does not represent a medical diagnosis but indicates that the student could benefit from approved support.

Dyslexia Screening Cont.

Purpose of Universal Screening Data from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) indicate that brain plasticity decreases over time, therefore early intervention is essential to close the gap between struggling readers and their “normally developing” peers (Stanovich, 1986).

- Identify students who are at risk for dyslexia or reading failure
- Form small groups for instruction and intervention
- Plan instruction and intervention
- Set individual goals for student achievement
- Set exit criteria for intervention window

Who should be screened?

- each student kindergarten through grade 4 each year.
 - o Grades 1-4 should be screened within the first 30 days of the school year, with follow up at the middle and end of the year for systematic documentation of progress or lack of progress.
 - o Kindergarten initial screening should occur no later than January 31st and also at the end of the year for systematic documentation and progress monitoring.
- any student K-4 who transfers from a school within the state that has not previously been screened.
- any student K-4 who transfers from another state and cannot present documentation that the student has a previous screening.
- Exemptions
 - o Existing diagnosis of dyslexia
 - o Students with a sensory impairment (visual/auditory)
 - o Severe intellectual disabilities
 - o English Learner's where tools or staffing related to administration and/or interpretation in native language is unavailable

Retention and Promotion of Students

Promotion and retention is based on an evaluation of academic, physical, social and emotional growth. The primary reasons for considering retention are: a) frequent or long absences, b) physical or social immaturity, and c) indifference or lack of effort on the part of a capable student. Near the end of the school year, each child is considered individually for promotion to the next grade. The decision to retain a student is made only when the educational staff believes that retention is in the best educational interest of the child. No student is retained for disciplinary reasons and it should never be seen as a punishment. State laws, specifically HB 319, regarding reading level will be enforced when retention decisions are made. Parents will be a part of the decision making process, however, board policy places the final decision on retention with the principal.

Classroom Assignment

The principal has the authority and responsibility for assigning students to classes. This is an educational decision that takes many factors into account. Concerns about placement should be in writing to the principal **before May 1** each year. Concerns will be taken into consideration, but requests are not guaranteed and **placement is ultimately decided by the principal.**

Media Release

Student's names, picture, and or work may be released to the media or used on the school web page. This applies to any existing or future media sources local or worldwide. If you wish for your child not to be included, **please indicate this on your online enrollment and notify the office.**

Selling Items at School

Students should not sell anything during school hours.

School Pictures

Individual school pictures will be taken each year. School pictures will be taken of those students who desire pictures on the pre-pay plan. All students will have their picture taken for school records.

School Visitation

Class visitations will occur following the district protocol.

If you need to talk with your child's teacher, the teacher will be happy to schedule a conference during planning time, or before or after school. Teachers cannot visit with parents while classes are in session.

School Parties

Classrooms will celebrate by having a party during the following times of the year: Fall Harvest Party and Valentine's Day.

We would like to remind parents, due to a safety concern on the buses, **Elementary students who receive balloons or flowers on Valentine's Day will need to be picked up in parent-pickup and not ride the bus home.**

Refreshments and snacks for parties will need to follow the district's Wellness Policy, which can be found on the district website, avabears.net.

Unauthorized Items Brought to School

Students are not to bring any items to school that could cause a disturbance. Items such as iPads, hand-held games, trading cards, etc., are not to be in school unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher or bus driver and permission has been given to the student.

No pets or animals are to be brought to school without written permission of the child's teacher.

Watches that cause a disturbance with music or sounds will not be allowed in the classroom. This includes "phone watches." No toys are to be brought to school unless the teacher so requests.

Students are responsible for the items they bring to school. It is very difficult to hold other students financially responsible for damaged or destroyed items. All items brought to school are done so at the owner's liability.

Any item, causing a disturbance and is taken from the student by the school staff will be held until the end of the day. If the incident reoccurs, then the item will be held until a parent comes for it.

CellPhone Policy

Cell phones are allowed before school and after school. Cell phones are NOT allowed between classes, during meal times, or during class time; unless for authorized educational or medical purposes.

On each offense, the cell phone will be confiscated, and after the first offense, a parent must come to the office to retrieve the cell phone /device.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

1. The first offense will result in parent phone call.
2. The second offense will result in 1 detention, parent will retrieve device from the office.
3. The third offense and every subsequent offense will result in 1 day of ISS.

Weather Emergencies

In case of bad weather or when buses cannot reach the student's home because of high water or bad roads, **parents should make necessary arrangements for their children**. Alternate plans made by parents should be explained to the children in advance and not called into the elementary office at the last moment.

The Ava R-I School District utilizes an automated phone calling system. The system will be used for special announcements and information such as school closings. The system will call the telephone numbers each student has as their primary number. Radio and television stations will be used to announce emergency closings. When no announcements are made, school will be in session.

Bears Den at the elementary school will not be available on early weather dismissal days or for any days that the school is closed for inclement weather.

For weather emergency policies, please see the school safety plan at:
[Earthquake Safety Plan](#)

Use of School Phone

Use of school telephones by pupils shall be restricted to necessary and emergency calls. Permission to make the call should be obtained before placing it. Pupil calls should not be made during class period. Telephone calls seeking permission to accompany friends shall be considered unnecessary. Also, students are not called from class to answer a call unless it is an emergency. It is not school policy for staff members to be called from class to answer the telephone except in cases of an emergency.

Use of School Devices

When students log on to school owned devices, they are to do so using only school provided accounts. For example, when logging on to a chromebook, students are to use the district provided Google login, not a personal Google account.

Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

Parents and students in grades Kindergarten through fourth will be required to complete the district's internet acceptable use agreement each year during online registration. Students without a completed agreement will not be allowed to work on the internet.

Release of Children From School

To ensure the safety of each child, individuals must report to the office before children may be released from school. Students will not be released to individuals not on the emergency contact list from parent portal. Parents who do not wish a person or persons to be allowed to take their children from school shall inform the principal of the circumstances in writing and provide proper legal documents.

Dress Code

In determining acceptable dress and appearance, the following guidelines shall be followed:

1. Dress and appearance shall not in any way cause a distraction or be disruptive to the education process.
2. Dress and appearance shall be consistent with what is generally accepted by the community as being in good taste.
3. Students will not be allowed to wear halter-tops, tube tops, shirt cut offs, mid-drifts, spaghetti straps, or oversized tank tops. Clothing with questionable writing or that advertises alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will not be allowed.
4. Students will be allowed to wear appropriate shorts. Shorts should be finger-tip length. Biker shorts and short shorts will not be allowed.
5. Students will go outside for recess unless it's below 32 degrees. If a child is not dressed in a suitable manner for the weather and playground, students may have to spend recess in the office. If students are in need of warmer clothing, shoes, etc. please let the office know and we can help.

New Students

Students enrolling in the elementary will be allowed to begin one day after the enrollment process if all necessary information is received by the office.

The Ava Schools reserve the right to test/evaluate the placement of any student coming from a non-accredited school. This also applies to home schooled students.

Cafeteria Accounts

CAFETERIA ACCOUNTS FOR STUDENTS It seems to work best for most families to pay weekly or bi-weekly. Please keep a positive balance in your child's account. You can track your children's meal account balances and purchases through Parent Portal. Parent Portal information is available through the Ava R-I School website. www.avabears.net

Free/Reduced meal applications are available the entire school year. They will be processed as soon as possible and each family will be notified of their child's meal status. If you have any questions please email nhoneycutt@avabears.net or call 417-683-4717.

Students who owe \$50 or more in fines or fees will not be allowed to go on school-sponsored trips or attend dances unless the student is competing in an activity or has a payment plan in place of at least 10% of the total owed.

Transportation and Buses

Ava R-I Schools currently operates 18 buses over more than 383 square miles. All of the district's buses have the name of the district on the sides and are numbered. No parents or siblings may ride buses.

Student misconduct on a bus is a major safety hazard to all riders. Riding a bus to and from school is considered a privilege rather than a right. It is a privilege that can be denied in the case of misbehavior. The bus driver has the same authority over the students on the bus as the teacher has in the classroom. Reports of misconduct on the bus are made to the principal who will take disciplinary action. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the superintendent.

BUS RULES: Actions that would necessitate the writing of a bus incident report (red card).

1. Excessive noise and disruption, including lack of courtesy and respect.
2. Fighting or scuffling on the bus or at the bus stop.
3. Deliberate delay of loading or unloading the bus.
4. Deliberate defiance or refusal to cooperate with the bus driver.
5. Obscene and unacceptable language, gestures, remarks, signs, or indecent exposure.
6. Throwing items of any kind inside the bus, at the bus, or out of the bus window.
7. Smoking or lighting matches.
8. Destruction of property.
9. Extending hand, arms or any portion of the body out of the bus window.
10. Tampering with equipment including deliberate vandalism.
11. Refusal to stay seated.
12. Interference with the normal operation of the bus, which results in jeopardizing the driver or student's safety.
13. Violation of any other rule of student conduct, which governs student behavior in the Ava School System.
14. Illegal use or possession of a controlled substance.
15. Other conduct prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and safety.

Transportation and Buses Cont.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE of TRANSPORTATION AND BUS RULES

- 1ST Notice: Notice sent to parents, signed and returned to driver.
- 2nd Notice: Notice sent to parents, signed and returned to driver.
- 3rd Notice: Two-day suspension from riding school bus.
- 4th Notice: Three to Ten day suspension from riding school bus.

Severe or Continuous Misbehavior: Suspension from riding the school bus for the rest of the school year.

Destruction of Property: Financial restitution. Any behavior, which violates state statutes or city ordinances, will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Lunch

Each student has 30 minutes for lunch. Your child may bring his/her lunch from home, and milk may be purchased to drink with lunch. If your child brings his/her own drink from home, please make sure it is not in a glass container (for safety). School board policy states that **carbonated soft drinks in bottles or cans are not to be brought in lunches.**

Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Applications are online. A paper copy can be requested by calling the office. Parents who wish to apply for their children should fill out the application online or return the paper copy to the school. Notification of acceptance or denial will be sent home with students.

Lunch money may be paid daily or weekly. If paid weekly, money for the week should be brought on Mondays. Students will not be allowed to buy additional food items. Students in grades 2-4 may buy additional milk for \$.40. The charge limit is \$20.

Students who owe \$50 or more in fines or fees will not be allowed to go on school-sponsored trips or attend dances unless the student is competing in an activity or has a payment plan in place of at least 10% of the total owed.

PRICES:

<u>Reduced</u>	<u>Full</u>	<u>Adult</u>
Breakfast Free	Brkfst Free	Brkfst \$2.45
Lunch \$.40	Lunch \$2.45	Lunch \$3.45
*Extra Milk or Juice \$.40		

FOOD ALLERGIES: Special diets must be documented by a physician and the physician's note should be on file in the nurse's office.

LUNCH SCHEDULE:

- Kindergarten 10:50 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.
- First Grade 11:15 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.
- Second Grade 11:35 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
- Third Grade 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Fourth Grade 12:21 p.m. – 12:51 p.m.

Breakfast is served in classrooms beginning at 7:45 a.m.

Lunch Cont.

CAFETERIA RULES:

1. **Food:** Food is exchanged only with permission. Do not throw food. Students must clean up any mess before leaving the cafeteria.
2. **Pop:** No pop is allowed in the cafeteria.
3. **Seats:** Seats may only be saved for adults. No seats should be skipped. No one is allowed out of his/her seat without permission.
4. **Movement:** Running, skipping, or jumping tiles in the cafeteria at lunchtime can cause accidents.

Before School Care: At breakfast, backpacks and coats are stacked orderly in the back of the lunchroom.

Playground

Students will have 30 minutes each day for recess. If the weather doesn't allow for safe playing conditions outside, indoor recess will take place in classrooms. Students will play outside unless the temperature drops below 32 degrees. Be mindful of this when you dress your child for school. If a student is not dressed properly, they may spend their recess time in the office. If appropriate clothing is needed, please contact the office so we can help.

1. It is recommended that students **WEAR A PAIR OF TENNIS SHOES DURING RECESS.**

Flip flops and sandals are not recommended for safety issues.

2. Students will walk or run laps prior to recess to increase their physical fitness minutes per day according to the Wellness Policy.

3. Tripping, shoving, and fighting are not allowed.

4. All children should line up before entering the building.

5. Students should report a lost ball to a supervising adult.

6. The school will provide all playground equipment. Equipment brought from home will only be allowed with teacher discretion.

7. Students will follow the BEAR Code.

When the whistle blows:

1. Freeze and look at the teachers for instructions.
2. Turn off your voices.
3. Pick up balls and equipment and keep them in your hands.

Discipline

Discipline is viewed from a positive perspective at Ava Elementary. We want our students to learn from mistakes and make positive changes in behavior so they can be successful in the school environment. We have high expectations for our students and focus on positive behaviors exhibited by them. Our building creates classroom procedures and policies and within those, each plan includes a provision to visit the principal's office when there are repeated behavior problems or a major infraction. Generally, parents are notified when a student is sent to the principal's office. Below is a brief list of offenses and definitions.

Alcohol: Student is in possession of or is using alcohol.

Disrespect: Student engages in refusal to follow directions, talks back and/or delivers socially rude interactions.

Disruption: Student engages in behavior causing an interruption in a class or activity. Disruption includes sustained loud talk, yelling, or screaming; noise with materials; horseplay or roughhousing; and/or sustained out-of-seat behavior.

Forgery/Theft: Student is in possession of, has distributed, or is responsible for removing someone else's property, or has signed a person's name without that person's permission.

Harassment/Bullying: Student delivers disrespectful messages* (verbal or gestural) to another person that includes threats and intimidation, obscene gestures, pictures, or written notes.

Inappropriate Language: Student delivers verbal messages that include swearing, name calling or use of words in an inappropriate way.

Lying: Student delivers a message that is untrue and/or deliberately violates rules.

Physical Aggression: Student engages in actions involving serious physical contact where injury may occur (e.g., hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.).

Fighting: Two people striking, pushing, and shoving, with the intent to harm each other. If injury occurs, the behavior could be considered assault. Law enforcement officials may be notified, depending on the circumstances. In most cases, two students who fight are both equally at fault and will be given the same punishment. However, if it is determined the student was acting in self-defense, that the student would not be punished.

Possession/Use of Tobacco: Student is in possession of or is using tobacco.

Possession/Use of Weapons: Student is in possession of knives or guns (real or look alike), or other objects readily capable of causing bodily harm.

Property Damage: Student participates in an activity that results in destruction or disfigurement of property.

Technology Violation: Student engages in inappropriate (as defined by school) use of cell phone, pager, music/video players, camera, and/or computer.

Discipline

Consequences/Actions

Any of the above infractions can or may have the following consequences:

1. Incident Report
2. Student Contract
3. Behavior Plan
4. Loss of Privileges or Restitution
5. In School Suspension
6. Out of School Suspension

Bullying

Bullying is defined as intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property; substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft, or damaging property; oral or written taunts, including name-calling, put-downs, extortion, or threats; or threats of retaliation for reporting such acts. Bullying may also include cyberbullying, cyberthreats, or any threat of retaliation for reporting. Cyberbullying is bullying through the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager. Cyberthreats are online materials that threaten or raise concerns about violence against others, suicide or self-harm. Administrative discretion may be used to determine actions taken based on severity of the offense.

A Bullying Incident Report Form will be available to students, district employees, and parents at the office and counselor's office. District employees are required to report any instance of bullying of which the employee has firsthand knowledge. Any district employee who witnesses an incident of bullying must report the incident to the principal.

Students who reprise or retaliate against any person reporting an act of bullying or a complainant that falsely accuses someone will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students are encouraged to report any type of unsafe behavior or threats of unsafe behavior (harm to others or self-harm of others) to school personnel or parents.

Character Words

August: Responsible- to be dependable and make good choices.

September: Citizenship- be a good neighbor by serving others and following school/community rules.

October: Respect- treat others the way you want to be treated.

November: Courage- being willing to do the right thing even though it may be hard or difficult. Not always following the crowd.

December: Caring and Compassion- to feel and show concern for others.

January: Trustworthy- other people can count on you to do the right thing.

February: Patience – ability to wait without complaining or getting upset.

March: Sportsmanship - play fair. The ability to win or lose graciously.

April: Hardworking - to keep at it and get your everyday tasks done.

May: Self-Control- ability to do the right thing regardless of the situation.

Parents Right to Know: Regarding Highly Qualified Teachers

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our district is required to inform you of information that you, according to the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-95), have the right to know.

Upon your request, our district is required to provide to you in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether your student's teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
 - Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. In addition to the information that parents may request, a building receiving Title I.A funds must provide to each individual parent:
 - Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of your student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under Title I.A.
 - Timely notice that your student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who has not met applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

Parents of students who participated in MAP or EOC testing at our school last year will receive a score report and a letter explaining the report.

Please contact central office at 417-683-4717 with any questions you may have.

Gun Free Schools Act

The Gun-Free Schools Act, enacted in March 1994 as part of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act and amended into the recently authorized Improving America's Schools Act (IASA), which amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), requires that, a local school district must have in effect the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of any student who brings a firearm to school, except that the district's chief administering officer may modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. This shall be the policy of the Ava Elementary School.

COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR
Melissa Payne, Assistant Superintendent,
PO Box 338, Ava, Missouri 65608;
(417) 683-4717

Electronic Communication: Staff/Student

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

The district's policies, regulations, procedures, and expectations regarding in-person communications at school and during the school day also apply to electronic communications for educational purposes, regardless of when those communications occur. Staff communications must be professional, and student communications must be appropriate. Staff members may only communicate with students electronically for educational purposes between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Staff members may use electronic communication with students only as frequently as necessary to accomplish the educational purpose.

School-Student-Parent Contract

Ava Elementary School, and the parents of students participating in Title I.A activities, services, and programs, agree that this compact outlines how the entire school staff, the parents, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

School Responsibilities:

Ava Elementary School and its staff will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating children to meet the Show- Me Standards as follows –
 1. Retain highly qualified principals and teachers,
 2. Provide instruction, materials, and high quality professional development which incorporates the latest research, and
 3. Maintain a safe and positive school climate.
- Hold bi-annual parent-teacher conferences to –
 1. Discuss the child's progress/grades during the first and third quarter,
 2. Discuss this compact as it relates to the child's achievement, and
 3. Examine the child's achievement and any pending options at the end of the third quarter.
- Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress as follows –
 1. Monthly suggestions from the classroom teacher,
 2. Mid-quarter report sent from the school, and
 3. Quarterly grade cards/reports sent home by the school.
- Be accessible to parents through –
 1. Phone calls or person-to-person meetings,
 2. Scheduled conferences before, during, or after school, and
 3. Scheduled school or home visits.
- Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities as follows –
 1. Listen to children read,
 2. Help with classroom decorations, art projects, etc.,
 3. Present a program on your culture, or career and
 4. Assist with holiday programs or parties, educational trips, etc

School-Student-Parent Contract Cont.

Parent Responsibilities

I, as a parent, will support my child's learning in the following ways:

1. Make sure they are in school every day possible.
2. Check that homework is completed.
3. Monitor the amount of television watched.
4. Volunteer in my child's classroom/school.
5. Be aware of my child's extracurricular time and activities.
6. Stay informed about my child's education by reading all communications from the school and responding appropriately.

Student Responsibilities:

I, as a student, will share the responsibility to improve my academic performance to meet the Show-Me Standards and will:

1. Attend school every day possible,
2. Be respectful toward others,
3. Keep myself and others safe,
4. Be an active learner,
5. Do my homework every day and ask for help when I need it,
6. Read every day outside of school time, and
7. Give all notes and information from my school to my parent/guardian daily.

Ava R-1 Schools Parent Involvement Contract

The Ava R-I School District believes that engaging parents/families in the education process is essential to improved academic success for students. The District recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the district, parents, families and other members of the community during the entire time a student attends school. The District believes that an environment must be created that is conducive to learning and that strong, comprehensive parent/family involvement is an important component.

The district plan to facilitate parent/family involvement includes the following six goals:

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

Ava R-1 Schools Parent Involvement Contract Cont.

The district's plan for meeting these goals include the following:

- Hold meetings annually that involve parents in the process of reviewing the development and implementation of the Title I program plan, Parent Involvement Policy, and School Parent Compact.
- Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
- Coordinate and integrate Title I parental involvement strategies with those of other educational programs.
- Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an evaluation of the effectiveness of parent involvement activities. This will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.

STANDARD COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE FOR IMPROVING AMERICA SCHOOLS ACT PROGRAM

This complaint resolution procedure applies to all programs administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the Goals 2000: Educate America Act and Improving America’s Schools Act (IASA).

A complaint is a formal allegation that a specific federal or state law or regulation has been violated, misapplies, or misinterpreted by school district personnel or by Department of Education personnel.

Any parent or guardian, surrogate parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, or other person directly involved with an activity, program, or project operated under the general supervision of the Department may file a complaint. Such a complaint must be in writing and signed; it will provide specific details of the situation and indicate the law or regulation that is allegedly being violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted.

The written, signed complaint must be filed and resolution pursued in accordance with local district policy: (Ava R-I Board Policy 1480).

If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant may file a complaint with the Missouri Department of Education. If there is no evidence that the parties have attempted in good faith to resolve the complaint at the local level, the Department may require the parties to do so and may provide technical assistance to facilitate such resolution.

Any persons directly affected by the action of the Department may file a similarity written complaint if they believe state or federal laws or regulations have been violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted by the Department itself.

Anyone wishing more information about this procedure of how complaints are resolved may contact local district or Department personnel.

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

This guide explains how to file a complaint about any of the programs that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) 2 .

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for

ESSA Programs Table of Contents
General Information.

What is a complaint?

For these purposes, a complaint is a written allegation that a local education agency (LEA) or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) has violated a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under ESSA.

Who may file a complaint?

Any individual or organization may file a complaint.

How can a complaint be filed?

Complaints can be filed with the LEA or with the Department.

STANDARD COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE FOR IMPROVING AMERICA SCHOOLS ACT PROGRAM

Cont.

How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated?

Complaints filed with the LEA are to be investigated and attempted to be resolved according to the locally developed and adopted procedures.

What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)?

A complaint not resolved at the local level may be appealed to the Department.

How can a complaint be filed with the Department?

A complaint filed with the Department must be a written, signed statement that includes: 1. A statement that a requirement that applies to an ESSA program has been violated by the LEA or the Department, and 2. The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated.

How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated?

The investigation and complaint resolution proceedings will be completed within a time limit of forty-five calendar days. That time limit can be extended by the agreement of all parties. The following activities will occur in the investigation:

Record. A written record of the investigation will be kept.

Notification of LEA. The LEA will be notified of the complaint within five days of the complaint being filed. **Resolution at LEA.** The LEA will then initiate its local complaint procedures in an effort to first resolve the complaint at the local level. **Report by LEA.** Within thirty-five days of the complaint being filed, the LEA will submit a written summary of the LEA investigation and complaint resolution. This report is considered public record and may be made available to parents, teachers, and other members of the general public.

Verification. Within five days of receiving the written summary of a complaint resolution, the Department will verify the resolution of the complaint through an on-site visit, letter, or telephone call(s).

Appeal. The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the Department to the U.S. Department of Education.

How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently? In addition to the procedures listed in number 7 above, complaints related to equitable services will also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, and they will receive all information related to the investigation and resolution of the complaint. Also, appeals to the United States Department of Education must be filed no longer than thirty days following the Department's resolution of the complaint (or its failure to resolve the complaint).

How will appeals to the Department be investigated?

The Department will initiate an investigation within ten days, which will be concluded within thirty days from the day of the appeal. This investigation may be continued beyond the thirty day limit at the discretion of the Department. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Department will communicate the decision and reasons for the decision to the complainant and the LEA. Recommendations and details of the decision are to be implemented within fifteen days of the decision being delivered to the LEA.

What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?

The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the Department to the United States Department of Education.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for ESSA Programs Table of Contents	
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Title I Grievance Procedure

Any parent, other individual, or organization alleging a violation of state or federal laws, rules, or regulations, or an approved application by the School District in the administration of Title I, shall file with the Superintendent of Schools a written complaint containing the specific nature of the alleged violation, the time and place of the violation, and related details to the alleged violation. The Superintendent of Schools shall cause a review of the written complaint ten (10) working days after receipt of the written complaint. A copy of the written complaint and the Superintendent’s response shall be provided to each member of the Board of Education. If complainant is not satisfied with such response, he or she may submit a written appeal to the Board of Education indicating with particularity the nature of disagreement with the response and his/her reasons underlying such disagreement.

The Board of Education shall consider the appeal at its regularly scheduled board meeting following receipt of the response. The Board of Education shall permit the complainant to address the Board in public or closed session, as appropriate and lawful, concerning his/her complaint and shall provide the complainant with its written decision in matter as expeditiously as possible following completion of the hearing.

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the action taken by the Board of Education, a written notice stating the reasons for dissatisfaction shall be filed within fifteen (15) working days following resolution of the complaint by the Board of Education with the state director of Title I. The state director of Title I will initiate an investigation, determine the facts related to the complaint and issue notice of his findings to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will be requested to take corrective action.