



Pittsburgh Beechwood PreK-5

Student Handbook 2026-2027

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Pittsburgh Public Schools Parents, Students, and Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! Whether you are joining Pittsburgh Public Schools for the first time or returning for another exciting year, I am honored to welcome you to a community committed to helping every student learn, grow, and thrive.

At Pittsburgh Public Schools, we believe every student deserves access to a high-quality education in a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment. Our dedicated educators and staff are committed to preparing students for success in college, career, and life by fostering curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning.



This school handbook is an important resource designed to help you navigate the school year. Inside, you will find valuable information about District policies, school expectations, student supports, attendance, academic programs, extracurricular opportunities, health and safety procedures, and ways to stay connected with your school community. I encourage every family to review this handbook together and refer to it throughout the year.

A successful school year is built on strong partnerships between schools, families, and the community. We know that students achieve more when the adults in their lives work together to support their learning and well-being. We invite you to stay engaged by attending school events, participating in Parent School Community Council (PSCC) meetings, communicating regularly with your child's teachers, and taking advantage of the many opportunities to share your voice and partner with us.

As we continue implementing our PPS Future-Ready Plan, we remain focused on creating learning environments where every student feels welcomed, valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. Together, we are building stronger schools and brighter futures for every child.

Thank you for entrusting Pittsburgh Public Schools with your child's education. We look forward to a school year filled with learning, growth, achievement, and meaningful connections.

On behalf of the Board of Public Education and the entire Pittsburgh Public Schools team, welcome to an outstanding school year!

Yours in Education,

Dr. Wayne N. Walters

Superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to a new school year! We are excited to partner with you in creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every child can grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

This handbook has been designed to provide important information about our school's expectations, procedures, and programs. Please take time to review it together as a family and keep it as a reference throughout the school year. Understanding our policies and routines helps ensure a positive and successful experience for everyone.

We value the partnership between home and school. Open communication and collaboration are essential to student success, and we encourage you to reach out whenever you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for being an important part of our school community. We look forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

Together, we can make this school year our best yet!

Sincerely,

David A. Lott

Principal

Beechwood Elementary School



SCHOOL INFORMATION



Pittsburgh Beechwood PreK-5

810 Rockland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Phone: 412-529-7390

Fax: 412-571-7393

Office Email: beechwoodes@pghschools.org

Website: pghschools.org/beechwood

[Beechwood Staff Directory](#)

School Colors Blue and Gold

School Mascot Lions

Motto ROAR! (Reading
Often Achieves More)

VISION AND MISSION

Vision

All students will enter Middle School prepared to achieve at high levels.

Mission

We will work as a whole community to develop communication and critical thinking skills in our students so that they are able to speak, listen, read, write, and problem solve.

Norms

Active Listeners...

- Look at the speaker
- Think about what the speaker is saying
- Nod or smile to show understanding
- Have relevant questions ready
- Don't distract the speaker

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Contacting the School

Please see the previously listed phone number, fax number, and office email address to contact our school.

Social Media

The school will use social media to communicate important updates, celebrate student achievements, and engage with parents and the wider community.

Facebook: [facebook.com/PghBeechwoodElem](https://www.facebook.com/PghBeechwoodElem)

Calendar

A monthly calendar will be sent home with each child. The calendar lists special activities, parent meetings, and other important information. The calendar will also be posted monthly on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PghBeechwoodElem>

Talking Points

Talking Points will be our formal means of communication with families this year. Talking Points is a two-way multilingual family engagement platform helping teachers and families to stay connected via text messaging.

BELL SCHEDULES

Daily Schedule		Half Day	Two-Hour Delay
Homeroom	9:10 – 9:20 AM	9:10 – 9:20 AM	11:10 – 11:20 AM
Period 1	9:20 – 10:00 AM	9:20 – 10:00 AM	11:20 – 12:00 PM
Period 2	10:00 – 10:40 AM	10:00 – 10:40 AM	12:00 – 12:45 PM First Lunch
Period 3	10:40 – 11:20 AM	10:40 – 11:20 AM First Lunch	12:50 – 1:35 PM Second Lunch
Period 4	11:20 – 12:00 PM	11:20 – 12:00 PM Second Lunch	1:35 – 2:15 PM
Period 5 First Lunch	12:00 – 12:45 PM		1:35 – 2:15 PM
Period 6 Second Lunch	12:50 – 1:35 PM		2:15 – 2:55 PM
Period 7	1:35 – 2:15 PM		2:55 – 3:35 PM
Period 8	2:15 – 2:55 PM		
Period 9	2:55 – 3:35 PM		
Dismissal	3:35 – 3:55 PM	12:00 – 12:30 PM	3:35 – 3:55 PM
Remote Days Bell Schedule			
Homeroom	9:10 – 9:20 AM		
Period 1	9:20 – 10:00 AM		
Period 2	10:00 – 10:40 AM		
Period 3	10:40 – 11:20 AM		
Period 4	11:20 – 12:00 PM		
Period 5 First Lunch	12:00 – 12:45 PM		
Period 6 Second Lunch	12:50 – 1:35 PM		
Period 7	1:35 – 2:15 PM		
Period 8	2:15 – 2:55 PM		
Period 9	2:55 – 3:35 PM		

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The 2026-2027 District Calendar can be found [HERE](#).

Event	Date
#PittsburghForPPS Back to School Event	8/17/2026
First Day of School: All Grades Except Kindergarten	8/24/2026
First Day of School: Kindergarten	8/27/2026
No School: Labor Day	9/7/2026
4th Annual Take a Child to School Day	9/17/2026
Half Day	9/18/2026
No School: Yom Kippur	9/21/2026
Q1 Interim Progress Report	10/6/2026
Parent-Teacher Conferences (6-12, 9-12, Special, South Hills, EHS)	10/12/2026
Parent-Teacher Conferences (Early Childhood, PreK-5, PreK-8, 6-8)	10/16/2026
Half Day	10/23/2026
No School: Election Day	11/3/2026
No School: Veterans Day	11/11/2026
Q1 Report Cards Distributed	
Half Day	11/20/2026
Thanksgiving Break 11/26/2026-11/27/2026	
Q2 Interim Progress Report	12/15/2026
Half Day	12/18/2026
Winter Break 12/24/2026-1/1/2027	
No School: MLK Day	1/18/2027
No School	1/19/2027
No School	1/20/2027
Q2 Report Cards Distributed	2/1/2027
Half Day	2/12/2027
Black Men Read	2/25/2027
Half Day	2/26/2027
Q3 Interim Progress Report	3/2/2027
Parent University	3/6/2027
No School: Eid al-Fitr	3/10/2027
Half Day	3/12/2027
Spring Break 3/22/2027-3/26/2027	
Women Who Lead	3/31/2027
Q3 Report Cards Distributed	4/15/2027
Q4 Interim Progress Report	5/12/2027
29th Annual Take a Father to School Day	5/14/2027
No School: Election Day	5/18/2027
No School: Memorial Day	5/31/2027
Breakfast of Champions	6/7/2027
Last Day of School	6/8/2027
Q4 Report Cards Distributed	6/17/2027

Testing Dates	
Keystone Exams Winter	1/4/2027-1/15/2027
PSSAs English Language Arts	4/26/2027-4/30/2027
PSSAs Math, Science, Make-ups	5/3/2027-5/7/2027
Keystone Exams Spring	5/17/2027-5/28/2028

School Board Meetings		
Agenda Review	Public Hearing	Legislative Meeting
8/19/2026	8/24/2026	8/26/2026
9/16/2026	9/22/2026	9/23/2026
10/21/2026	10/26/2026	10/28/2026
11/18/2026	11/23/2026	11/24/2026
12/16/2026	12/21/2026	12/23/2026
1/20/2027	1/25/2027	1/27/2027
2/18/2027	2/22/2027	2/24/2027
3/17/2027	3/29/2027	3/31/2027
4/20/2027	4/26/2027	4/28/2027
5/19/2027	5/24/2027	5/26/2027
6/23/2027	6/28/2027	6/30/2027
7/21/2027	7/26/2027	7/28/2027

ATTENDANCE

School attendance in the state of Pennsylvania is mandatory and is a state law. Students are expected to report to school daily at 9:10 AM. At 9:20 AM, the late bell rings and all students arriving after 9:20 AM will be marked late. For those who are not present, a TalkingPoints message will be sent daily.

What is a legal excuse?

- Illness - absences beyond 10 total days require an excuse from a doctor)
- Weather emergency, impassable roads
- Religious holidays recognized by the Board of Education
- Bereavement - temporarily excused for family members death
- Principal approved reasons for absence from school - field trips, educational vacations, counseling, mentoring, support groups
- Involuntary exclusion - suspension from school, court summons
- Healthcare/Medical (doctor's note required)

If your child is absent from school, you must send a note/email/TalkingPoints, within three days of your child's absence, which includes:

- The date the note is written
- The date(s) that your child was absent
- The reason for the absence (please be specific)
- Your signature and a phone number where you can be reached If a note is not received within 3 days of your child's return to school the absence will be considered illegal and not changed to excused
- Legal action will begin following the 3rd illegal/unexcused absence
- It is the responsibility of the student to make up all the schoolwork missed during their absence
- Regular school attendance is mandatory, and student achievement is directly affected when a student misses school

The following are NOT considered legal excuses:

- An unspecified family emergency
- Oversleeping/missed bus
- Unapproved travel
- Student did not feel like coming to school
- Parent or student thought there was no school
- Parent/sibling illness

ACADEMICS

Course Offerings

Pittsburgh Beechwood students participate in all core academic subjects:

- Reading/English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Additionally, students participate in:

- Library Science
- General Music
- Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education class
- Instrumental music is integrated into the curriculum for grade 3
- Students can sign up for instrumental in grades 4 and 5

Pittsburgh Beechwood students who are eligible for special education services are supported through the Program for Students with Exceptionalities, including Speech and Language services

Student Schedule

Students will receive a copy of their homeroom schedule at the beginning of the school year. Pittsburgh Beechwood follows a six (6) day schedule. The school calendar always indicates the rotation day number.

ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Before/During/After School Programs/Offerings

There are opportunities for students to participate in before or after school programs throughout the course of the year. These offerings include:

- **Supporting Our Youth (SOY) Pittsburgh:** this is an afterschool program run by the Latino Community Center. They address academic needs in the Latino Community.
- **Casa San Jose:** this is an after-school program that empowers Latino youth by providing a supportive and inclusive space within the school community.
- **Intramurals:** students can participate in intramurals before or after school.
- **Art Club:** students have an opportunity to participate with other grade level peers after school at various times throughout the course of the year.
- **Cheerleading:** students transform the spirit of Beechwood through cheer.
- **Student Envoy:** this program builds a group of student leaders who are trained and provided with support to lead a cultural change with their peers throughout the building. Students in grades 4 and 5 are selected.
- **Safety Patrol:** student volunteers from grades 4 and 5 serve as models for younger students and provide assistance before and after school.
- **Media Club:** students from 5th grade have the opportunity to learn to be effective communicators by leading our morning announcements.
- **Chorus:** students can showcase their love of music by joining our chorus.

DRESS CODE

Students must dress in an appropriate manner. Clothing should be appropriate for the activity in which they are participating.

- The length of all skirts, dresses, or shorts must be lower than the fingertips of the student's arms extended and cannot be shorter than 3 inches above the knee.
- No halter tops, midriff tops, tube tops, spaghetti strap tops, fish net t-shirts. Shoulders must be covered, or straps must be at least 1" inch widths.
- No bare stomach or short shirts that cannot be tucked in. The naval must always be concealed.
- No clothing that advertises, suggests, or symbolizes illegal substances and/or alcohol.
- No inappropriate slogans or offensive statements on any clothing items.
- No clothing designed to be worn as undergarments or pajamas are to be worn.
- No hats, coats, jackets, or sunglasses are to be worn in school. Hats are to be removed before entering the building.
- No flip-flop sandals, all sandals must be secured around the heel of your foot.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

We know that students may need to carry cell phones with them and use them prior to and at the end of the school day to contact parents/guardians. However, once on school grounds and throughout the course of the day, students are not permitted to use cell phones. This will include Smart Watches if they are used to place phone calls or to text another individual. AirPods or ear buds will need to be removed from students' ears as well during the school day. Homeroom teachers will collect them in the morning and distribute them at the end of the day. Devices will be taken if they are not turned in and are visible. They will need to be picked up by a parent/guardian. The school is not responsible for any devices that are not turned in to school staff.

GRADING

The elementary level grading guidelines can be found by visiting pghschools.org/academics/grading-guidelines/grading-guidelines.

Grading Scale

Percentage Earned	Grade	GPA
90-100%	A	4.0
80-89%	B	3.0
70-79%	C	2.0
60-69%	D	1.0
50-59%	E	0.0

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

In Pittsburgh Public Schools, there is an expectation that teachers provide students with homework to reinforce skills already taught, prepare them for class discussions, extend learning to new situations, or apply a variety of skills to a specific task. Homework is also a way for parents to review the learning in which their children are engaged. Teachers review homework to understand how their students can perform outside of the classroom. At the elementary level, homework is 10% of each student's grade. Therefore, it is important that students develop the habits necessary for completing homework. Please refer to your child's individual teachers to understand their practices on assigning homework.

HEALTH SERVICES

At the School District Level, The Office of Health Services' goals are to provide quality services that promote, maintain, protect and improve student, employee and community health. We provide services to students that address disease prevention, health promotion and mandated service provision through the Department of Health. We strive to ensure that all students have equal access to quality health services, prevention education and early intervention and support to help them achieve academic success. Students enrolled in our public, private and parochial schools within City limits receive school health physicals, screenings, and related services that support health and wellness.

School Nurse

The school nurse is available 5 days a week at Beechwood. The school nurse is Nurse Miklancie. She can be reached at (412) 529-7451. If your child is seen by the nurse for an injury or sickness during the school day, you should expect a phone call alerting you to the details of the injury or sickness.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE

All students in the school district receive a device (laptop or iPad). An acceptable user Policy must be filled in prior to its distribution. The school district's Acceptable Use of Technology form can be found online by visiting tinyurl.com/msaccfhw.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Our school counselor, Mrs. Meholic, can always help to point you in the right direction or link you with the resources you need. Reach out if you ever need support with:

- Managing feelings (i.e. sad, worried, angry, etc.)
- Addressing peer conflict and/or approaching social interactions
- Obtaining clothing, toiletries, winter gear, etc.
- Stress management and/or organizational support
- Class participation/workload management/study skills
- Anything else!

Multi-tiered Systems of Support

Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is a framework that helps educators provide academic and behavioral strategies for students with various needs. In PPS, we provide behavioral and academic interventions and support for all students based on need. MTSS takes a proactive approach to identifying students with academic or behavioral needs. Early assessment and intervention for students can help them catch up with their peers sooner. The key components of MTSS include:

- Universal screening of all students early in the school year.
- Tiers of interventions that can be amplified in response to levels of need.
- Ongoing data collection and continual assessment.
- Schoolwide approach to expectations and supports.
- Parent involvement.

Student Assistance Program

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a systematic team process used to mobilize school resources to remove barriers to learning. SAP is designed to assist in identifying issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues which pose a barrier to a student's success. The primary goal of the Student Assistance Program is to help students overcome these barriers so that they may achieve, advance, and remain successfully enrolled in school.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES

The administration and staff of Pittsburgh Beechwood PreK-5 have developed three universal rules for all students. Classroom teachers may also utilize supplemental rules while in their classrooms at their own discretion.

Our three universal rules, 3 Rs, are:

1. Respectful
2. Responsible
3. Ready & Safe

Beechwood Behavior Pledge

Today, I will be respectful by watching my words, actions, choices and accepting other's differences.

I will be responsible by coming to school on time and being prepared to learn.

I will be ready & safe by having materials, being calm, and following directions.

We **engage, think, discuss** and **problem solve**.

PBIS, SEL, and Efficacy

Pittsburgh Beechwood utilizes a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system to recognize positive student behavior. The goal of our PBIS Program is to create a learning environment where students can learn and grow.

Every month students learn a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skill to support our school improvement goal on school culture. Teachers utilize SELS lessons from Wayfinder.

Beechwood participates in the PPS Student Envoy program. The Student Envoy Project focuses on mobilizing students directly, engaging them as active and essential partners in improving their academic performance and impacting classroom and school culture. This program builds a group of student leaders called Student Envoys, who are trained and provided with support to lead a cultural change with their peers throughout the building.

VISITORS

For the health and safety of all students and staff members, we request that parents/guardians make an appointment to meet with a staff member in advance. Prescheduled appointments will ensure staff is available at an agreed-upon time, and ample space is available for a safe in-person meeting.

Upon arrival, of the scheduled time, please buzz in at the main entrance. You will then be directed to report to the main office for further information/directions. Please have a valid ID. It will be scanned prior to admittance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

School Hours/Schedule

Pittsburgh Beechwood's school day begins at 9:10 AM and ends at 3:55 PM. Any child arriving after 9:20 AM is considered late and is marked late in the attendance tracking system.

Pittsburgh Beechwood operates on a 6-day rotating schedule. Related Arts (Physical Education, Art, Music, Library, Science) are provided throughout the 6-days. Each homeroom will send a schedule home at the beginning of the year to ensure you know which day your child has what subject. On days that your child has Physical Education, we ask that they wear gym shoes.

Arrival

Children who eat breakfast at school will be permitted into the building at 8:50 AM. All children who are not eating breakfast will enter the building at 9:10 AM. Grades 2, 3, and 5 line up and will be picked up at the main doors by the office. Grades K, 1 and 4 will line up and enter the main doors by the parking lot.

If you are driving your child to school, the drop-off location is at the turnaround at the end of Rockland Ave. Students are not to be dropped off on the street. This poses a safety hazard. The area in front of the school is reserved for buses and vans. Children who are dropped off will walk up the steps to meet at their designated arrival door, or they can enter for breakfast. Staff members report outside to assist with student arrival at 8:50 AM.

Dismissal

Circle/Car Line Dismissal: To ease the flow of traffic, there will be two pick-up spots for children being picked up in vehicles. Students from grades K-1 will be picked up at Rockland Avenue at the turn-around. Students from grades 2-5 will be picked up at the top of Andick Way. If there are children in a family that are in both pick-up spots, then it defaults to Rockland Avenue. Permission slips will be sent home for children in K, 1 and 2 to sign up for the pick-up at the beginning of the school year.

At 3:40 PM an announcement will be made for all children (K-5) who are car line students to meet a staff member on each floor. The students will be escorted to the car line areas shortly afterwards.

Please do not leave your car unattended at the turn-around. Traffic needs to flow at all times. Cars need to be able to wait in line and move once the car is loaded. Also, please do

not block the area before the turn-around. Vehicles are not to be parked on the yellow lines or next to the cones.

- **Regular Dismissal:** At the 3:55 bell, walkers will be dismissed. Kindergarten, Room 12 will dismiss from their courtyard door, Kindergarten, Rooms 13 and 15 will dismiss out of Room 13 (by the main doors closest to the parking lot. First Grade, Fourth Grade (Rooms 206 & 207), and Third Grade, (Rooms 210) will dismiss out the front doors by the parking lot. Second Grade, Third Grade (Room 204), Fourth Grade (Room 201) and Fifth Grade (Rooms 215 & 216) will dismiss out the front main doors. All siblings who pick up younger students must meet in an outside designated spot. Inside pick up is not allowed.
- **Early Dismissal:** If the need arises that your child needs an early dismissal, a note should be written and given to the office on the day of the early dismissal. However, there are no early dismissals after 3:15 PM. The Office will be closed from 3:15 PM- 3:55 PM to ensure a safe dismissal procedure for all students.

Lunch/Recess

- First Lunch (K-2) will eat lunch and have recess from 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM There is roughly 20 minutes for lunch and 20 minutes for recess with 5 minutes built in to switch.
- Second Lunch (3-5) will eat lunch and have recess from 12:50 PM to 1:35 PM with the same 5 minutes built into switch.
- All students are entitled to a free lunch or have the option to pack their own.
- If your child has any dietary needs, you will be able to communicate that on the Emergency Care Form that is sent home at the beginning of the year. You could also contact our school nurse at any time. She then forwards that information to our cafeteria manager.

Parent School Community Council (PSCC)

The Pittsburgh Public Schools' philosophy on parent and family engagement is to help parents and families become full partners in their child's educational experience through a variety of opportunities created collaboratively with the parents and the school. One-way parents and families choose to participate at the school level is through their school's Parent School Community Council (PSCC). PSCC meetings are monthly opportunities for parents and families, the community, school staff and sometimes students to discuss important topics related to the school and provide advice to the leadership of the school.

Parent Association

The Beechwood Parent Faculty Association, BPFA, will be sending information home on how to join and become involved.

APPENDIX

Policy 115 – Homework

This policy establishes expectations for meaningful, purposeful homework aligned to instructional goals. Homework should reinforce learning, be developmentally appropriate, and not excessive.

Policy 119 – Athletics & Extracurricular Activities

This policy governs student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities, including eligibility, academic expectations, conduct standards, and equitable access to programs.

Policy 204 – Attendance

Students are required to attend school regularly in accordance with Pennsylvania law. The policy outlines excused and unexcused absences, documentation, and procedures to support consistent attendance.

Policy 206 – Health Services

Outlines school health services including screenings, medical support, and procedures that ensure student health, safety, and readiness to learn.

Policy 209 – Grading and Reporting

Defines how student performance is assessed and communicated, including grading practices, report cards, and expectations for fairness and consistency.

Policy 211 – Graduation Requirements

Specifies the credit requirements and criteria students must meet to earn a diploma, aligned with state regulations.

Policy 212 – Student Code of Conduct

Establishes behavioral expectations and outlines disciplinary procedures to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment.

Policy 215 – Anti-Bullying

Prohibits bullying and harassment and outlines reporting, investigation, and intervention procedures to protect students.

Policy 216 – Electronic Devices

Governs student use of electronic devices. Devices may be used for educational purposes but are restricted during the school day to maintain a focused learning environment.

Policy 221 – Dress Code

Ensures student dress supports a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment while allowing appropriate self-expression.

Policy 226 – Academic Integrity

Prohibits cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty, reinforcing ethical academic behavior.

Policy 231 – Homeless Students

Ensures educational stability and access for students experiencing homelessness in alignment with the McKinney-Vento Act. The policy outlines rights related to enrollment, transportation, and support services.

Policy 1004 – School Visitors

This policy outlines procedures for visitors entering school buildings, including sign-in requirements, identification, and approval processes to ensure a safe and secure environment for students and staff.

Annual Child Find Notice

Pittsburgh Public Schools conducts ongoing 'Child Find' activities to identify, locate, and evaluate children who may be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This includes children ages 3–21, including those who are homeless, wards of the state, or attending private schools. Families can request an evaluation if they suspect a disability impacting learning.



Students first
Always, in all ways.



Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. It is the policy of the Pittsburgh School District to make all services, programs and activities available and to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities. Please make requests for accommodations at least 72 hours before the scheduled event. For more information regarding accommodations, civil rights grievance procedures, please contact: Rachel Beers, Office of Employee Relations rbeers1@pghschools.org | 341 S. Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 | 412-529-HELP (4357)