

2026-27 PUBLIC NOTICE

The following is a summation of policy statements covering public schools in St. Joseph County, Michigan

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

- Discrimination against students, employees, or applicants for employment, is prohibited based on the following protected classes: race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, height, weight, marital status, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, military service, or any other legally protected class.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

School District	Superintendent	Phone
Burr Oak	Kelvin Butts	269-489-2213
Centreville	Chad Brady	269-467-5220
Colon	Richard Hilderley	269-432-3231
Constantine	Patrick Breen	269-435-8900
ISD	James Berry	269-467-5400
Mendon	Leasa Griffith- Mathews	269-496-8491
Nottawa	Jerome Wolff	269-467-7153
Sturgis	Art Ebert	269-659-1500
Three Rivers	Nikki Nash	269-279-1100
White Pigeon	Shelly McBride	269-483-7676

SMOKING AREAS AND POLICY

Per Section 750473 of the Michigan Penal Code, use of a tobacco product is prohibited on school property. This prohibition not only applies to the school building itself, but also to “a building, facility, or structure and other real estate owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by a school district”.

- “Use of a tobacco product” means any of the following: the carrying by a person of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, other tobacco-related device, or electronic nicotine delivery system; the ingestion of a tobacco product, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means; the placing of a tobacco product within a person’s mouth; or the smoking or use of an electronic nicotine delivery system, tobacco product, imitation tobacco product, or other substitute forms of cigarettes, clove cigarettes, or

other lighted smoking devices for consuming or inhaling tobacco, nicotine, or any other substance.

- A person who violates this law is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.00.
- The following districts have exercised the right to a smoke-free environment 24 hours per day: Burr Oak Community Schools, Centreville Public Schools, Colon Community Schools, Constantine Public Schools, Mendon Community Schools, Nottawa Community School, St. Joseph County ISD, Sturgis Public Schools, Three Rivers Community Schools, White Pigeon Community Schools.

FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

According to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Board of Education of a school district may designate certain items of student records as directory information. This information may be released without receiving prior written consent of the parent or 18-year-old student, unless parent/student objects in writing. Each Board of Education has a procedure for:

1. Maintenance of records.
2. Amendment of educational records.
3. Destruction of records.
4. Student and parental access to records.
5. Third-party access to student records.

AHERA MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY

- As required in Act 440 of 1988, School Districts contracted with environmental contracts to perform routine inspections and write Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Management Plans. School Districts shall keep a copy of the plan in their administration office. The management plan shall be available during regular school business hours for review without cost or restrictions for inspection by representatives of EPA and the State, the public, including teachers, other school personnel, and their representatives and parents.
- At least once each year, School Districts will notify in writing, parents, teachers, and employee organizations of any updates, changes, and availability of the management plan.
- Management plans shall be available for inspection without cost or restrictions to workers and/or contractors before work begins in any area of a school building.

Specific questions regarding these policies should be directed to the superintendent of your school district.

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The following is a summation of policy statements covering public schools in St. Joseph County, Michigan

School District	Title VI Civil Rights Coordinator	Title IX Sex Discrimination Coordinator	Section 504 Disability Discrimination Coordinator*	Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator	Age Compliance Coordinator
Burr Oak	Kelvin Butts	Kelvin Butts	Kelvin Butts	Kelvin Butts	Kelvin Butts
Centreville	Chad Brady	Chad Brady	Meredith Spicer	Meredith Spicer	Chad Brady
Colon	Olivia Spidle	Olivia Spidle	Benjamin Cunningham	Benjamin Cunningham	Olivia Spidle
Constantine	Pat Breen	Pat Breen	Shad Fish	Pat Breen	Pat Breen
Mendon	Leasa Griffith-Mathews	Leasa Griffith-Mathews	Robert Kretschman	Leasa Griffith-Mathews	Leasa Griffith-Mathews
Nottawa	Brenda Walls Jerome Wolff	Brenda Walls Jerome Wolff	Brenda Walls Jerome Wolff	Brenda Walls Jerome Wolff	Brenda Walls Jerome Wolff
Sturgis	Dr. Arthur Ebert	Nick Herblet Britt Gross	Pam Keeslar	Pam Keeslar	Dr. Arthur Ebert
Three Rivers	Katherine Garfield Lorie Camino David Soderquist	Katherine Garfield Lorie Camino David Soderquist	Melissa Frye	Melissa Frye	Nikki Nash
White Pigeon	Shelly McBride	Brooke McClure	Kaitlin Thomas	Kaitlin Thomas	Shelly McBride
ISD/Pathfinder	Kelli Dechnik	Kelli Dechnik	Kelli Dechnik Pam Panozzo-Jones (students)	Kelli Dechnik Pam Panozzo-Jones (students)	Kelli Dechnik

**If you have a Section 504-qualified child with disabilities who does not attend a public school, please contact the ISD 504 Coordinator*

VACCINES REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL ENTRY IN MICHIGAN

For more information, please go to www.michigan.gov/immunize. All doses of vaccines must be valid (correct spacing and ages) for school entry purposes.

Vaccine	All Kindergarteners & 4-6 year old transfer students	All 7th Graders & 7-18 year old transfer students
DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS (DTP, DTaP, Tdap)	4 doses DTP or DTaP. One dose must be at or after 4 years of age	4 doses diphtheria & tetanus or 3 doses if 1st dose given at or after 1 year of age. 1 dose Tdap at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher
POLIO	4 doses or 3 doses if dose 3 was given on or after 4 years of age	4 doses or 3 doses if dose 3 was given on or after 4 years of age
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA (MMR)*	2 doses at or after 12 months of age	2 doses at or after 12 months of age
HEPATITIS B*	3 doses	3 doses
Meningococcal conjugate (mENacwy)	None	1 dose at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher
VARICELLA (chickenpox)*	2 doses at or after 12 months of age or current lab immunity or history of varicella	2 doses at or after 12 months of age or current lab immunity or history of varicella

During disease outbreaks, incompletely vaccinated students may be excluded from school. Parents and guardians choosing to decline vaccines must obtain a certified non-medical waiver from a local health department. *If the child has not received these vaccines, documented immunity is required. All doses of vaccines must be valid (correct spacing and ages) for school entry purposes.

Specific questions regarding these policies should be directed to the superintendent of your school district.

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FREE & REDUCED LUNCH/MILK

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced the household income eligibility guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture for free and reduced-price meals and free milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

This year Michigan families won't have to pay for meals, although they must complete forms at their local school to determine eligibility for other educational programs.

Total Family Size	Income Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk Annual	Income Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk Monthly	Income Scale for Reduced Price Meals Annual	Income Scale for Reduced Price Meals Monthly
1	\$20,748	\$1,729	\$29,256	\$2,461
2	\$28,132	\$2,345	\$40,034	\$3,337
3	\$35,516	\$2,960	\$50,542	\$4,212
4	\$42,900	\$3,575	\$61,050	\$5,088
5	\$50,284	\$4,191	\$71,558	\$5,964
6	\$57,668	\$4,806	\$82,066	\$6,839
7	\$65,052	\$5,421	\$92,574	\$7,715
8	\$72,436	\$6,037	\$103,082	\$8,591
Each additional family member	+\$7,384	+\$616	+\$10,508	+\$876

Schools will provide a form for applying for program eligibility. Only one application is required per household.

An application to a school can be approved if it contains complete documentation of household income or documentation of current participation in Michigan's Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Information supplied on application for free or reduced-price meals may be verified at any time.

Participating schools, childcare centers, adult day care centers and family day care home sponsors accept applications for free or reduced-price meals at any time during the year. A household may qualify for free or reduced-price meals due to a temporary loss of income, such as a period of unemployment.

If a doctor has determined that a child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the participant from eating the regular school or center-based meal, the school or center will make reasonable substitutions to meal and/or snacks for participants who are considered to have a disability or medical need that restricts their diet. This is done on a case-by-case basis. A doctor's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitutions, must be submitted to the food service department of the school.

Under the provisions of the policy, the following representatives will review applications and determine eligibility:

Burr Oak - Dave Apthorpe
Centreville - Building Principals
Colon - Barb Yearling
Constantine - Diane Northrup
ISD/Pathfinder - Sandra Spicher

Mendon - Lisa VanZoest
Nottawa - Dave Apthorpe
Sturgis - Dave Apthorpe
Three Rivers - George Siedis
White Pigeon - Michelle Sellers

An appeal procedure is available for households where applications are denied. This can be done by calling or writing the following officials:

Burr Oak: Kelvin Butts, 326 Eagle St., Burr Oak, MI 49030; 269-489-2213
Centreville: Chad Brady, P.O. Box 158, Centreville, MI 49032; 269-467-5220
Colon: Richard Hilderley, 400 Dallas St., Colon, MI 49040; 269-432-3231
Constantine: Patrick Breen, One Falcon Dr., Constantine, MI 49042; 269-435-8900
ISD/Pathfinder: James Berry, 62245 Shimmel Rd., Centreville, MI 49032; 269-467-5400
Mendon: Leasa Griffith-Mathews, 148 Kirby Rd., Mendon, MI 49072; 269-496-8491

Specific questions regarding these policies should be directed to the superintendent of your school district.

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Nottawa: Jerome Wolff, 26438 M-86, Sturgis, MI 49091; 269-467-7153

Sturgis: Ray Sterling, 107 W. West St., Sturgis, MI 49091; 269-659-1503

Three Rivers: Mandi Zaborowski, 700 Sixth Ave., Three Rivers, MI 49093; 269-279-1106

White Pigeon: Shelly McBride, 410 East Prairie, White Pigeon, MI 49099; 269-483-7676

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Individuals with Disabilities Act includes a child find mandate. It requires all school districts to identify, locate, and evaluate children with suspected disabilities. The Child Find mandate applies to all children who reside within the SJCISD, including children who attend private schools, public schools, migrant children, homeless children, and children who are wards of the state.

For more information about special education services, contact your Local School District and ask for the district's Catamaran Coordinator or. Contact the SJCISD and ask for the Executive Assistant for Special Education or the Executive Director of Special Education.

St. Joseph County Intermediate School District (ISD)
62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032
(269) 467-5400

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) OFFERINGS

Each year, the St. Joseph County Career & Technical Education Consortium offers CTE programs. These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and training, and are offered under the guidance of CTE instructors and aides as well as community college teachers.

The following is a list of programs being offered this year:

- Agriscience
- Architecture
- Automotive Technologies
- Aviation
- Computer Science & Technology
- Construction Trades: Residential Building
- Cosmetology

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Culinary Arts
Engineering, Design & Manufacturing
Engineering Design Technologies
Graphic Design
Health Science
HVAC, Electrical & Plumbing
Manufacturing
Marketing
Public Safety
Teacher Academy
Welding Technologies

All CTE programs follow the districts' policies of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth, or related condition), age, height, weight, familial status, marital status, military service, veteran status, genetic information, disability, or any other legally prohibited basis in its programs, services and activities. In addition, arrangements can be made to ensure that the lack of English language skills is not a barrier to admission or participation.

For general information about these programs, contact:

Lucas Schrauben, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education
St. Joseph County ISD
62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032
(269) 467-5407

Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies can be directed to the following individual:

Kelli Dechnik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Operations, & HR
St. Joseph County ISD
62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032
(269) 467-5400

PESTICIDES

As required in Section 324.8316 of the Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act:

- 1) At the beginning of each school year, school administrators shall notify parents/guardians of children attending that school that pesticides may be applied at the school throughout the school year.
- 2) School administrators shall notify parents/guardians at least 48 hours prior to any application of a pesticide at that school.
- 3) The notice described in Subsection (2) shall contain the following information: a statement that a pesticide will be applied, the target pest(s), approximate location of the application, date of the application, a contact person at the school, and a toll-free phone number for a national pesticide information center.
- 4) Note: in an emergency, a school may apply a pesticide without providing advance notice to parents/guardians. Promptly after the emergency pesticide application, the school shall notify the parents/guardians.

Posted _____

Specific questions regarding these policies should be directed to the superintendent of your school district.