



2026-27

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK ADDENDUM

Please make sure to sign the Acknowledgement Form and return to Cotton Belt Elementary School.

Equal Opportunity:

York School District 1 offers opportunities for admission to students and employment for personnel. The programs and activities of the district are offered equally to all students without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability or sex. Inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Bolin, Director of Human Resources, PO Box 770, York, SC 29745, phone (803) 684-9916.

Cotton Belt Elementary is dedicated to equality of opportunity. Cotton Belt Elementary does not practice or condone discrimination in any form against students, employees, or applicants on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



DEAR PARENTS & STUDENTS,

Welcome back to Cotton Belt Elementary School! We are so excited to see your smiling faces as we begin another school year of learning, growth, and success.

This Handbook Addendum, along with the York School District One Student-Parent Handbook, contains important information about our school policies and procedures. We encourage families to review these materials together to stay informed and connected. Strong communication between home and school is key to a thriving educational experience. If you have any questions after reviewing the handbook, please don't hesitate to contact our school office at 803-684-1947 — we're here to help!

We deeply value our partnership with families and believe that collaboration is essential in supporting every child's journey. Your involvement makes a difference, and we invite you to stay engaged throughout the year — whether by joining the PTO, volunteering, or simply sharing your thoughts. Your feedback is always welcome and appreciated.

We are so glad you are part of our Cotton Belt family. Together, let's make this our best year yet!

With gratitude,
Megan Hoyt
PRINCIPAL



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ABOUT OUR DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

COTTON BELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1176 Black Highway
ph. 803-684-1947/fax 803-684-1949
<https://cbes.york.k12.sc.us/>
Office Hours: 7:00 am-4:00 pm
Instruction Hours: 7:45 am-2:15 pm

SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF

Megan Hoyt, Principal
Susan Reeves, Assistant Principal
Andrena Figueroa, School Counselor
Liz Brown, PowerSchool Specialist
Dawn Good, Bookkeeper
Aubrie Cochran, Nurse

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Colors: Teal & Silver
Mascot: “Cotton” the Cougar Cub



IMPORTANT DISTRICT PHONE NUMBERS

YSD1 Central Office - 803-684-9916
Late Bus Information - 803-818-6199
Transportation - 803-684-1952

ACADEMICS

HOMEWORK

According to the U.S. Department of Education, “the major purposes of homework are to help students review and practice what they have learned, prepare for the next day’s class, learn to use resources such as libraries and reference materials, and explore subjects more fully than time permits in the classroom. All assignments must have relevance to students. Parental involvement in the completion of assignments should be minimal.”

Elementary Guidelines - Suggested amounts of time:

K/1st – not to exceed 30 minutes per day

2nd/3rd grade – not to exceed 45 minutes per day

4th/5th grade – not to exceed 60 minutes per day

Suggested activities: Reading, unfinished classwork, math facts, review for test, research and preparation, sight words

SC READ TO SUCCEED LAW

The Read to Succeed Act is a South Carolina law aimed at improving reading skills to prepare students for college, careers, or military readiness.

Under the Read to Succeed law:

- Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the law requires that third-grade students who do not demonstrate reading proficiency—scoring Does Not Meet Expectations on the SC READY reading assessment—be retained for additional support.
- Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, first-grade students who are not reading at grade level will be required to attend summer reading camps. This program offers intensive, small-group instruction to help students strengthen their reading skills.
- In the 2026-2027 school year, this requirement will extend to second-grade students.

To monitor student progress, all students take the NWEA MAP Growth reading assessments three times per year: in the fall, winter, and spring. After each MAP assessment window, we will notify the parents of any child who is not currently meeting grade-level expectations and needs additional support. We believe early notification is crucial, and we want to partner with you to help your child improve their reading skills.

How Will We Support Students Who Need Extra Support?

We will provide 30 minutes of additional daily reading support to any child who is not meeting grade level expectations based on their most recent NWEA MAP results.

This support will include:

- Regular progress monitoring with reading check-ins
- Extra daily reading activities tailored to their needs
- Frequent updates on progress and strategies for at-home practice
- Possible access to reading enrichment programs designed to strengthen essential skills

ACADEMICS

SC READ TO SUCCEED LAW (continued)

How Can Parents Help at Home?

Your involvement at home is crucial to your child's success. Here are some ways you can support your child's reading development:

- **Read Together:** Spend at least 20 minutes each day reading with your child. This can include books, magazines, or any other reading material that interests them.
- **Discuss Books:** Talk about the stories you read together. Ask questions about the characters and what your child liked most about the story.

Scheduling a Conference

If your child is not meeting grade level expectations, we understand that you may have questions or concerns about your child's reading progress. You may schedule a conference with your child's teacher at any time by:

- Calling the school office at 803-684-1947 or
- Messaging your child's teacher.

We are committed to working together to help your child develop strong reading skills, which are critical for their future success.

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR 3RD GRADE PARENTS ABOUT READ TO SUCCEED LAW

Third grade is a critical year for our students as they transition from learning to read to reading to learn. We are committed to supporting your child's reading development and helping them succeed. Below are key details about the Read to Succeed Act and how it impacts third-grade reading expectations.

Read to Succeed State-Mandated Retention

A student will be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of the year as indicated by a Does Not Meet (DNM) score on the state summative reading assessment. The parents/Legal guardians of each student not demonstrating third-grade reading proficiency will be notified in writing during the second grading period that the student is being considered for retention, and a conference will be held prior to a determination regarding retention.

Good Cause Exemptions

Students who qualify for specific Good Cause Exemptions may still be promoted to fourth grade. These exemptions include: limited English proficiency (fewer than two years of English instruction); disabilities requiring alternative assessments or interventions (as outlined in their IEP); receiving reading interventions for two years and previously being retained; and demonstrating reading proficiency on an approved alternative assessment.

Summer Reading Camp (SRC)

Students who do not meet the required reading level by the end of third grade will be invited to attend Summer Reading Camp. This program offers intensive, small-group instruction to help students strengthen their reading skills. Successful completion of the camp could lead to promotion to fourth grade.

ACADEMICS

STUDENT PROGRESS

Report cards will be distributed to parents quarterly following the conclusion of each nine weeks grading period. The report card is aligned with the SC State Standards for English Language Arts and Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Music, and Art. Report cards must be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to school. Other reports concerning individual student progress may also be issued. Parents are urged to initiate conferences at any time by writing a note or calling the teacher. Teachers may request that parents attend special conferences.

The standards-based reporting system for academic progress in York School District 1 is for grades K-4 and is as follows:

- E Exceeds:** Student consistently demonstrates an advanced understanding of grade level expectations. Student is performing above grade level.
- P Proficient:** Student consistently demonstrates an understanding of grade level expectations.
- NY Not Yet:** Student is not yet consistently demonstrating an understanding of grade level expectations.
- U Unsatisfactory:** Student does not consistently demonstrate an understanding of grade level expectations. Student is performing below grade level.

The goal is for all students to reach “Proficient” by the end of the school year.

Science and Social Studies: K, 1st, and 2nd Grades: "S" or "U" will be given for science and social studies. 3rd and 4th Grades: Students will receive letter grades and numerical averages for science and social studies. The grading scale is below for reference.

GRADING SCALE

The following grading scale has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education beginning the 2016-2017 school year. Grading is based on a ten-point scale.

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL AVERAGE
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

ACADEMICS

MAKE-UP WORK

If a child is going to be absent for an extended length of time, please call the school to make arrangements for any missed work that can be done at home. These assignments can usually be picked up at the end of the school day if the request made prior to 9:00 a.m. Teachers will make every effort to assist students who need extra help in making up work due to illness. Students will have three days beyond the number of days they were absent to complete make-up work.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents are invited, on a scheduled basis, to meet with teachers to discuss their child's school progress. The Parent-Teacher Conference offers the opportunity to ask questions relative to your child and to build an avenue of communication between home and school to better assist your child's progress. Throughout the school year, parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teacher whenever necessary. Conferences should be arranged by sending a note to the teacher or the school office.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

We encourage communication between parents and teachers; however, because of their teaching responsibilities, teachers will not be called to the phone or the office during instructional hours (7:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.). If you would like to talk with the teacher about your child, we will email a message and you will receive a call back from the teacher when his/her teaching responsibilities are concluded for the day. Parents may also email teachers or send messages via ParentSquare.

If at any time you have a concern regarding your child's education or school procedures, please begin by reaching out to your child's teacher. If after talking to the teacher you still feel concerned, please call a school administrator. Your concerns are our concerns. Please feel comfortable in sharing them. A resolution will be worked out with team effort if needed.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome. **Everyone visiting our school (family, visitors, volunteers, etc.) must check-in at the office with a valid state-issued ID.**

You are welcome to come have lunch with your child. Please confirm the lunch time with your child's teacher prior to arriving in the event of schedule changes.

There are two scheduled class parties during the year which will take place just before the winter holidays and on or near Valentine's Day. Any food purchased must be store-bought and must not contain peanut butter. Visitors are not allowed for class parties due to lack of adequate space. Teachers may choose to substitute one party for an end-of-year party.

DAILY PROCEDURES

BREAKFAST IN THE CLASSROOM

Breakfast is often said to be the most important meal of the day. Research shows that students benefit from eating breakfast in two primary ways. First, students' overall dietary health is positively affected by breakfast consumption, particularly meals provided through the School Breakfast Program. Second, there is significant evidence of positive academic effects due to breakfast consumption. Schools experience improvements in standardized test scores and improvements in school attendance in addition to other outcomes that create positive learning environments. Serving school breakfast to all students helps ensure that they are well nourished and ready to learn.

LUNCH PROCEDURES

Students are encouraged to participate in the school lunch program. **For the 2026-27 school year, there will be free meals for all students due to the Community Eligibility Provision grant.** A la carte items such as cookies and ice cream are not free. Students must have funds to purchase individual items. Beverages brought from home must be brought in a thermos or carton and we ask that you do not send in any drinks that are colored due to staining of carpet. No carbonated beverages are allowed.

Students bringing their lunches should not bring food that has to be heated in the microwave. Our lunch schedules do not permit time for microwaving students' food. If a student has a particular health need concerning lunch food, please contact the nurse.

RECESS

All classes will have a minimum of 25 minutes of recess. Whenever it is possible, and in the best judgment of the administrator, recess time will be spent outside the building. Of course, when weather conditions are extreme, recess will be held inside.

TELEPHONE USE/MESSAGES

The school telephone number is (803) 684-1947. The telephone is for school business. Students will not be called from class for incoming calls unless it is an emergency. Parents are requested not to phone-in messages to students unless it is absolutely necessary.

MONEY, VALUABLES, AND OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS

Children are discouraged from bringing money to school except for specific purposes. **Any money brought to school will be more efficiently handled if the exact amount is placed in an envelope, labeled with the child's name and the purpose for which the money is to be used.** Students are cautioned never to leave money or other possessions in the classroom unprotected. **Students are advised to not bring valuable items, such as iPods, tablets, phones, etc., to school as there is a possibility that they may be broken, damaged, or stolen.** Your child is not to bring dangerous or distracting articles to school, such as guns, knives, water guns, toys, music devices, jewelry, pets, etc.

DAILY PROCEDURES

MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is an important part of the school program. Students are encouraged to use the library resources for reference work, pleasure reading, viewing, and listening. Books may be checked out for one week and may be renewed for an additional week if a student requests. There are no fines for overdue books. Students are requested, however, to properly care for books in their charge and to return books when due. Parents can help their children develop a genuine love for books and reading by encouraging them to read and by reading to them at home. Parents are responsible for books lost or damaged by students.

STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

Student birthdays are announced on The Morning Show each day and students will receive a small gift. Our community partners also sponsor a birthday lunch each month where students will enjoy a cupcake or other special treat. We respectfully request that no balloons, toys, or other gifts are presented/given at school. Birthday parties are not allowed at school.

Students are allowed to celebrate their birthdays with fellow class members during lunch. As a general rule, if sending cupcakes or other treats for student consumption, please coordinate with the teacher in advance. Due to student allergies, cupcakes and other treats must be store-bought only (no homemade treats) and sent in the original container with the ingredients list included.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

CAR RIDERS

Car rider arrival is from 7:15-7:45 am.

- Students remain in cars until 7:15 am. No student should be dropped off prior to 7:15 am as there is no supervision. (Exception: Safety Patrol can be dropped off at 7:10 am.)
- Students in 4K and Special Education classes will be escorted by assistants.
- For safety reasons, please do not allow your child to walk across the parking lot unattended. You may either park in a parking place and escort your child to the crosswalk where an adult is located to help them safely cross - or you may stay in your car in the line and we will get your child out and to class.

Car rider dismissal is at 2:15 pm.

- Please remain in your cars for pickup. If you need to buckle your child, you may safely pull over at the curve once you get through the car line in order to keep the line moving.
- We highly encourage you to utilize our car line. However, parents occasionally opt to park in the front parking lot to have extended time to buckle their child. We will call for these students to cross twice during dismissal - once at the start of dismissal and once at the end. For safety purposes, no students will be called to walk across at other times.
- Please make sure your car rider tag is hanging from rear view mirror or visible with the name facing out for our staff to call your child's name.
- Emergency lane should remain clear until after 2 pm.
- If students are left at school after 3:15 pm without contact from the parent/guardian, the local Sheriff's Office or Police Department will be contacted for assistance.

DAILY PROCEDURES

BUS RIDERS

- All students will complete a School Bus Safety Curriculum.
- If you want your child to begin riding a bus, a 48-hour notice is required.
- A parent/guardian or responsible party must be visible to the bus driver at the stop for 4K through 2nd grade drop-offs or the student will be returned to the school. After three occurrences, students will lose bus-riding privileges for 5 days.
- Students may not be a guest rider on a bus that is not assigned to them.
- **Remember: poor conduct on a bus puts everyone's life in danger. Please partner with us in educating your child on bus safety and behavior expectations.**

MY RIDE K-12 MOBILE APP: My Ride K-12 mobile app will be available to parents/guardians of students that are bus riders. My Ride K-12 provides quick access to your child's routing information, which will include the bus stop location, assigned bus route number, driver, and scheduled pick-up time. My Ride K-12 can also utilize GPS data to give parent/guardians access to information where your child's school bus is located within 30 minutes of your child's assigned bus stop and the planned bus path.

DISMISSAL METHOD

No student will be allowed to go home a different way from his/her regular travel unless permission is requested by a parent/guardian in writing. Due to concerns regarding student safety, Cotton Belt Elementary School personnel prefer not to accept messages over the telephone requesting that a child's mode of transportation to go home be changed.

The normal mode of transportation can be altered under the following conditions:

- The child comes to school with a signed and dated note from the parent. Then note would be given to the classroom teacher who would then forward it to the office.
- The parent personally comes into the school office and makes the request.
- A parent calls the office prior to 1:45 pm and requests the child's mode of transportation be changed.
- For bus riders, any "same day" route change must have permission from the transportation office.

EARLY DISMISSAL

The school asks that you keep early dismissals to a minimum. Early dismissals or tardies may appear on a student's school attendance record. Students are expected to remain in class until the end of the instructional day (2:15 pm). For the safety of all students, no student will be dismissed early without a parent, legal guardian, or authorized emergency contact coming to the main office to sign the student out. **Unless there is an emergency or prior arrangements are made, we will not dismiss a child after 1:45 pm.** Children dismissed after 1:45 will not be called to the office until 2:15. Anyone dismissing a child will be required to provide identification.

DAILY PROCEDURES

EARLY DISMISSAL (continued)

Should there be a need for someone other than a parent or legal guardian to pick up a student early, the office will need to verify that the person is listed as an emergency contact for the student. Only the names on the student's emergency contacts list will be allowed access to the student. If for whatever reason your contacts change, it is your responsibility to alert the office immediately and update your child's information in FinalForms.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles that have been found in the school building, on school grounds, or on school buses are placed in the Lost and Found area in the gym where their owners may claim them. At winter break and at the end of the year, unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. Parents are requested to label all removable articles of clothing, lunch boxes, and important school supplies with the child's first and last name.

LEGAL CHILD CUSTODY/RESTRAINING ORDERS

Should there be a change in normal custodial arrangements for your child/children, it is imperative that school office personnel be informed as soon as possible. **A letter specifying such from the adult with custodial rights and a copy of the corresponding legal documentation are required to be sent to the school for adherence.** A copy will be placed on file, and associated personnel will be informed of the change.

The same procedure is required should there be a restraining order in effect relative to the child. Each time there is an extension or alteration to such order, the legal documentation verifying such must be provided to the school for adherence to it. The latest orders from the courts are the one that will be followed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All district employees are required to be extensively trained in our safety curriculum. Keeping your child safe is our top priority! Students will participate in a variety of announced and unannounced drills throughout the year to ensure we are prepared in case of an emergency. No dismissals will occur during drills.

All medication must be checked in with the school nurse by a parent/guardian. Please do not send your child to school if They have a fever of 100.4 or higher. If unsure to send your child or not, please contact the nurse for assistance and refer to the DHEC School Exclusion List.

COMMUNICATIONS

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

We communicate through electronic connections and social media (Facebook). Please leave an updated email address with the office and your child's teacher. We can also provide you a paper copy of information *if requested*.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Weekly parent communication through ParentSquare
- Weekly parent communication folder from classroom teachers (behavior and academics – every Wednesday)
- School handbook for parents and students (outlining school policies and procedures)
- School web site (updated with calendar of events and school information)
- Web Address: <http://www.york.k12.sc.us> (click on elementary schools and then Cotton Belt Elementary)
- CBES Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/York1CBE>
- York School District 1 and YSD1 Transportation Facebook pages
- School marquee (displays upcoming events)
- School newsletter: *Paws for News*

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS

- An automated calling system through ParentSquare for school and district announcements and emergency communications

SCHOOL PROGRAMS/MEETINGS

- Orientation Session/Open House
- PTO/School Improvement Council meetings
- Academic events
- Student musical programs
- Student recognition programs
- Field Day
- School and/or PTO events
- End-of-Year Awards Day
- Book Fairs
- Scheduled Parent Conference Days

To inform parents about these and other important meetings, we send a letter from the office and place information about the upcoming events:

- In the electronic school newsletter
- In ParentSquare automated messaging for phone calls, emails, and text messages
- On the school marquee
- On the school website and social media

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATION TO NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

Non-custodial parents may contact the school office to receive copies of school communications. We encourage non-custodial parents to stay involved in their children's education and to focus on the needs and progress of their children through opportunities like Parent/Teacher Conferences. Parents may at any time eat lunch with a student, unless court documents specify that visitation is supervised.

ATTENDANCE

- Regular attendance is critical to your child's success in school, is regulated by South Carolina state law, and is reported. Please refer to the YSD1 Attendance Guides and YSD1 Student-Parent Handbook for more information.
- Teachers will reach out via phone or ParentSquare to check in about your child's absence because we value your child's daily presence.
- Any student entering the building after 7:45 am must be signed in by a parent or guardian and will be considered tardy.
- **Please note that you may submit attendance excuses electronically through ParentSquare messaging; however, additional documentation may be required such as a medical note.**

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



PRESCHOOLERS build skills and develop good habits for showing up on time	ELEMENTARY STUDENTS read well by the end of third grade	HIGH SCHOOLERS stay on track for graduation	COLLEGE STUDENTS earn their degrees	WORKERS succeed in their jobs
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Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



STUDENT CONDUCT

BEHAVIOR STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The school community believes that all students can and will learn the skills needed to function appropriately in the school and community if given appropriate instruction, sufficient time, and personalized levels of support. Students are expected to be responsible for making appropriate decisions and choices about achievement, surroundings, interactions, and safety. To assist students in getting the greatest benefit from their school experience, while individually developing responsibility and learning to control their own behavior, certain guidelines and commitments must exist. At all times, the Code of Student Conduct will be enforced.

BELIEFS RELATED TO DISCIPLINE AT CBES

The misbehavior of one student will not be allowed to interfere with the learning opportunities of other students. The misbehavior of a student will not excuse him/her from successfully completing learning objectives. Every discipline is an opportunity to teach expected behavior. Expected behavior must be communicated, taught and modeled throughout the school year. Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children's behaviors do not take away from a safe, orderly and productive learning environment.

STAFF COMMITMENT:

- Enforce the school-wide discipline plan as agreed.
- Communicate high behavioral expectations to students and parents.
- Commit to follow through to the success of student behavior.
- Take responsibility for classroom problems and behavior.
- Foster a school climate characterized by a concern for students as individuals.
- Take an interest in the personal goals, achievements and needs of their students.

PARENT COMMITMENT:

- Reinforce the school-wide discipline plan.
- Communicate high behavioral expectations to their child.
- Commit to follow through to the success of their child's behavior.
- Take an interest in personal goals, achievements and needs of their child.

STUDENT COMMITMENT:

- Follow the school-wide discipline plan.
- Maintain high behavioral expectations.
- Accept responsibility for your behavior.
- Set personal goals and work hard to achieve them.

The success of a school-wide system lies in the relationship built between parents, staff and students of the school community. This relationship begins with communication.

- Parents will be informed about child's behavior via ParentSquare, phone calls, notes in your child's folder, think time reflection sheets, etc.
- Parents should sign and return all written communication the next day.
- Teachers may only call parents during their designated planning period or after school. Teachers will attempt to leave a message if the parent cannot be reached. Parents should return phone calls within 24 hours.

STUDENT CONDUCT

COTTON BELT STUDENT OATH

We are leaders every day - learning, growing all the way. We reach for goals both near and far, believing in how strong we are. We own our choices, right or wrong, and learn from them to grow strong. We cheer for wins, both big and small, and lift each other when we fall. With kind hearts and minds so bright, we lead and learn with all our might!

SCHOOL-WIDE BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to adhere to the following school-wide behavior expectations:

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful - Be a Leader!

INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

At CBES, we have an MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) Team as well as a designated Behavior Team that will discuss chronic student behaviors as well as create, implement, and monitor various behavioral interventions. These teams meet once-monthly and will maintain ongoing communications and documentation regarding student behavior.

We also utilize a PAWS room which is housed in our behavior/ISS room that allows students an opportunity to reflect and reset outside of the classroom while others in the room remain actively learning. The purpose of PAWS recovery is not punitive but corrective. This room can also be assigned as a consequence during breakfast or lunch time (as Breakfast PAWS or Lunch PAWS) for students who are repeatedly not responding to classroom interventions.

Consequences for misbehaviors may include, but not limited to: teacher/student conference, time out or PAWS visit, reduction or loss of privileges, parent contact (by note, phone, person to person, email), school counseling office referral, mental health referral, administrative office referral, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, change of location either within or out of the classroom, and/or parent contacted to pick up child early from school.

POSSESSION/USE OF ELECTRONIC OR WIRELESS DEVICES

In the Spring 2024 legislative session, the state of South Carolina passed Proviso 1.103 which prohibits students from accessing their cell phones during the school day as denoted by the school's start and end bell. As such, beginning August 1st, the following rules will be on place at our school: (1) Students may only access their cell phones before the start of the school day and then after the school day ends. (2) Students may not access and use their cell phones at any point during the school day, which includes transitions between classes, in hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, etc. (3) Students may use their cell phones during after school activities. (4) As a best practice, cell phones should be turned off at the beginning of and throughout the school day and placed in bookbags, handbags, or personal storage space, and out of visibility. Students will be expected to follow all rules and procedures associated with this state law.

Any student who chooses to access their cell phone at any time during the school day or participates in unauthorized use of a cell phone will be subject to consequences outlined in Board Policy AR-JICJ-R Possession/Use of Electronic Communication Devices in School.

STUDENT CONDUCT

STUDENT DRESS

York School District One believes that appropriate student dress supports a safe, healthy, and orderly learning environment. While the district respects personal expression and individual style, student attire must not interfere with teaching, learning, or school safety.

Dress code standards apply equally to all students, regardless of gender identity, body type, or expression. The responsibility for the dress and appearance of the students shall rest with individual students and parents. They have the right to determine how the student shall dress, providing that such attire complies with requirements for health and safety and does not interfere with the educational process. The administration is authorized to take action in instances where individual dress is determined to be disruptive to instruction or the orderly operation of the school or school events. Consequences will be issued at the discretion of the administrator.

Prohibited or Restricted Clothing

- Clothing must not be tight-fitting, revealing, see-through, or midriff-exposing.
- Shirts or dresses with spaghetti straps are not allowed. Tops must have a strap width of at least 3".
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be appropriately fitted and long enough to maintain coverage of the buttocks and hips. These items must not be excessively short or revealing.
- Pants and bottoms must be worn at the student's natural waistline.
- Proper shoes are required. Slippers or shoes with wheels are not permitted.
- Hats, hoods, sunglasses, headphones, and bandanas are prohibited indoors.
- Clothing must not display profanity, drugs, alcohol, or gang-related imagery.
- Clothing and accessories posing safety risks are prohibited.

NOTE: It is also requested that parents and visitors to comply with these same rules while visiting the school.

4K & 5K (or as needed): We ask that parents provide students with a change of clothes which can be used to change within the classroom. We are limited in the clothing that we have available for students. If a student has an accident without a change of clothes, the parent may have to pick the student up.

TITLE I ADDENDUM

Title I Parent Right To Know Information



Dr. Heath Branham,
Superintendent

Parents/Guardians of students in York School District One may request information about a teacher from the principal of the school to which your child is assigned. Under federal law, parents have the right to know:

- Whether a teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether a teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of a teacher and any other graduate certificate or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

If you have any questions about your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to call:

Ms. Megan Hoyt
Cotton Belt Elementary School
1176 Black Highway
York, SC 29745
684-1947

Ms. Crystal Sandifer
Harold C. Johnson Elementary
400 East Jefferson Street
York, SC 29745
Phone: (803) 818-6040

Ms. Heather Montgomery
Hunter Street Elementary
1100 Hunter Street
York, SC 29745
684-1926

Mr. Keith McSwain
Hickory Grove-Sharon Elementary
4901 Hickory Grove Road
Hickory Grove, SC 29717
925-2116

Ms. Lindsey Lawson
Jefferson Elementary School
1543 Chester Highway
York, SC 29745
684-1942

Ms. Hannah Rescigno
York Intermediate School
1280 Johnson Road
York, SC 29745
684-2311

Ms. Marilyn Milton
York Middle School
1010 DeVinney Road
York, SC 29745
684-5008

Ms. Jenna Markey
York Comprehensive High School
275 East Alexander Love Highway
York, SC 29745
684-2336

Dr. Lee Green
Floyd D. Johnson Technology Ctr.
275 East Alexander Love Highway
York, SC 29745
684-1910

Mr. Rob Farris
York One Academy
37 Pinckney Street
York, SC 29745
684-2381

By signing the Acknowledgement Form on page 25, you acknowledge that you have read and understand the Title I Right to Know.

TITLE 1 HOME-SCHOOL COMPACT

COTTON BELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TITLE I HOME-SCHOOL COMPACT

“A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT”

Research clearly indicates that effective learning only takes place when there is a combination of **effort, interest and motivation**. Research also states that learning is greatly enhanced when there is a cooperative effort between the student, school and home. With this in mind, the faculty and staff of Cotton Belt Elementary School pledge to do our very best to improve the academic, social and emotional success of all students enrolled.

School compacts make sure that everyone owns the responsibility of helping children achieve high academic standards. This Cotton Belt Elementary Compact is a promise from all participants to work together for the betterment of the student. We sincerely believe that this compact can only be fulfilled by our team effort, for it is only through the team effort that your child will reach his/her highest potential. We look forward to working with you to provide the best possible education for your child.

AS A PRINCIPAL, I WILL:

- Provide a safe and productive learning environment for all students
- Set high expectations for all students
- Provide the framework for high quality curriculum and instruction
- Enforce school rules fairly and consistently
- Provide ongoing communication with all parents on information such as student progress, school programs, and testing results.
- Seek parent participation in decisions pertaining to school programs and governance and encourage parents to share opinions
- Provide opportunities for parents to meet with teachers, visit and observe in classrooms and volunteer
- Provide ample opportunity for parent-teacher conferences
- Make special arrangements when necessary to help parents participate in school activities

AS A TEACHER, I WILL:

- believe that each child can learn
- make all decisions that are in the best interest of the student
- show respect for each child and his/her family
- help each child grow to his/her fullest potential
- come to class each day prepared to teach and learn
- provide a safe, productive and nurturing learning environment
- model professional behavior and a positive attitude
- ensure fairness and equity in adherence to school, district and classroom rules
- recognize and celebrate the cultural diversity of my students
- maintain an open line of communication with students and parents
- provide a variety of opportunities for parents to become involved in school activities
- be flexible when scheduling parent communication
- provide parents with appropriate information and resources

TITLE 1 HOME-SCHOOL COMPACT

- provide meaningful and appropriate homework; and
- consult and coordinate with other teachers about the specific needs of each child

AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN, I WILL:

- recognize that I am my child's first and most important teacher
- provide a home environment that encourages my child to learn
- strive to develop the parenting skills needed to help my child succeed
- consistently stress the importance of a quality education and acceptable behavior
- read to or listen to my child read every night
- make sure my child attends school regularly and arrives to school each day on time and well groomed
- provide my child with adequate school supplies for successful learning
- encourage my child to be independently responsible
- communicate regularly with my child's teacher
- review my child's progress reports
- provide educational opportunities for my child throughout the year; and
- if possible, volunteer in my child's school

AS A STUDENT I WILL:

- do my very best in my work and in my behavior
- come to school each day prepared with all my assignments and supplies
- assume total responsibility for my actions
- obey all school and bus rules
- be respectful at all times
- be an active participant in school and community service; and
- read aloud or silently every day

By signing this Compact, you have made one of the most important commitments you will ever make. Thank you for taking the time to make a difference in the life of a child.

Together, we can make a difference!

By signing the Acknowledgement Form on page 25, both the student and the parent are agreeing that you have read and understand the Title I Parent Compact for York School District I.



York School District One – Title I Parent/Guardian Involvement Plan

All schools in York School District One are Title I eligible. For the 2026-2027 school year, the Title I identified schools are: Cotton Belt Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, and Harold C. Johnson Elementary School.

I. Parent/Guardian Involvement

The Parent/Guardian Involvement Plan is jointly developed with, agreed upon with, and distributed to, all of the parents and guardians of participating children. We will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents/guardians with limited English proficiency and parents/guardians with disabilities. Furthermore, we will coordinate and integrate parental/guardian involvement programs and activities at the school level with other federal, state, and district programs. The Parent/Guardian Involvement Plan will be presented for discussion and approval with parents and the community during the initial open house meeting. The Plan will be updated as needed and reviewed annually by a team of people – including parents, community members, school and district administrators, and school faculty and staff members in order to continuously meet the changing needs of our parents, our students, and the school.

II. Shared Responsibility: Parent/Guardian – School Compact

The Parent/Guardian – School Compact, jointly developed with, agreed upon with and distributed to all parents/guardians, will describe how parents/guardians, students, and the entire school staff, will share in the responsibility for high student achievement. A team of people including parents/guardians, community members, school and school faculty and staff will annually review the School Compact.

III. Building Capacity for Involvement

In an effort to ensure effective involvement of parents/guardians and to support a partnership among the stakeholders for student achievement, we will:

- Assist parents/guardians in understanding South Carolina's academic and achievement standards and the school's Title I participation by disseminating pamphlets and handouts and conducting parent/guardian-teacher conferences, parenting/guardian workshops, and Open Houses.
- Communicate and monitor a child's progress by interim report cards, quarterly report cards, IEP meetings, telephone calls, parent/guardians-teacher conferences, dissemination of state testing information and academic plans.



- Assist parents/guardians in helping them improve the achievement of their children through parenting/guardian workshops, adult education, newsletters that provide activities and suggestions, and students' weekly folders.
- Educate teachers and other staff members, with the assistance of parents/guardians in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents/guardians through PTO, conferences, workshops, and staff development.
- Send information related to school and parent/guardian programs, meetings, and other activities to the parents/guardians in a format and language they can understand through school-generated newsletters, PTO meetings, school improvement council meetings, school calendars, parent/guardian/student handbooks, and student planners.
- Provide opportunities for parents/guardians to communicate with the school through an open door policy, suggestion boxes, designated times to meet with principal and/or teachers, and parenting/guardian workshops.
- Provide other activities to promote parental/guardian involvement through National Volunteer Week, field trips, parenting/guardian workshops, volunteer programs, and tutoring programs.
- Provide reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents/guardians may request.
- Collaborate with Head Start, community agencies, state agencies and non-profits to provide additional support for parents and guardians.

By signing the Acknowledgement Form on page 25, you are agreeing that you have read and understand the Title I Parent Involvement Policy for York School District 1.

Staying Home from School or Childcare When Your Child is Sick

UPDATED JUNE 2025



If you think that your child has an illness that can be spread to others, please keep him or her home from school or childcare. Contact your healthcare provider or clinic if you think medical attention is needed.

The School and Childcare Exclusion List was updated in June 2025.

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Help your child stay healthy and ready to learn! We hope that your child never has to miss school or childcare because of sickness. For many illnesses it is OK to go to school, especially when symptoms are mild. Frequent handwashing and staying up to date with vaccinations can help prevent illnesses.

DPH publishes the School and Childcare Exclusion List each year. The Exclusion List explains how long ill children should stay out of school or childcare, and what is needed before returning. Your child's healthcare provider can also help if you have questions about your child's health.

Information for specific illnesses can be found on the School and Childcare Exclusion List on the web at the following address:

<https://dph.sc.gov/health-wellness/child-teen-health/school-exclusion>

Questions to Consider When Your Child is Sick:

1. Does your child's illness keep him/her from comfortably taking part in activities?
2. Does your sick child need more care than the staff can give without affecting the health and safety of other children?
3. Could other children get sick from being near your child?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes," please keep your child out of school or childcare.

Should my child stay home?

A Quick Reference for Parents/Caregivers of Children

Cough

A mild cough does not necessarily mean that a child needs to stay home. Your child will need to stay home if the cough is constant, causes shortness of breath, problems breathing, or if they have a fever.

Diarrhea

Keep your child home if he or she has 3 or more loose stools in 24 hours. Your child may return when they have no more than 2 stools above their normal and stool is contained in the diaper for diapered children.

Fever

Keep your child home for a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher AND experiencing behavior change or other signs of illness. Your child may return when they no longer have a fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medicine.

Rash

Keep your child home if the rash is associated with change in behavior, fever, tenderness, oozing, or is an open wound that can't be covered.

Vomiting

Keep your child home if unexplained vomiting has occurred 2 or more times in a 24-hour period. Your child may return when well enough to participate in routine activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

When should sick children stay home from school or childcare?

If your child feels too sick to go to school or childcare and is unable to participate in activities, please keep him or her at home.

Does my child need to stay home when the child just has a cold?

Most children with mild colds who have no fever (without taking fever reducing medication) and who feel well enough to go to school or childcare do not need to stay home.

Does my child need to be out of school or childcare if the child has pinkeye?

No. It is helpful to think of pinkeye like the common cold—it usually clears up without medicine.

How long will my child need to stay home if the child is sick?

The School and Childcare Exclusion List explains how long children should stay home after they become sick with certain illnesses.

When would my child have to stay home if my child is not sick?

Sometimes children will have to stay home from school or childcare if they are exposed to certain diseases. Your school, childcare center, or local health department will discuss the amount of time with you.

What illness might keep my child from participating in other activities?

Children with illnesses that can be spread to others may not be allowed to participate in some sports, physical education, or other school activities.



SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

DPH Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section

400 Otarre Parkway, Cayce, SC 29033

Phone: 803.898.0861 / Fax: 803.898.0897

<https://dph.sc.gov/health-wellness/child-teen-health/school-exclusion>

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dear Parents,

Please sign and return this form to the school office after you have reviewed the following:

- YSD1 Student/Parent Handbook
- CBES Student/Parent Handbook Addendum in its entirety, including Title I Right to Know, Title I School/Home Compact, and Title I Parent Involvement Plan

Thank you,
Megan Hoyt, Principal

“I have read, reviewed, and agree to follow the YSD1 Student/Parent Handbook and the CBES Student/Parent Handbook Addendum, including Title I Right to Know, Title I School/Home Compact, and Title I Parent Involvement Plan.

Student Name (Please Print)

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____