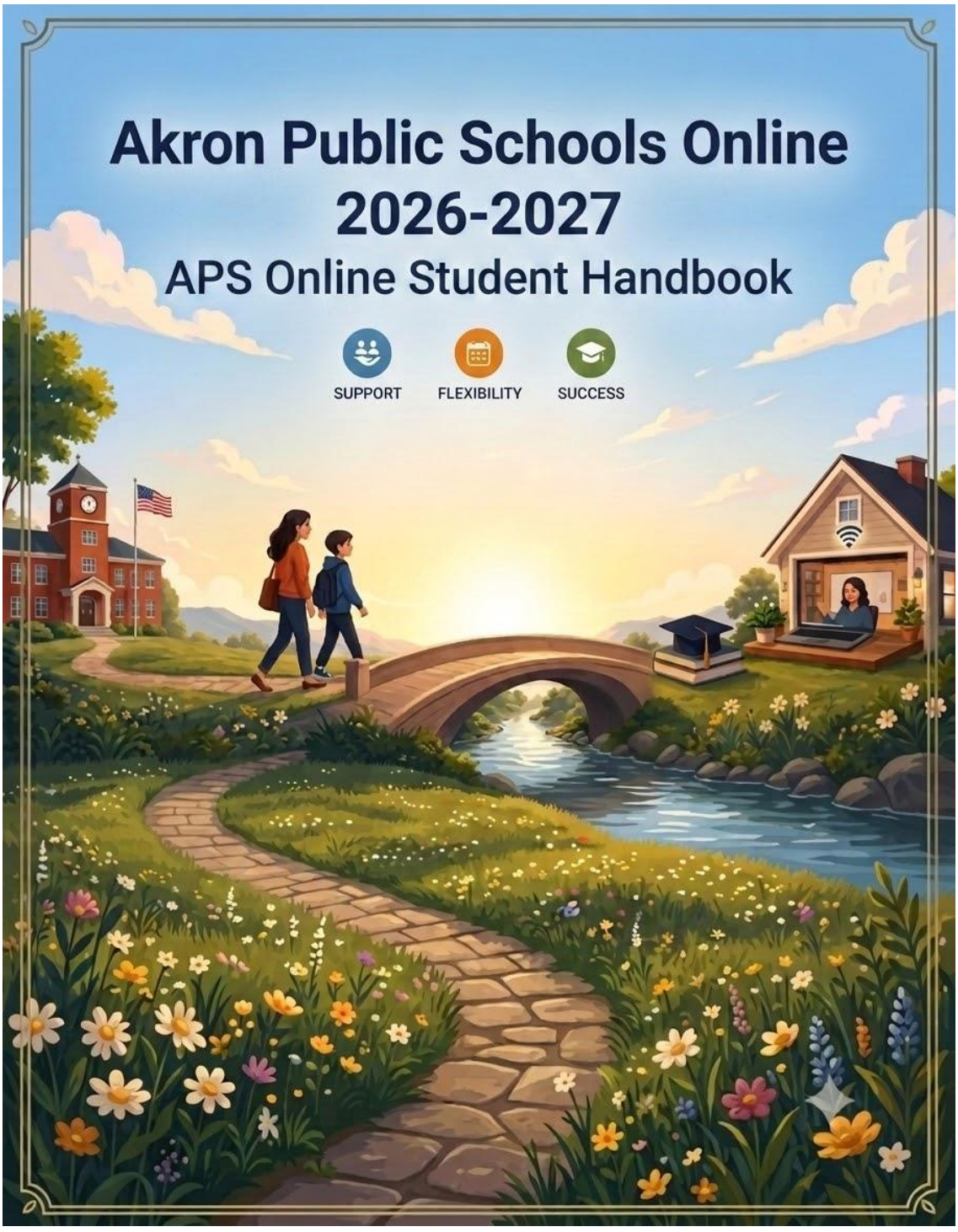


Essex Building
1160 Winhurst Drive
Akron, OH 44313
Phone: 330-761-3115 | Fax:330-761-3144
Web address:
https://www.akronschools.com/schools/high-schools/aps-online
Building hours: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Akron Public Schools.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to APS Online. Akron Public Schools values the importance of clear communication with our parents and guardians, and we look forward to partnering with you to provide a remote learning option for your child/children. Our goal is for APS Online students to be:

- Seen, heard, included, and valued in culturally responsive environments
- Challenged, supported, and actively engaged with rigorous teaching and learning
- Agents of their learning
- Prepared to achieve at the highest level academically, socially, and emotionally so they are college and career-ready graduates and future leaders

This handbook contains information about our district and school policies. Please keep it throughout the school year so you can refer to it when necessary. There may be times during the year when a policy is changed or added. That information will be shared with students and updated in this handbook as it occurs.

Your input is important and helpful. Please send me your comments or questions at any time regarding this handbook or any information sent home. Our teachers, staff, and I look forward to working with you to make this a successful school year for your child.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Paradise

Principal

APS Online

Student Handbook Contents

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APS ONLINE STAFF 2026-2027
[APS Online Staff 2026-2027]

APS Online Staff 2026-2027

APS Online Principal	Cheryl Paradise	114	cparadis@apslearns.org 330-761-2820
Administrative Assistant	Helen Zampelli	114	hzampell@apslearns.org 330-379-8361
School Counselor	Diane Abood	113	dabood@apslearns.org 330-761-1675

APS Online Student Support by Grade			
APS Online Mentor Grades (5-9)	Teresa Shockley	121	tshockle@apslearns.org 330-761-2766
APS Online Mentor Grades (10-12)	RoxAnne Whatley	121	raw46263@apslearns.org 330-379-8371
APS Online Resource Mentor • Industry Credentials • Plato Credit Recovery	Chris Meneer	118	cmeneeer@apslearns.org 330-379-8367

Intervention Specialist	Patricia Graner	118	pgraner@apslearns.org 330-379-8351

Intervention Specialist	Traci May	124	tmay@apslearns.org 330-379-8363

APS ONLINE 2026-2027 CALENDAR

APS Online 2026-2027 Calendar

August 24-26, 2026	Convocation/First Teacher Day/Teacher Meetings/Classroom preparations
August 26, 2026	APS Online Meet & Greet
August 27, 2026	First Day for Students in Grades 1-12
September 7, 2026	Labor Day, schools and offices are closed
September 9, 2026	i-Ready Diagnostic Grades 5-7 (In-Person)
September 11, 2026	i-Ready Diagnostic Grade 8 (In-Person)
September 25, 2026	All Staff Professional Development Day; no school for students
November 3, 2026	Election Day/All Staff Professional Development Day; no school for students
November 25, 2026	Parent-Teacher Conferences; no school for students
November 26-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break; schools and offices are closed.
December 21, 2026 - January 1, 2027	Winter Break; no school for students; office closed on Dec. 24-25 and 31 and Jan. 1
January 15, 2027	Citywide Inservice/Records Day; no school for students
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day; schools and offices closed
January 29, 2027	All Staff Professional Development Day; no school for students
February 12, 2027	Parent-Teacher Conferences; no school for students
February 15, 2027	Presidents' Day; schools and offices are closed

March 26-April 2, 2027	Spring Break/Good Friday; schools closed; offices closed on March 26 for Good Friday
May 4, 2027	All Staff Professional Development Day; no school for students
May 18, 2027	Senior Day, Final Day Seniors
May 25, 2027	APS Online Graduation
May 31, 2027	Memorial Day, schools and offices are closed
June 3, 2027	Final Day for Students
June 4, 2027	Final Day for Teachers

APS DISTRICT CALENDAR

The first day of school for all APS Online students is Thursday, August 27, 2026. The last day of school for APS Online students is June 3, 2027.

REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING

All APS Online students are required to take mandatory testing in person. The APS Online administration will provide all necessary information regarding each testing session at the designated APS Online testing site. Students must comply with all Akron Public School District Student Testing guidelines.

2026-2027 ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

APS ONLINE STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

All semester-based courses are one-half credit. Students are given a maximum of 18 weeks to complete a one-half-credit course. Courses can be completed before the 18-week window. Courses consist of a blend of self-paced and guided instruction, including tutorials, mastery tests, dropbox activities, and discussions. In addition to completing self-paced activities, the student will be required to attend synchronous Zoom overview sessions each week for each course enrolled. Students will also be required to submit weekly time logs. The weekly time logs will maintain a log of the amount of time the student spends working in offline learning activities. **A student who takes 5 courses and spends 5 hours per week on each one is devoting approximately 25 hours per week to their coursework.**

Each course has a required final exam, which must be proctored by the APS Online mentor.

- Students and a parent or guardian will attend a mandatory orientation session, held in person or virtually, with their assigned mentor on the first day of school.
- Students will attend scheduled live remote lessons or view recorded lessons to gain a deeper understanding of the content.
- Virtual AM/PM attendance with the assigned APS Online mentor (cameras turned on to verify student attendance). This requirement is to ensure the safety and well-being of all APS Online students. Students not demonstrating adequate academic progress may require additional support:
    - Extra help sessions with EdOptions Academy teacher
    - Support meetings with families

- Individual student success plans
- Family meetings to determine whether students should remain remote or return to in-person instruction at the end of the semester; additionally, there are procedures in place to address individual student and family extenuating circumstances via our APS Student Engagement Office.

GRADING INFORMATION

Your online teachers will issue percent marks for your courses. To receive credit in a course, students must meet the following requirements:

Grades 6 - 12

- The student will need an overall average of 60%.
- Students must take the EOS (End of Semester) Exam and complete all assignments to earn credit in the course. Students may not retake End of Semester Exams.

Your transcripts for Akron Public Schools will reflect the grading scale below.

AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADING SCALE

A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.8
B+	87-89	3.2
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.8
C+	77-79	2.2
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.8
D+	67-69	1.2
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.8
F	0-59	0.6

Students enrolled in APS Online will receive report Cards at the end of each semester.

APS ONLINE/FAMILY AGREEMENTS

APS Online, Akron Public Schools online learning program, is for select students living in the school district boundaries.

Akron Public Schools will provide:

- District Chromebook while enrolled
- Experienced online teachers for each subject
- A public high school diploma with the benefits of an APS student
- Special education accommodations, intervention specialist and supports
- High-quality online curriculum with elective, advanced placement and foreign language course options
- Ability to participate in extracurricular activities at your homeschool
- APS Online mentor

Families will provide:

- Internet access/Wi-Fi
- A high level of guardian/parent involvement for progress monitoring in 2-5 (Learning Guide)
- Collaboration with APS mentor
- Participation in standardized testing applicable for students' grade level at a designated testing location
- That students meet attendance and weekly academic progress
- Students maintain attendance requirements
- Enrollment with Akron Public Schools
- School supplies: paper, notebook, USB external mouse (optional),pens/pencils

TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY

Akron Public Schools' goal is to provide your child with access to various types of technology throughout the school day.

Considering the privileges of using the Akron Public Schools technology and telecommunication resources and having access to the information on computer networks, parents and students must sign an internet/network consent form. The form states that parents and students release the Akron Public Schools, its computer networks, and their operators and administration from any and all claims arising from the use, or inability to use, the Akron Public Schools' network technology and telecommunication resources.

The terms and conditions of the agreement and usage are outlined on the form that must be signed and kept on file in the school office.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an essential extension of our school curriculum. Appropriate behavior from all students is necessary for your child to benefit from these activities. The principal and/or assistant principal reserve the right to prohibit students from attending field trips because of disruptive behavior.

The APS parent permission slips must be signed in advance. Siblings are not permitted to attend field trips with chaperones.

The Intervention Assistance Team (IAT) is a school-based group of people whose purpose is to provide support to students who are experiencing academic and/or behavioral difficulties, preventing them from fully benefiting and accessing their education because they are performing below expectations. By supporting these students, the IAT may not only help the student be able to remain and succeed in the general education

program, but also reduce unnecessary referrals to special education. The IAT is responsible for monitoring the progress of students and intervention programs. While the IAT is a general education initiative, the IAT may make referrals to special education and other programs if it is in the best interest of the child.

ADMISSION/ENROLLMENT (DISTRICT)

ADMISSION

We welcome new students to the Akron Public Schools family at any time of the year. Parents of new students should call 330.761.2810 for support and a possible appointment at the David W. James Engagement Center at 10 N. Main Street downtown to complete registration, or they may contact the school office to schedule an appointment. You may also visit Akronschools.com and visit the enrollment page: https://www.akronschools.com/enrollment to view our new online registration guide.

The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) states that children should attend public school in the district where their parents or legal guardians reside. To register for kindergarten in the Akron Public Schools, children must be five years of age on or before September 30.

Students transferring from another school will usually be placed in the grade level recommended by the previous school. We will request that official records be sent to us to meet each child's needs as quickly as possible. If you are enrolling a child in 4th grade, please ensure you have documentation that your child has met the Third Grade Reading Guarantee criteria.

New students at all grade levels will be required to present, at the time of enrollment, an official birth certificate or other evidence of birth, proof of having received or being in the process of receiving required immunizations, two proofs of residency, custody, and I.E.P. information, if applicable.

Nothing in this policy is intended to supersede state laws. In areas of conflict between this policy and state law, state law shall control all aspects.

Language interpreters are available to support Limited English-proficient parents as needed. Please contact your building principal if you need an interpreter.

ACCELERATION AND EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

All children learn and experience success given time and opportunity. Still, the degree to which academic content standards are met and the time it takes to reach them will vary from student to student. The Akron Public Schools Board of Education believes that all students, including advanced learners, should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential. This can best be achieved for many advanced learners by affording them access to curriculum, learning environments, and instructional interventions more commonly provided to older peers.

The Academic Acceleration Policy, required by Section 3324.10 of the Revised Code, enacted in HB 66, describes the process for evaluating students for possible accelerated placement and identifying students who should be granted early admission to kindergarten, accelerated in one or more individual subject areas, promoted to a higher grade level than their same-age peers, and granted early graduation from high school. Parents may submit a written appeal of results.

Request for Acceleration Review forms are available on the Gifted and Talented Education web page:

(https://www.akronschools.com/departments/special_education/gifted_and_talented)

or by calling Diane Gearhart, Coordinator of Gifted Programs, at 330-761-3108.

IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED STUDENTS

Akron Public Schools believes in challenging our gifted students. We screen and identify gifted students in grades K-12 (3324.03 O.R.C.). Research related to young gifted children documents the need for early identification to help prevent underachievement. Students can be identified in four areas: superior cognitive, specific academic (reading/writing, mathematics, social studies, and science), creative thinking and the visual and performing arts (art, music, dance and drama).

All students in grades 2 and 4 will take the CoGat-7 and iReady assessments in the fall to identify cognitive, academic and creatively gifted students. The visual and performing arts identification will take place by audition in the fall or spring for all grade levels. All testing and audition results must be sent to parents within 30 days. Parents may submit a written appeal of the identification results.

Anyone may recommend a student for testing. Referral forms are available on the Gifted and Talented Education web page (https://www.akronschools.com/departments/special_education/gifted_and_talented) or by calling 330-761-3108.

All students in elementary schools who have been identified as gifted, will be provided gifted services through a variety of methods, such as consultation, co-teaching, push-in or pull-out services from the gifted intervention specialist per the established building level service delivery plan.

SECTION 504 If you have any questions concerning your child's eligibility under Section 504, or wish to discuss the actions of your child's Section 504 team in regards to your child's eligibility, accommodations or provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), please contact Dr. Robert Kubick, Section 504/Civil Rights Compliance Officer, at 330-761-3151.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Akron Public Schools supports parent choice whenever possible. Board policies regarding inter-district (between districts) and intra-district (within the district) are Board Policies 5113 and 5113.01. The complete policy is available on our web page, www.akronschools.com, or through the APS Open Enrollment Office, 330-761-2816.

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS

If you are withdrawing your child, you must provide the new school's address and your forwarding address. When the receiving school forwards a request for records, the records will be mailed or electronically sent to the new school. Students will not be withdrawn from our school before the request for records is sent from the new school. Please contact the Engagement Center at 330-761-2810 for information.

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is essential and integral to student achievement and growth. No student shall fail to comply with state attendance laws, including truancy or tardiness from a specific class or school. No student shall leave school property or an assigned education location once he or she has come under the supervision of a school employee, before dismissal times, without official permission.

GENERAL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

School is compulsory for youth between ages six (6) and eighteen (18) inclusive. When a student is absent, a parent, guardian, or legal custodian must report the absence and the reason for the absence by calling the school between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. Failure to call will result in an unexcused absence. A parent, guardian, or legal custodian must, within ten school days of the date of the absence, submit a written explanation of the reasons for the absence. Absent students (excused and unexcused) may not attend any school activities/sports that same day.

Excused absences may be reported to the APS Online office at 330-761-3115. Students

who are repeatedly absent from school will be referred to the Akron Board of Education and to the Summit County Juvenile Court.

APS ONLINE VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE (GRADES 6-12)

Virtual AM attendance with the assigned APS Online mentor (cameras turned on to verify student attendance)

Students will log in to a Google Meet AM and PM session and remain active in EdOptions, i-Ready, and/or PLATO courseware each day school is in session. Attendance in both the AM and PM sessions is required to ensure students are meeting attendance requirements and completing their coursework.

AM Google Meet - 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

PM Google Meet - 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

To maintain enrollment with APS Online the following minimum requirements must be met:

- Virtual AM and PM Google Meets with the assigned APS Online mentor (cameras turned on to verify student attendance)
- Meetings with assigned Intervention Specialist (if applicable)
- Responses are required to emails, phone calls, and mailings
- Academic progress must be demonstrated (Calvert, EdOptions, iReady, Plato, etc.)
- In-person visits (assessments, conferences, open-house)

Students who fail to meet the minimum requirements will be removed from APS Online and enrolled back in their homeschool.

Students are required to work consistently and to follow the pacing provided in the EdOptions Academy Student Information System (SIS). Students must maintain regular communication with EdOptions Academy online teachers and the APS Online mentor. Students are expected to respond within 24 hours to any emails they receive. In addition to submitting work according to the suggested pace, students will also have at least one synchronous contact with their virtual instructor per course each week.

Required Hours: Students must log in every day that Akron Public Schools are in session.

A student must accumulate engagement time each day to inform an attendance designation for the day. **Students must accumulate a minimum of 5 hours (300 minutes) of engagement daily through a combination of time-logged-in courses, live lessons, supplemental programs (iReady, Plato Courseware), and approved offline time submissions to be counted as Present for the day.**

Continued accumulation of unengaged hours will result in truancy action.

TRUANCY

Unexcused absence from school (truancy) is unacceptable and detrimental to student achievement and growth. Truant students will receive no credit for missed schoolwork. Students who accumulate 30 consecutive hours, 42 hours in a month, and or 72 hours in a school year of unexcused absence will be considered habitually truant and be placed on an APS Attendance Plan to be addressed at the school through the APS Attendance Intervention Team to find the root cause of unexcused absences and develop interventions the student, guardian and school can work on to end absences from school. Failure to improve attendance may lead to a referral to juvenile court.

If a student is habitually truant and the parent fails to ensure the student's attendance, a complaint may be filed with the Summit County Juvenile Court judge in compliance with state law and board policy 5200.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following conditions may excuse a student from school attendance if the parent/guardian calls the school before 9:30 a.m. to notify the office of the absence:

- Personal illness or injury (a medical verification, the school principal may require a note)
- Family illness (an emergency requiring the student to be absent from school)
- Quarantine of the home (by local health officials)
- Death of a relative (limited to three days, unless reasonable cause can be shown for a longer absence)
- Observance of a religious holiday (consistent with the student's established creed or belief)

Ohio law requires that students returning to school after all absences bring a written note from their parent or guardian stating the date(s) of absence(s), reason for absence, parent signature, and parent phone number.

OAC (Ohio Administrative Code) 3321.19 requires a school district to examine all truancy cases, notify parents of the penalties if a child is truant, and file a complaint with the appropriate court if the child does not cease being truant. Students may be required to repeat a grade when unexcused absences exceed 10% of the school year.

CODE OF CONDUCT/ DISCIPLINE/SAFETY

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Akron Public Schools Code of Conduct and Discipline is included in the board's opening school packet mailed to homes, posted in all school buildings and offices, reviewed with students twice a year, and available on the website, www.akronschools.com. You may request a copy from any school office.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Administrators may search a student or his/her property (including vehicles, purses, book bags, gym bags, etc.) with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that a search will lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of the law, the district's code of student behavior, or breach of a school rule. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice. Student lockers are the district's property, and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their contents or in the contents of any other district property, including desks or other containers.

Additionally, students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their actions in public areas, including, but not limited to, common areas, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms, and gymnasiums. The district may use video cameras in such areas and on all school vehicles when transporting students.

Anything found during a search may be used as evidence of a violation of the law, the APS Code of Student Behavior, or a school rule and may be taken, held, or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items that have been confiscated.

HAZING AND BULLYING

The Akron Public Schools Board of Education is committed to providing all its students a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment. The board prohibits bullying, harassment, and intimidation.

Administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying, harassment, or intimidation to provide examples for student behavior.

"Bullying, harassment or intimidation" means any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or violence within a dating relationship.

If a student believes he or she is a victim of conduct prohibited under this policy, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it to the building principal or assistant principal and allow the administration to investigate and determine the appropriate course of action. A complaint should be

completed through the district's bullying, harassment, or intimidation form.

The principal or assistant principal shall promptly investigate all complaints of behavior that may violate this policy. If the investigation finds the instance of the behavior prohibited by this policy has been substantiated, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action, pursuant to the student code of conduct. This may include (but is not limited to) mediation (if appropriate), counseling session(s), participation in an anti-bullying program or suspension up to and including expulsion. Perpetrators may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

The complete policy and procedures for reporting suspected bullying incidents are available on the district website, are mailed home at the beginning of the school year and are also available in every school office.

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports)

APS Online is proud to be a PBIS school, and we are recognized with the Bronze Award for our excellent implementation for positive behavior and expectations in our school.
As a PBIS school, you will hear the following from your child: **ATTEND, BE PREPARED, BE SAFE, and OWN IT.** These expectations are followed in all APS Online virtual and in-person sessions.

To remain in good standing with APS Online, students must meet the following minimum requirements each school day:

1. **Daily Attendance & Participation**

Attend mandatory virtual homeroom from 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM via Google Meet (cameras must be turned on to verify attendance).
Participate in the AM academic work session from 8:10 AM – 11:30 AM (Google Meet open; cameras and mics off; students work in Edmentum).
Participate in the PM academic work session from 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM (Google Meet open; cameras and mics off; students work in Edmentum and/or Plato Credit Recovery).

2. **Engagement & Communication**

Attend scheduled meetings with the assigned Intervention Specialist (if applicable).
Respond promptly to school emails, phone calls, and mailings.
Record and submit offline work hours weekly using the provided Google Form.

3. **Academic Progress**

Demonstrate consistent academic progress in platforms such as EdOptions, ALEKS, and Plato.
Log a minimum of 1 hour of activity per enrolled course each school day.

5. **In-Person Attendance**

Participate in in-person events as scheduled (e.g., assessments, conferences, open houses).
Ohio State Tests are mandatory in-person assessments.

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6. **Middle School Specific Requirement**

Complete at least 2 Math i-Ready and 2 Ready i-Ready lessons each week.

7. **Seniors**

APS Online Senior Year Enrollment Agreement
Seniors who choose to enroll or remain with APS Online during their senior year will be required to complete their high school education with APS Online. Seniors will not have the option to transfer to their homeschool or any other Akron Public School for any part of their senior year. This is to ensure a seamless and consistent educational experience for all Akron Public School students.

Key Points to Note:

Enrollment Commitment: Seniors opting for APS Online anytime during the academic year commit to completing their high school education exclusively through APS Online.
Graduation Certification: Students who graduate with APS Online will receive their high school diploma from Akron Public Schools, acknowledging their successful completion of the graduation requirements set forth by the Akron Public Schools district. APS Online will hold a dedicated school graduation ceremony for all seniors who have met Akron Public Schools graduation requirements.
No Building Transfers: Once enrolled in APS Online, seniors will not be allowed to transfer to another APS school.

Seniors who are not on track to graduate may be required to attend in person through APS Online if they are not making adequate progress toward meeting graduation requirements.

Support is available to help students meet these requirements. Each student will be assigned an APS Online mentor to provide technology assistance, academic support, and course navigation. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan will receive accommodations in accordance with their individual plans. Those with an IEP will also be assigned an Intervention Specialist to provide additional support.

SAFETY DRILLS (applies to students who are required to participate in district/state assessments in-person)

Each school is required to conduct safety drills during the school year. Fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills will be conducted according to the Ohio Department of Education and local law enforcement. During a safety drill, all visitors must follow the staff's directions. During the drills, parents and visitors will not be admitted to the school building.

HEALTH/MEDICAL

EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORMS

State law requires parents to fill out an APS Emergency Medical Authorization Form, and we now have an online process for this. We call it the APS *Returning Student* Information process. This will allow you to verify your student's demographic, emergency, and medical information. This process will replace the paper forms sent home at the beginning of each school year. You can also visit https://akronschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=409163&pageId=8920275 to view the APS Returning Student Information Guide.

To return to school following a COVID19 condition, students must have proper written authorization to return to school from the physician or assigned health care provider.

HAND WASHING PROTOCOL

Handwashing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds is very important to prevent illness and communicable diseases. When soap and water are not available, disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used in place of handwashing on most occasions.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

Your child must meet county and state health regulations for school entrance. Health records are checked each year, and the school will send you a reminder of the required immunizations your child still needs.

Students will be excluded from school if the immunization schedule is not completed within fourteen calendar days after the student's first day of school. Written statements of objection to immunizations due to parents' or guardians' philosophical or religious reasons are required. A medical exemption for immunization must be signed by the child's

physician.

State law requires parents to fill out an APS Emergency Medical Authorization form. These forms are kept on file in the office and used in emergencies.

It is preferred that medications be administered to students at home; however, it is also recognized that certain circumstances may necessitate administering medications during school hours.

Guidelines have been established to control authorized drugs within schools and ensure the health and welfare of students. All medications must be locked in a cabinet and administered by school personnel or health aides.

A physician's medication procedure request form must be completed, signed, and on file in the office before the clinic staff can give any medication. Children are NOT permitted to transport medication to schools. All medications must be brought to school by a parent or guardian. This is critical to the health and safety of all children.

If the physician indicates it is medically necessary for the student to carry medication with him/her, the proper form must be signed to authorize the student to keep that in his/her possession. A physician's written order is required if students need to carry prescribed medication during bus transportation.

Students are not permitted to carry or self-administer non-prescription medication (this includes cough drops, eye drops, or any over-the-counter medication).

Medication forms for non-prescription and prescription medication are available in the school office and expire at the end of each school year.

Occasionally, school personnel may need to send a child home from school due to the possibility of a communicable disease. The child will be permitted to return to school when the condition has cleared or, if the student is under a physician's care, when the physician authorizes the child to return.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Ohio law requires all students enrolled in public, charter, or private schools to be properly immunized unless otherwise exempt. The student immunization record must be on file at the student's assigned school, and the full dose must be received at the proper intervals.

Enrollment is not denied due to improper immunization; however, students who are not adequately immunized will be excluded from their assigned school for fourteen calendar days from the start of the school year unless their immunizations are "in progress."

The list of current required immunizations is printed each year in the Back to School packet mailed to each home. It is also available in the school office or the Office of Student Services at 330-761-2825.

MEDICAL CONCERNS – ALLERGIES (applies to students who are required to participate in district/state assessments in-person)

All school personnel must know of any type of allergy your child has, such as bee stings or foods. The school health aide should be provided with this information on the student emergency card form.

Food service staff must have a statement from your physician documenting the specific food allergy and acceptable substitutes to make accommodations within the National School Breakfast and/or Lunch Program.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING AND DELAYS

APS Online is closed when the district is closed.

In inclement weather, school delays and closings will be communicated to each household using the district's automated phone system.

In addition, they will be posted online at www.akronschools.com.

Delay and closing information will also be reported to local television and radio stations.

There may be times when school must be dismissed during the day because of an emergency. In such instances, parents will be contacted using the district's automated phone system.

Each family will be mailed information about the school year during the summer, including your emergency medical authorization form. Please complete it and return it to the school on the first day. Be sure to update phone numbers throughout the year as necessary.

MULTI-CULTURAL AWARENESS

Akron Public Schools is committed to increasing awareness of and sensitivity to cultural diversity in our school community.

Equity Policy (2260.40) The board of education in the Akron Public Schools is committed to preparing each child for success. We believe that every student, parent/guardian, and staff member brings his/her own personal background and experience into our schools and we are richer for it. Each has a legitimate expectation to have a barrier-free learning environment counteracting the contemporary and historical impact of bias, prejudice and discrimination which for generations has produced a predictability of learning outcomes based on race, ethnicity, class, socioeconomics, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, diverse language fluency, religion, and cognitive/physical ability.

The board believes that the responsibility for student success is broadly shared by district staff, families, our community, and our student's own efforts. It is the obligation of the district to embrace the diversity within our district while actively eliminating practices that perpetuate the disparities among our students so that all students have the opportunity to benefit equally.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

There are many ways to be engaged in your child's education.

The PTA at each elementary school provides valuable support services to many aspects of the school's operation. For more information, please contact the PTA president in your building or see the website http://www.akroncouncilofptas.org/

For other opportunities to be involved at your school, please visit the Community Relations website at www.akronschools.com

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The district desires to rectify any misunderstandings between the public and the district by directly discussing them in an informal, timely manner among the interested parties. The APS district procedure for resolving any oral or written misunderstandings or complaints from parents and/or stakeholders concerned with the appropriate delivery of services to children is simple and straightforward. All complainants should first contact the child's teacher, if applicable, to attempt to resolve any issues. If not resolved, the appropriate procedure is to contact the dean of students and/or assistant principal (if applicable), then the building principal. In most cases, problems can be quickly resolved at the building level. If not resolved at the building, contact the executive director of elementary education. (General Provisions Regulations, at 34 CFR Sections 299.10-299.12)

RELEASE OF STUDENT PHOTO/MEDIA INTERVIEW

Parent/guardian must sign a media consent form to grant permission for a child's name, writing, photograph, video, art, or quote without limit, reservation, or remuneration by the media and/or Akron Public Schools. The release form is available online to be completed upon enrollment or can be revised using the online portal for students already enrolled in the district..

RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records shall be maintained in accordance with Board of Education Policy 8330 and state and/or federal laws and regulations.

SCHOOL VISITATION -

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome to our school. Upon entering the school, visitors must report to the office to sign in and obtain a visitor's badge. Any visitor found in the building without signing in shall be reported to the principal. Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from

the principal. **If you have an appointment or are expected somewhere in the building to assist a teacher, you must always wear a visitor badge.**

Parents/guardians may not sit in or visit a classroom without prior permission from the principal. Visits must be mutually agreed upon between the teacher and principal. Per the teacher contract, teachers are to be provided with 24 hours' notice of parental classroom visits.

Students and staff are expected to immediately report any suspicious behavior or situation that makes them uncomfortable to a teacher or administrator.

TELEPHONE – OFFICE PHONES

Telephones in the school are for business purposes. In emergencies only, students may obtain permission to use the phone.

CELL PHONE AND VALUABLE PROPERTY

To avoid disruption of the educational environment and protect APS students' rights of privacy, student possession of personal cellular telephones and camera phones, satellite or electronic communication devices of any kind, laser pointers and attachments, paging devices, beepers, and personal digital assistants ("Prohibited Devices") are prohibited in school facilities during school hours, at school-sponsored events, and on school transportation provided by the district, except with regards to the limited permitted exceptions expressly set forth below in this policy. Student possession of personal radios, headsets, portable compact disc players, portable DVD players, handheld computer games, and iPods ("Absolutely Prohibited Devices") are prohibited in school facilities during school hours, at school-sponsored events, on school transportation provided by the district, except with regards to the limited permitted exceptions for school-sponsored events expressly set forth below in this policy (APS board policy 5136).

Students riding bicycles to school must lock their bikes to the school bike rack.

Students should not bring valuable items to school. The school is NOT responsible for items, including cell phones, that have been lost or stolen.

CHROMEBOOKS/HOTSPOTS/TEXT/LIBRARY BOOKS/MUSIC INSTRUMENTS/SCHOOL FEES

Textbooks must be treated with care to ensure they can be used as long as possible. Parents will be assessed replacement costs for damaged or lost books. Report cards will be held in the office until all fines or replacement costs are paid.

School-owned band and orchestra instruments are also to be treated with care. Parents will be assessed for lost, stolen, or damaged instruments.

Non-payment of assessed and other school fees will result in withholding the student's grades and credits.

SPECIAL NOTICES

DISTRICT INFORMATION SOURCES

The district's web address is www.akronschools.com. This page provides access to each school's web page, district departments, child nutrition menus, and meeting information. The APS Portal provides additional resources for your student to use at home.

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COMPLIANCE

This district provides equal educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at school or participating in school activities should immediately contact the district Compliance Officer, Dr. Robert Kubick, at 330-761-3151.

Akron Public Schools also complies with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1994 and grants

parents/guardians the right to access their student's educational records and to request corrections to such records In accordance with Board Policy/Guidelines 8330.

SAFE SCHOOL HELP LINE

An anonymous, helpful way to keep your school safe:
1-800-4-1-VOICE (1-800-418-6423), extension 359.

Title IX Policy
NOTICE:

The Board of the Akron Public Schools District does not discriminate based on sex in its education program or activity. It is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment.

The District's Title IX Coordinator:

Wanda Lash
Director of Student and Family Services
330-761-2734
10 N Main, Akron Ohio 44308
wlash@apslearns.org

Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Board has adopted a grievance process and procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process and procedures are included in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which is available at: https://www.akronschools.com/departments/human_resources and https://www.akronschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=409163&pageId=590803

The grievance process and procedures specifically address how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond.

Please complete the APS Online Student Agreement Form

2026-2027 APS Online Student Handbook Agreement