

**Northwest Local School District**  
**Houston Early Learning Center**  
*HOME OF THE PANDAS*



**Preschool**  
**Family Handbook**  
**2021-2022**



## *General Information*

**PHONE:**       Preschool Office .....513-385-8000  
                  Option 3.....Main Office  
                  Option 1\*.....Attendance  
                  Option 4.....Principal  
                  Option 2.....Nurse

\*Absences:       You are to leave your name, your child's name, your child's teacher and **reason your child is absent on the attendance line.** *Please be sure to select this option to report an absence.*

**FAX:**           Preschool Fax .....513-385-8090

**ADDRESS:**    3308 Compton Rd.  
                  Cincinnati, OH 45251

**HOURS:**       AM Preschool .....7:55am-10:45am  
                  PM Preschool.....12:10pm-3:00pm

**WEBSITE:**    [www.nwlsd.org](http://www.nwlsd.org)

**TWITTER:**     @HELCPandas

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All Northwest Local School District school buildings have a health clinic. It is open during the school day to support the students and staff. The Health Office staff may be a Registered Nurse (RN), a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or a Health Assistant. We believe that a healthy student is better able to participate actively in his/her education.	61
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## WELCOME LETTER

August 2021

Dear Preschool Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Your child is attending a **5 Star Rated Step Up To Quality** Preschool Program - the highest rating of pre-schools in the State of Ohio. This is a huge accomplishment for the school and we strive to continue this level of excellence. This handbook is designed to acquaint you with the district policies, preschool policies and guidelines that will be in place throughout the school year.

You are a valuable part of the education for your child. Preschool is the first step in the long process of your child's education. It is the foundation of their school experience. We encourage you to become involved in school by attending the various preschool events, including conferences, Spring Concert, Moments with Mom, Daddy's Day, Grandparent's Day and Read with Your Child Day (s).

Reading with your child can be a special time and will deepen a love of learning. Please take time to read with your child each day. The preschool years are a valuable time that can strengthen interest in reading, writing, and increase vocabulary.

Your child's teacher will communicate with you using the communication folder given to your child at the start of school. Please remember it is your responsibility to remove items from your child's folder each day. This is a great time to talk to your child (ren) about the things they have done at school and allows students to show off their hard work! Additionally, materials are often sent home with a time sensitive nature. Daily checks will make sure you don't miss out on possible activities and events at HELC.

Remember, you are setting the foundation for the importance of your child arriving at school on time each and every day. This will set up a lifelong habit and demonstrate how important school is. It is beneficial for each student to arrive at the same time as their classmates and begin the day on a positive note!

We look forward to working with you and your family. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions/comments this school year. Together, we will make this a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,  
Aimee Murray  
Principal of HELC  
[amurray@nwlsd.org](mailto:amurray@nwlsd.org)



**We are going to insert PS calendar here**

## **DISTRICT MISSION**

### **Our Mission**

Northwest Local School District's mission is to create a responsive learning community where all students are valued, challenged and guided along a pathway to success.

### **Our Vision**

Teaching and learning in the Northwest Local Schools will:

- Provide learning experiences that empower students to contribute to a future not yet imagined
- Inspire learners to adapt, be resilient, collaborate and problem solve
- Create a supportive social-emotional culture
- Provide a foundation to cultivate healthy relationships

### **Our Beliefs**

- We believe students and staff excel best when they feel welcome in the building, safe in their classrooms and trustful of each other
- We believe all students and staff can learn and deserve opportunities to show and achieve success
- We believe valuing diversity and working to understand one another is vital and important
- We believe a high priority should be placed on providing holistic support to ensure success for all
- We believe building and maintaining collaborative relationships with community members is foundational to teaching and learning in NWLSD

## **HELC's MISSION**

The Northwest Local School District Early Childhood Preschool Program provides students with a safe, positive, and developmentally appropriate preschool program based on guidelines provided by the Ohio Department of Education. We will meet each child's learning needs as we inspire them to reach their full potential. Our school is here to serve the community.



## **HELC's CORE BELIEFS**

- We believe it is our responsibility to ensure growth in all domains of learning for each student.
- We believe students and staff thrive in an environment that is safe, trusting, nurturing and conducive to learning.
- We believe collaborative relationships and high expectations are paramount to the success of all learners.
- We believe in building and maintaining collaborative relationships with our community.

## **HELC's GOALS**

- To facilitate the growth of every child's emotional, social, intellectual, and physical development.
- To foster in the education and development of each child's individual abilities.
- To provide children with the tools to be confident problem solvers.
- To assist children in developing positive relationships within a diverse community.
- To develop positive parent-child-staff relationships.
- To provide engaging learning experiences with developmentally appropriate resources that align with the Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards.

## **CURRICULUM**

The adopted preschool curriculum is the OWL Program (Opening the World of Learning). The program is research-based, centering on best practices for preschool. The curriculum demonstrates developmentally appropriate activities in all content areas and domains and is aligned to the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards. The OWL Program is designed to meet the individual needs of children.

Heggerty's Phonemic Awareness Curriculum by Literacy Resources, LLC is a well-organized 35 week curriculum of daily phonetic awareness lesson plans developed on a systematic scope and sequence of skills. Through the daily lessons, students engage in activities teaching early literacy skills such as rhyming and onset fluency, basic skills of blending and segmenting sounds, and working with the complex and advanced skills of adding, deleting phonemes, and the skills of substituting phonemes. The skills are taught with explicit teacher modeling and a scaffold support to meet the needs of all learners in the classroom. The skills taught are supplemental to the literacy curriculum, The Owl Program, and ODE's Early Learning and Developmental Standards.

Assessment within the preschool program is ongoing and is used to guide instruction. The preschool uses Progress Book as a reporting system which not only directs the teachers in their daily planning but also gives the parents an up-to-date progress report. The program allows the teacher to review the data and then determine the instructional needs for each child.

Parents receive a standards-based progress report. The report outlines your child's progress towards achieving the outcomes outlined in the Early Learning and Development Standards.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Typically developing children *must* be potty trained prior to entering preschool. Out-of-district students are not accepted so that we may provide preschool services to as many Northwest families as possible.

### Documentation Required for Registration

Copy of Lease or Mortgage and Copy of Utility Bill  
(This verifies your residency in the school district.)  
Copy of Child's Official Birth Certificate  
Any Divorce/Separation Papers that Verify Custody

### Additional Forms and Information Needed to Attend:

Income Verification form **with** Proof of Income and Parent Financial Agreement form

- *Form provided to list your household members and monthly income*
- *Two current pay stubs and IRS Tax Form 1040/1040 A submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup> each year*  
(This information is needed to determine your monthly fee.)

Student Health History Form

Physical\* (including Lead and Hemoglobin results, per state requirements)

Dental Form \*

**\*Physical Form and Dental Form are valid for one year from date form is completed.**

Emergency Medical and Authorization to Pick Up from School form

Student Dismissal Information Form

## AGE ELIGIBILITY

Children entering preschool must be three (3) on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> of the school year of attendance.

Typically developing children who turn five (5) on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> of the school year **will not** be eligible for the district preschool. Parents may choose another preschool, but the child may not attend our preschool, as the child is eligible to attend the district's kindergarten program.

The district believes children who are age appropriate for kindergarten should be with same age peers. Children receiving special education services may attend another year of preschool based on an Individual Education Plan team decision including the parents.

## **ATTENDANCE, TARDY AND EARLY PICK-UP**

As with any learning situation, the most progress takes place when the child attends school regularly. Daily attendance is encouraged and expected. If your child has a medical appointment, is ill, or will not be coming to school for any other reason, the school must be notified. Per Ohio law, parents/guardians are required to call the school when their child will not be in attendance. The office telephone number for the program is Houston Early Learning Center at 385-8000. Please give the secretary the following information: your name, your child's name, teacher's name and the reason for absence. In addition, upon your child's return to school, a note must accompany him/her stating the reason for the absence. **If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, a phone call will be made to you to verify the absence.**

Regular and punctual attendance contributes to a child's success in school and in later life. Statistics have shown that absences have a direct relationship to achievement. It is important that children attend school for the entire school day. We realize, however, that arriving late or leaving early is sometimes unavoidable.

Parent/Guardian MUST accompany your child to the office if he/she arrives after 8:05am (12:20pm for afternoon preschool) and sign him/her in on the appropriate clipboard in the office. You will take a tardy slip from the basket and walk your child to his/her classroom.

If you find it necessary to request an early pick-up for your child, a note from the parent to the child's teacher should be received *in advance of an early pick-up*. Children will be dismissed early once the parent comes to the office. The safety of each child is our first priority, thus a child being dismissed early must be signed out and identification of the person picking up the child is required, along with the person's name documented for release of the child to the person picking up.

Please be sure to be on time to pick up your son/daughter. Our office closes soon after the school day ends.

## **PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

Children achieving perfect attendance will be recognized for their success. Perfect attendance is defined as a student having no tardies, absences, or early pick-ups.

## **NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT**

We appreciate parents' interest in their child's education and their desire to be involved and informed. School information will be provided to the custodial parent/guardian. Release of a child or information regarding the child to a non-custodial parent cannot be denied by the school without court documentation. It is a parent's responsibility to provide the school with the appropriate court documents. Please be aware that staff may only speak with the child's legal guardian regarding progress, etc.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays are very special for preschoolers. Families may choose to send treats to the school for their child to share with his/her classmates. If you choose an edible treat, all edible treats must be store bought and commercially wrapped with the ingredients listed. Birthday cake and/or ice cream is not permitted.

*Birthday party invitations are not to be distributed at school.*

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL AND/OR EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

It is important for us to have correct and complete information for your child. Please let us know immediately if there are changes. Throughout the year, please contact both your child's teacher and the preschool office at the Houston Early Learning Center at 385-8000 when address, telephone number or email address changes occur.

## **CHILD ABUSE**

The school staff is required by law to notify Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services immediately in the event of suspected child abuse or neglect.

## **CHILD RELEASE INFORMATION**

Children will NOT be released to any person other than a parent, guardian or individual listed on your enrollment card, without written permission of the parent or guardian. The individual picking up the child must have a picture I.D. to show at the time of release and **must be at least 18 years of age.**

## **CLASS PLACEMENT**

Children benefit from learning in an inclusive setting. Children act as helpers and models for each other. The preschool classrooms are inclusionary, similar to those at the elementary level.

## **CLASS ROSTERS**

A class roster including the child's name, telephone number and parent, custodian or guardian name will be available to you. Written permission is required prior to publication of the list. This list is for parent use only. It will not be given to anyone other than a HELC parent.

## **CLASSROOM VISITS**

If a parent would like to make a visit to a classroom at Houston Early Learning Center, the parent should call the preschool office to make arrangements. ***There must be a 48 hour notice. This is district policy.***

## **CLOTHING FOR SCHOOL**

Many of our daily activities are messy; please keep this in mind when choosing your child's clothing.

It is also important to allow your child maximum independence by choosing zippers and fasteners that are easily manageable during toileting and active play. Tennis shoes or sneakers are the best footwear for preschoolers. *Shoes with open toes, shoes with heels and sandals can be unsafe for students and are not allowed at school.* This is for the safety of the students. Book bags with wheels are not permitted.

We ask that a complete change of clothing be kept at school in the event your child needs a change. Please mark all extra clothing with your child's name and place in a Ziploc bag. Also mark all jackets, sweaters, and coats with your child's name on the inside of the garment. Your child's teacher will send reminders when the seasons change in order to have weather-appropriate clothing on hand. (Shorts in January can be a little chilly!)

Children who receive special education services and who are not toilet trained are required to furnish diapers and wipes. Please discuss with your child's teacher.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication is key to the smooth running of any successful school. Listed here are the most common forms of communication encouraged in our school district.

## **NOTES, PHONE CALLS AND WEBSITE**

While face-to-face meetings are usually best, a personal note or brief phone call are often most effectively used by teachers in keeping parents informed as to their student's progress. The district website and parent emails are a means to get important school and district news and information. Please visit [www.nwlsd.org](http://www.nwlsd.org) to sign up for the Preschool Parent E-mail List. Click on the Red icon at the bottom of the page. Supply our school name and your email address. You will receive emails from the school with important information. Follow us on Twitter @HELCPandas.

## **COMMUNICATION FOLDERS**

Children will receive a communication folder at the start of the school year with their name and teacher name on the front of the folder. It will be the parent's responsibility to place any form of communication for the preschool in their child's folder. Folders will be sent home

daily and must be returned daily. The teacher will not be checking book bags, just the communication folder.

Please take the time each day to check your child's folder. Read through parent newsletters for other opportunities to become involved.

## **CONFERENCES**

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled 3 times per year (prior to start of school/fall/winter-early spring). Other conferences may be scheduled as needed. Please contact your child's teacher to arrange for additional conferences.

Teachers will only conference with the custodial parent (mother only if not married) unless written permission is completed in the office. The general procedure regarding parent/teacher conferences in all custody situations is to hold one conference; whereas, the appointment is to be scheduled jointly if both parents wish to be present. A joint conference further ensures that both parents are given the same information at the same time, avoiding misunderstanding and/or misinterpretations.

## **CUMULATIVE FILES**

Information on each child is kept in a school file. You may request to review your child's file. Please contact the preschool secretary at (513) 385-8000.

## **PBIS**

Early Childhood Program-Wide Positive Behavior Support and Interventions provides a framework of evidence based practices to promote the social-emotional competence of all children, address the social-emotional and behavioral needs of children who are at risk, and develop supports for children with persistent social, emotional or behavioral concerns. As facilitators of learning, adults in the preschool program develop and form relationships that provide a warm, caring, and positive environment where children are treated with dignity and respect.

Relationships are built between not only the adult and the child, but also between children and the materials they explore in their environment. When positive relationships are established, and when the setting is accepting yet challenging, children learn appropriate behaviors and develop positive feelings about themselves and their accomplishments. The teachers, as facilitators, set up the classroom environment to promote the construction of knowledge (learning) by the children. The environment is an invitation for exploration and discovery, with only items to be explored within the reach of children. This, in turn validates the children's feelings and accomplishments, empowering them to take risks, to discover and to become more independent.

The following are specific strategies used by the staff:

- Restorative Practices
- Presenting choices to the child; encouraging the child to explore materials and activities and providing the necessary "wait time" for them to respond.

- Providing children with clear, concise directions, using visual cues (e.g. pictures / gestures) to aid in their understanding.
- Redirecting or providing alternatives to the child through verbal and physical reassurances which help to encourage better attention, more exploration and communication. Often ignoring minor disruptions and anticipating a child's behavior can prevent further escalation.
  - Putting the child's feelings into words for him; modeling the language to be used with peers and adults.
  - Providing physical outlets, such as movement or rest break, for children who need assistance in calming.
  - Developing a behavior intervention plan (as a team/ including the parents) if needed
  - Keeping emotions low.
  - Refraining from over using the word "no"; rather state what the child can do ("Feet on the floor" vs. "No! Get off the table."; "Hands in your lap." vs. "Don't touch Johnnie."). Save "NO" for instances when a child is in danger or putting others in danger.
  - Using non - evaluative statements with the children. Commenting on what you see the child accomplishing vs. evaluating the effectiveness of the accomplishment (e.g. "You zipped your coat." vs. "Good job!" / "I see red and green lines." vs. "I like your picture.").
  - Logical and natural consequences are utilized, such as cleaning after a spill, without negative comment.
  - Using a "calming space" for a child who needs time to regain composure and focus. This is a time for the child to reflect, to take a "break". This is NOT a punitive measure; rather the goal is for the child to calm, regain his/her composure and to rejoin activities.

Physical punishment for problematic behaviors is not used. In the event a child would endanger him/herself or others, families may be called to remove the child from class.

The policy below applies to all persons on the premises and is restricted as follows, per Ohio State law, 3301-37-10:

- There shall be no cruel, harsh, corporal punishment or any unusual punishments such as, but not limited to: punching, pinching, shaking, spanking, or biting.
- No discipline shall be delegated to any other child.
- No physical restraints shall be used to confine a child by any means other than holding a child for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so the child may regain control.
- No child shall be placed in a locked room or confined in an enclosed area such as a closet, a box or similar cubicle.
- No child shall be subjected to profane language, threats, derogatory remarks about him/her or family, or other verbal abuse.
- Discipline shall not be imposed on a child for failure to eat, failure to sleep, or for toileting accidents.
- Techniques of discipline shall not humiliate, shame, or frighten a child.
- Discipline shall not include withholding food, rest, or toilet use.
- Separation, when used as discipline, shall be brief in duration and appropriate to the child's age and developmental ability. The child shall be within sight and hearing of a preschool staff member in a safe, lighted, and well-ventilated space.

- The center shall not abuse or neglect children and shall protect children from abuse and neglect while in attendance in the preschool program.

Children are expected to follow the same rules as required by the NWLSD Code of Regulations for Conduct of Pupils. BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT POLICY SECTION AT THE END OF THIS HANDBOOK.

## **DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES**

### Houston Early Learning Center –Drop Off

Cars, Ubers and Taxis will enter the parking lot and follow the lanes that are lined. One lane is labeled “no parking.” Please keep that lane open for emergency equipment. You may park in a lined parking space. Only park in the handicap space if you have a handicap tag; this includes vehicles with lifts.

### **Arrival and Dismissal Locations for Student/Teacher/Parent/Guardian**

Every classroom teacher has been assigned a location around the building of HELC. This includes the entire front of the building (HELCS entrance, Enrollment Center, Conference Center), and the side of the building facing the Ball Field. (NWLSD Virtual Academy for K-12)

The location of your teacher and your child’s classroom will be identified by using a number (1-10) on an orange flag extending from a green safety turtle. This will be located next to each teacher. For example, if your child’s teacher is Mrs. Neuhaus, she will be standing next to a green safety turtle holding an orange flag with the Number 4. Mrs. Neuhaus will be standing near the building, across from the Ball Field, and next to the orange flag with the Number 4.

### **Classroom Numbers and Locations for Arrival and Dismissal**

Room #137	Turtle #1 – Located at the Enrollment Center.
Room #133	Turtle #2 – Located across from the Ball Field.
Room #143	Turtle #3 – Located across from the Ball Field.
Room #159	Turtle #4 – Located across from the Ball Field.
Room #156	Turtle #5 – Located across the parking lot by flag pole.
Room #142	Turtle #6 – Located near the Conference Center.
Room #162	Turtle #7 – Located near HELC’s entrance.
Room #136	Turtle #8 – Located at the Enrollment Center.
Room #135	Turtle #9 – Located near HELC’s entrance
Room #132	Turtle #10 – Located across from the Ball Field.



**Reminders:**

**Park in the front parking lot and follow all 5 MPH** and safety zones. Park as close to the car in front of you so all cars can be accommodated.

Do not leave a child or children in the car without an adult.

Follow safety guidelines...walk in the provided crosswalks, yield to a school bus, no cell phone usage inside of the school, no running in the parking lot.

Stay with your child until the teacher/assistant has taken your child into the school.

If you arrive late to school, you must stay in your car and call the office for admittance to the school. Do not ring the bell until you have called the school and have been cleared by Mrs. Obermeyer, the school's administrative assistant.

If you have an early dismissal, you must contact the school's office prior to pick-up, at least one hour before pick-up. This will allow the child, teacher, staff, and office to prepare for the early pick-up. You will need to call the school's office before getting out of your car and wait until you are cleared to ring the school's bell.

If you are late picking up your child, **You will be charged a late fee of \$5.00 per five minutes for late pick-up after 10:55 am or 3:10 pm. You will receive an invoice at the time of your pickup. You must pay the late fee at the time of pick-up.**

**DROP OFF and PICK UP TIMES**

	Drop Off	Pick Up
AM Sessions:	7:55 am	10:45 am
PM Sessions:	12:10 pm	3:00 pm

Houston Early Learning Center – Pick Up

**Parents are to wait in their cars until all buses have left the parking lot.** Parents may then walk to the outside location of the building to retrieve their child from the teacher.. **All adults who are picking up a child must be listed on the student's information card and must have a photo ID.** Families who walk to Houston to pick-up their child (children) are to wait at the flagpole until the buses have exited the parking lot.

\*There are additional entrances to Houston-The Admission Office for K-12 is located in the middle of the building with two double doors and a large overhang. **DO NOT** wait/stand under or near the Admissions Office. Employees, Visitors, Parents of K-12, and students attending HELC who ride the bus enter and exit these double doors. Refrain from playing and/or yelling near these entrances, as it impedes their work and the safety of those entering and exiting the building..

### Late Arrival

If your child is arriving late to school, the parent/guardian must go to the office to sign the child in to school.

### Late Pick-Up

If you are late picking up your child, your child will be taken to the office to wait for you.

**You will be charged a late fee of \$5.00 per five minutes intervals for late pick-up after 10:55 a.m. or 3:10 p.m. You will receive an Invoice at the time of your pickup. You must pay the late fee at the time of pick-up.**

**If your child is a bus rider and returns to school because no one is home to meet the bus, you will be charged a late fee of \$5.00 per five minute intervals once the child is returned. You will receive an Invoice at the time of your pickup. You must pay the fee at the time of pick-up.**

## **EMERGENCY FIRE, TORNADO, AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS**

Emergency drills are held in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code and are determined by number by the Ohio Revised Code. The drills are planned to provide practice at varying times and under differing conditions. Children are taught proper procedures to follow. Order and speed are stressed during a drill. No talking is permitted as an emergency situation requires being able to hear directions given by a staff member. The intent is to help in the response to the signals for fire, tornado, or lockdown drills so it becomes so routine that the procedure will be carried out rapidly, automatically and in an orderly manner to maximize safety for all occupants of the building in the event of an emergency.

Parents will be notified when we have practiced a lockdown drill. If a crisis occurs and we must evacuate the building, you will be notified by One Call Now as to where to pick-up your child or children.

## **FEES**

### **Late Payment**

Parents/Guardians will receive a reminder email when a payment is not received by the last day of the month (payments are due the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month). If the payment is not received after the reminder email, a final notice will be emailed with the amount due and a removal date to terminate your child's enrollment, if the payment is not made.

## **FAMILY and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Preschool families and the community are always welcome to become involved in the preschool program. The preschool has several events throughout the year where volunteers are needed. Please contact your child's teacher or the office for additional information. **Please be sure to RSVP to our family events by the date on the invitation so that we can plan accordingly.**

## **FOOD ALLERGIES**

The incidence of food allergies increases every year. *The Houston Early Learning Center refrains from any activities or snacks involving peanut butter, peanuts or any other tree nuts.*

## **GOVERNING BODY**

The preschool has a governing body that oversees the quality of the program. The leadership team meets on a monthly basis to discuss improvement strategies and any other issues that may improve the quality of the program.

## **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION or BULLYING**

A parent or guardian may file a complaint of harassment, intimidation or bullying pursuant to Board policy. The complaint must be specific as to the action giving rise to the suspicion of harassment, intimidation or bullying. The form is located in the school's office and can also be found on the District's website under Parent Resources. Please complete and return to the building principal.

## **HOLIDAYS**

The preschool classes participate in two holiday celebrations each year. In the fall there is a Fall Harvest Party. This is in place of a Halloween Party. For Valentine's Day, the children exchange Valentine cards.

## **HEALTH PROCEDURES / MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE / MEDICAL EMERGENCIES/ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION**

Hand washing is the most effective measure to prevent the spread of disease. All children and staff wash hands thoroughly before handling or eating food; after toileting or wiping noses; and after changing diapers. As much as possible, children are encouraged to manage their own hand washing by keeping step stools, soap and towels within reach, and observing adults using good hand washing techniques.

Parents and/or guardians will be notified by phone when signs or symptoms of illness appear. In addition, a child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated and discharged to his/her parent/guardian or to the person designated on Emergency Medical Form. Once contacted, it is expected that the person will immediately pick up their child. Examples of these symptoms are:

- Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool within 24 hours)
- Severe coughing, causing the child to become red or blue in the face or make a whooping sound
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Temperature of 100F (under the arm) along with other signs of illness
- Untreated infected skin patch(es)
- Unusually dark urine and /or grey or white stool
- Stiff neck
- Evidence of lice, scabies or other parasitic infestations

The mildly “ill child” will be made comfortable and provided with a cot.

A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated from other children. Decisions regarding whether the child should be discharged immediately or at some other time during the day shall be determined by the building administrator and the parent or guardian.

The child, while isolated at the program, shall be carefully observed for symptoms listed above as well as the following:

- Unusual spots or rashes
- Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing
- Elevated temperature
- Vomiting
- Evidence of lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation

**If a child is sent home, the child may be readmitted when free of fever for 24 hours and / or the threat of contagion is over.** Symptoms of the illness must disappear, and the child must feel well.

If your child has been exposed to a contagious disease while at pre-school, you will be notified in writing.

In cases of injuries that need a doctor’s care, the parents will be notified immediately. First aid treatment will be confined to cleaning with water, applying ice, and bandaging only. If the situation warrants, paramedics will be called. **Note: all school personnel are prohibited from administering medical treatment of any kind unless a medical authorization form is on file.**

### **Policy for Administration of Medication**

Northwest Local School District Policy for Administration of Medication is consistent with the Ohio Revised Code 3313.713 (The Medication Policy Law). Students are not to carry any prescription or non-prescription medicine with them during the school day. School personnel are not authorized to administer prescribed medication or perform medical procedures unless they are prescribed by a physician and authorized by the parent.

Whenever possible the administration of medication required by a student during the school day should be given before or after school hours. However, certain students may require the

administration of medication during the school day to maintain an optimum health status for learning. In the event that a student requires the administration of medication, **prescription and/or over-the-counter**, during the school day, the following procedure must be followed:

**Administration of Medication form** physician's order and parental permission must be completed in its entirety and signed by the prescribing physician and the parent/guardian.

- 1 Medication is to be brought to the school building by the parent/guardian in the **original** container.
- 2 A parent, guardian designated by the parent is responsible to personally bring any medication to the school building. **Never send medication with a student.**
- 3 All medication is kept in a **locked storage unit** in each school building.
- 4 It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to obtain an updated physician's order when the medication changes in any way.
- 5 Any unused medication not claimed on the last day of school will be destroyed.
- 6 A new medication order must be submitted each school year.

#### **Administration of Prescribed Medical Treatment**

A student may require a prescribed medical treatment (non-medication) during the school day such as tube feeding, dressing change or catheterization. The prescribing provider and the parent must complete the **Administration of Prescribed Medical Treatment** form before school personnel may initiate the medical treatment. This form may be obtained in the Health Office.

#### **IMMUNIZATIONS and YEARLY MEDICAL STATEMENT**

State law requires that each child remain up-to-date with his/her immunizations or have special consideration by the child's physician (In addition, a child may be exempt from immunizations due to religious reasons... a statement must be signed attesting to that fact). A record of the immunizations must be on file prior to the child's first day of school.

State law requires that your child receive an annual physical examination by a licensed physician. The physician needs to affirm that your child is in "suitable condition for enrollment" in the program. A form will be provided for you.

## Ohio Immunization Summary for Child Care and Pre-School

VACCINES	IMMUNIZATIONS FOR CHILD CARE/HEAD START AND PRE-SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
<b>DTaP/DT</b> Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	Four (4) doses of DTaP or DT, or any combination.
<b>POLIO</b>	Three (3) doses of OPV or IPV or any combination of OPV or IPV.
<b>MMR</b> Measles, Mumps, Rubella	One (1) dose of MMR administered on or after the first birthday.
<b>Hib</b> Haemophilus Influenzae Type b	Three (3) or four (4) doses depending on the vaccine type, the age when the child began the 1 <sup>st</sup> dose and the last dose must be after 12 months. or One (1) dose if given on or after 15 months of age.
<b>HEP B</b> Hepatitis B	Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after the first dose. The third dose must be given at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The last dose in the series (third or fourth dose), must not be administered before age 24 weeks.
<b>Varicella</b> (Chickenpox)	1 dose of Varicella administered on or after the first birthday.

### Notes:

■ Vaccine doses are only considered valid if administered according to the most recent version of the *Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years* or the *Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 4 Months through 18 Years Who Start Late or Who Are More Than 1 Month Behind*, as published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

■ Vaccine doses administered  $\leq 4$  days before the minimum interval or age are valid (grace period). Doses administered  $\geq 5$  days earlier than the minimum interval or age are not valid doses and should be repeated as age-appropriate. If MMR and Varicella are not given on the same day, the doses must be separated by at least 28 days with no grace period.

■ For additional information please refer to the Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-12-37 for Child Care, Head Start, Pre-School and the Ohio Revised Code 3313.67 and 3313.671 for School Attendance and the ODH Director's Journal Entry (available at [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov), Click on "I" and then "Immunization" and then "Required Vaccines for Childcare and School"). These documents list required and recommended immunizations and indicate exemptions to immunizations.

■ Please contact the Ohio Department of Health Immunization Program at (800) 282-0546 or (614) 466-4643 with questions or concerns.

## INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)

An individualized education plan is developed for each child who has been identified as having a disability. It is a written plan that is developed and implemented according to federal and state regulations. The parents and school personnel comprise the IEP team. The IEP includes a statement of measurable goals and short-term instructional objectives related to meeting your child's educational needs that result from his/her disability. Your child's IEP must be reviewed at least annually. However, your child's IEP may be reviewed /revised at any time during the school year at your request or at the school district's request.

## LIBRARY

Children will visit the library each week. They will be given the opportunity to check-out a book as long as their book from the previous week is returned. Please call the school with library questions.

## LICENSING

In accordance with state law, each preschool classroom is licensed through the Ohio Department of Education. The license is posted inside each preschool classroom. On-site visits by a representative of the Department of Education occur a minimum of once during the school year to ensure that the health and safety needs of the children are being met.

A copy of the most recent licensing compliance report is posted in each preschool classroom. Parents can request a copy of inspection reports from the Preschool Principal.

If parents need to file a complaint regarding the implementation of the Rules for Preschool Programs, Chapter 3301-37; they should call the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and School Readiness (614) 466-0224) or the Ombudsman.

## OUTDOOR PLAY

Children engage in outdoor play as weather permits. Please dress your child in comfortable and appropriate clothes for the weather. Hats, mittens and boots are needed during the colder months (**please mark all items of clothing with your child's name. This includes all coats and jackets**). Recess is held outside unless the outside temperature/wind chill is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or the weather conditions are not conducive to being outside. Children who are well enough to come to school are expected to go outside for recess.

## PARENT AND VISITORS

Any parent(s) may visit their child at school at any time unless restrained by court order. Please inform the teacher before a visit that is intended to be more than a quick stop in. Parents and visitors are to report to the office before proceeding elsewhere in the building and will need to follow building procedures for signing in and signing out. This will prevent misunderstandings and interruption of classes. Thank you for your cooperation.

## PARENT PARTICIPATION

At the beginning of each school year each family is asked to complete a questionnaire about their child. As a parent you are your child's best teacher. In order for optimum learning to occur for each student, it is essential that parents and teachers are a team. Parents are encouraged to become involved in their child's school experiences and our program provides a variety of ways for you to do so.

- We welcome each parent to become an active participant within the classroom.
- You may volunteer to assist the teacher with special activities within the room.
- At the beginning of the school year each teacher will schedule days for parents to volunteer. If you are unable to come to the classroom, parents may assist with special tasks the teacher may need help with (i.e. cutting, putting activities together, and paperwork) in your home.

Parents are encouraged to share their talents with the classroom. Please arrange this with your child's teacher.

Parent information meetings will be available throughout the year. Speakers and topics are determined from our parent surveys. Many of these topics will be geared specifically for the developmental levels of young children.

Special events for parents to come to school and participate in activities with their child are also provided. This helps the child communicate his/her experiences and interests to their families. Children will be sharing their talents during our evening programs at different times throughout the school year.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report Cards will be sent home three times during the year. Report Cards will be sent home with the students on November 15, 2021, March 7, 2022, and May 24, 2022.

## **RECORDS**

Please be informed that health records, including medical and developmental history, speech, hearing and vision screening, immunization records and dental records are collected for each child. These records are used to help provide a total educational preschool program. These records are confidential and will only be released to qualified staff working directly with your child.

Directory information is considered public information and may be released without parental consent in some cases. Directory information may not be released to an individual or group representing businesses or other profit-making agencies. If a parent objects to the disclosure of any or all directory information, this objection should be put in writing and sent to the student's school of attendance.

## **RECORDS TRANSFER POLICY**

Houston Early Learning Center maintains a cumulative record /file for each student enrolled in our preschool program. If a student moves to a new district/school or when preschool students transfer from preschool to kindergarten, we follow the protocol of our district regarding student records. The parent/guardian is provided with a Records Release paper for typical preschool students. This states the Date of Withdrawal, Student's Name, and reason for Withdrawal and the Records Release Information. Refer to the attachment. If the student has an IEP, the parent/guardian completes a NWLSD Records Release for the Special Education Department. Likewise, when a child enrolls in a new school and HELC receives a written records request from the school, we send the materials (usually via fax) to the school that the parent/guardian has authorized permission for us to do so.

Additionally, should a parent/guardian want us to share information with an outside source (such as Cincinnati Children's Medical Center), we require them to complete a release of information form for each organization/agency for which they would like to communicate. This is clearly communicated in the Student Handbook on page 18-19.

- Houston Early Learning Center – Records of Release
- NWLSD – Records Release for Special Education Records



- Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Authorization for Use and/or Disclosure of Protected Health Information to Schools
- NWLSD – Special Education Services – Permission to Exchange Information

## **RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

If the need arises for the preschool program to obtain additional information to effectively provide your child with an appropriate education, you may be asked to sign a release of information form. Should you wish any reports sent from the preschool program to physicians or other agencies, you will need to sign a form authorizing the program to do so.

## **RETURNING STUDENTS**

Students who are eligible to return to the preschool program for the next school year will be sent a re-enrollment packet from the preschool office in late winter. The completed enrollment packet for all returning students is due to the preschool office at HELC by March 1<sup>st</sup> each school year. Please return the completed packet to your child’s teacher.

Parents must update the two page enrollment information form, the income eligibility form, two pay stubs and IRS Tax Form 1040/1040A submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup> each year (**this information is needed to determine your monthly fee**) and the student health form. Copies of the birth certificate, proof of residency and social security card will not be required again unless the information on file has changed.

**Failure to return the re-enrollment packet in a timely manner may result in a student losing their priority placement in the program.**

## **SCHOOL CLOSING AND DELAYS**

Inclement weather plans for the Northwest Local School District will be announced as follows:

1. Northwest Schools will be closed
2. Northwest Schools will be on two hour delay
3. Northwest Schools will dismiss early
4. Northwest Schools will be on two-hour delay with limited transportation
5. Northwest Schools have limited transportation

On days when there is a delay, preschool will be cancelled and afternoon preschool will be held at the regular time. On days when there is an early dismissal due to weather, afternoon preschool will be cancelled. You may receive a weather cancellation/delay/crisis text message, email or phone call by going to our website – [www.nwlsd.org](http://www.nwlsd.org) – click on the red box at the bottom titled “One Call Now.” Complete your information.

## SECURITY

The doors will be locked when school is in session. If you arrive after school begins, you will need to buzz the office at the outside entrance for someone to allow you in the building.

## SNACKS

We ask each child to be responsible for bringing snacks for the entire classroom group on a rotating basis. The state requires the following:

- Daily snacks must have items from two of the four food groups (meat/meat-equivalent group; bread/bread-alternatives group; milk group; or fruit/vegetable group).
- A source of vitamin C should be provided weekly. If juice is provided, it must be 100% juice. In addition to juices, examples of sources of vitamin C are: apples, bananas, blueberries, cranberry juice, apple juice, cantaloupe, grapes, oranges, peaches, pears, pineapple, and watermelon.

If juice or 1% milk is not provided, then water is made available. Snacks do not need to be an expensive proposition. A box of crackers, a package of cheese and juice could be a snack. We also enjoy foods that allow us to practice a variety of fine motor skills (i.e. scooping, spreading, and cutting). **All snacks must be in unopened packages or containers. Snacks must be store bought and labeled with ingredients. Snacks may not be homemade.**

## STUDENT PICTURES

Individual pictures will be taken on **Thursday, October 7, 2021**. One retake day on **Wednesday, November 17, 2021**, will be offered for anyone absent on the original date. Spring pictures, **Thursday, March 24, 2022**, will be taken as well, at which time a group photo will be taken for each class.

## TOYS, GAMES, and ELECTRONICS

Children are not permitted to bring toys, games or electronic devices (including cell phones) to preschool. The only exception would be if your child's classroom teacher requests toys or games be brought to school for a specific event. Cell phones and electronic devices are never permitted. Confiscated cell phones and other electronic devices will be returned to parents only.

## TRANSITIONS

### **Families and Children Transitioning into HELC's Preschool**

Families are encouraged to schedule a school visit prior to their start at Houston Early Learning Center. During this visit, parent/guardian and child will tour the preschool and visit each classroom as it relates to the classroom the child will likely attend. This visit allows the family and student to meet teachers, students, assistants, nurse, school's secretary, principal,

and custodians. Families also visit HELC's playground, gym, library, outdoor Learning Lab, and the computer lab.

Families are handed an Enrollment Packet. Each page of the packet is reviewed and questions are answered before the parent/guardian leaves with the Enrollment Packet. A checklist is used for families so they can easily track the required documents needed for preschool enrollment.

When the Enrollment Packet is completed, the parent/guardian contacts the school's secretary and an appointment is made to review the packet for its completed forms and information.

In June, all Preschool Families are mailed a Battelle Developmental Inventory letter about their required summer screenings in July. The letter asks if the family will need an Interpreter for the screening and if so, what language is needed. The letter also asks which session they are requesting (AM or PM), and to select a date in and time preference for their July BDI screening.

Parents are mailed a second letter (Preschool Screening Date/Time Notification) with their assigned date and time to come to HELC, over the summer, to participate in the Battelle Developmental Inventory in July. The school's secretary also calls each family to remind them of their screening prior to their screening date and time. After all the BDI screenings take place in July, class lists are formalized.

A Welcome Letter is mailed to all preschool families the first of August. This letter has every family's assigned date and time for their 1:1 Parent/Student/Teacher Conference prior to the start of school. The letter also has the student's name, teacher's name, assistant's name and classroom number. Additionally, every classroom door frame is painted a different color to assist families in identifying their child's classroom. The letter asks each family to bring with them a family photo to be hung on their classroom bulletin board, and staggered start times are also included for the ease of transitioning to preschool.

The above preschool orientation allows for families and teachers to meet for 45 minutes, prior to the start of school. The family learns about HELC's routines, school day, visits their classroom, finds their cubby, completes an activity, sets goals for the New Year, and brings a photo of their family to display.

Every family receives a copy of ODE's Helping Your Child Make Successful Transitions: Home to School. Additionally, all families receive a copy of the Preschool Parent Handbook, Preschool Calendar with all Preschool Events listed such as: First Day of Preschool, Staggered Start Days for students with last names from A-M and N-Z, Preschool Open House/Curriculum Night, Library Parent Presentation, Grandparent's Day, Fall Celebration, Community Helper's Day, Report Cards, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Photo Day, Read With Your Child Days, Mom's Day, Dad's Day, Spring Concert, Library Summer Parent Presentation.

During the child's first 30 day period, the parent (s)/guardian will collaborate with the teacher to help the child successfully transition into his or her classroom. If a successful transition has not been made, the parent (s)/guardian, child's teacher, and principal will meet to discuss concerns and options.

## **Student Transitioning Within the Preschool During the School Year**

When a student transitions within HELC's Preschool Program, teachers in both the new classroom and the existing classroom meet with the parent (s)/guardian and discuss the child's development, growth, new classroom routines and expectations, schedules, procedures, and any concerns. The teachers and parent(s)/guardian collaborate to develop a transition schedule which also includes the child visiting the new classroom on several occasions before moving into a new classroom.

If the transitioning student has an active IEP, the IEP will be amended to reflect the transition.

Strategies used for a smooth transition may include: The assistant from the child's existing classroom stays with the transitioning student in the new classroom to offer support and guidance to the student, if needed. The new classroom teacher is well prepared to receive and welcome the transitioning student into the classroom as well as the assistant and students too. The transitioning student has h/h cubby with h/h name, name tag is displayed, table placement, rug seat, etc. to further welcome the transitioning student. Social stories may also be created for the transitioning student to prepare the student for h/h new classroom. This social story is also shared with the student in the exiting classroom and at home to prepare for the transition.

Student is prepared for how long each visit to the new classroom will last. A visual timer may be used during this time. Student is offered a visual schedule of the new classroom's routines. The new teacher has a special friend/student to pair the transitioning student with to serve as a role model and helper for the new student. Photos of the transitioning student may be taken and shared with the family/guardian in h/h new classroom. This serves as an additional resource for the transitioning student to refer to as h/she moves from the exiting classroom to a new classroom.

Once the transition is made, ongoing communication between the family/guardian and new teacher continues to develop and evolve through day to day interactions at drop off and dismissal, phone calls, emails, notes, and parent-teacher conferences.

Family is handed a copy of ODE's: Helping Your Child Make Successful Transitions: Home to School.

## **Transitioning Families/Students Within the Preschool Program at the End of the Year**

In January, Houston Early Learning Center's three year old preschoolers returning for the following school year to preschool and students on an active IEP considering to NOT go to kindergarten, receive a form asking Parents/Guardian if they will be enrolling in preschool for the upcoming school year or will they not be returning to preschool for the upcoming school year. This form is sent home to every qualifying three year old preschool student and any student on a current IEP that is considering not transitioning to kindergarten. The form also asks the family if they would like an AM session or a PM session. Additionally, the form asks the family to mark the date and time frame for BDI screenings that occur in July. This form is returned to the school.

Students that will be transitioning/returning to our Preschool Program are handed a Re-Enrollment packet in February. All Re-Enrollment Packets are returned to the school. Once a family decides they will be transitioning their child in our Preschool Program, teachers are notified so they can begin their transition process and end of the year classroom placement. Additionally, teachers begin their process of preparing transitioning students to a new school/program.

If a Re-Enrollment Packet is not complete, the school's secretary will contact the family and schedule an appointment to meet with the family for completion.

In the spring, Teacher-Parent Conferences take place for every family. This time is used to celebrate the student's growth, review goals, develop new goals, if applicable, answer parent/guardian questions-concerns, and if needed another meeting can be set to continue the conversations. A transition plan is completed by the teacher and parent for the student. A copy of ODE's Helping Your Child Make Successful Transitions: Home to School Information.

In June, a letter is mailed to all returning families about the required Battelle Developmental Inventory screening. The letter asks if the family will need an Interpreter and if so what language is needed, which sessions they are requesting (AM or PM), and to select the date and time preference for their BDI screening.

Parents/Guardians are mailed a second letter for Preschool Screening Date/Time Notification) with their assigned date and time to come to HELC, over the summer to participate in the BDI screening.

After BDI Screenings, a Welcome Letter is sent to all preschool families. This letter has every family's assigned date and time for their 1:1 Parent/Student/Teacher Conference prior to the start of school. The letter also has the student's teacher's name, asks the family to bring a family photo to the meeting for the classroom bulletin board, and the staggered start date for preschool.

During this Orientation, teacher and family sets goals for the year, which is revisited throughout the school year. Parents/Families receive a copy of HELC's Preschool Parent-Handbook, a Welcome Letter from the Principal, Preschool Calendar with all Preschool Events listed such as: Teacher-Parent-Student Conferences, First Day of Preschool for students with last names from A-M and N-Z, Preschool Curriculum Night, Groesbeck Library Parent Presentation, Grandparent's Day, Fall Celebration, Community Helper's Day, Report Cards, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Photo Day, Read With Your Child Day, Mom's Day, Dad's Day, Spring Concert, Library Summer Presentation for Parents. Every family receives a copy of ODE's Helping Your Child Make Successful Transitions: Home to School information.

### **Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten:**

In February, HELC sends home information about NWLSD's Kindergarten Registration for the upcoming school year. The calendar to schedule appointments for Kindergarten with enrollment begins in mid-February and appointments begin in March. Families are asked to complete an on-line Registration Packet and are given a date and time to meet with Enrollment. There are four days in March just for Kindergarten Registration. This ensures

families understand the enrollment process and enrollment is there just for these families to answer any and all questions. Evening times are also offered to accommodate working families.

During Kindergarten Registration, families are shown how to access their Kindergarten Supply Lists, and summer learning activities in the areas of literacy and math. This information is located on the district's webpage.

In the spring, Teacher-Parent Conferences take place for every family. This time is used to celebrate the student's growth, review goals, develop new goals, if applicable, answer parent/guardian questions-concerns, and if needed another meeting can be set to continue the conversations. A transition plan is completed by the teacher and parent for the student. A copy of ODE's Helping Your Child Make Successful Transitions: Home to School Information. If a student is attending a new program or school for Kindergarten, the teacher strongly encourages the family and child to attend their Open House and tour the new school to become familiar with the new program.

In April, students and families are invited to NWLSD Kindergarten Open House. Our district has five Kindergarten buildings and each family is informed, during registration, which school their child will be attending. This is done through the family address. Every family and child is invited to attend this event, take a tour of their new school, meet the Kindergarten teachers, see the classrooms, and have a Meet and Greet session to answer their many questions at each of NWLSD's five buildings. Families are handed homework packets for summer learning during this event and/or websites to visit for virtual learning.

In May, HELC partners with their local library and offers families community and summer resources to encourage literacy and learning. All students with an existing IEP have transition meetings with their existing teacher and new teacher and team members, along with parents. Parents and Teachers complete a student Transition Plan.

Teachers and students make a countdown calendar to help the students understand the transition from preschool to kindergarten or from preschool to preschool. Teachers read, share, and discuss books about Kindergarten and social-emotional stories about transitioning to a new school.

At the end of school, Students and Families enjoy a Spring Concert, Mom's Day, Spirit Day, and a Field Day. These activities help prepare students and families to transition and prepare them to say good-bye.

Additionally, when students transition to Kindergarten, teachers share materials/resources with families for Kindergarten readiness along with HELC's website information for ongoing summer review and learning in the areas of literacy and math. Students and families receive a preschool certificate from HELC and a copy of their Kindness Pledge which they recite everyday with the preschool students, staff, teachers, and principal. Every family receives a copy of ODE's Helping Your Child Make Successful Transitions: Home to School. When students and families exit HELC, teachers help them say goodbye to staff and friends. Teachers give families work samples, progress reports, and journals to share with the new school/program.

When families enroll in a new program/school, they complete a Records Transfer with the new school/program. Once HELC receives this documentation, we process the information and the student's records are transferred to the new school/program.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

In accordance with State Law, bus transportation is provided for children with disabilities. Children are picked up and dropped off at their homes. Other arrangements must be approved by the transportation department (transportation is only provided within the Northwest Local School District boundaries). Children will only be transported to a single location.

Parents are responsible for the following:

- Having children ready for the bus 5 minutes before it is due to arrive
- Greeting the bus when your child is returned

## **WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL**

If it becomes necessary to withdraw your child from the preschool program because of a family move, health or other circumstance, please contact the Preschool Secretary at the HELC 385-8000. The preschool programs require two week advance notice.

Houston Early Learning Center maintains a cumulative record file for each student enrolled in our preschool program. Should a student move to a new district/school, we follow the protocol of our district regarding student records. When a child is enrolled in his/her school and we receive a written records request from the new school, we send the materials, (usually via fax), to the school.

Additionally, should a parent/guardian want us to share information with an outside source, such as Cincinnati Hospital Medical Center, we require them to complete a release of information form for each organization/agency they'd like us to communicate with.

## **CELL PHONES**

We ask that you leave your phone off while in the Houston Early Learning Center. It allows your child to share information about his/her day with you. It also allows for a higher level of safety. All too often we can be distracted by our phones and accidents occur. If a staff member sees someone on his/her cell phone, you will be asked to put it away.

## **PETS**

While we understand that pets are part of your family, you may not bring them into school at any time. This is a safety/health concern.

## **SAFE SCHOOL HOTLINE**

The Safe OH tip line will accept both calls and texts 24 hours a day regarding bullying, potential suicide risks, violence or other school safety issues. This information is anonymous and reported directly to the designated administrator at your school. This tip line allows

students and adults to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety—whether that involves a threatened mass incident or harm to a single student. Calls or texts to 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764)



# BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT POLICY SECTION

## SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022

### **Please refer to the bottom portion of the document for addendum items:**

The addendum includes items updates to the school handbooks as a result of the pandemic and the school's response to Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Governor's Office mandates including Sick Policy, Face Mask Policy, and New Code of Conduct Item. These items have also been embedded into the handbook.

### **Academic Acceleration**

In accordance with the belief that all children are entitled to an education commensurate with their particular needs, students who can exceed the grade-level standards set by the Ohio Department of Education and the District should be afforded the opportunity and be encouraged to do so.

The Board believes that all students, including advanced learners, should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential. For many advanced learners, this can best be achieved by affording them access to curriculum, learning environments and instructional interventions more commonly provided to older peers. Contact your building administrator for a detailed description of the process that is used 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.

#### **Academic Acceleration Placement**

Upon request, any student enrolled in the district may be referred by a teacher, administrator, gifted education specialist, guidance counselor, school psychologist, or a parent or legal guardian of the student to the principal of his/her school for evaluation for possible accelerated placement.

#### **Appeal**

A parent or legal guardian of the referred student may appeal in writing the decision of the evaluation committee to the local Superintendent (or his designee) within thirty days of being notified of the committee's decision. The Superintendent (or his designee) shall review the appeal and notify the parent/legal guardian who filed the appeal of his final decision within thirty days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent (or his designee)'s decision shall be final. However, the student may be referred and evaluated again at the next available opportunity if the student is again referred for evaluation by an individual eligible to make referrals.

#### **Gifted Identification**

Gifted identification referral forms are located on the district website. Parents may request a copy of the referral form at any time from the school principal or the gifted coordinator. The referral form may be completed for students who show potential giftedness. Completed forms should be submitted to the building principal or district office; telephone, verbal or electronic referrals will not be accepted. Gifted identification testing occurs every year and takes place during the regular school day. Gifted Identification and testing occurs twice each year, once in the fall and once in the spring.

### **Aid Program for Students**

Students shall not be deprived of any of the opportunities or benefits offered by the program of instruction of the public schools of Ohio because of the financial difficulties of their family. Therefore, provisions shall be made for assistance to such students for materials for instruction. Disadvantaged children, who are in a state of correctable poor health or in

social conditions detrimental to their welfare, will be referred to the proper service agencies. School personnel will cooperate with the various agencies in meeting the needs of these children.

### **Alternative Learning Placement (ALP)**

The purpose of ALP is to provide targeted behavior supports to elementary students who have been identified through the Student Support Process as needing increasingly more intense behavior interventions. ALP services allow for these more intensive behavior interventions to be put in place while allowing learning to continue.

### **Attendance and Participation in School Sponsored Events**

Any student who wishes to participate in any extra-curricular activities after school hours is expected to attend school that day. This includes rehearsals, plays, practices, concerts or athletic events. Any student enrolled in a Career Center co-op program or on early job placement, which requires the student to work, must be in school in order to work in the afternoon unless they receive permission from the Building Director of the Career Center Education or the Building Principal.

### **Concealed Carry Law**

Unless otherwise authorized by law, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 2923.122, no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person's control, convey, or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into a school safety zone.

### **Code of Regulations for Students** : Code of Conduct Guidelines

NWLSD

Code Of Conduct

21/22

**Expectation: Students are expected to be an active part of a safe and respectful environment at all times and to not interfere with the learning of others or the orderly process of the school building.**

**The types of conduct prohibited by the Northwest Local School District Code of Conduct are as follows:**

Level I Discipline:

Level I discipline is used for minor acts of misconduct which interfere with orderly school procedures, school functions, extracurricular programs, approved transportation, or a student's own learning process. Most level I infractions are expected to be taken care of through student compliance with staff responses. If a student fails to follow basic staff directives in the classroom, they will be referred to the office for further intervention.

Staff Interventions:

- Verbal Warning using Restorative Practices and Affective Language
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- PBIS Classroom Consequence
- Teacher Assigned AM or PM Detention
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting (R&R, Zone, Reset Rooms)
- Recess Detention
- Lunch Detention
- Office Referral for Repeated Violations

Administrative Interventions:

- Administrative Warning
- Demerit
- Recess Detention
- Lunch Detention
- Administrative Detention
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting (ALP)

Code	Description
100	Failure to abide by mask policy as established by administration and the Board of Education
101	Misbehavior which disrupts or interferes with any school activity.
102	Disrespect to a student.
103	Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities.
104	Tardy to Class.
105	Failure to abide by reasonable dress and appearance codes as established by administration and the Board of Education.
106	Non-Approved Use of Technology

Level II Discipline:

Level II discipline offenses are intermediate acts of misconduct that typically require administrative intervention. These acts include, but are not limited to, repeated, but unrelated, acts of minor misconduct and misbehaviour directed against persons or property but which do not seriously endanger the health, safety or well-being of others. Consideration of necessary behavior support services should be given, if not already provided as school removal is used as a last resort. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Staff Interventions:

- Verbal Warning using Restorative Practices and Affective Language
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- PBIS Classroom Consequence
- Teacher Assigned AM or PM Detention
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting (R&R, Zone, Reset Rooms)
- Office Referral for Repeated Violations

Administrative Interventions:

- Demerit
- Detention
- ALP–Alternative Learning Placement
- ASA– Alternate School Assignment
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting
- Emergency Removal
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Code	Description
201	Disrespect to a teacher or other school authority.
202	Disrespect to a student.
203	Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities.
204	Any disruption or interference with school activities.
205	Cursing – use of indecent language in oral or written form.
206	Use of obscene gestures.
207	Forgery of school or school-related documents
208	Cheating or plagiarizing.
209	Distribution of pamphlets, leaflets, buttons, insignia, etc., without the permission of the proper school authorities.
210	Placing of signs and slogans on school property or at school events without the permission of the proper authorities.
211	Minor petty theft
212	Skipping class.
213	Leaving school property without permission of proper school authority.
214	Disobedience of driving regulations.
215	Presence in areas during school hours or outside school hours where a student has no legitimate business without permission of a school administrator or a teacher.
216	Leaving the classroom without permission.
217	Engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.
218	Refusing to receive or serve properly administered discipline (Detention, ASA, ALP) .
219	Repeated non-approved use of technology or disruption of the educational process through the non-approved use of technology.
220	Repeated violations of the 100 Codes.

Level III Discipline:

Level III discipline offenses are serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehavior that is similar in nature, serious disruptions of the school environment, threats to health, safety, or property, and other acts of serious misconduct. These offenses must be reported to the principal. Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. Due process procedures

required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Staff Interventions:

- Office Referral

Administrative Interventions:

- Use of Behavior Intervention Process
- ALP– Alternative Learning Placement
- ASA–Alternate School Assignment
- Emergency Removal
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Code	Description
301	Willfully aiding another person to violate school regulations and/or interfering with school investigation.
302	Failure to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where these actions or plans of another person, if carried out, could or did result in harm to another person or persons or damage property, when the student has information about such actions or plans.
303	Misuse of chemical substances.
304	Smoking, using, or possessing any substance containing tobacco, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, rolling papers, a clove cigarette, e-cigarettes, and chewing tobacco, or tobacco paraphernalia such as matches or lighters or use of tobacco in any other form. As provided in 3313.751, Ohio Revised Code, it shall be a violation of this rule to use or possess tobacco in any form while on school premises or at any school activity regardless of time or location.
305	Distributing any substance containing tobacco, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, rolling papers, a clove cigarette, and chewing tobacco, tobacco paraphernalia such as matches or lighters or use of tobacco in any other form. As provided in 3313.751, Ohio Revised Code, it shall be a violation of this rule to use or possess tobacco in any form while on school premises or at any school activity regardless of time or location.
306	Fighting.
307	Hazing, threatening, harassment, intimidation or bullying of students based upon personal attributes or beliefs on/off school grounds, or engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.  For purposes of this policy, the term “harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act toward a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior: (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student.
308	Displaying excessive affection, inappropriate touching or other inappropriate behavior.
309	Falsifying of information given to school authorities in the legitimate pursuit of their jobs or interfering with the administrative investigation.
310	Possession of obscene, pornographic or libelous material.

311	Damage or destruction of school property on or off of school premises.
312	Damage or destruction of private property.
313	Demonstrations by individuals or groups causing disruption to the school program.
314	Gambling.
315	Theft or Possession of stolen student property.
316	Inappropriate use of computers and other technologies. Inappropriate use includes: vandalism, theft, or misuse of the hardware, plagiarism, unauthorized access to files not belonging to the student, tampering with security software or network privileges; logging onto the network with a fraudulent ID or password; using the facilities without proper supervision, installation of software on a computer or network, or unauthorized use, copying, or downloading of programs, files and/or pictures. Violations may result in revocation of access privileges, suspension, expulsion, other school disciplinary actions and/or appropriate legal action.
317	Any other activity by a student which the student knows or should know will disrupt the academic process or a curricular or extracurricular activity while on school premises or while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location.
318	Audiotaping, videotaping, filming or photographing of any student or staff member without the explicit knowledge and permission of the student, staff member, and the school administration.
319	Disrespect to student that involves physical contact on the part of the individual.
320	Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities resulting in disruption of the learning environment.
321	On school property or participation in school activities (on campus or off campus) while suspended or expelled without permission.
322	Repeated violations of 200 infractions.

#### Level IV Discipline:

Level IV discipline offenses are the most serious acts of misconduct. These offenses must be immediately reported to the administration. These violations are so serious that they may require use of outside agencies and/or law enforcement. Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

#### Staff Interventions:

- Office Referral

#### Administrative Interventions:

- Use of Behavior Intervention Process
- Multiple Day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- Recommendation for Expulsion
- First Time Drug Offense Intervention Procedures

Principals may suspend a student up to ten days. If a student is recommended for expulsion, the NWLSD Student Services Office will arrange for a hearing with the Superintendent or an established

designee to determine if the situation requires further discipline beyond the ten days of suspension.

Code	Description
401	Possession, conveyance or use of a firearm. Firearms are identified in Section 921 of Title 18, United States Code. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 and 3313.661 violations of the Code of Conduct involving firearms are subject to expulsion from school for one year).
402	<p>Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use a weapon other than a firearm. The term “weapon” shall have the following meanings:</p> <p>(a) Any instrument, device or object which is designed or is specially adapted for use as a weapon, or which is possessed, carried or used as a weapon. Examples of “weapons” shall include, but are not limited to: firearms, explosive devices, incendiary devices, ordinances, ammunition, knives, grenades, brass knuckles, slingshots, crossbows, arrows, blowguns, etc.</p> <p>(b) The possession or use of objects which may render physical harm to another if improperly used, including, but not limited to: axes, hatchets, hammers, saws, chains, ice picks, screwdrivers and knives. An exception to this rule shall include the proper use of such objects while under the direct supervision and control of a duly authorized representative of the Northwest Local School District. “Knives,” as defined in Northwest Board of Education policy include, but are not limited to, any instrument that possesses a pointed or sharp-edged blade of metal or other rigid material that is designed for or can be used for cutting, slicing, piercing, or stabbing. This definition shall include, but is not limited to straight razors, utility knives, box cutters, ice picks, pocket knives, switchblades, and buck knives. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 and 3313.661, violations of the Code of Conduct involving knives are subject to expulsion from school for one year.)</p>
403	Sale/distribution of weapons. See term “weapon” as defined in Code 402.
404	Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like a firearm.
405	Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any other type of weapon.
406	Sale/distribution of any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like a firearm.
407	Sale/distribution of any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any other type of weapon.
408	Using or being under the influence of any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, marijuana, etc.) or any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that you think is a controlled substance).
409	Possessing or buying any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, marijuana, etc.) or any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that you think is a controlled substance), or possessing drug paraphernalia.
410	Selling or distributing any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, marijuana, etc.) or inhalant; or buying, selling, any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that you think is a controlled substance).
411	Buying, selling, transferring or using any drug, alcohol, medication, inhalant, paraphernalia or other substance which can be taken internally where the student or students involved cannot show a legitimate health or other reason for the use of such substances. Vaping contraband will be considered a controlled

	substance at all times.
412	Possessing, using, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind.
413	Sale or distribution of any alcoholic beverage or paraphernalia or intoxicant of any kind.
414	Buying, using, possessing, selling or being under the influence of any Vaping contraband.
415	Possession and/or discharge of any explosive substance or incendiary device.
416	Assault on student.
417	Assault on school employee or other person.
418	Disrespect to staff that involves physical contact on the part of the individual.
419	Engaging in any sexual acts.
420	Indecent exposure.
421	The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, emailing or sexting, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and lifetime inclusion on sexual offender registries.
422	Violation of the district's sexual harassment policy. See policy number <a href="#">po5517</a> .
423	Hazing, threatening or harassment of school personnel. Threats may be based upon personal attributes or beliefs, on or off school grounds, or the engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.
424	Turning in false fire, tornado, bomb, or disaster alarms. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 (A) (5), a student may be expelled for a period of up to one year for making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the same time of the threat. The period of expulsion shall extend as necessary into the next school year.) Oral, written or social media threats to harm individuals, groups, or school.
425	Extortion of a student or school personnel.
426	Arson or other improper use of fire.
427	Theft or possession of school property or school employee property.
428	Any type of prohibited activity listed herein engaged in by a student on school premises, on a school bus, or while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location, shall be reason for expulsion, suspension or removal from school.
429	Commission by a student of any crime or infraction in violation of the Criminal Code, Traffic Code or Juvenile Code of the State of Ohio or, when applicable, of the State in which the crime or infraction was committed. This provision shall apply to any student while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether the act occurred on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location.
430	Repeated 300 code infractions.



**The administration reserves the right to skip levels of discipline depending on the number of infractions for each referral and the severity of the violation.**

## **NWLSD**

### **Dress Code**

1. Clothing and accessories that could be interpreted as promoting hate or communicating a negative, profane, or vulgar message are not permitted. Additionally, jewelry and accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or others are not acceptable.
2. Undergarments should not be visible. Tops that expose the midriff or chest, tank tops, mesh tops, and shirts with no sleeves are not acceptable. Pants, shorts and skirts must be worn at the waist level.
3. No head coverings (hats, bandanas, hoods, etc.), or gloves should be worn during the school day.
4. No oversized coats are permitted during the school day.
5. Shorts, skirts, and dresses should reach to a length of mid-thigh or lower and not be overly revealing.
6. Footwear should be safe for the learning environment.

\*\*\*Exceptions to these dress code items for religious reasons should be brought to administration at the beginning of the school year by parents and will require written documentation.

### **FACE COVERINGS FOR STUDENTS**

All students must follow district guidelines/policies regarding face coverings at all times. Please communicate with your student's building administration team for specific guidelines/policies.

### **Detention of Students**

After school detention may be used by teachers and principals. Parents must be notified by phone or in writing at least one day in advance, unless it is mutually agreed that the student will remain on the day the detention is issued. When a student receives a detention, he/she forfeits his/her right to bus transportation. A student is not to be excused from detention to participate in athletic events or extracurricular activities.

### **Alternate School Assignment (ASA)**

Subject to the discretion of a building administrator, a student violating school rules may incur an alternate school assignment not to exceed three consecutive days. A student serving an alternate school assignment shall remain in a room within the school building separated from the regular classes and school activities. The student shall complete the class assignments provided by the student's regular teachers under the supervision of a staff member.

The student will receive a copy of the alternate school assignment rules at the beginning of the school day. A student violating these rules may incur additional disciplinary action. While serving an alternate school assignment, the student shall not participate in extracurricular activities.

The following procedures apply to students who are serving an alternate school assignment:

1. The student will be required to complete all class assignments and tests provided while in the alternate school assignment. However, it may not be feasible or possible to make up some tests.
2. If a make-up test is not required, no grade entry will be made nor will a penalty be assessed.
3. If a make-up test is required, the student will have the equivalent number of days served in the alternate school assignment to make up tests unless the time is extended by the teacher or a building administrator. The student may receive a zero for all tests not made up.

4. The student shall turn in long-range assignments, such as science projects and book reports, to the alternate school assignment staff member on the day they are due for all students.
5. The student must abide by the rules and procedures for alternate school assignment or be subject to more serious disciplinary action.

### **Suspension**

When a student is suspended from school for any reason, the following procedures will be in effect:

The superintendent or the principal may suspend a pupil from school not more than ten school days.

The following rules will apply to all students who are suspended:

1. The suspended student will be required to make up tests that were given during the time of the suspension. However, it may not be feasible or possible to make up some tests. When this occurs, no grade entry will be made nor will a penalty be assessed.
2. The suspended student will be required to make up those class assignments which can be completed outside of class. After returning to school, the student will have the equivalent number of days suspended to turn in class assignments or make up tests unless the time is extended by the teacher or a building administrator. The student will receive a zero for all assignments or tests not made up.
3. The suspended student shall turn in long-range assignments such as science projects and books reports if they were due when he or she was out. These assignments must be turned in no later than the day they were due for all students.
4. The suspended student will make up quarter exams that were given during the time he or she was not in school. The exams must be made up within five (5) teacher work days after the suspension.

While on a suspension, the student may not attend school or school-related functions, including after-school activities. The policy applies to all school buildings, grounds and all school functions within the Northwest District.

### **Expulsion**

The superintendent may expel a pupil from school for a period not to exceed 80 school days. Students who violate the Gun Free Schools policy or make a bomb threat to a school building or any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat (ORC 3313.66 A 5) will be subject to expulsion from school for one calendar year. If at the time an expulsion is imposed, the number of school days remaining in the school year is less than the number of days of expulsion that is given, the superintendent may apply any remaining part or all of the period of the expulsion to the following school year.

If the student is expelled for ten (10) days or less during a quarter, the student is eligible for credit for the courses passed. Make-up privileges as outlined in these procedures will apply to expulsions of ten (10) days or less during a quarter.

When the student is expelled for more than ten (10) days during a quarter, the student may not be eligible to make up work for that term.

When a student is expelled for more than 20 days, or for any period of time if the expulsion will extend into the following semester or school year, the school district will provide the student and his or her parent, guardian or custodian information about services or programs

offered by public and private agencies to work toward improving those aspects of the pupil's attitude and behavior which contributed to the incident that gave rise to the pupil's expulsion.

While on expulsion, the student may not attend school or school related functions, including after-school activities. The policy applies to all school buildings, grounds and all school functions within the Northwest Local School District.

### **Damage to School Property**

It is the responsibility of the school district to protect its property from damage and destruction. A student may be required to pay for school property damaged or destroyed as a result of negligence. The parents or guardians of students who intentionally damage or destroy school property may be held responsible for restitution in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. As a reminder, Chromebooks that students use, are considered the property of the school district. The administration will pursue restitution in all acts of vandalism or intentional damages or destruction of school property.

### **Distribution of Materials in School**

For purposes of this policy, "non-school-related materials" pertain to activities, events and subject matter that are not officially sponsored or endorsed by the District, and promote educational programs and activities appropriate for the children in District schools. All flyers must adhere to all guidelines and must contain the Northwest Local School District Disclaimer. All flyers must be approved by the District Public Relations Office prior to being distributed at schools. The Flyer Distribution Form can be found online. Political materials and material promoting "for profit" ventures will not be distributed.

The Superintendent/designee has sole discretion to restrict or prohibit the distribution of non-school-related materials that are pervasively vulgar, lewd, obscene, sexually explicit, libelous, or harmful to students; that promote activities that are illegal or inappropriate for the students of the school; or that disrupts or interferes with school activities.

Classrooms shall be considered closed forums and the distribution and posting of materials shall be limited to school-sponsored activities and those items compatible with the curriculum. Students may be prevented from distributing materials during class time or when the distribution of such materials interferes with classroom instruction, pedagogy and curriculum.

Approved non-school related materials may be posted in the common areas of a school building that are specifically designated by the building principal or designee for such purpose. The building principal or designee may restrict or prohibit the distribution of non-school related materials if the time and or manner of distribution disrupts or interferes with school activities.

Approved non-school related materials may be distributed by employees of the school district only as part of "Friday folders" or other packets that regularly contain materials providing information on both school sponsored and non-school related activities and events. In schools where there is no regular weekly packet sent home to parents, the principal or designee will determine the appropriate time, place and manner to distribute approved materials.

Approved non-school related materials must prominently display the following disclaimer: *"These materials are for informational purposes only. The Northwest Local School District does not endorse the persons or organizations providing these materials or the messages contained therein. Unless explicitly stated, the activities promoted are not affiliated with or sponsored by the Northwest Local School District."*

### **Emergency Medical Authorization Forms (EMAs)**

By state law, schools are required to keep on record an Emergency Medical Authorization (EMA) for each student. The Emergency Medical Authorization (EMA) is a critical form that is used by the Administrators and Health Office to contact parents. Parents are required to go online and verify/update their information each year. The website will open July 6, 2020 and close September 30, 2020 . **Log on to the Registration Gateway at [update.nwlsd.org](http://update.nwlsd.org).** The website will require a username and password for each student in the district. The username is the student's district I.D. number, (the same number used for lunch and the *PaySchools* system), and the password will be their date of birth.

**Username: Six digit district student ID number**

**Password: Date of birth MMDDYYYY Leading zeros needed for birth date.**

**be 01012018)**

**(For example January 1, 2018 would**

If phone numbers change throughout the year, it is imperative that you notify the school to ensure you can be reached when necessary for the student.

***As the information on this form changes, please notify the school office and the school nurse.***

### **Equal Educational Opportunities**

All students of the District have equal educational opportunities. Students have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, economic status, marital status, pregnancy, age, disability or military status in all decisions affecting admissions; membership in school-sponsored organizations, clubs or activities; access to facilities; distribution of funds; academic evaluations or any other aspect of school-sponsored activities. Any limitations with regard to participation in a school-sponsored activity are based on criteria reasonably related to that specific activity.

### **Fees and Assessments**

The basic textbook and/or online resources for each course are provided to each student without charge. Students may, however, be required to purchase workbooks and/or consumable supplies for some courses. A complete list of maximum fees by course is approved by the Board of Education in the spring of each school year for the upcoming school year. Assessed fees cover the cost of the resource(s) plus shipping. **ALL current and past due fees must be paid prior to attending Prom and Graduation.**

### **Fire, Tornado, and Lockdown Crisis Drills**

Periodically, the school reviews and practices procedures in the event of an emergency. During these drills, students follow the instructions of their teachers. Directions for leaving the building and shelter locations are posted in each room.

### **Free and Reduced School Lunch/Breakfast**

#### **Free and Reduced Priced Meals**

The Board of Education has established procedures for providing free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch to disadvantaged children in the Northwest Local School District in conformance with Public Law 91-248 known as the School Food Services Bill enacted May 14, 1970. The school food authority assures the State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly determine children's eligibility for free and reduced-priced meals in all National School Lunch Program schools under its jurisdiction.

Free/Reduced applications can also be used to determine eligibility for school instructional fee waivers and other district programs. Applications are available online at <https://www.payschoolscentral.com/> or in the school office for anyone wishing to apply. A copy can also be found online at <http://nwlsd.org>. Completed applications can be returned to the school, faxed to 513-385-3769, or emailed to [lrobison@nwlsd.org](mailto:lrobison@nwlsd.org).

### **National School Breakfast Program**

Research has shown that starting the day with a nutritious breakfast helps students stay alert and perform better in school. Northwest Local School District offers FREE breakfast to all enrolled students. Please come visit us & benefit from eating a deliciously nutritious breakfast!

### **The Ohio Summer Food Service Program**

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition end. NWLSD's Summer Food Service Program provides free, nutritious meals to help District children get the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school. Children ages 1 through 18 may receive free breakfast & lunch through our summer feeding program offered every Thursday from 11:00am - 2:00pm at Taylor Elementary School. Meals also are available to individuals with disabilities through age 21 who participate in a recognized school program for individuals with developmental or physical disabilities.

### **Healthy Start & Healthy Families**

*Healthy Start* offers free health care coverage for kids (birth to age 19) and pregnant women who qualify. *Healthy Families* offers health care coverage for the entire family. Please see flyer located in school office for details.

Contact Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services for more details:  
222 E. Central Pkwy., Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Phone/Ext: (513) 946-1000  
CDJFS -  
Fax: (513) 946-1076 TTY/TTD: (513) 946-1295  
Hours: Mon-Fri 7a-5p  
Website: [www.hcjfs.org](http://www.hcjfs.org)

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

### **Grading Scale – K-1**

The key below is to be used to indicate a student's progress in specific academic skill areas on the report card:

#### **(3) Meeting Standards**

The student consistently meets the standards as required for the grade level.

#### **(2) Approaching Standards**

The student is approaching the standards as required for the grade level, and is making progress towards meeting standards.

#### **(1) Below Standards**

*The student is not meeting the standards required for this grade level.*

## **Grading Scale – 2**

The key below is to be used to indicate a student's progress in specific academic skill areas on the report card:

**(4) Exceeding Standards**

The student exceeds the standards as required for the grade level.

**(3) Meeting Standards**

The student consistently meets the standards as required for the grade level.

**(2) Approaching Standards**

The student is approaching the standards as required for the grade level, and is making progress towards meeting standards.

**(1) Below Standards**

*The student is not meeting the standards required for this grade level.*

## **Grading Scale – Grades 3-5**

The grading scale is A-F as shown on the report card. The corresponding percentage key adopted by Northwest Local Schools follows:

A	=	90-100%
B	=	80-89%
C	=	70-79%
D	=	60 – 69%
F	=	Below 60%

## **Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)**

Hazing means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Throughout this policy the term bullying is used in place of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. This behavior is prohibited on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.

Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing, bullying and/or dating violence does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

The District includes, within the health curriculum, age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education in grades 7 to 12. This instruction includes recognizing warning signs of dating violence and the characteristics of healthy relationships.

Prohibited activities of any type, including those activities engaged in via computer and/or electronic communications devices, are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. No administrator, teacher or other employee of the District shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing and/or bullying activities. No students, including leaders of student organizations, are permitted to plan, encourage or engage in any hazing and/or bullying.

Administrators, teachers and all other District employees are particularly alert to possible conditions, circumstances or events that might include hazing, bullying and/or dating violence. If any of the prohibited behaviors are planned or discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering District employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and

are required to end all such activities immediately. All hazing, bullying and/or dating violence incidents are reported immediately to the Superintendent/designee and appropriate discipline is administered.

District employees, students and volunteers have qualified civil immunity for damages arising from reporting an incident of hazing and/or bullying. Administrators, teachers, other employees and students who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in compliance with State and Federal law.

No one is permitted to retaliate against an employee or student because he/she files a grievance or assists or participates in an investigation, proceeding or hearing regarding the charge of hazing and/or bullying of an individual.

#### Administrative Response-

The building principal/designee shall promptly investigate all reports of harassment, intimidation or bullying. All matters involving such complaints should remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.

1. The principal/designee will confer with the student, parent or guardian making the report in order to obtain a clear understanding of the alleged facts. If not already completed, the principal/designee will complete the harassment, intimidation or bullying complaint form. A copy of the complaint form is attached in the back of this handbook.
2. The principal/designee will meet with all witnesses identified by the person(s) making the report of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Witnesses will be asked to make a statement both orally and in writing regarding the alleged facts that form the basis of the complaint.
3. The principal/designee will meet with the student(s) accused of harassment, intimidation or bullying to obtain a response to the complaint both orally and in writing.
4. Following the completion of the investigation, any student(s) found to have violated this policy will be subject to any of the disciplinary actions described in the Student Code of Conduct.
5. Retaliation against any student who makes a complaint of harassment, intimidation or bullying, or any student who becomes involved in the investigation of such complaint, is strictly prohibited, and may result in discipline irrespective of the merits of the initial complaint.
6. The building principal/designee shall have the authority to involve local law enforcement if an individual believes danger is imminent due to the alleged harassment, intimidation or bullying.

#### *Preventative Measures*

To the extent that state or federal funds are appropriated for these purposes, the Board will provide training, workshops or courses on this policy to school employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students.

Teachers, guidance counselors, coaches and building administration will educate students about this policy through class discussion, counseling and reinforcement of appropriate student behavior. School personnel should intervene promptly whenever they observe student-on-student misbehavior, even if such conduct does not yet meet the frequency, severity or pervasiveness to constitute harassment, intimidation, or bullying that is prohibited by this policy.

If the building principal/designee finds that a student has been the victim of harassment, intimidation or bullying, in addition to the imposition of disciplinary

action against the student-offender, the following strategies may be implemented to protect the victim from additional harassment, intimidation or bullying:

1. Staff may be instructed to observe and record the behavior of the student-offender in less-supervised settings such as the cafeteria, playground and restrooms. If the student-offender's misbehavior persists, administration may assign the student-offender to recess, lunch or class-release times different from those of the student-victim.
2. The offending student and parent(s) or guardian(s) may be requested to participate in a conference with building administration and staff in an attempt to enlist the parent(s) or guardian(s) to work cooperatively with the school to stop the harassment, intimidation or bullying.
3. In consultation with the student-victim and parent(s) or guardian(s), examine the student's daily schedule to identify those activities where harassment, intimidation or bullying most often occur. Make arrangements to increase supervision or adjust the student's schedule to reduce or eliminate under-supervised activities.
4. Change classroom layout or rearrange seating to eliminate "blind spots" where future acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying may occur.

### **Injuries**

All accidents to students which require medical attention shall be reported immediately by the person in charge, the principal, the school nurse, and, if serious enough, to the parents or guardian. A record of all accidents shall be made by the appropriate school official and kept in the principal's office.

### **Insurance**

The school system will make available to all students a student accident group insurance plan each year. A specific plan is available for students participating in football.

### **Interviewing Students**

When law enforcement officers, agency representatives, or other officials request to question a student regarding a matter that is not school-related, school officials will make reasonable efforts to notify parents of the official's request to question their child. However, since it is unlawful to impede a police investigation, if after reasonable efforts to notify parents have failed, police officials will be allowed to question the child in the presence of an administrator. In such instances, parents will be promptly notified following any such interview or questioning. When parents request to be present during these interviews, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow time for parents to promptly arrive at school. However, if parents are unable or unwilling to arrive at school in a timely manner, police officials will be allowed to question the child in the presence of an administrator. School officials may not impede a police investigation indefinitely. Parents will be notified by school officials following any such interview or questioning.

Only students whose parents or guardians reside in the District can attend District schools. School officials may question students about issues of residency without parent notification or permission.

### **Locker Searches**

In order to protect the health and safety of all students, school administrators may conduct random locker searches. Lockers are the property of the school district. Consequently, administrators may open the lockers and examine the contents contained therein without prior notice to the students.

### **Non-Discrimination**



The Board of Education does not permit discriminatory practices and views harassment as a form of discrimination. Harassment is defined as intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation, by whatever means, of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct or symbols in such a manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual.

All students are responsible to help assure that the district does not discriminate. If an individual feels that he/she has experienced, witnessed or has information regarding possible discrimination, the individual should immediately notify the administration of the district. The Board of Education prohibits retaliation against anyone, who in good faith, reports possible discrimination, makes a discrimination complaint, or cooperates in a discrimination complaint investigation or any related proceeding.

The district's policy is to investigate all discrimination complaints promptly and thoroughly. To the fullest extent practicable, the district will keep complaints and the terms of their resolution confidential. If an investigation confirms that discrimination has occurred, the district will take corrective action including, but not limited to, appropriate disciplinary action. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to discrimination does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

### **Parent Right To Know**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The following are Northwest Local School District policies and federal laws for your information. The information has been summarized below; however, if you would like more detailed information, **please review the student handbook, visit the district website at [www.nwlsd.org](http://www.nwlsd.org) or contact the Northwest Local School District Administrative Office at 923-1000 ext 3903.**

#### **Professional Qualifications of Teachers**

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act/ Parent's Right to Know, this is a notification to every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right to know about the teaching qualifications of your child's classroom teacher in a school receiving Title I funds. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that any school district receiving Title I funds must notify parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that they may request, and the district will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:

- I. Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- II. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- III. Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
- IV. Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Information can be accessed on the Ohio Dept. of Education website at [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us), or you may contact the Human Resource Office at 923-1000 to schedule an appointment.

#### **Assessment Results**

Parents have a right to know the level of achievement their child attains on each of the state academic assessments. [ESSA Section 1112 (e)(1)(B)(i)]. The Northwest Local School District will ensure that all parents receive individual student achievement reports provided by the Ohio Department of Education in a timely manner.

**Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)** <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ppra/index.html>

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98) applies to programs that receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education (ED). PPRA is intended to protect the rights of parents and students in two ways:

- It seeks to ensure that schools and contractors make instructional materials available for inspection by parents if those materials will be used in connection with an ED-funded survey, analysis, or evaluation in which their children participate; and
- It seeks to ensure that schools and contractors obtain written parental consent before minor students are required to participate in any ED-funded survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:
  1. Political affiliations;
  2. Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family;
  3. Sex behavior and attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
  7. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

### **School and District Report Cards**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) annually issues school and district report cards. The ODE does not mail the report cards to parents' homes. The information will be available at the end of August on the ODE website [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us).

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
  - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - Accrediting organizations;
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
  - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents

and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

For additional information, you may call 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (voice). Individuals who use TDD may use the [Federal Relay Service](#).

Or you may contact us at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

### **ProgressBook**

The Northwest Local School District uses ProgressBook as an online grade book in grades 3 - 12. ProgressBook is a classroom management solution that integrates the grade book, attendance, special education and parent communication into one comprehensive, web-based system. The Parent Access Web Site is a component of ProgressBook that enables parents and students to view grade/attendance information. The Parent Access Web Site displays student grade averages, progress details, report cards, attendance, schedule, homework, classroom information, events, and other school information in read-only format. A letter containing step-by-step login procedures as well as username and passwords will be sent home early in the school year. Please take advantage of this great tool to stay abreast of your student's attendance and grades.

All teachers are required to maintain a grade book via Progress Book and follow the established guidelines:

- Grades will be entered and teachers will update grades once per week.
- Teachers will use the student report from the online grading system to supplement parent/teacher conferences.

### **Promotion of Students**

Promotion indicates that the student is capable and prepared for the level of study to which he/she has been assigned. The placement of a student in any grade level or course should be in the best interest of the student. Students who are placed rather than promoted have not yet learned all grade level standards but are moved to the next grade level based on their elevated age. Retention is viewed as another opportunity for growth at a particular level of study. In gathering facts and information for retention decisions, every effort shall be made to provide the opportunity for continuous communication between the parent/family and the school.

Students may not be promoted to the next grade level if the student has been truant for more than 10 percent of the required attendance days of the current school year and/or has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade. Students may be promoted if the student's principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level despite these two factors.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are distributed approximately 8 school days after the end of each academic quarter.

### **Safe School Hotline**

The SaferOh tip line will accept both calls and texts 24 hours a day regarding bullying, potential suicide risks, violence, or other school safety issues. This information is anonymous and reported directly to the designated administrator at your school. This tip line allows students and adults to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety – whether that involves a threatened mass incident or harm to a single student. Call or Text to **844-SaferOh (844-723-3764)**

**NWLSD also has a “Say Something” hotline and process available to communicate any concerns. Calling or texting 513-857-1335 or visiting NWLSD.org and completing a “Say Something Form” can help keep our schools safe.**

### **School Bus Conduct**

Students who ride Northwest School District buses to and from school are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will not endanger the health and safety of others who are riding the buses. Student transportation management policies are outlined in the Ohio Administrative Rules, Chapter 3301-83-08©, Ohio Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rules. These policies are published in the student handbooks. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3327.014 students riding district school buses may have such bus riding privileges suspended by the Superintendent or other district administrators for a period of time not to exceed 80 days for any violation of the Student Code of Conduct or a violation of the reasonable rules and regulations established by individual school bus drivers. The student is subject to the Student Code of Conduct and bus riding regulations while he or she is physically riding the bus and when the student is at or near a school bus stop.

In order to ensure the safe operation of school buses, the administration has developed procedures to be followed for disciplinary action because of misconduct on school buses.

### **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES 3301-83-08**

Student management and safety instruction policies shall include the following:

- 1) Students shall arrive at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- 2) Students must wait in a location clear of traffic and away from the bus stops.
- 3) Behavior at the school bus stop must not threaten life, limb or property of any individual.
- 4) Students must go directly to an available or assigned seat so the bus may safely resume motion.
- 5) Students must remain seated keeping aisles and exits clear.
- 6) Students must observe classroom conduct and obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
- 7) Students must not use profane language.
- 8) Students must refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons.
- 9) The use of alcohol, tobacco, and non-prescribed drugs is prohibited on the school bus, except for prescription medication required for a student.
- 10) Firearms, ammunition, weapons, explosives or other dangerous materials or objects are prohibited on school buses.
- 11) Students must not throw or pass objects on, from or into the bus.

12) Animals are prohibited on the bus, with the exception of those intended for special needs assistance.

Examples of animals not permitted on the bus are: snakes, hamsters, gerbils, bugs, insects, etc. (living or non-living).

13) Students may carry on the bus only objects that can be held in their laps- Equipment such as music instruments, athletic uniforms, etc., which cannot be held by passengers in their seats, shall be stored in the rear of the bus. When it is necessary to transport such equipment concurrently with pupils, space shall be provided to comply with this rule without having standees in the bus. Equipment required in the assistance of preschool and special needs children shall be safely and properly secured. A clear aisle to the exit door must be maintained at all times. There must be sufficient room on the bus to store large instruments. Please check with the Transportation Department or the bus driver.

14) School projects may not be transported if they are too large or too fragile to be held by the students on their laps. No glass objects or aerosol products are permitted on the school bus.

15) Students must leave or board the bus at locations to which they have been assigned unless they have parental and administrative authorization to do otherwise.

16) Students must not put head or arms out of the bus windows.

17) Guidelines will be formulated for the use and storage of equipment and of assistance required by preschool and special needs children.

other means

18) Drivers and bus aides must have access to appropriate information about

the child to

the degree that such information might affect safe transportation and

medical well-

being. This information must be available in the vehicle or readily

accessible in the

transportation office. All such information is strictly confidential.

In order to ensure the safe operation of school buses, the following procedures shall be followed when it becomes necessary to take disciplinary action on a student because of misconduct aboard a Northwest School District school bus:

1) The drivers will attempt to maintain discipline aboard the school bus; however, when a bus passenger will not obey or is disrespectful to the bus driver, the driver will complete the misconduct form.

2) The misconduct form will be submitted to the building principal/assistant principal. The administrator will meet with the student to discuss the incident cited on the misconduct form. The administrator will decide upon the appropriate disciplinary action. The principal/assistant principal will notify the parent of the reported incident and the action being taken. The administrator shall also communicate with the driver regarding the action taken.

Principals may wish to utilize various disciplinary actions in dealing with student misbehavior on the bus; however, the following may serve as a guide to administrators who will be processing the misconduct forms. These guidelines are not meant to be rigid in interpretation but serve as a means of adding some consistency to application.

a. **First violation** – misconduct form sent to parents

b. **Second violation** – warning letter will be mailed to the parents accompanied by a copy of the misconduct form – demerit

- c. **Third violation** – bus-riding privileges denied for 1-3 days
  - d. **Fourth violation** – bus-riding privileges denied for 2-4 days
  - e. **Fifth violation** – bus-riding privileges denied for 5-10 days
  - f. **Sixth violation** – recommendation of expulsion from riding the bus
- 1) In some instances, the nature of the violation may be such that the first step will be waived and the second, third, or fourth steps immediately imposed.
  - 2) If a student is to be suspended from riding the bus, the administrator is to follow all due process requirements for suspension.
  - 3) Drivers experiencing severe disciplinary problems should immediately contact the Transportation Supervisor and the principal/assistant principal for assistance. Correcting disruptive student behavior on the bus must be a cooperative effort of the bus driver, administrator, parent and student.
  - 4) Any problems that arise with the use of the above procedures or referral form regarding student behavior on the school bus should be referred to the Transportation Supervisor.

### **School Closing and Delays**

The inclement weather plans for the Northwest Local School District will be announced as follows:

1. Northwest Schools will be closed.
2. Two hour delay with limited transportation, no preschool
3. Two hour delay (with full transportation), no preschool
4. Limited transportation (with regular starting time)

When a two-hour delay is announced, continue to monitor school closing announcements since the delay could be changed to 'closed.' This information will be made available to radio and television stations through a network system set up by the media. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions contact the Northwest Local School District Transportation Dept. at 825-4600 or Business Office at 923-1000

### **Search and Seizure**

The Board recognizes that the privacy of students and their belongings may not be violated by an unreasonable search and seizure, and directs that no student be searched without reasonable suspicion or in an unreasonable manner. Random locker searches may be conducted without reasonable suspicion of a violation of the law or Board policy.

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search a student's person or property, including, but not limited to: book bags, purses, wallets, clothing and motor vehicles. When appropriate, the building principal shall seek the freely offered consent of the student to the inspection. However, if a student refuses to consent, a search may still be conducted when the administrator has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will discover evidence that the student has violated or is violating either a law or a school rule. Searches shall employ reasonable measures that are not excessively intrusive considering the age and gender of the student and the nature of the suspected infraction. Whenever possible, a search will be conducted by the building administrator in the presence of the student and a staff member other than the building administrator.

The building administrator shall be responsible for the prompt written recording of each student search, including the reasons for the search; the information received that established the need for the search and the name of informant, if any; the persons present when the search was conducted; any substances or objects found; and the disposition made

of them. The building administrator shall be responsible for the custody, control and disposition of any illegal or dangerous substance or object taken from a student.

This authorization to search shall apply to all situations in which the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board — including all curricular and extracurricular activities and events, regardless of location.

The Board acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Such spaces remain the property of the Board and, in accordance with law, may be subject to random searches. Where locks are provided for such places, students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall students have an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official. This policy will be posted in every building near in-school storage areas.

The Board reserves the power to search any locker or lockers in emergency situations that immediately threaten the health or safety of any person, or threaten to damage or destroy any property under the control of the Board, or when such an emergency appears to exist. Such searches are allowed whenever it is reasonably believed to be necessary to avert a threat or apparent threat.

The Board also authorizes the use of canines trained in detecting the presence of illegal materials. This means of detection shall be used only to determine the possible presence of illegal materials in locker areas, parking areas and other places on school property where such materials could be concealed. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement authorities and is not to be used to search individual students unless a warrant has been obtained.

General use of canine detection does not constitute a search, and may be employed at any time. A subsequent search is proper when a canine has indicated the presence of illegal materials, even if a reasonable suspicion regarding that particular area containing illegal materials did not exist before the canine detection.

### **Sexual Harassment Involving Students**

All persons associated with the District, including, but not limited to, the Board, the administration, the staff and the students, are expected to conduct themselves at all times so as to provide an atmosphere free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment, whether verbal or nonverbal, occurring inside or outside of District buildings, on other District-owned property or at school-sponsored social functions/activities, is illegal and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any person who engages in sexual harassment while acting as a member of the school community is in violation of this policy.

**Definition of Sexual Harassment:** Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature may constitute sexual harassment when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a person's employment or educational development;
2. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or education decisions affecting such individual or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Examples of sexual harassment-type conduct may include, but are not limited to, unwanted sexual advances; demands for sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment or continued employment; repeated sexual jokes, flirtations, advances or propositions; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic verbal commentary relating to an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; coerced sexual activities; any unwanted physical contact; sexually suggestive or obscene comments or gestures; or displays in the workplace of sexually suggestive or obscene objects or pictures. Whether any act or comment constitutes sexual harassment-type conduct is often dependent on the individual recipient.

The Board directs the Superintendent to appoint one or more administrators who are vested with the authority and responsibility for investigating all sexual harassment complaints in accordance with the procedures set forth in the accompanying procedure and staff and student handbooks.

Sexual harassment matters, including the identity of both the charging party and the accused, are kept confidential to the extent possible. Although discipline may be imposed against the accused upon a finding of guilt, retaliation is prohibited.

The Board has developed complaint procedures that are made available to every member of the school community. The Board has also identified disciplinary penalties that could be imposed on the offenders.

- Occurrences involving students as offenders will be handled in the same manner as other disciplinary situations. These procedures will include full due process protections, and could result in suspension, expulsion, referral to law enforcement agencies and/or recommendations for counseling.

- Occurrences involving employees as offenders toward students will be investigated by the building principal. If further investigation is warranted, the compliance officers will investigate. The information obtained from the investigations will be reported to the Superintendent for proper disposition.

- Occurrences involving members of the general public as offenders toward students will be reported to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

### **Retaliation**

Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.

### **Smoking**

Schools within the Northwest Local School District are smoke and e-cigarette free environments. This smoke and e-cigarette free policy extends to extra-curricular events, as well as during daily arrival and dismissal routines. Please refrain from smoking or using e-cigarette at any time while on school property, whether indoors or outdoors.

### **Student Directory Information**

In accordance with the Federal law.... This annual notice is to inform you of the board policy that allows for the release of student directory information and your right of refusal to release

### **Special Education/Medicaid**

#### **Response to Intervention/Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports**

The Board of Education recognizes that the needs of individual pupils in the Northwest School District vary widely and that the highest educational standards should challenge each child, based upon the individual's ability. Northwest Schools utilizes Multi-Tiered



Systems of Support (MTSS) in addressing individual needs. Interventions are provided by teachers and staff as determined by data collection and/or parent and teacher concerns. Data-based decision making is the most effective means to determine the effectiveness of an intervention.

An MTSS Team is composed of evaluators, parents, members of the staff who review the data and determine program eligibility. The Board of Education will provide the psychological, social, and educational evaluation by competent specialists of exceptional children, as provided by law.

The classroom teacher(s), parents and the school's special education personnel will develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for any student who qualifies.

The federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004 (IDEA), specifies each State's obligation to develop agreements with non-educational public agencies to ensure that all services necessary to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) are provided to children with disabilities at no cost to the parent.

### **Medicaid Annual Notice**

School districts are permitted to seek payment from public insurance programs (Medicaid) for some services provided at school. Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), *parent* consent is required for the school system to release information about their child to the Ohio Department of Medicaid in order to access *the parent or* child's public benefit. *Parents* are entitled to a copy of any information the school system releases to the state Medicaid program.

The Northwest Local School District has the opportunity to receive Federal Medicaid dollars through a program called the Ohio Medicaid School Program (MSP). Through this program, school districts can receive Medicaid dollars for services such as Speech, Audiology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Psychology, Counseling, and Social Work services. The district can receive funding when a student receives one or more of these services and the student has current Medicaid insurance coverage. In the process of billing Medicaid for these services, certain billing information must be shared with the Ohio Department of Medicaid. Before the district can submit claim data for Medicaid billing purposes, we must first obtain a signed Parental Consent to Share Information and Access Medicaid.

This annual notice is to inform you of all of your legal protections and rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Your consent is voluntary. You have the right under 34 CFR Part 99 and Part 300 to withdraw your consent at any time. You are not required to enroll in Medicaid. Billing Medicaid will not require you to incur any out-of-pocket expenses such as a deductible or co-pay, decrease lifetime coverage, increase premiums or lead to the discontinuation of benefits, or result in you paying for services that would otherwise be covered

by Medicaid. No matter whether you grant consent, refuse consent, or revoke your consent, your child will still be provided with an evaluation and/or the services listed in their IEP at no cost to you. For a more detailed explanation of Medicaid Parental Consent, please see the following Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 34 CFR 300.154, 34 CFR 300.503, 34 CFR 300.622, 34 CFR 99.30.

For specific questions regarding the Medicaid School Program Parental Consent, please contact Healthcare Billing Services, Inc. at (740) 639-4218 or at info@teamhbs.com

### **Student Absences and Excuses**

Regular attendance by all students is very important. The Superintendent shall develop procedures governing student absences and excuses as part of the attendance handbook. The Board will adopt the attendance handbook on an annual basis. The student absences and excuses procedures will be Board policy for the year of adoption.

#### **Acceptance of notes from doctors and other documentation of absence**

Legitimate verification of absence from a third party source (doctor's notes, etc.) will be accepted up to **5 work days after the absence**. In the case of absences of multiple days, notification must be received by the fifth work day after the student returns to school. When there is an extended period of absence, contact should be maintained between the home and school. More than one note from a medical professional may be necessary in this situation. If a student/parent does not provide third party documentation, he/she may be referred for truancy and/or failure of classes.

#### **Due to House Bill 410:**

Regular school attendance is required by Ohio Law and is a key factor for student success in school. House Bill 410, of the Ohio Legislature, mandates that students attend school every day that school is in session. It is important to establish good attendance patterns early in a child's school experience. Custodial parents/guardians will be notified when a student incurs either of the following:

#### **Excessive Absences**

38 or more hours in any month (Excused & Unexcused)  
(Unexcused ONLY)

65 or more hours in a year (Excused & Unexcused)  
(Unexcused ONLY)

(Unexcused ONLY)

#### **Habitual Truancy**

30 or more consecutive hours

42 or more hours in any month

72 or more hours in a year

Please keep in mind, only third-party and/or medically excused absence hours do not count toward unexcused absences (court notice, doctor note for example).

#### **House Bill 410 Required Action Steps**

1. Any student who has received this letter under the Excessive Absence guidelines, all further absences for the remainder of the school year must be verified by third party documentation to be counted as excused absences. A parent note or phone call is not sufficient for an absence to be excused. Your son/daughter must bring a statement from a third party, such as a medical professional, or the absence will be **unexcused**. The documentation must be received **within five working days of the absence**.
2. Any student who has received this letter that is under the Habitual Truancy guidelines or reach Habitually Truant criteria, will have an Absence Intervention Team convened within 14 days of this letter and the student will be referred to this group. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be invited to attend the meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the causes for absenteeism, and work

together with the team to develop interventions that can be implemented at school and home to help address the absences and improve attendance in school.

3. The school and parent(s)/guardian(s) will work to develop a positive working relationship with open lines of communication to address the truancy, and will continue to actively monitor attendance from the date the plan is put into effect for the student.
4. If at any time since the implementation of this plan the student again incurs any of the triggering events described above for Habitual Truancy, the school will then file a complaint with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and bring charges against the parent and/or student for truancy. If however, after 60 days of attempting this Absence Intervention Plan, the student does not incur any of the triggering events, but shows little progress in improving his/her attendance, the school can then also file a complaint with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and bring charges against the parent and/or student for truancy.

#### **Student Absences and Excuses**

It is important to note that excused absences are included in the excessive absence criteria but do not count towards the habitually truant criteria per the Ohio Department of Education. Reasons for which students may be excused **when third-party documentation is provided** include, but are not limited to:

1. personal illness of the student;
2. illness in the student's family;
3. needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardians (applies to students over 14 years of age only);
4. death in the family;
5. quarantine for contagious disease;
6. religious reasons;
7. traveling out of state to attend a Board-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity (applies to absences of up to four days); or
8. or as determined by the Superintendent.

Each student who is absent must immediately, upon return to school, make arrangements with his/her teacher(s) to make up work missed. Students who are absent from school for reasons not permitted by State law may, or may not, be permitted to make up work. Each case is considered on its merits by the principal and the respective teacher(s). Students are requested to bring a note to school after each absence explaining the reason for the absence or tardiness.

The Board does not believe that students should be excused from school for vacations or other non-emergency trips out of the District. The responsibility for such absences resides with the parent(s), and they must not expect any work missed by their child to be retaught by the teacher. If the school is notified in advance of such a trip, reasonable efforts are made to prepare a general list of assignments for the student to do while he/she is absent.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish a hearing and notification procedure for the purpose of denying a student's driving privileges if that student of compulsory school age has been absent without legitimate excuse for more than 10 consecutive days or a total of at least 15 days during a semester or term.

#### **Acceptable Third Party Documentation**

The following items will be accepted as third party documentation. All third party documentation must be provided within 5 school days of the student absence. In the case

of absence of multiple days, notification must be received by the fifth school day after the student returns to school. In the case of prolonged absence, contact should be maintained between the home and school. More than one note from a medical professional may be necessary in this case.

1. Personal illness – documentation from a licensed medical professional
2. Illness in family – documentation from a licensed medical professional
3. Quarantine of home – notification from the Board of Health
4. Death of a relative – obituary or memorial card from the funeral
5. Homework due to absences of parents or guardians – verification of this excuse should be obtained from a building administrator or counselor. This should be used rarely by families and not for regular child care of family members.
6. Observance of a religious holiday – knowledge by administrator of the existence of a holiday on this date
7. College visits (maximum of 2 days, for seniors only) – documentation from college provided after return from visit
8. Court appearances – subpoena or receipt from court
9. Medical and dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside school hours – verification of attendance at appointment from a medical professional
10. Driver's examination which cannot be scheduled outside school hours – verification of attendance by Bureau of Motor Vehicles employee
11. Educational/psychological testing – documentation of attendance by a licensed medical professional
12. Vacations or extended travel with parents when pre-arranged with building administrator and if such travel would not cause the student to exceed the Excessive Absence Procedures and risk failing classes – notification from a Building administrator (Note: If a request is made and approved for a student to miss more than 10 days for vacation, an educational option should be set up).
13. Farm work (maximum of 3 days) – verification from a building administrator
14. Other reasons approved by a school administrator – the only district-wide approval in this area is ½ day excused absence for Reds Opening Day. If a student attends this he/she will need to provide a ticket stub as verification.

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS**

The Northwest Local School District believes that with the many challenges for military families, there is a need for flexibility related to school attendance policies. Therefore, Northwest Local Schools will grant up to five days of excused absences for military connected students whose parents are experiencing a deployment. The conditions under which the Northwest Local Schools may approve excused absences are:

1. The absence is pre approved; {written notice of deployment sent to the school by parent and school fax a copy to Enrollment Office}
2. The student is in good standing; GPA of 2.0 or greater
3. The student has a prior record of good attendance; {not involved in an open truancy case}
4. Missed assignments are completed and turned in within the school's allotted time period; {if student uses 1-5 days of excused absences, student should be allowed the same number of days to make up assignments}
5. The absence is not during standardized testing dates

## **Student Health**

All Northwest Local School District school buildings have a health clinic. It is open during the school day to support the students and staff. The Health Office staff may be a Registered Nurse (RN), a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or a Health Assistant. We believe that a healthy student is better able to participate actively in his/her education.

The Nurse/Health Assistant is responsible for: ensuring proper immunization of all students in accordance with Ohio law, performing hearing, vision and postural (scoliosis) screening as required and recommended by the Ohio Department of Health, providing emergency care of illness and injury during the school day, decreasing communicable diseases by excluding students from school with signs of disease or illness that can be spread, developing individual health plans and emergency action plans in collaboration with parents and health care providers (physicians and/or nurse practitioners) for students with health conditions such as asthma, seizure disorders, diabetes, migraine headaches and allergies. The nurse/health assistant is also responsible for administering medications and treatments, and training appropriate school personnel in the proper administration of medication and treatments, as well as acting as a resource for staff in the area of health and health concerns.

The Nurse/Health Assistant reviews the immunization records provided by the parent to ensure the proper immunization of all students in accordance with Ohio law. If it is determined that the student needs additional immunizations, it is expected that the parent/guardian immediately obtains updated immunization records upon notification from the Health Office. Any parent/guardian has the right to exercise their objections to immunization by claiming an exemption. If an exemption is desired, the parent must submit an official NWLSD philosophical, religious or medical exemption form. Please contact the health office in your child's school building if you need information on where you can obtain vaccination for your child, or if you require an immunization exemption form; this form is required to be completed every school year and kept on file in the Health Office.

**If a student is found to be out of compliance with Ohio law, the student may be excluded after 14 days into the school year per Ohio law, this is not an excused absence and will count towards unexcused absences.** The following chart is from the Ohio Department of Health and outlines the immunizations which are currently required by Ohio law. Immunization requirements for school may change annually, current requirements are listed below.

## **Immunization Summary for School Attendance - Ohio**

VACCINES	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2021-2022 Requirements</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">****Subject to change due to current Public Health Pandemic****</p>
<p><b>DTaP/DT Tdap/Td</b> Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis</p>	<p><b><u>Kindergarten</u></b> Four (4) or more doses of DTaP or DT, or any combination. If all four doses were given before the 4th birthday, a fifth (5) dose is required. If the fourth dose was administered at least six months after the third dose, and on or after the 4th birthday, a fifth (5) dose is not required. *</p> <p><b><u>1-12</u></b> Four (4) or more doses of DTaP or DT, or any combination. Three doses of Td or a combination of Td and Tdap is the minimum acceptable for children age seven (7) and up.</p> <p><b><u>Grades 7-12</u></b> One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine must be administered prior to entry. **</p>
<p><b>POLIO</b></p>	<p><b><u>K-9</u></b> Three (3) or more doses of IPV. The FINAL dose must be administered on or after the 4th birthday regardless of the number of previous doses. If a combination of OPV and IPV was received, four (4) doses of either vaccine are required. ***</p> <p><b><u>Grades 10-12</u></b> Three (3) or more doses of IPV or OPV. If the third dose of either series was received prior to the fourth birthday, a fourth (4) dose is required; if a combination of OPV and IPV was received, four (4) doses of either vaccine are required.</p>
<p><b>MMR</b> Measles, Mumps, Rubella</p>	<p><b><u>K-12</u></b> Two (2) doses of MMR. Dose one (1) must be administered on or after the first birthday. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after dose one (1).</p>
<p><b>HEP B</b> Hepatitis B</p>	<p><b><u>K-12</u></b> Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after the first dose. The third dose must be given at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The last dose in the series (third or fourth dose), must not be administered before age 24 weeks.</p>
<p><b>Varicella</b> (Chickenpox)</p>	<p><b><u>K-9</u></b> Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine must be administered prior to entry. Dose one (1) must be administered on or after the first birthday. The second dose should be administered at least three (3) months after dose one (1); however, if the second dose is administered at least 28 days after the first dose, it is considered valid.</p> <p><b><u>Grades 10-12</u></b> One (1) dose of varicella vaccine must be administered on or after the first birthday.</p>
<p><b>MCV4</b> Meningococcal</p>	<p><b><u>Grades 7-10</u></b> One (1) dose of meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W, and Y) vaccine must be administered prior to entry.</p> <p><b><u>Grade 12</u></b> Two (2) doses of meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W, and Y) vaccine must be administered prior to entry. ****</p>

**Emergency Medical Authorization** (EMA) is a critical form that is used by the Administrators and Health Office to contact parents. Please **complete the EMA through the online registration gateway over the summer or during the first few days of every school year**. If contact information changes throughout the year, it is imperative that you notify the school to ensure you can be reached when necessary for the student.

In order to best care for students during the school day, the Nurse/Health Assistant must be aware of the health concerns that exist. This information is updated through the online Registration Gateway and is completed while you are updating the EMA form through Registration Gateway. Contact the Health Office and speak with the nurse concerning any changes that occur in the student's health over the summer or during the school year. Communication is the key to making sure the student's health needs are met during the school day.

### **Administration of Medicine**

Northwest Local School District Policy for Administration of Medication is consistent with the O.R.C. 3313.613 – The Medication Policy Law.

Students are not to carry any prescription or over the counter medicine with them during the school day. School personnel are not authorized to administer prescribed medication or perform medical procedures unless they are prescribed by a physician and authorized by a parent.

Whenever possible, the administration of medication required by a student during the school day should be given before or after school hours. However, certain students may require the administration of medication during the school day to maintain an optimum health status for learning. In the event that a student requires the administration of any medication; **prescription or over-the-counter**, during the school day the following procedure must be followed:

1. **Administration of Medication Form** physician's order and parental permission must be completed in its entirety and signed by the prescribing physician and parent/guardian for prescription and/or over-the-counter medication.
2. Medication is to be brought to the school building by the parent/guardian in the **original** container.
3. A parent, guardian, or adult designated by the parent is responsible to personally deliver any medication to the school building. **Never send medication with a student.**
4. All medication is kept in a locked storage unit in each school building.
5. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to instruct the student to come to the Health Room at the appropriate time for medication administration.
6. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to obtain an updated physician's order when the medication changes in any way.
7. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure refills of medication are brought to the health office during the school year to avoid any gaps or delays in medication administration.
8. Any unused medication not claimed on the last day of school will be destroyed.
9. A new administration of medication form/order must be submitted each school year.

### **Administration of a Prescribed Medical Treatment**

A student may require a prescribed medical treatment (non-medication) during the school day such as tube feeding, dressing change, or catheterization. The prescribing provider and the parent/guardian must complete the **Administration of Prescribed Medical Treatment Form** before school personnel may initiate the medical treatment. This form may be obtained in the Health Office.

### **Inhalers for Asthma**

Students have the right to possess and use a metered-dose inhaler or a dry-powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms. The right applies at school or at any activity, event or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant. In order for a student to possess the inhaler, he/she must have written approval from the student's physician and, if a minor, from his/her parent or other documented caretaker. **Written approval must be on file with the health office.**

### **Epinephrine Auto injectors**

Students are permitted to carry and use an epinephrine auto injector (epi-pen) to treat anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions). The right to carry and use an epi-pen extends to any activity, event or program sponsored by the student's school or activity, event or program in which the school participates. Student possession of an epi-pen is permitted only if the student has written approval from the prescriber of the medication and, if a minor, from his/her parent or other documented caretaker. **Written approval must be on file with the health office.**

### **Policy for Administration of School Health Screenings**

The Ohio Department of Health requires that vision and hearing screenings are performed on students at specific grade levels. A referral letter is sent to the parent for additional care if they do not pass the screening.

Vision is screened at the following grade levels: kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh and ninth and eleventh.

Hearing is screened at the following grade levels: kindergarten, first, third, fifth and ninth and eleventh.

Postural screening is performed in accordance with the recommendations by the AAOS (American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons) and SRS (Scoliosis Research Society). This screening helps identify students with curvature of the spine known as scoliosis as well as other spinal problems. Postural screening occurs in grade seven for both boys and girls. Students are referred for additional care if a concern is noted. In the event that a parent does not want the student participating in one or all of the screenings, the parent must contact the Health Office or Building Principal.

### **Guidelines for Keeping Students Home from School**

The following guidelines are used to determine whether a student should be in school or kept home. Please remain vigilant in monitoring the health of your child(ren) daily, especially in this pandemic we are currently facing.

#### **STUDENTS SHOULD BE KEPT HOME FROM SCHOOL IF:**

Your child currently has or has had within the last 24 hours, any of the following symptoms, even if mild:

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Fever of 100 degrees or greater
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches



- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Your child should remain home in your care until they have been symptom free for a full **24 hours** without the use of a fever reducing medication (acetaminophen, i.e. Tylenol or ibuprofen, i.e. Advil or Motrin). If your child is sent home from school with any signs and symptoms of illness, you will be provided with detailed information on how and when your child may return to school. Per guidelines from Hamilton County Public Health, exclusions from school for illness by the nurse, will be more stringent than those listed above.

- **Skin rash.** Skin rashes are often difficult to evaluate. Skin rashes of unknown origin should be evaluated by your physician to determine what the rash is prior to sending your child to school. A student with a skin rash of unknown origin may be sent home from school until the rash is identified by a physician as non-contagious, a note from the healthcare provider is required upon return.
- **Open and draining area on skin.** All open wounds should be covered when your child is in school. A wound that is red, warm to touch, or looks like a boil should be evaluated by your physician.
- **Reddened eye(s) with or without discharge** that causes crusting on the eyelashes, difficulty opening the eye(s) upon awakening, complaints of itchiness and uncontrollable watering. This may indicate “Pink Eye” or conjunctivitis. This is likely contagious and requires a visit to your physician. Your child should remain home for 24 hours after beginning antibiotic treatment.
- **Head lice.** NWLSD follows a nit-free (egg free) policy:
  - Your child will be sent home for nits and or live lice and will not be permitted to return until they are completely nit (egg) free.
  - If any child has nits or lice discovered at home, it is the parents responsibility to report this to the health office at the school immediately so that the class may be checked and the appropriate parties be notified, to reduce the spread of headlice.
  - Treating Head lice/nits is the parent/guardian's responsibility. Student should be treated to kill live lice and the hair should be picked diligently to remove all presence of nits.
  - **All students home from school with head lice are to be escorted by a parent/guardian to the health room to be cleared for return to class.** Students who have not been screened by the nurse/health assistant are not permitted to be sent to school on the bus, or dropped off without parental accompaniment to the health room to be re-checked.
  - Absence from school for lice is excused for a maximum of three days. It is the parent's responsibility to communicate with the nurse/health assistant for needs

extending beyond this three day period. The child will need to return to the health office every two days beyond the 3 day window, **with the caregiver** to ensure progress is being made towards returning to school. The nurse/health assistant may be able to offer assistance with referrals, and instruction on how to remedy the situation when support is needed.

• **Pain and/or generally not feeling well.** If your child has pain and is not his/her typical self in the morning, ask yourself whether the child will be able to pay attention and participate in class. If the answer is no, please keep your child home. He/she may be coming down with an illness. We realize that you know your child best and we want them in school, healthy, and ready to learn.

- **Has your child been tested for COVID-19 and the result is still pending or positive**

If the initial test result has not been received, please keep your child home until test results are confirmed to be negative. If results are *positive*, please notify the school and keep your child(ren) quarantined at home until he/she is cleared by a physician or health department for return. Siblings of students who test positive for COVID-19 must also quarantine and will not be permitted to attend school until released from the healthcare provider or health department.

- **If, within the past 10 days, your child has been in close physical contact (defined as 6 feet or closer for at least 15 minutes) with a person who is known to have COVID-19?**

Individuals who are close contacts of a person known to have COVID-19 should stay at home and self-isolate for a period of 10 days from that close contact experience. Symptoms of a COVID-19 infection can take 2-14 days to develop. Notify the school of your child(ren)'s absence, then contact your healthcare provider for further guidance.

In the event of a true emergency, 911 will be called first, and then every attempt will be made to contact the parent or designated persons on the Emergency Medical Form (EMA).

If at any time a parent has questions or concerns about the health and well-being of their student, they should contact the School's Health Office.

### **Student Insurance**

Inexpensive coverage is offered to students in September. Information and payment envelopes are available in the main office.

### **Student Network and Internet AUP and Agreement**

The Northwest Local School District is pleased to make available access to interconnected systems within the district and to the Internet for the purpose of productivity, research, curriculum delivery, professional development activities and electronic storage in the pursuit of learning. The District Board of Education has policies, which govern the access and use of computer and network systems. This Acceptable Use Policy is a guideline for use and a contractual agreement between the student and the Board of Education. All students must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of their access. Misuse under the guidelines of this document may result in disciplinary action under Board Policy and/or the governing code of conduct.

Upon review of this policy and signing the handbook release page, each student will be given the opportunity to enjoy access to computer and network systems at school and is agreeing to follow this Policy.

If you have any questions about the guidelines below, please contact your building principal.

#### **I. Personal Responsibility**

You agree not only to follow the rules in this Policy and Agreement, but also agree to report any misuse of the network to a teacher or building principal. Misuse means any violation of this policy, Board of Education Policy, or any other use that is not included in the policy, but has the effect of harming another person or his or her property.

#### **II. Terms of Permitted Use**

Technology can greatly enhance the instructional program, as well as the efficiency of the District. The Board recognizes that careful planning is essential to ensure the successful, equitable and cost-effective implementation of technology-based materials, equipment, systems and networks.

Computers and use of the District network or online services support learning and enhance instruction, as well as assist in administration. Computer networks allow people to interact with many computers; the Internet allows people to interact with hundreds of thousands of networks.

All computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this policy and the guidelines below will result in the revocation of the user's access privilege. Unacceptable uses of the computer/network include but are not limited to:

1. violating the conditions of State and Federal law dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information;
2. using profanity, obscenity or other language which may be offensive to another user or intended to harass, intimidate or bully other users;
3. accessing personal social networking websites for non-educational purposes;
4. reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author's prior consent;
5. copying commercial software and/or other material in violation of copyright law;
6. using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
7. "hacking" or gaining unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or attempting to gain such unauthorized access;
8. accessing and/or viewing inappropriate material and
9. downloading of freeware or shareware programs.

The Superintendent/designee shall develop a plan to address the short- and long-term technology needs and provide for compatibility of resources among school sites, offices and other operations. As a basis for this plan, he/she shall examine and compare the costs and benefits of various resources and shall identify the blend of technologies and level of service necessary to support the instructional program.

Because access to online services provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world, users (and parents of users who are under 18 years old) must understand that neither the school nor the District can control the content of the information available on these systems. Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes offensive. The Board does not condone the use of such materials. Employees, students and parents of students must be aware that the privileges to access online services are withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or who do not follow the rules and regulations established. A user's agreement is signed to indicate the user's acknowledgment of the risks and regulations for computer/online services use. The District has implemented

technology-blocking measures to prevent students from accessing inappropriate material or materials considered to be harmful to minors on school computers that protect against access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to the use of computers by minors, harmful to minors.

“Harmful to minors” is defined as any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:

1. taken as a whole and with respect to minors appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
2. depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts and/or a lewd exhibition of genitals and/or
3. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

The District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals in grades K-12 on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response. The Superintendent/designee will develop a program to educate students on these issues.

Personal devices may be used on the school network under limited circumstances and with prior approval of a building administrator and the district Technology Supervisor. Devices must be registered with the technology department. Additional software or apps may be required to register the device for access to the network. Compliance with district policies is required, and all network traffic may be monitored. Use of cellular networks or nonschool Wi-Fi to bypass filtering is prohibited. Use of personal hotspots or non-district access points is prohibited. Additional restrictions may be set by the building principals and classroom teachers.

Annually, a student who wishes to have computer network and Internet access during the school year must read the acceptable use and Internet safety policy and submit a properly signed agreement form. Students and staff are asked to sign a new agreement each year after reviewing the policies and regulations of the District.

### **III. Privacy**

The Northwest Local School District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store at any time and without prior notice, any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the Northwest Local School District and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

### **IV Warranties/Indemnification**

The Northwest Local School District makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, in the connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this Policy and Agreement. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney’s fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user’s use of its computer networks or the Internet under this Policy and Agreement. Users take full responsibility of his or her usage

and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Northwest Local School District and its Board members, administrators, teachers, and staff from any and all loss, costs, claims, or damages resulting from the user's access to its computer network and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchases of goods or services by the user. The user or, if the user is a minor, the user's parent(s) or guardian(s) agrees to cooperate with the Northwest Local School District in the event of the initiation of an investigation into a user's use or his or her access to its computer network and Internet, whether that use is on a District computer or on another's outside the Northwest Local School District's Network.

### **Suspension, Expulsion & Removal of Students**

This policy governs suspension, expulsion or emergency removal of a student from school, or the suspension or removal of a student from a team or other extracurricular activity.

#### 1. Suspension

Whenever the Superintendent/designee or building principal finds it necessary to suspend a pupil from school for not more than 10 school days, the following procedure shall be followed prior to the suspension of said pupil:

- A. The pupil will be given written notice of said administrator's intention to suspend said student and the written notice will contain reasons for the intended suspension.
- B. The pupil will be given an opportunity for an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, Superintendent/designee to challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or explain the reason for the action.
- C. If the pupil is suspended after the hearing, the administrator shall notify the pupil's parent, guardian or custodian and the Treasurer of the Board within 24 hours. The notice shall include:
  - 1) the reason(s) for suspension.
  - 2) the right of the pupil, parent, guardian or custodian to appeal said suspension to the Board of Education's designee and
  - 3) the right to be represented at the hearings before the Board's designee.
- D. A verbatim record shall be kept of the hearing.
- E. Appeal Procedure: Should a student or a student's parent(s) choose to appeal the suspension, he/she must do so within 10 calendar days of the notice of suspension. The appeal shall be in writing and made to the Student Services. The Student Services department will schedule the meeting with the Board Appointed Hearing Officer and notify the family. All witnesses are sworn and a verbatim record is kept of the hearing. The decision of the Hearing Officer will be relayed after the hearing is complete. The student may be excluded from school during the appeal process.
- F. Appeal to Court: Under State law, appeal of the Board's or its designee's decision may be made to the Court of Common Pleas.

#### 2. Expulsion

Whenever a Superintendent intends to expel a pupil from school, the following steps must be taken prior to the expulsion:

- A. A written notice of intention to expel must be given to the pupil and the parent, guardian or custodian.
- B. Said notice to the pupil and the parent, guardian or custodian must include the following:
  - 1) The reason(s) for the intended expulsion.
  - 2) Notification of the opportunity of the pupil, parent, guardian or custodian or their representative to appear before the Superintendent or administrative designee, to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion.

- 3) Notification of the time and place to appear before the Superintendent or administrative designee, said time to be not earlier than three nor more than five days after the notice is given, unless an external circumstance delays the timeline or unless an extension is granted by the administrator at the request of the pupil, parent, guardian or custodian, or their representative. If an extension is granted after giving the original notice, the administrator shall notify the pupil, parent, guardian, custodian or representative of the new time and place for the hearing.
- C. The pupil and the parent, guardian or custodian and their representative must be given an opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or administrative designee, to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion, or to explain the pupil's actions.
  - D. If the pupil is expelled after the hearing, the administrator will notify the pupil's parent, guardian or custodian and the Treasurer of the Board within 24 hours. This notice shall include:
    - 1) The reason(s) for the expulsion;
    - 2) The right of the pupil, parent, guardian or custodian to appeal said expulsion to the Board/designated hearing officer;
    - 3) The right to be represented at the appeal before the Board-designated hearing officer. Any student who is expelled from school for more than 20 days or into the following semester or school year is referred to an agency which works towards improving the student's attitudes and behavior. The Superintendent provides the student and his/her parent(s) with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the public and private agencies providing such services.
  - E. A verbatim record shall be kept of the hearing.
  - F. Appeal to the Board: A student or a student's parent(s) may appeal the expulsion by the Superintendent to the Board/designated hearing officer. The expulsion appeal must be within 14 calendar days after the notice of intent to expel was provided to the student, parent, guardian or custodian. The appeal request shall be in writing to the Director of Student Services. The student may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and is granted a hearing before the Board or its designee. All witnesses are sworn and a verbatim record is kept of the hearing. The student may be excluded from school during the appeal process.
  - G. Appeal to the Court: Under State law, the decision of the Board may be further appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

### 3. Emergency Removal

Whenever a pupil's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process within the classroom or elsewhere on the school premises, school personnel may take the following actions:

- A. The Superintendent, principal, or assistant principal may remove the pupil from the school premises.
- B. A teacher may remove the pupil from any activity under the teacher's supervision.
- C. These actions may be taken without written notice or informal hearing to the pupil.
- D. If the pupil is removed by a teacher under this section, the teacher shall submit the reason(s) for said removal in writing to the principal.
- E. If a pupil is removed by a teacher under this section for more than 24 hours, written notice of a hearing and the reasons for removal shall be given to the pupil as soon as practicable prior to the hearing and said hearing will be held within 72 hours from the time of the initial removal.
- F. The hearing will be held in accordance with the requirements under the rules for suspension from school unless expulsion is probable, in which case the hearing shall be held in accordance with the rules for expulsion from school. If suspension

- or removal from a team or an activity is probable, the hearing will be conducted under the rules for suspension or removal from a team or activity.
- G. The party ordering, causing, or requesting the removal of the pupil on an emergency basis shall be present at the hearing.
  - H. In the case of removal under emergency removal (b), if a pupil is reinstated to the activity under the teacher's supervision prior to a hearing, the teacher shall, upon request, be given the reasons for such reinstatement in writing.
  - I. None of the notice or hearing requirements as set forth in suspension, expulsion or denying the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities shall be necessary where a pupil is removed from activities for a period less than 24 hours and is not subject to suspension from school and/or expulsion from school and/or suspension or removal from a team or activity.

### **Seclusion and Restraint Annual Notice**

Safety of student is always a priority, and in some instances it may become necessary to seclude or restrain a student to assure safety to him/herself or others. Any time a student is subject to seclusion or physical restraint, a Critical Incident Forms is completed and a copy is sent to the parent to notify the parent of the event within 24 hours. If a restraint was utilized, the team must convene to review the circumstances of the situation and determine what supports may be needed to prevent the event from recurring.

NWLSD employs the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention model from the Crisis Prevention Institute <https://www.crisisprevention.com> and has multiple staff in every school building trained and certified to assist with de-escalation strategies to prevent the need for seclusion or restraint.

### **Third Grade Reading Guarantee**

Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee ensures that a struggling reader receives the support he or she needs to be able to learn and achieve. Students in kindergarten through grade three will be evaluated to determine if they are reading as well as they should be. If a student appears to be falling behind in reading, the staff will begin a reading improvement and monitoring plan called a RIMP. School staff will work closely with parents to develop this plan. If a student is retained in the third grade, the school will provide individualized instructional plans to meet the specific needs of each student. Schools may move students to the fourth grade in the middle of the year according to the following procedures:

#### **Mid-Year Promotion for Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Grade Students Retained Due to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee (TGRG)**

A retained third grade student will have two opportunities to demonstrate readiness for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. If a child reaches the district cut score on either of the following assessments, he/she will be considered for mid-year promotion to fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) grade:

- The fall administration of an approved state vendor assessment or
- The fall administration of the state reading assessment

After a retained third (3<sup>rd</sup>) grader has met either of the above mentioned criteria, a conference will be held including the parent(s), current teacher, building administrator(s), and any other necessary school personnel. If all parties are in agreement that it is in the child's best interest, he/she will be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade as soon as possible.

### **Threats or Intimidation**

Threats of violence or intimidation toward another student are serious violations of the student code of conduct and will result in appropriate discipline. As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 (A) (5) a student may be expelled for a period of up to one-year for

making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. The period of expulsion shall extend as necessary into the next school year.

### **Tuition**

Any student enrolled in the Northwest Local School District whose parents move out of the district may finish the semester in which the move occurs upon advance payment of tuition. A student who completes the eleventh grade in the Northwest Schools and whose parents or guardian moves out of the district may complete the senior year upon advance payment of tuition.

### **Visitors in School**

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages visits to school by parents, other adult community members and interested educators. All exterior doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the buzzer at the main entrance. All visitors must report to the office or welcome center immediately upon entering a school building, check in and receive a visitor's badge. To maintain the safety of students and staff and to ensure that no unauthorized persons enter buildings, all visitors must comply with the District's procedures regulating visitors. The administrative procedures will be posted conspicuously at or near the entrance to school premises. In addition, those procedures shall be posted in a central location in each school and are made available to all students, staff and community members upon request. All participants and spectators of school programs, assemblies, graduations and athletic events are expected to abide by all applicable law, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building procedures pertaining to public conduct on District property. School principals and their designees are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent and remove, if necessary, unauthorized persons from entering District buildings and loitering on the grounds.

Building administrators have the authority to prohibit the entry of any person to a school of this district, or to expel any person, when there is reason to believe that the presence of such person would disrupt the good order of the school or pose a threat to the safety of students or staff. If such an individual refuses to leave the school grounds or creates a disturbance, building administrators are authorized to request whatever assistance is needed, including local law enforcement agencies, to remove the individual.

Visitors must follow these procedures while in any district schools or on district property.

1. Visitors must report to the school office or other designated area immediately upon entering a district school. The area where visitors report will be listed on the notice displayed near all school and office entrances.
2. Visitors must sign in and wear any tags or badges that are required by school visitors' procedures.
3. School tours, which do not include class visits, must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance through the principal or a designee.
  - a. If the tour cannot be scheduled on the requested date, an alternate date(s) will be offered.
  - b. A school staff member must accompany all visitors on school tours.
4. Class visits by parents or guardians of current students may be scheduled one time each semester under the following procedures:
  - a. Requests must be made to the principal, or a designee, one week, or five school days in advance.
  - b. The principal, or a designee, must approve all requests.
  - c. The teacher(s) must approve the requested date, or offer alternative date(s).

Exceptions:

1. Regular or frequent class visits by parents or guardians as part of a Behavior Improvement Plan (BIP) or similar program.



2. Class celebrations or special events.
5. The principal, or a designee, has the sole responsibility of determining when visitors must be removed from a school for disruptive, dangerous or potentially dangerous behavior.
6. Visitors who must be removed from school may be expelled from district schools, offices and facilities for up to one year on the authority of the principal. Expulsions of a longer duration must be approved by the superintendent or a designee.

### **Photo Release**

By signing the handbook, I (parent/guardian) grant permission to Northwest Local School District (NWLS D), its employees, volunteers and agents, to take and use visual/audio images of my student. Visual/audio images are any type of recording, including but not limited to photographs, digital images, drawings, renderings, voices, sounds, video recordings, audio clips or accompanying written descriptions. NWLS D will not materially alter the original images. I agree that NWLS D owns the images and all rights related to them. The images may be used in any manner or media without notifying me, such as NWLS D Web sites, publications, promotions, social media posts, broadcasts, advertisements, posters and other promotional uses. I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished images or any printed or electronic matter that may be used or to be compensated for them.

I (parent/guardian) release NWLS D and its, employees, volunteers and agents, including any firm authorized to publish and/or distribute a finished product containing the images, from any claims, damages or liability which I may ever have in connection with the taking of use of the images or printed material used with the images. I am at least 18 years of age and competent to sign this release. I have read this release before signing, I understand its contents, meaning and impact and I freely accept the terms.

### **ADDENDUM**

**The following items are updates to the school handbooks as a result of the pandemic and the school's response to the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Governor's Office mandates as of June 1, 2021.**

#### **Sick Policy:**

#### **Guidelines for Keeping Students Home from School**

The following guidelines are used to determine whether a student should be in school or kept home. Please remain vigilant in monitoring the health of your child(ren) daily, especially in this pandemic we are currently facing.

#### **STUDENTS SHOULD BE KEPT HOME FROM SCHOOL IF:**

Your child currently has or has had within the last 2 days (48 hours) any of the following symptoms, even if mild:

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Fever of 100 degrees or greater
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Your child should remain home in your care until they have been symptom free for a full **48 hours** without the use of a fever reducing medication (acetaminophen, i.e. Tylenol or ibuprofen, i.e. Advil or Motrin). If your child is sent home from school with any signs and symptoms of illness, you will be provided with detailed information on how and when your child may return to school. Per guidelines from Hamilton County Public Health, exclusions from school for illness by the nurse, will be more stringent than those listed above.

- **Skin rash.** Skin rashes are often difficult to evaluate. Skin rashes of unknown origin should be evaluated by your physician to determine what the rash is prior to sending your child to school. A student with a skin rash of unknown origin may be sent home from school until the rash is identified by a physician as non-contagious, a note from the healthcare provider is required upon return.
- **Open and draining area on skin.** All open wounds should be covered when your child is in school. A wound that is red, warm to touch, or looks like a boil should be evaluated by your physician.
- **Reddened eye(s) with or without discharge** that causes crusting on the eyelashes, difficulty opening the eye(s) upon awakening, complaints of itchiness and uncontrollable watering. This may indicate “Pink Eye” or conjunctivitis. This is likely contagious and requires a visit to your physician. Your child should remain home for 24 hours after beginning antibiotic treatment.
- **Head lice.** NWLSD follows a nit-free (egg free) policy:
  - Your child will be sent home for nits and or live lice and will not be permitted to return until they are completely nit (egg) free.
  - If any child has nits or lice discovered at home, it is the parents responsibility to report this to the health office at the school immediately so that the class may be checked and the appropriate parties be notified, to reduce the spread of headlice.

- Treating Head lice/nits is the parent/guardian's responsibility. Student should be treated to kill live lice and the hair should be picked diligently to remove all presence of nits.

- **All students home from school with head lice are to be escorted by a parent/guardian to the health room to be cleared for return to class.** Students who have not been screened by the nurse/health assistant are not permitted to be sent to school on the bus, or dropped off without parental accompaniment to the health room to be re-checked.

- Absence from school for lice is excused for a maximum of three days. It is the parent's responsibility to communicate with the nurse/health assistant for needs extending beyond this three day period. The child will need to return to the health office every two days beyond the 3 day window, **with the caregiver** to ensure progress is being made towards returning to school. The nurse/health assistant may be able to offer assistance with referrals, and instruction on how to remedy the situation when support is needed.

- **Pain and/or generally not feeling well.** If your child has pain and is not his/her typical self in the morning, ask yourself whether the child will be able to pay attention and participate in class. If the answer is no, please keep your child home. He/she may be coming down with an illness. We realize that you know your child best and we want them in school, healthy, and ready to learn.

- **Has your child been tested for COVID-19 and the result is still pending or positive**

If the initial test result has not been received, please keep your child home until test results are confirmed to be negative. If results are *positive*, please notify the school and keep your child(ren) quarantined at home until he/she is cleared by a physician or health department for return. Siblings of students who test positive for COVID-19 must also quarantine and will not be permitted to attend school until released from the healthcare provider or health department.

- **If, within the past 14 days, your child has been in close physical contact (defined as 6 feet or closer for at least 15 minutes) with a person who is known to have COVID-19?**

Individuals who are close contacts of a person known to have COVID-19 should stay at home and self-isolate for a period of 14 days from that close contact experience. Symptoms of a COVID-19 infection can take 2-14 days to develop. Notify the school of your child(ren)'s absence, then contact your healthcare provider for further guidance.

In the event of a true emergency, 911 will be called first, and then every attempt will be made to contact the parent or designated persons on the Emergency Medical Form (EMA).

If at any time a parent has questions or concerns about the health and well-being of their student, they should contact the school's Health Office.

**Face Mask Policy:**

**NWLSD  
USE OF FACE MASKS/COVERINGS**

Approved August 10, 2020 and as of June 1, 2021

Policy subject to change at the discretion of the NWLSD Board of Education

The Board of Education is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment.

In order to maintain a healthy environment, the Board will follow the mandates and requirements set forth by the federal government, Center for Disease Control, Ohio Governor, Ohio State Health Department, Hamilton County Public Health, Ohio Department of Education, and other entities ("Directing Entities") as it relates to the protecting the health of students, staff, and visitors. If any of these Directing Entities or District Administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear face coverings/masks while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the District's Administration will follow and enforce such directives.

**STUDENT FACE MASK/COVERING POLICY**

All students in grades K-12 will be required to wear face coverings/masks in the following areas:

- On the bus
- Entering and exiting the building
- Hallways during transition periods to class, lunch, restrooms, and recess
- In the classroom. \*Teacher-directed face-covering breaks will be implemented throughout the day

Face coverings/masks should:

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- Fit snugly against the side of the nose, side of the face, and covers the chin so there are no gaps;
- Parents should maintain a clean face covering for their child;
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- Held secure through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

Face coverings/masks are not required to be surgical masks or respirators (as those should be reserved for healthcare workers), and shall not be masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings/masks shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and/or codes of conduct.

**EXCEPTIONS**

Exceptions to this face coverings policy may be made for the following:

- Children younger than 2 years old;
- Anyone who has trouble breathing;

- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
- Facial coverings that are in violation of documented industry standards;
- Facial coverings that will significantly interfere with the learning process;
- Facial coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area;
- Facial coverings that are in violation of documented safety policies or documented industry standards;
- Individuals who have received approval from District administration after discussing their request not to wear a face covering/mask due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition, if wearing a mask would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns.
  - In this exception, the District administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the student or staff member. Such discussion shall follow District policies and procedures under Section 504 and the ADA.

Face masks/coverings are required, and therefore if no exception has been applied, students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and in accordance with policies of the Board.

If a student refuses to wear a mask they will immediately be assigned to Online Learning in accordance with the Superintendent's authority to assign students contained in the Ohio Revised Code.

**NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying**

**Complaint Form**

**A student, parent or guardian may file a complaint of harassment, intimidation or bullying pursuant to Board policy. The complaint must be specific as to the actions giving rise to the suspicion of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Complete this form and submit to the building principal.**

Person(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
involved \_\_\_\_\_

Time and Place \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Specifically describe the conduct or incident(s) giving rise to the suspicion of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Continue on back if necessary.

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Number of Such Incidents \_\_\_\_\_

—

Target of the above-described conduct  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student or Staff Witnesses  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Response to complaint:**

Summary of Disposition (full report attached)

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Signature and  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**SAFE SCHOOL HOTLINE**

The SaferOh tip line will accept both calls and texts 24 hours a day regarding bullying, potential suicide risks, violence, or other school safety issues. This information is anonymous and reported directly to the designated administrator at your school. This tip line allows students and adults to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety – whether that involves a threatened mass incident or harm to a single student.

Call or Text to **844-SaferOh** ([844-723-3764](tel:844-723-3764))

