



**ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF PARENT OR  
GUARDIAN HANDBOOK  
2025-26**

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## **DISTRICT INFORMATION**

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Washington Unified School District will be a district of academic excellence provided through supportive leadership, systems, and culture to ensure that all students graduate college and/or career ready.

### **CORE VALUES**

1. Student success comes first
2. Families and community are our partners
3. Diversity is our strength.
4. Positive change is essential.
5. Our historical heritage is valuable.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Washington Unified School District will provide students with an educationally advantaged future by developing personal growth through a rigorous curriculum, relevant instruction, and positive relationships in a culturally diverse environment.

### **DISTRICT GOALS**

1. 100 percent attendance
2. Effective instruction and intervention
3. Safe and healthy environment
4. Parent and community involvement
5. 100 percent college and/or career ready

### **GOVERNING BOARD**

Beatrice Pino  
Steven Barra  
Darrell Carter  
Anna Campbell  
Henry Hendrix  
Eddie Ruiz  
Terry Ruiz

### **District Superintendent**

Randy R. Morris  
(559) 495-5626  
randy.morris@wusd.ws

### **WUSD CORE 6**

It is the goal of the Washington Unified School District that each day every student is given access to an excellent educational experience. To define for our parents, staff, and students exactly what our

students will achieve, Washington Unified' leadership developed the Core 6, and has been working to ensure that it becomes a reality for all students.

The Core 6 synthesizes the District's Core Values and Goals and State LCAP Focus Areas in an attempt to create a well-rounded educational experience for WUSD students. The Core 6 focuses on six fundamental commitments to students:

- 1. Students will experience positive relationships.**
- 2. Students will use a standards-based curriculum.**
- 3. Students will engage in collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creating evidence of mastery.**
- 4. Students will read and produce writing.**
- 5. Students will use technology.**
- 6. EL students will receive differentiation.**

First, students will experience positive relationships. It is the belief of Washington Unified School District that students will thrive in safe supportive environments. Every staff member is committed to maintaining positive relationships with students and their families.

It is also imperative that students use a standards-based curriculum and that students will engage in collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creating evidence of mastery. These 21st century skills will prepare our students to achieve their goals of college and career.

WUSD is committed to ensuring that students will read and produce writing and that students will use technology so that they will thrive in today's global society. Site literacy and technology initiatives are helping to ensure that all WUSD students can read at grade level and write clearly and effectively. Finally, in all of our schools, EL students will receive differentiation to ensure that every student is successful.

By defining the Core 6, WUSD hopes to promote a strong focus in these areas so that students will be prepared for college and career.

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

The governing board of the Washington Unified School District meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the District Office located at 7950 South Elm Avenue, Fresno, CA 93706.

The agenda for each meeting is posted seventy-two hours before each meeting at the District Office, at all school sites, and on the district website.

Special meetings may be called when necessary and an agenda posted twenty-four hours in advance.

If you have an item, you would like placed on the agenda, please call the district office one week in advance of the meeting.

## REQUIRED ANNUAL PARENT OR GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION

### WASHINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

At the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term, school districts are required to annually notify parents/guardians of their rights and responsibilities in accordance with California Education Code Section 48980. This document contains important information regarding your rights and responsibilities as a parent/guardian. If you have any questions or would like to review any specific documents mentioned herein, please contact the District Office.

#### **Attendance/Absences**

##### **Excused Absences: Justifiable Personal Reasons • Education Code § 48205**

A student shall be excused from school when the absence is:

1. Due to his/her illness.
2. Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
3. For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrically, or chiropractic services rendered.
4. For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his/her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
5. For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
6. Due to illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent including absences to care for a sick child for which the school shall not require a note from a doctor.
7. For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion, attendance at religious retreats, or attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization, when the student's absence is requested in writing by the parent/guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.
8. For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.
9. For the purpose of spending time with a member of the student's immediate family, who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period to be determined at the discretion of the superintendent of the school district.
10. For the purpose of attending the pupil's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen.

Authorized at the discretion of a school administrator, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 42860. A student absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period, shall be given full credit. The teacher of the class from which a student is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the student missed during the absence. For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.

Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.

"Immediate family," as used in this section, means the parent or guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the household of the pupil.

A pupil shall not have his or her grade reduced or lose academic credit for any absence or absences excused pursuant to the Education Code section 48205 if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.

##### **Excused Absences for Students Obtaining Confidential Medical Services Without Parent/Guardian Consent • Education Code § 46010.1.**

For students in grades 7 to 12, school authorities may excuse any student from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian.

##### **Absences for Religious Purposes • Education Code § 46014**

Students, with the written consent of their parents/guardians, may be excused from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction pursuant to district policies and regulations. Such absences may not exceed four days per month.

### **Attendance Options/Residency**

#### **Attendance Options • Education Code § 48980 (h)**

The school district shall advise the parent/guardian of all existing statutory attendance options and local attendance options available in the district. This notification shall include all options for meeting residency requirements for school attendance, programmatic options offered within the local attendance areas, and any special programmatic options available on both an interdistrict and interdistrict basis. The notification shall also include a description of all options, a description of the procedure for application for alternative attendance areas or programs, an application form from the district for requesting a change of attendance, and a description of the appeals process available, if any, for a parent/guardian denied a change of attendance. The notification shall also include an explanation of the existing statutory attendance options including, but not limited to those under Education Code Sections 35160.5, 46600 and 48204 (b).

#### **Residency • Education Code §§ 48200, 48204**

A minor between the ages of 6 and 18 years is subject to compulsory education and, unless exempted, must enroll in school in the school district in which the residence of the parent/guardian is located.

A student may alternatively comply with the residency requirements for school attendance in a school district, if he/she is placed in a foster home or licensed children's institution within the boundaries of the school district pursuant to a commitment or placement under the Welfare and Institutions Code; an emancipated student who resides within the boundaries of the school district; a student who lives in the home of a caregiving adult that is located within the boundaries of the school district; or a student residing in a state hospital located within the boundaries of the school district.

Also, under certain conditions, a student may attend schools in another district within which one or both parents/guardians are physically employed for a minimum of 10 hours during the school week.

Parents may apply for enrollment of their child in a school district in which the parent is employed, and where the parent and child live at the parent's place of employment for a minimum of 3 days during the school week.

Attached is a copy of the district's residency policy and regulation.

#### **Migratory Children – Residency • Education Code § 48204.7**

Currently migratory children, who are enrolled in a school district due to a parent's or immediate family member's temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, as defined by Education Code section 54441, must be allowed to continue in their schools of origin, regardless of any change of residence during that school year, for the duration of their status as migratory children. When a student's status as a migratory child change during the school year, the school district must: (1) allow K-8th graders to continue in their schools of origin for the remainder of that school year; and (2) allow 9-12th graders to continue in their schools of origin through graduation. Migratory children and their parents/guardians must be informed of the impact that remaining in their schools of origin will have on their eligibility to receive migrant education services.

#### **Residency Retention for the Students of Detained or Deported Parents • Education Code § 48204.4**

Students retain residency in a school district, regardless of the students' current residency, when both of the following requirements are met:

1. The student's parent or guardian has departed California against his or her will, and the student can provide official documentation evidencing the departure; and
2. The student moved outside of California because of his or her parent or guardian leaving the state against his or her will, and the student lived in California immediately before moving outside the state. The student must provide evidence of enrollment in a California public school immediately before moving outside the state.

Deported parents may designate another adult to attend school meetings and to serve as an emergency contact. No charges or fees of any kind, as allowed under Education Code section 48050, may be required for admission or attendance in these circumstances. These students will be included in computing ADA for the purpose of obtaining apportionment state funds.

This law applies to parents who are: (1) in the custody of a government agency and are transferred to another state; (2) subject to a lawful removal order and who were removed or were permitted to leave California voluntarily before being removed; and (3) subject to any additional circumstances consistent with these purposes, as determined by the school district.

#### **Residency Retention and Matriculation for Students in Active-Duty Military Families • Education Code § 48204.6**

A student living in the household of an active-duty military service member must be allowed to continue attending the student's school of origin for the remainder of the school year if the family moves.

A student from an active-duty military family who is transitioning between school grade levels must be allowed to continue in the school district of origin and in the same attendance area of his/her school of origin. If the student is transitioning to middle school or high school, and the school designated for



matriculation is in another school district, the local educational agency must allow the student to continue to the school designated for matriculation in that school district. The new school must immediately enroll the student, even if the child has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or money due to the school last attended or if the student is unable to produce clothing or records normally required for enrollment.

If the parent/guardian's military service ends during the school year, then the student is allowed to stay in his/her school of origin for the remainder of the school year if s/he is in grades 1-8, or through graduation if the student is in high school.

**Interdistrict Attendance • Education Code §§ 46600-46611**

The governing boards of two or more school districts may enter into an agreement, for a term not to exceed five school years, for the interdistrict attendance of students who are residents of the districts. The agreement shall stipulate the terms and conditions under which interdistrict attendance shall be permitted or denied. The agreement may contain standards of reapplication and specify the terms and conditions under which a permit may be revoked. Unless otherwise specified in the agreement, a student will not have to reapply for an interdistrict transfer, and the school board of the district of enrollment must allow the student to continue to attend the school in which he/ she is enrolled. School districts must give priority for interdistrict attendance under any existing interdistrict attendance agreement or give additional consideration for the creation of an interdistrict attendance agreement when the district of residence or the district of proposed enrollment determine that the student has been a victim of bullying. Attached are copies of the district's interdistrict attendance policy and regulation.

**Interdistrict Transfers • Education Code § 35160.5(b)**

Residents of a school district may apply to other schools within the district for their child to attend on a space available basis.

**Open Enrollment • Education Code § 48350 et seq.**

Whenever a child is attending a school on the Open Enrollment List as identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the student may seek to transfer to another school within or outside of the district, if the school to which he/she is transferring has a higher Academic Performance Index (API). Transportation to any other school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. School districts are allowed to adopt written standards for acceptance and rejection of applications as

long as students are selected through a random and unbiased process. Unless the school board waives the deadline, requests for transfers are to be submitted by January 1 of the prior school year. To apply, parents/guardians must contact the school district to which they seek to transfer their student. Attached are copies of the district's interdistrict open enrollment policy and regulation.

**Victims of Bullying – Transfer Rights • Education Code § 46600**

School districts must approve the request of a bullying victim, as defined, to transfer to another school within the district. If the requested school is at capacity, the school district must accept a request for an alternate site. If **the school district** of residence has only one school available, the school district of residence must honor the student's interdistrict transfer request if the school district of proposed enrollment approves the transfer.

**California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)**

Each year, students in grades 3rd-8th, and 11th participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

**This year, your child will take the following test(s), depending on their grade level:**

- Smarter Balanced Summative or Alternate Assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3rd-8th and 11th
- California Science Test or California Alternate Science Test (CAST/CAA Science) in grades 5th, 8th and 11-12th
- Physical Fitness Test (PFT) in grades 5, 7, and 9 will take the FITNESSGRAM®

The Smarter Balanced Summative or Alternate Assessments and the CAST/CAA Science are online tests that measure what your student knows and is able to do. The tests include many different types of questions that allow students to interact with the test questions.

- You can look at sample test questions on the practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web Portal at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

To learn more about the Smarter Balanced Summative or Alternate Assessments or the CAST/CAA Science, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

Pursuant to California Education Code section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of CAASPP. *Parent Opt-Out Request* forms may be discussed with your school's CAASPP Site Coordinator.

American Union Elementary	James Dack	495-5652
West Fresno Elementary	Melodia De La O	495-5655
West Fresno Middle	Vanessa Lopez	495-5642
Washington Union	Dennis Randle	495-5685
Alternative Education	Grant Thor	495-5691

Each school site within our district will be sending correspondence out with specific dates your student/s will be testing.

### **Career Technical Education**

#### **Career Counseling and Course Selection • Education Code § 221.5(d)**

The parents/guardians of students shall be notified in advance of career counseling and course selection commencing with course selection for the seventh grade so that they may participate in the counseling sessions and decisions.

#### **Career Technical Education Courses to Satisfy Graduation/College Admission Requirements • Education Code §§ 51225.3, 48980(m)**

If a district elects to allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement of Education Code section 51225.3(a)(1)(E), the school district must provide annually to parents/guardians (1) information about the high school graduation requirements of the district and how each requirement satisfies or does not satisfy the subject matter requirements for admission to the California State University and the University of California, and (2) a complete list of career technical education courses offered by the district that satisfy the subject matter requirements for admission to the California State University and the University of California, and which of the specific college admission requirements these courses satisfy.

#### **College Admission Requirements • Education Code § 51229**

The State of California offers community colleges, California State Universities (CSU), and Universities of California (UC) for students who wish to continue their education after high school. To attend a community college, a student needs only be a high school graduate or 18 years of age. To attend a CSU, the student has to take specific high school courses, have the appropriate grades and test scores, and have graduated from high school. Test scores are not required if the student's GPA is 3.0 or above. To attend a UC, the student must meet requirements for coursework, GPA, and test scores, or rank in the top four percent at a participating high school or qualify by examination alone. The student may also transfer to a CSU or UC after attending a community college. For more information on college admission requirements, please refer to the following web sites: [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu) -This is the official website of the California Community College system. It offers links to all of the California Community Colleges.

- [www.essist.org](http://www.essist.org) -This site provides course transfer information for students planning to transfer from a California Community College to a CSU or UC.
- [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu) -This online site helps students on the CSU system, including the ability to apply online, and links to all CSU campuses.
- [www.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu) -This website offers information regarding admissions, online application, and links to all UC campuses.

Students may also explore career options through career technical education. These programs and classes offered by a school are specifically focused on career preparation and/or preparation for work. The programs and classes are integrated with academic courses and support academic achievement.

Students can learn more about career technical education by referring to the following webpage:  
[www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sl/rp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sl/rp).

Students may meet with their high school counselor to choose courses at the school that will meet college admission requirements or enroll in career technical education courses or both.

**Investing for Future College Education • Education Code § 48980(d)**

Parents/guardians are advised of the importance of investing for the future college or university education of their children and of considering appropriate investment options, including, but not limited to, United States savings bonds.

**List of Courses Offered Meeting UC Admission Requirements • Education Code § 66204.**

Districts must annually provide to each high school student accurate, updated lists of courses that are currently offered by the high schools and are certified by the University of California as meeting admission requirement criteria.

**Complaints**

**Uniform Complaint Procedures • Title 5 California Code of Regulations § 4622**

School districts shall annually notify in writing its students, employees, parents/guardians of its students, the district advisory committee, school advisory committees, and other interested parties of the school district's Uniform Complaint Procedures. The procedure pertains to complaints of: (1) discrimination on the basis of alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or on the basis of actual or perceived sex, gender, age, ethnic group identification, color, race, national origin, ancestry, religion, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, immigration status, or because a person is perceived to have one or more of the these characteristics; (2) complaints of violation of the laws and regulations governing consolidated categorical aid programs, Adult Education, Migrant Education, Career/Technical Education, Child Development, Special Education, nutrition services, and school safety plans; (3) complaints concerning improper student fees, charges and deposits; (4) Local Control Accountability Plans; (5) the rights of homeless students and students in foster care; (6) assigning students to course periods without educational content; (7) physical education instructional minutes; (8) lactation accommodations for parenting students; and (9) non-compliance with graduation requirements for former juvenile court school students. The district has designated the superintendent or the superintendent's designee as the compliance officer to receive and investigate these complaints. Copies of the school district's Uniform Complaint Procedures (attached) are available free of charge.

**STUDENT FEES, CHARGES AND DEPOSITS • Education Code §§ 49010-49013.** Students shall not be required to pay a fee or charge, or make a deposit, as a condition for participation in District educational activities, unless authorized by law. Student fee complaints are handled through the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures.

**Local Control Accountability Plan Noncompliance • Education Code § 52075.** School districts, charter schools and county offices of education are required to adopt and annually update their LCAPs. Complaints asserting non-compliance with LCAP requirements may be filed under the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures and may be filed anonymously. If a complainant is not satisfied with the District's decision, the complainant may appeal to the California Department of Education and receive a written decision within 60 days.

**Uniform Complaints – Rights of Homeless Students and Students in Foster Care • Education Code §§ 48853, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2**

The district's uniform complaint procedures cover complaints pertaining to the education of homeless and students in foster care, including, but not limited to, a school district's failure to:

- A. Allow a foster child to remain in his/her school of origin while resolution of a school placement dispute is pending.
- B. Place a foster child in the least restrictive educational programs and provide access to academic resources and services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities available to all students and make educational and school placement decisions based on the best interests of the child.
- C. Provide educational services for foster children living in emergency shelters.
- D. Designate a staff person as the educational liaison for foster children. The educational liaison must ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children, and assist foster children when transferring from one school or district to another by ensuring the proper transfer of credits, records, and grades.
- E. Compile and transfer the complete educational record, including full or partial credits earned and the current classes and grades, of a transferring foster child to the next educational placement.
- F. Ensure the proper and timely transfer between schools of students in foster care.

- G. Within two business days of receipt of a transfer request or notification of enrollment from the new local educational agency, transfer the student and deliver the student's complete educational information and records to the next educational placement; and
- H. Ensure that no lowering of grades will occur as a result of a foster student's absence due to a change in placement by a court or placing agency, or due to a verified court appearance or related court activity.

A complainant not satisfied with the district's decision may appeal to the CDE and receive a written decision from the CDE within 60 days.

**Uniform Complaints – Graduation and Coursework Requirements for Foster Youth, Homeless, Former Juvenile Court, Migratory and Newly Arrived Immigrant Students Participating in a “Newcomer Program,” and Students Living in Active-Duty Military Households • Education Code §§ 51225.1, 51225.2.**

The following rights apply to foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court students, migratory and newly arrived immigrant students participating in a “newcomer program [1]”<sup>1</sup> and students living in the households of parents/guardians who are active-duty members of the military:

- A. Within 30 days of transferring, after the completion of the second year of high school, students must be notified that s/he may be exempt from local graduation requirements and that this exemption continues after the court's jurisdiction over a foster child ends, when a homeless student is no longer homeless, when a student is no longer under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court, or when the student no longer lives in the household of an active duty service member, or when a student no longer meets the definition of “migratory child” and/or a student participating in a newcomer program (Ed. Code § 51225.1(d));
- B. Accept coursework satisfactorily completed while attending another public school, a juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency, even if the student did not complete the entire course; and must issue full or partial credit for the coursework completed. For students living in active-duty military households, “public schools” include schools operated by the United States Department of Defense. (Ed. Code § 51225.2(b)).
- C. Students may not be required to retake a course satisfactorily completed elsewhere. If the student did not complete the entire course, the school district may not require that the student retake the portion already completed, unless the school district, in consultation with the holder of the student's educational rights, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the student must be enrolled in the same or equivalent course in order to continue and complete the entire course (Ed. Code § 51225.2(b) and (d));
- D. Students may not be prevented from retaking or taking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California (Ed. Code § 51225.2(e));
- E. Exempt students transferring between schools at any time after the completion of his/her second year of high school from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the district's governing board that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements for graduation found in Education Code section 51225.3, unless the district makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the district's graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school (Ed. Code § 51225.1(a));
- F. For students deemed reasonably able to complete the district's graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school, the district must do all of the following: (a) inform the student of his/her option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the school district's graduation requirements; (b) inform the student, and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete the school district's graduation requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution; (c) provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges; and (d) upon agreement with an adult student or with a minor student's educational rights holder, permit the student to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the school district's graduation requirements (Ed. Code § 51225.1(b)(1)-(4));
- G. Within 30 calendar days of the school transfer, the school district must notify a student who may qualify for the exemption from local graduation requirements, his or her parent/guardian, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, the foster youth's social worker, a former juvenile court student's probation officer, and, in the case of homeless students,

<sup>1</sup> A newcomer program is a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant students, with the development of English language proficiency as the primary objective. (Ed. Code § 51225.2 (a)(6).)

the school district's liaison for homeless students, of the availability of the exemption from local graduation requirements and whether the student qualifies for the exemption (Ed. Code § 51225.1(d)(1) - (4)) If the school district fails to provide timely notice of these rights, the student will be eligible for the local graduation requirements exemption even after the student is no longer: (1) homeless, (2) in foster care, (3) under the juvenile court's jurisdiction, or (4) a "migratory child" or a student "participating in a newcomer program" as defined, or (5) living in the household of an active duty military service member, if the student otherwise qualifies for the exemption. (Ed. Code § 51225.1(d).)

- H. Students exempted from local graduation requirements who complete statewide coursework requirements before the end of their fourth year of high school may not be required or asked to graduate before the end of their fourth year of high school, if otherwise entitled to remain in attendance. (Ed. Code § 51225.1(e).);
- I. If a student is exempted from local graduation requirements, the school district must notify the student and the student's educational rights holder of how any of the requirements that are waived will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and must provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges (Ed. Code § 51225.1(f).);
- J. Students eligible for the exemption from local graduation requirements and who would otherwise be entitled to remain at the school, shall not be required to accept the exemption or be denied enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses necessary to attend an institution of higher education, regardless of whether those courses are required for statewide graduation requirements (Ed. Code § 51225.1(g).);
- K. If a student is not exempted from local graduation requirements or has previously declined the exemption, the school district must exempt the student at any time if he/she requests and qualifies for the exemption (Ed. Code § 51225.1(h).);
- L. Once exempted from local graduation requirements, the school district shall not revoke the exemption (Ed. Code § 51225.1(i).);
- M. If a student in foster care is exempted from local graduation requirements, the exemption must continue to apply after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student while he/she is enrolled in school or if the student transfers to another school or school district (Ed. Code § 51225.1(j)(1).);
- N. If a homeless student is exempted from local graduation requirements, the exemption must continue to apply after the student is no longer homeless while s/he is enrolled in school or if the student transfers to another school or school district (Ed. Code § 51225.1(j)(2).);
- O. If a former juvenile court school student is exempted from local graduation requirements, the exemption must continue to apply after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student while s/he is enrolled in school or if the student transfers to another school or school district (Ed. Code § 51225.1 (j)(3).);
- P. For students living in active-duty military households, the exemption will continue to apply after: (1) a student transfers to another school or school district, or (2) a student no longer meets the "child of military family" definition. (Ed. Code § 51225.1 (j)(4).).
- Q. For a student who is a migratory child and/or is participating in a newcomer program, the exemption will continue after the student no longer meets the definition of "migratory child" and/or a "student participating in a newcomer program", respectively.
- R. A school district may not require or request that students transfer schools to be exempted from local graduation requirements (Ed. Code § 51225.1 (k).); and
- S. Transfer requests may not be made on a student's behalf solely to qualify the student for an exemption under this section. (Ed. Code § 51225.1 (l).)

### **Non-Compliance Complaints**

Complaints of non-compliance may be filed with the District under the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures. A complainant not satisfied with the district's decision may appeal to the California Department of Education (CDE) and receive a written decision regarding the appeal within 60 days of the CDE's receipt of the appeal. (Ed. Code §§ 51225.1(m) and 51225.2(f).)

### **Uniform Complaints – Juvenile Court Students – Graduation Requirements and Continuing Education Options.** • **Education Code §§ 48645.7, 48645.5**

In addition to being exempt from local graduation requirements and the right to receive credit for coursework completed while in juvenile court schools, Assembly Bill 1124 provides more extensive graduation and continuing education options for juvenile court students who have qualified for a diploma.

Education Code section 48645.7 has been added to require that county offices of education notify juvenile court students who have qualified for a diploma, their educational rights holders, and their social workers or probation officers of the following:

1. The student's right to a diploma without having to complete coursework or other requirements that are in addition to statewide graduation requirements (Ed. Code §§ 48645.7(a)(1)(A) and 48645.5(d)).
2. How taking coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the county office of education, or continuing education upon release from the juvenile detention facility will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution (Ed. Code § 48645.7(a)(1)(B));
3. Information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges (Ed. Code § 48645.7(a)(1)(C));
4. The student's or, if a minor, the education rights holder's option to allow the pupil to defer or decline the diploma to take additional coursework if the county office of education makes a finding that the student could benefit from the additional coursework and graduation requirements adopted by the county office of education. (Ed. Code § 48645.7(b).)

When deciding whether to decline the diploma, the county office of education must advise the student, or if a minor, his/her educational rights holder, whether the student is likely to do all the following upon his/her release from a juvenile detention facility:

- A. Enroll in a school operated by a local educational agency or charter school.
- B. Benefit from continued instruction; and
- C. Graduate from high school. (Ed. Code § 48645.7(c).)

Complaints of non-compliance with juvenile court students' graduation and continuing education rights may be filed with the County Office of Education or under the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures. A complainant not satisfied with the decision may appeal to the California Department of Education (CDE) and receive a written decision regarding the appeal within 60 days of the CDE's receipt of the appeal. (Ed. Code § 48645.7(e).)

#### **Uniform Complaints – Assigning Students to Course Periods Without Educational Content • Education Code §§ 51228.1, 51228.2, and 51228.3.**

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, school districts may not assign students in grades 9-12 to course periods without educational content for more than one week in any semester without written parental consent and related documentation. "Course periods without educational content" are defined to include course periods where: (1) a student is released early from school; (2) the student is assigned to a service, instructional work experience or to a course to assist a certificated employee but is not expected to complete curricular assignments; or (3) where the student is not assigned to any course during the class period.

School districts are also prohibited, without written parental consent and related documentation, from enrolling 9-12th graders in classes they have previously completed and received a grade that is satisfactory to receive a high school diploma and to attend a California public institution of postsecondary education. Non-compliance complaints may be filed under the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures. A complainant not satisfied with the district's decision may appeal to the CDE and receive a written decision from the CDE within 60 days.

#### **Uniform Complaints – Physical Education Instructional Minutes • Education Code §§ 51210 and 51223**

Elementary Schools: Students in elementary schools maintaining grades 1-6 and grades 1-8 are required to receive at minimum 200 minutes of physical education instruction each 10 school days, exclusive of recesses and lunch periods. Middle and High School Students in Grades 7-12: Unless exempted pursuant to Education Code section 51241, students are required to receive at least 400 minutes of physical education instruction each 10 school days. High school students may be excused from physical education classes during one of grades 10, 11 or 12 for up to 24 clock hours to participate in automobile driver training but must still attend a minimum of 7,000 minutes of physical education instruction during that school year. (Education Code section 51222 (a).)

Complaints regarding a school district's failure to comply with these physical education instructional minute requirements may be filed under the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures. Complainants not satisfied with the district's decision may appeal to the California Department of Education (CDE) and receive a written decision from the CDE within 60 days. (Ed. Code §§ 51210, 51222 and 51223.)

#### **Uniform Complaints – Lactation Accommodations for Parenting Students • Education Code § 222(f)**

School districts must provide reasonable accommodations to lactating students on school campuses to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child or address other needs related to breastfeeding. A student may not incur an academic penalty as a result of her use of reasonable lactation accommodations and

must be provided an opportunity to make up any work missed due to such use. A complaint of noncompliance with this provision may be filed under the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures. Complainants not satisfied with the school district's decision may appeal to the CDE and receive a written decision within 60 days.

### **Pregnant and Parenting Student Rights**

#### **Rights Under Education Code Section 221.51**

Local educational agencies (including school districts, charter schools and county offices of education):

(a) Shall not apply any rule concerning a student's actual or potential parental, family, or marital status that treats students differently based on sex.

(b) Shall not exclude nor deny any student from any educational program or activity, including class or extracurricular activity, solely on the basis of the student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom.

(c) May require any student to obtain the certification of a physician or nurse practitioner that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue participation in the regular education program or activity.

(d) Pregnant or parenting students shall not be required to participate in pregnant minor programs or alternative education programs. Pregnant or parenting students who voluntarily participate in alternative education programs shall be given educational programs, activities, and courses equal to those they would have been in if participating in the regular education program.

(e) Shall treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and recovery therefrom in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary disabling condition.

#### **Rights Under Education Code Section 46015**

(a)(1) pregnant or parenting students are entitled to eight weeks of parental leave, which the student may take before the birth of the student's infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction, in order to protect the health of the student who gives or expects to give birth and the infant, and to allow the pregnant or parenting student to care for and bond with the infant. The student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or, if the student is under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, shall notify the school of the student's intent to exercise this right. Failure to notify the school shall not reduce these rights.

(2) A pregnant or parenting student who does not wish to take all or part of the parental leave to which s/he is entitled shall not be required to do so.

(3) A pregnant or parenting student is entitled to receive more than eight weeks of parental leave if deemed medically necessary by the student's physician.

(4) When a student takes parental leave, the supervisor of attendance shall ensure that absences from the student's regular school program are excused until the student is able to return to the regular school program or an alternative education program.

(5) During parental leave, a local educational agency shall not require a pregnant or parenting student to complete academic work or other school requirements.

(6) A pregnant or parenting student may return to the school and the course of study in which he or she was enrolled before taking parental leave.

(7) Upon return to school after taking parental leave, a pregnant or parenting student is entitled to opportunities to make up work missed during his or her leave, including, but not limited to, makeup work plans and re enrollment in courses.

(8) Notwithstanding any other law, a pregnant or parenting student may remain enrolled for a fifth year of instruction in the school in which the student was previously enrolled when it is necessary in order for the student to be able to complete state and any local graduation requirements, unless the local educational agency makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the local educational agency's graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

(9) A student who chooses not to return to the school in which he or she was enrolled before taking parental leave is entitled to alternative education options offered by the local educational agency.

(10) A pregnant or parenting student who participates in an alternative education program shall be given educational programs, activities, and courses equal to those he or she would have been in if participating in the regular education program.

(11) A student shall not incur an academic penalty because of his or her use of these accommodations.

#### **Uniform Complaints**

(b) A complaint of noncompliance with these requirements may be filed with the District under its Uniform Complaint Procedures.

#### **Uniform Complaints – Former Juvenile Court School Student Graduation Requirements • Education Code § 51225.2**

School districts and county offices must exempt former juvenile court school students, who have transferred into a school district from a juvenile court school after completion of their second year of high school, from local graduation requirements that exceed state requirements and accept coursework satisfactorily completed while attending the juvenile court school, even if the student did not complete the entire course, and grant full or partial credit for courses earned while in juvenile court school. Former juvenile court school students may file complaints of non-compliance with these requirements under the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures.

**Williams Settlement Complaint -Rights • Education Code § 35186**

Each school district will notify parents/guardians that there should be sufficient textbooks and instructional materials in each classroom. Each student, including English learners, must have a textbook or instructional materials, or both, to use in the class and to take home to complete required homework assignments. School facilities must be clean, safe, and maintained in good repair, and there should be no teacher vacancies or mis assignments. Complaint procedures have been established to identify and resolve complaints regarding these issues. Complaint forms should be available at the school or district office. A copy of the Williams Complaint Procedures is attached.

**Special Education Program Complaints • 5 CCR §§ 3200-3205**

Complaints regarding special education programs are no longer covered by the LEA's Uniform Complaint Procedures. Please refer to the Notice of Procedural Safeguards, Special Education Rights of Parents and Children under the IDEA and the California Education Code, which is available from your child's school or may be accessed here: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/qa/pseng.asp>, for more information about filing a complaint. Complaints alleging that a student was discriminated against due to his or her disability still fall under the Uniform Complaint Procedures

**Child Nutrition Program Complaints • 5 CCR §§ 15580-15584**

Complaints related to Child Nutrition Programs established pursuant to the National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Special Milk Program, School Breakfast Program, and Food Distribution Program are no longer processed through the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures. Instead, complaints must be processed through the existing procedures outlined in the federal regulations and the new, related state regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 15580 – 15584 A complaint must be submitted within one year of the date of the alleged violation, and may be filed by phone, e-mail, or letter. Please see California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 15580 – 15584 for more information.

**English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Summative ELPAC**

Identifying students who need help learning English is important so they can get the support they need to do well in English language arts/literacy, mathematics, science, and other subject areas in school. The Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, or "Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternate ELPAC," are the tests used to measure how well students understand English when it is not the language they speak at home. Information from the ELPAC tells your child's teacher about the areas in which your child needs extra support.

Students in Kindergarten through Grade Twelve who are classified as English learners will take the Summative ELPAC *every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English*. Students are tested on their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Your child's voice is being recorded as part of the Speaking test. A small percentage of student responses will be used to validate the accuracy of scoring and will not be used for identification. All recorded responses will be destroyed after the scores are validated.

*Your student will be assessed between the dates of: February 1st-May 31st and further communication and details will be sent out by your students' school site.*

Your support is an important part of your child's education. To help your child get ready for the test, you can:

- Encourage your child to try their best, and to understand what it means to reclassify (see attached infographic)
- Have your child take a practice test, which can be found on the ELPAC Web site at: [https://login5.cambiumtds.com/student\\_core/V79/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=California\\_P I](https://login5.cambiumtds.com/student_core/V79/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=California_P I)



To learn more about the ELPAC, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding web page at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

If you have any questions about your child taking the ELPAC, please contact your child's school site or Director of Early Literacy and Assessments; Alicia Sanborn at 559-495-5602.

### **Health Related**

#### **Administration of Prescribed Medication • Education Code § 49423**

Any student who is required to take, during the regular school day, medication prescribed for him/her by a physician, may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel or may carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine and/or inhaled asthma medication under the following circumstances: (1) In order for the student to be assisted by a school nurse or other designated school personnel, the school district shall obtain both a written statement from the physician, surgeon or physician's assistant, detailing the name of the medication, method, amount and time schedule by which the medication is to be taken and a written statement from the parent, foster parent or guardian of the student indicating the desire that the school district assist the student in the matters included in the physician's statement. (2) In order for the student to carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine and/or inhaled asthma medication, the school district shall obtain a written statement from the physician detailing the name of the medication, method, amount and time schedule by which the medication is to be taken and confirming that the student is able to self-administer the medication. In the case of auto-injectable epinephrine, a physician's assistant may also provide this written statement. (3) A written statement from the parent, foster parent, or guardian of the student consenting to self-administration, as well as providing a release for the school nurse or other designated school personnel to consult with the health care provider of the student regarding any questions that may arise with regard to the medication, and releasing the school district and school personnel from any liability if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administration must also be provided. A student may be subject to disciplinary action if he/she uses auto-injectable epinephrine in a manner other than as prescribed. The written statements in both cases shall be provided at least annually and more frequently if the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason for administration changes.

#### **Children Health Screening • Health and Safety Code §§ 120475,124085,124100,124105 School**

districts shall notify parents/guardians of kindergarten and first grade students of the requirement for a physical examination for first grade enrollment and the availability of free health screening through the local health department. The school district shall exclude from school for not more than 5 days any student who has not provided a certificate documenting the appropriate health screening or a waiver.

#### **Continuing Medication • Education Code § 49480**

The parent/guardian of a student on continuing medication for a non-episodic condition shall inform the school of the medication, the dosage and the name of the physician. With the consent of the parent/guardian, the school nurse may communicate with the physician and may counsel with school personnel regarding the possible effects of the drug. The superintendent of the school district shall be responsible for informing parents/guardians of the requirements of this section.

#### **Dental Care • Education Code § 49452.8**

A student, while enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, or while enrolled in first grade in a public school if the student was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, shall, no later than May 31 of the school year, present proof of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist or other licensed dental health professional no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of the initial enrollment of the student. A school district shall notify the parent/guardian of a student of this assessment requirement which notification, at a minimum shall contain the following:

1. An explanation of the administrative requirements of this section.
2. Information on the importance of primary teeth.
3. Information on the importance of oral health to overall health and learning.
4. A toll-free telephone number to request an application for Healthy Families, Medi-Cal, or other government-subsidized health insurance programs.
5. Contact information for county public health departments; and
6. A statement of privacy applicable under state and federal laws and regulations.

#### **Health Insurance Coverage for Athletes • Education Code § 32221.5**

School districts that operate interscholastic athletic teams are required to include a statement regarding no or low-cost health insurance programs in the offers of insurance coverage that are sent to athletic team members.

**Immunization of Students • Education Code §§ 48216, 49403**

A school district shall exclude a student who is not properly immunized and will notify the parent/guardian that he/she has two weeks to supply evidence that the student is properly immunized or is exempt from required immunization for medical or religious reasons. January 1, 2016, was the deadline for parents to exempt their children from required immunizations based on their religious or personal beliefs. Students who had a signed waiver based on religious or personal beliefs on file by January 1, 2016, are exempt from the immunization requirement until they complete the “grade span” they were in as of January 1, 2016. Grade spans are defined as: (1) birth through preschool, (2) Kindergarten through 6th grade, and (3) 7th through 12th grade. Students entering the district for the first time after January 1, 2016, are no longer exempt from immunizations based on religious or personal beliefs. Students who had a medical exemption issued before December 31, 2020, will be allowed continued enrollment until they enroll in the next grade span. As of January 1, 2021, the standardized certification form developed by the California Department of Public Health shall be the only documentation of a medical exemption that the district may accept. (Health & Safety Code section 120372(a).)

The district shall also refer the parent/guardian to sources of medical services to obtain immunizations if they are needed. The governing board of any school district may authorize any person licensed as a physician and surgeon, or any person licensed as a registered nurse acting under direction of a supervising physician and surgeon to administer an immunizing agent to any student, provided that written consent of the student's parent/guardian has been obtained prior to administration of such immunizing agent.

**Medical & Hospital Services for Students • Education Code § 49472**

The governing board of any school district may provide or make available medical and/or hospital services for students through nonprofit membership corporations, or authorized insurance companies for accidents occurring on school grounds, or while being transported to or from any school activity or event, or while at any other place as an incident to school-sponsored activities. The service shall be provided only with the consent of the parent/guardian or the student if he/she is not a minor.

**Parent's/Guardian's Refusal to Consent to Physical Examination of Child • Education Code § 49451.**

A parent/guardian having control or charge of any child enrolled in the public schools may file annually with the principal of the school in which his/her child is enrolled a statement in writing, signed by the parent/guardian, stating that he/she will not consent to a physical examination of his/her child. Thereupon the child shall be exempt from any physical examination, but whenever there is a good reason to believe that the child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, he/she shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return until the school authorities are satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

**Instructional Programs Students' Rights to Refrain from the Harmful or Destructive Use of Animals • Education Code §§ 32255-32255.6**

Any student with a moral objection to dissecting, harming, or destroying animals shall notify his/her teacher regarding this objection. If the teacher believes an adequate alternative education project is possible, then the teacher may work with the student to develop an agreed upon alternative education project. The project shall require comparable time and effort by the student. It shall not be more arduous as a means of penalizing the student. The student shall not be discriminated against based upon his/her decision to exercise the rights of the section.

**Health Instruction – Conflicting Religious Beliefs • Education Code § 51240**

A parent/guardian may request in writing that their child be excused from any health instruction that conflicts with their religious training and beliefs. The student will then be excused from the part of the instruction that conflicts with the parent/guardian's religious training and beliefs.

**Parent Notification for AIDS/HIV Instruction and Human Sexuality • Education Code § 51938**

A parent/guardian of a student has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV/AIDS prevention education, and assessments related to that education as follows:

1. At the beginning of each school year, or, for a student who enrolls in a school after the beginning of the school year, at the time of that student's enrollment, each school district shall notify the parent/guardian of each student about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education and research on student health behaviors and risks planned for the coming year. The notice shall include all of the following:
  - a. Advise the parent/guardian that written and audio-visual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/ AIDS prevention education are available for inspection.

- b. Advise the parent/guardian whether the comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by school district personnel or by outside consultants. If the school elects to provide this instruction by outside consultants or guest speakers, the notice shall include the date of instruction, the name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker, and an indication that the parent/guardian has the right to request a copy of information about the instruction (Ed. Code, §§ 51933, 51934 and 51938). If arrangements for this instruction are made after the beginning of the school year, notice shall be made by mail or another commonly used method of notification, no fewer than 14 days before instruction is delivered.
  - c. Information explaining the parent's/guardian's right to request a copy of this chapter.
  - d. Advise the parent/guardian that the parent/guardian may request in writing that his/her child not receive comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education.
2. Anonymous, voluntary and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure students' health behaviors and risks, including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age appropriate questions about the student's attitudes concerning or practices relating to sex may be administered to any student in grades 7 to 12 inclusive, if the parent/guardian is notified in writing that this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered and the student's parent/guardian is given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey and to request in writing that his/her child not participate.

**Students with Temporary Disabilities • Education Code §§ 48206.3, 48207, 48207.3, 48207.5, 48208**

A student whose temporary disability makes school attendance impossible or inadvisable, must receive individual instruction either: (1) at home provided by the school district in which the student resides; or (2) in a hospital or other residential health facility, excluding state hospitals, provided by the school district in which the hospital or residential health facility is located.

“Temporary disability” means a physical, mental or emotional disability incurred while a student is enrolled in regular day classes or an alternative education program to which the student can reasonably be expected to return. “Temporary disability” does not include a disability that would qualify a student as a “student with exceptional needs” under Education Code section 56026. (Ed. Code § 48206.3, subd. (b)(2).)

A student with a temporary disability who is in a hospital or other residential health facility, excluding a state hospital, which is located outside of the school district in which the pupil's parent or guardian resides shall be deemed to have complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the school district in which the hospital is located. (Ed. Code § 48207) Once the parent has notified the district in which the hospital is located of the student's presence in the qualifying hospital, the district has five working days to notify the parent if individualized instruction shall be made available. If the determination is positive, individualized instruction shall commence within five working days. (Ed. Code § 48208) Individual instruction in a student's home must commence no later than five working days after a school district determines that the student shall receive this instruction. (Ed. Code § 48207.5)

When a student receiving individual instruction is well enough to return to school, s/he must be allowed to return to the school that s/he attended immediately before receiving individual instruction, if the student returns during the school year in which the individual instruction was initiated. (Ed. Code § 48207.3) Students enrolled in individual instruction in a hospital or other residential health facility for a partial week, are entitled to attend school in his/her school district of residence, or to receive individual instruction provided by the school district of residence in the student's home, on days in which he or she is not receiving individual instruction in a hospital or other residential health facility, if s/he is well enough to do so.

Absences from the student's regular school program due to the student's temporary disability are excused until the student is able to return to the regular school program.

**Notice of Alternative Schools • Education Code § 58501**

California state law authorizes all school districts to provide alternative schools. Section 58500 of the Education Code defines alternative school as a school or separate class group within a school which is operated in a manner designed to:

1. Maximize the opportunity for students to develop the positive values of self-reliance, initiative, kindness, spontaneity, resourcefulness, courage, creativity, responsibility, and joy.
2. Recognize that the best learning takes place when the student learns because of his/her desire to learn.
3. Maintain a learning situation maximizing student self-motivation and encouraging the student in his/her own time to follow his/her own interests. The interests may be conceived by him/her totally

and independently or may result in whole or in part from a presentation by his/her teachers of choices of learning projects.

4. Maximize the opportunity for teachers, parents and students to cooperatively develop the learning process and its subject matter. This opportunity shall be a continuous, permanent process.
5. Maximize the opportunity for the students, teachers, and parents to continuously react to the changing world, including but not limited to the community in which the school is located.

In the event any parent, student, or teacher is interested in further information concerning alternative schools, the county superintendent of schools, the administrative office of this district, and the principal's office in each attendance unit have copies of the law available for your information. This law particularly authorizes interested persons to request the governing board of the district to establish alternative school programs in each district.

**Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA") (Formerly known as the No Child Left Behind Act)**  
**Information Regarding Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals • 20 USC 6311, 34 CFR 200.61**

At the beginning of each school year, school districts who receive Title I federal funding pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act must inform parents/guardians that they may request and obtain information regarding the professional qualifications of the students' classroom teachers and paraprofessionals, 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, (2) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived, (3) the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree, and (4) whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

**Program Improvement • 20 USC 6316**

For the 2016-2017 transition year, California school districts are no longer mandated to provide notice of public-school choice transfer rights under federal law, nor are they obligated to grant student transfers out of Program Improvement (PI) Schools. If a student previously transferred from a PI school to another non-PI public school under NCLB, s/he must be allowed to remain in that school until s/he completes the highest grade in that school.

**Supplemental Services • 20 USC 6316**

California has opted not to require that school districts offer Supplemental Educational Services, and the related notice to parents, for the 2016-2017 school year. **English Learners • 20 USC 6312**

The parents/guardians of limited English Proficient (English Learner) students participating in a language instruction program shall be notified not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year about certain aspects of their child's identification, the instruction program and the program's exit requirements.

**Unsafe School Choice Option • 20 USC 7912**

If a student attending a public elementary or secondary school which has been identified as persistently dangerous or who becomes a victim of a violent crime, while in or on the school grounds, must be allowed to attend a safe public elementary school or secondary school within the district, including a public charter school.

**Nondiscrimination**

**Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities • Education Code § 200 et seq.**

State and federal law prohibit discrimination in education programs and activities. School districts are required to afford all students equal rights and opportunities regardless of their actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, gender related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth, sex (sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, child birth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery from pregnancy or childbirth-related conditions, or denial of lactation accommodations for lactating students, nationality, age, color, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, actual or potential parental, family, or marital status, immigration status, genetic information or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

Section 504 prohibits discrimination based on disability. It requires school districts to identify and evaluate children with physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. These students are eligible to receive services and aid to meet their needs. The District Superintendent or the superintendent's designee is responsible for handling complaints of discrimination based on disability. Please contact the District Office with any questions.

### **Nutrition**

#### **Free and Reduced Priced Meals • Education Code §§ 49510-49520**

Free meals are available at school sites for all students' students whose parents/guardians qualify based on household income.

### **Safety**

#### **Asbestos Management Plan • Code of Federal Regulations §§ 763.84, 763.93**

At least once each year, school districts will notify parent/guardian, teacher and employee organizations in writing of the availability of a complete updated management plan for asbestos containing material in school buildings.

#### **Fingerprinting • Education Code § 32390**

The governing board of any school district may offer a fingerprinting program for children enrolled in kindergarten or newly enrolled in that district. Each parent/guardian shall be informed of the school fingerprinting program when the child first enrolls in public schools. At that time, the parent/guardian shall declare in

writing whether he/she wants the child to be fingerprinted in the school program. If the parent/guardian consents to fingerprinting, they shall pay the applicable fee. The parent/guardian shall be informed in writing at the time of enrollment that they may reverse, in writing, their declaration on fingerprinting at any time. Children shall not be fingerprinted without the consent of the parent/guardian.

#### **Gun Safety; Education Code 32221.5, 49390, 48391, 49392**

This is a reminder that firearms are to be safely stored away from children and teens. The accidental shooting of children and youth is the third leading cause of death following accidents and suicide. California public schools are mandated to remind families to keep their home safe from potential dangers. If there is a threat or perceived threat, then the public schools will cooperate with local law enforcement to conduct an immediate threat assessment.

#### **Megan's Law • Penal Code §§ 290.45, 290.46**

Information about registered sex offenders in California can be found on the California Department of Justice's website ([meganslaw.ca.gov](http://meganslaw.ca.gov)).

#### **Open Campus Lunch Period • Education Code § 44808.5**

If the governing board of a school district permits students enrolled in their schools to leave school grounds during lunch, parents/guardians are to be informed that neither the school district nor any employee shall be liable for the conduct or safety of any student who has left the school grounds during this lunch period.

#### **Pesticide Products • Education Code §§ 17612, 48980.3**

The school shall provide parents/guardians of students with a written notification of the name of all pesticide products expected to be applied at the school during the upcoming year. The notification shall identify the active ingredient(s) in each pesticide product. The notice shall also contain the Internet address used to access information on pesticides and pesticide use reduction developed by the Department of Pesticide Regulation and may contain information deemed necessary by the school district. The school district shall provide the opportunity for recipients to register with the school district if they wish to receive notification of individual pesticide applications at the school. Persons who register shall be notified of individual applications at least 72 hours prior to the application. The notice shall include the product name, the active ingredient, and the intended date of application. If a pesticide product not included in the annual notification is subsequently intended for use at a school, the school district shall provide written notification of its intended use at least 72 hours prior to application. Staff, parents, and guardians may view a copy of a school's integrated pest management plan in the school office. Copies of the District's Integrated Pest Management plan, Administrative Regulation 3514.2 – Integrated Pest Management, are available in the school offices and on the District's website, under board policies, at [www.wusd.ws](http://www.wusd.ws).

#### **School Bus Passenger Safety • Education Code § 39831.5**

Upon registration, parents/guardians of students not previously transported on a school bus, shall be provided with written information on school bus safety. This applies to pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 6. The information provided to parents/guardians of students shall include, but not be limited to, all the following:

1. A list of school bus stops near each student's home.

2. General rules of conduct at school bus loading zones.
3. Red light crossing instructions.
4. School bus danger zone; and
5. Walking to and from school bus stops.

#### **Sexual Harassment • Education Code § 231.5**

School districts are required to have a written policy prohibiting sexual harassment. Copies of the policy and regulations are attached and will be displayed in a prominent location, provided as part of any orientation for new students, distributed to all employees and included in publications that set forth the district's standards of conduct.

#### **Use of Sunscreen • Education Code § 35183.5**

During the school day, each school will allow for outdoor use of articles of sun protective clothing, including, but not limited to, hats, and shall allow students to use sunscreen without a physician's note or prescription. Each school site may set a policy related to the type of sun protective clothing students will be allowed to use and the use of sunscreen.

#### **Special Needs Students**

##### **Child Find Policies (Special Education) • Education Code § 56301.**

All individuals with disabilities residing in the state, including those who are homeless or wards of the state, shall be identified, located and assessed as required. Each district, special education local plan area, or county office shall establish written policies and procedures for a continuous child-find system which addresses the relationship among identification, screening, referral, assessment, planning, review and the triennial assessment. The policies and procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, written notification of all parents/guardians of their rights under this chapter, and the procedure for initiating a referral for assessment. Parents/guardians shall be given a copy of their rights and procedural safeguards upon initial referral for assessment, upon notice of an individualized education program meeting or reassessment, upon filing a complaint, and upon filing for a pre-hearing mediation conference.

##### **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

Every individual with exceptional needs who is eligible to receive educational instruction and/or related services shall receive such educational instruction, services, or both, at no cost to his/her parents/guardians or, as appropriate, to him/her. Federal law also requires a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment be offered to all qualified disabled students.

#### **Student Discipline/Conduct**

##### **Behavior**

Proper behavior for students is a constant expectation at all school sites. Proper student conduct is essential to make each student's experience at school meaningful, productive, and enjoyable.

The development of proper behavior is a skill that we expect, teach, and continually maintain. We believe that each student must:

- Learn to assume responsibility for his/her own actions.
- Develop an awareness of the impact his/her behavior has on others. Develop the ability to make proper choices.
- Develop the ability to solve problems.
- Develop a sense of respect for self, others, property, and for the laws that govern our school and society.
- Please see section entitled "PBIS" for more information.

##### **Bullying**

Washington Unified School District does not tolerate bullying of any kind, including cyber-bullying. Students at all Washington Unified schools are expected to treat each other with respect. If any student is being bothered or bullied by someone, report the incident to a school staff member immediately (See Uniform Complaint Procedure)

##### **Conduct Referrals**

A student may receive a conduct referral for failure to follow school or classroom rules. Parents will be notified if their child's offense(s) is/are serious, continuous, or interrupt the learning and/or safety of others.

##### **Suspension and Expulsion**

Good classroom control is dependent upon well-planned, interesting programs and instruction, as well as mutual respect between teacher and student. Teaching children to choose proper behavior is best accomplished through positive action rather than punishment or negative reinforcement. Since inappropriate behavior may be a symptom of another problem, we will attempt to determine and

effectively deal with the causes of misbehavior. Sources of assistance for effective classroom management are parents, Principal, Learning Director, Guidance Learning Specialist, Counselor, Psychologist, and/or Special Education Resource Teacher.

Ed Code 48900: A student shall not be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion, unless the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled determines that the student has committed an act as defined pursuant to any of subdivisions (a) to (r), inclusive:

- (a) (1) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.  
(2) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense.
- (b) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless,
- (c) in the case of possession of an object of this type, the student has obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind.
- (d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to a person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.
- (e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- (f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- (g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- (h) Possessed or used tobacco, or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. However, this section does not prohibit use or possession by a student of his or her own prescription products.
- (i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- (j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
- (l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- (m) Possessed an imitation firearm. As used in this section, "imitation firearm" means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- (n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289 of the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.
- (o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or a witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that student from being a witness or retaliating against that student for being a witness, or both.
- (p) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.

(q) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing. For purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

(r) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act, as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 32261, directed specifically toward student or school personnel.

(s) A student shall not be suspended or expelled for any of the acts enumerated in this section unless that act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of the school district or principal or occurring within any other school district. A student may be suspended or expelled for acts that are enumerated in this section and related to school activity or attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) While on school grounds.
- (2) While going to or coming from school.
- (3) During the lunch period whether on or off the campus.
- (4) During, or while going to or coming from, a school sponsored activity.

(t) A student who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, pursuant to this section, except that a student who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (a).

(u) As used in this section, "school property" includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.

(v) A superintendent of the school district or principal may use his or her discretion to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion, including, but not limited to, counseling and an anger management program, for a student subject to discipline under this section.

### **Student/School Information and Records**

#### **Access to Records • Education Code §§ 49063, 49067, 49069, 49091.14, FERPA**

School districts shall notify parents/guardians in writing of their rights regarding the availability of the types of student records and information which are directly related to students and maintained by the institution, the official responsible for the maintenance of the records, the location of the records, the criteria to be used by the district in defining "school officials and employees" and in determining illegitimate educational interests as used in Section 49064 and 49076(a)(1), the policies for reviewing and expunging the records, the right of the parent/guardian to access the student records, the procedure for challenging the content of student records, the cost which will be charged to the parent/guardian for copies of records, and their right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare concerning an alleged failure by the district to comply with the provisions of Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202.

Parents/guardians of currently enrolled or former students have an absolute right to access any and all student records related to their children which are maintained by school districts or private schools. Each school must annually compile a prospectus of the curriculum to include titles, descriptions and instructional goals for every course offered by the school. Student grades, in the absence of clerical or mechanical mistakes, fraud, bad faith or incompetency, are final. If a student grade is challenged, the teacher who issued the grade must be given an opportunity to give the reasons for the grade and to be included in the discussions related to the changing of the grade. No physical education grade may be adversely affected due to the student's failure to wear standardized physical education apparel due to circumstances beyond the student's control. Parents will be notified whenever it becomes evident to the teacher that a student is in danger of failing a course. When a student transfers to another public school, a copy of his/her records must be transferred within 10 schooldays and the parents have a right to request a copy of the records and to request a hearing to challenge the contents of the records. Student



information must be furnished in compliance with a court order or a lawfully issued subpoena. School districts must make a reasonable effort to notify parents before complying with a lawfully issued subpoena or court order. Districts must notify a student's teacher(s), in confidence, if the student has caused or attempted to cause serious bodily injury to another person. The information provided by the teacher(s) will be based on any written records that the district maintains or receives from a law enforcement agency. Attached are copies of the district's student records policy and regulation.

**Directory Information • Education Code §§ 49063(i), 49073**

Parents/guardians shall be notified regarding the district's policy to release directory information on students or former students to officials, organizations or individuals. No information shall be released when a parent/guardian has notified the district not to release such information. Directory information may be released according to local policy regarding any student or former student, provided that notice is given at least on an annual basis of the categories of information which the school plans to release and of the recipients.

**Homeless Students / Release of Directory Information • Education Code § 49073(c) and 20 USC § 1232g**

Written consent of the parent or that of the student, if accorded parental rights, must be obtained before directory information pertaining to a homeless student may be released.

**Military Recruiter Access to Information • 20 USC § 7908**

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters with the same access to secondary school students as is provided generally to post-secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers. Parents/guardians may request that a student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released without prior written consent. The district shall notify parents/guardians of the option and shall comply with the choice of the parents/guardians.

**Rights of Parents/Guardians to Information • Education Code §§ 51101, 51101.1**

Parents/guardians have the right to be informed by the school and to participate in the education of their children, as follows: to observe classrooms as specified; within a reasonable time of their request to meet with teachers and the principal of the school; to volunteer their time and resources; to be notified on a timely basis if their child is absent from school without permission; to receive the results of their child's performance and the performance of the school on standardized tests; to request a particular school for their child and to receive a response from the district; to have a school environment for their child that is safe and supportive; to examine the curriculum materials of their child's classes; to be informed of their child's progress in school and of the appropriate staff to contact should a problem arise; to access the school records of their child; to receive information about the academic performance standards, proficiencies, or skills their child is expected to accomplish; to be informed in advance about school rules, including disciplinary rules and procedures, attendance policies, dress code and procedures for visiting the school; to receive information about any psychological testing and to deny permission to test; to participate as a member of a parent advisory committee, school-site council, or site-based leadership team; to challenge anything in their child's record and to receive a response from the school; and to be notified as early in the year as practicable if their child is identified as being at risk of retention and their right to consult with school personnel regarding any decision to promote or retain and to appeal a decision to promote or retain. School districts will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all parents/guardians of students, who speak a language other than English, are properly notified in English and in their home language of the rights and opportunities available to them.

**Surveys: Disclosure of Personal Information • 20 USC 1232 (h), Education Code § 51513**

Parents/guardians will be notified of the specific or approximate dates when an activity involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information is scheduled. The school district shall develop a policy, in consultation with parents/guardians, regarding the collection of this information. Parents/guardians may opt their student(s) out of participation. No student may be required to submit to a survey, analysis or evaluation that reveals sensitive personal information (i.e. students' and/or their parents'/guardians' personal beliefs or practices regarding sex, family life, morality, religion, political beliefs/affiliations, mental/psychological problems of student or his/her family, illegal behavior, self-incriminating behavior, anti-social behavior/demeaning behavior, critical appraisals of students' close family member(s), privileged relationships, or income except when necessary for program participation or financial aid) without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians shall be notified of the specific or approximate dates of the administration of any survey and choose to opt students out of participation. The school district, in consultation with parents/guardians, shall develop a policy regarding the right of the parent/guardian to inspect surveys created by a third party or any instrument used in the collection of personal information.

**Suicide Prevention- Education Code 215**

Student suicide rates are of concern to all members of the school community. One child, ages 12 and

older, dies by suicide every five days in California. Local Districts were required by California law to provide suicide prevention education, according to age-appropriate and sensitive local policies, for grades 7 to 12. Legislators have determined that training in mental health and coordination around improved services is extended to our elementary students. A shared goal by all staff educators is to keep a safe place to learn, free from harm to any of our students.

## **Testing**

### **Advance Placement Examination Fees • Education Code § 52244**

State funds are available to award grants to students to cover the costs of advanced placement examination fees. Any economically disadvantaged student who is enrolled in an advanced placement course may apply to their school for a grant.

### **High School Proficiency Exam • Title 5 CCR 11523**

Requires the principal of a school maintaining grades 11 and 12 to distribute an announcement explaining the California High School Proficiency Exam. The notification is to be made in time to enable interested students to meet examination registration requirements for the Fall test.

### **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Exemption • 5 CCR 852**

Each year, parents and guardians will be notified regarding their student's participation in the CAASPP assessment system. Parents and guardians wanting to excuse their children from any or all parts of the CAASPP must submit a written request. Such written requests must be submitted to the school on an annual basis. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Annie Sharp at (559) 495-5628.

### **Miscellaneous Foster Youth • Education Code §§ 48850-48859**

Each school district will designate an educational liaison to ensure that students in foster care receive stable school placements which are in the best interests of the child, in the least restrictive educational program, provide access to academic resources, services and extracurricular activities available to all students, provide full and partial credit for coursework taken and give a meaningful opportunity to meet student academic achievement standards.

### **Homeless Children (McKinney Vento Act) • 42 USC § 11432**

Each school district will have a district liaison for homeless students who will ensure that parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

### **Minimum Days and Staff Development Days • Education Code § 48980 (c)**

The school district shall notify parents/guardians of all students of the schedule of minimum days and student free staff development days, and if minimum student free staff development days are scheduled thereafter, the governing board shall notify parents/guardians of the affected students as early as possible but no later than one month before the scheduled minimum or student free day. Attached is a copy of the minimum days and staff development calendar.

### **School Accountability Report Card • Education Code §§ 35256, 35256.1, 35258**

Annually, each school district shall issue a School Accountability Report card for each school in the school district, publicize those reports, and notify parents/guardians of students that a hard copy will be provided upon request and in accordance with Education Code section 33126.

## **Schedules**

### **Holidays and Vacations**

Labor Day	September 4, 2023
Local Holiday	October 9, 2023
Veteran's Day	November 10, 2023
Thanksgiving	November 20, 2023 - November 24, 2023
Winter Break	December 16, 2023 - January 5, 2024
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 15, 2024
Lincoln's Birthday	February 12, 2024
President's Day	February 19, 2024
Local Holiday	March 4, 2024
Spring Break	March 25, 2024 - April 1, 2024
Memorial Day	May 27, 2024

### **Regular Daily Schedule**

	<b>AUES K-3</b>	<b>AUES 4-8</b>	<b>WFES K-3</b>	<b>WFES 4-5</b>	<b>WFMS 6-8</b>	<b>WUHS 9-12</b>

<b>START TIME</b>	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:10 AM
<b>DISMISSAL TIME</b>	2:20 PM	3:10 PM	2:20 PM	3:10 PM	3:10 PM	3:15 PM

### Early Schedule

If students are dismissed early from school, parents will be notified by the school calendar or by the district's automated phone system.

	<b>AUES K-3</b>	<b>AUES 4-8</b>	<b>WFES K-3</b>	<b>WFES 4-5</b>	<b>WFMS 6-8</b>	<b>WUHS 9-12</b>
<b>START TIME</b>	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:10 AM
<b>DISMISSAL TIME</b>	12:40 PM	1:30 PM	12:40 PM	1:30 PM	1:30 PM	12:40 PM

# Washington Unified School District

## 2025-2026 School Calendar

July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
					DOI	0

August 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					DOI	14

September 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
					DOI	21

October 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					DOI	22

November 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30					DOI	14

December 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
					DOI	15

January 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					DOI	14

February 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					DOI	18

March 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
					DOI	19

April 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
					DOI	18

May 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					DOI	20

June 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
					DOI	5

Calendar Legend	
4	Teacher In-Service Days
35	Staff Development   Two Hour Delay
19	Observed Holiday   All District Sites Closed
	Not In Session
180	Days of Instruction ("DOI")
○	First and Last Day of School
○	Minimum Day/First Semester Ends
○	Minimum Day/Second Semester Ends
○	Students Return from Break
8	TK-8 Parent Conferences-Minimum Day

Dec 22 - Jan 9 Winter Break - No school  
Mar 30 - Apr 6 Spring Break - No school

Board Approved: February 12, 2025

Observed Holidays	
Jul 4	Independence Day
Sep 1	Labor Day
Oct 6	Local Holiday
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 26, 27 & 28	Thanksgiving Break - Day before, Day, & Day After
Dec 24 & 25	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Dec 31 & Jan 1	New Year's Eve and New Year's Day
Jan 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 9	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb 16	Presidents' Day
Mar 13	Local Holiday
Apr 3	Good Friday
Apr 6	Local Holiday
May 25	Memorial Day
Jun 19	Juneteenth

### **Foggy Day Schedule**

All classes begin at 8:00 AM. The Foggy day schedule applies to those students who ride the bus to school. Based on input from local “spotters,” Southwest Public School Transportation Agency (SWTA) will decide if buses will be delayed due to foggy weather conditions. If bus departure is delayed, an announcement will be made on local television channels and local radio stations (under the name American Union, West Fresno, and/or Washington Union High School). The announcement will indicate which plan the Agency will follow and is subject to changes and updates.

PLAN A	Two (2) hour bus delay. Buses will run 2 hours after the usual time.
PLAN B	Three (3) hour bus delay. Buses will run 3 hours after the usual time.
PLAN C	Buses canceled. No A.M. buses. Afternoon buses will run.

***As always, if during foggy weather conditions you choose to transport your child to school rather than have him/her ride the bus, please exercise caution and safety.***

### **Late Start**

Students report to school at 10:00 A.M. on most Wednesdays (please check the school calendar each month). Between 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M., teachers meet in Professional Learning Communities to analyze student data, review best instructional practices, receive professional development in-services, and modify and improve instruction based on student need.

Leading educational researchers have concluded that creating a collaborative environment is one of the most significant factors in successful school improvement efforts. Effective collaboration among teachers and school leaders is linked to gains in student achievement, higher quality solutions to problems, and increased effectiveness among all staff.

### **Emergency Early Dismissal**

*If necessary, Washington Unified School District will release students from school in the event of an emergency, unhealthy or an unsafe condition. Natural disasters, extended power outages, lack of water or sewer facilities, and dangerous fog conditions are a few reasons why students may be dismissed early from school.*

In the event of any of the above conditions, students may be dismissed from school before regular dismissal time. Every effort will be made to contact parents or guardians in the event of an emergency release. However, it is imperative that your family has a plan, so your child knows what to do if, and when, he/she is dismissed due to an emergency early dismissal.

In the event of an early emergency dismissal, buses will travel on their regular routes in the normal sequence. Students who are brought to or walk to school will be expected to get home by the same method. In the event of an emergency, there will be some uncertainty, especially for children. The best way to overcome this uncertainty is to be specific about the procedure for your child and remind him/her frequently about what to do under these circumstances.

### **After School Schedule**

The After School Program is held each day, Monday through Friday, after school until 6:00 P.M., except for three days during the school year. These three days are designated as Professional Development for After School employees. The dates of these professional development days will be communicated to parents. Please watch for phone or written communications.

Once Daylight Savings time ends, After School Program students who walk or ride the bus home may be dismissed up to an hour earlier for safety purposes.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **ADMISSION TO SCHOOL**

Current state law requires a child to be five years of age by December 2, 2023, to enter Transitional Kindergarten. Proof of residency (PG&E bill; current rental agreement), proof of age (birth certificate, adoption papers, or baptismal records), immunization records, proof of a physical, and proof of dental evaluation are required upon registration.

To meet California's school entry requirement, children entering school need the following immunizations:

<b>Immunizations</b>	<b>Dosage</b>
Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DPT)	5 doses
Polio	4 doses
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Varicella (chicken pox)	2 doses
Tuberculosis Blood Test Results/Screening (TB)	

Students entering 7th grade must show proof of the following immunizations:

<b>Immunizations</b>	<b>Dosage</b>
Tetanus, reduced Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis (Tdap)	1 dose

***\*All immunizations must be up to date before a child will be admitted to school.***

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The After School Education and Safety Program begins each day Monday through Friday after school until 6:00 P.M. It is an extended part of the regular learning day for students and provides homework assistance, a free and healthy snack, academic enrichment, and a safe, constructive alternative for students.

Attendance is voluntary and encouraged, but enrollment is limited. Therefore, participation in the After School Program is on a first-come-first served basis. Transportation is provided for students who ride the bus to and from school.

### **ALCOHOL, DRUG, AND TOBACCO POLICY**

Washington Unified School District is an alcohol, drug, and tobacco free district. Every effort is made to reduce the chances that students begin or continue the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. Programs of instruction, intervention, recovery, student support, enforcement, and discipline exist at our schools. School personnel will take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use, or sale of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and related paraphernalia on school grounds, at school events, or in any situation in which the school is responsible for the conduct and wellbeing of students.

Students possessing, selling, and/or using alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or related paraphernalia, shall be subject to disciplinary procedures that may result in suspension or expulsion. (E.C. 48900 ;)

School authorities may search a student, a student's possessions, backpack, desk, and/or other school property suspected of possessing alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or related paraphernalia. (E.C.5145.12)

## **ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL**

All students should arrive at school before classes begin at 8:00 A.M. (Grades K-8) and 8:10 A.M. (Grades 9-12) and in time to eat breakfast, if they choose. Students should not be on campus before morning supervision begins or after school unless they are involved in a supervised school activity. Students who are tardy must obtain a tardy slip from the office before entering class.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

Washington Unified School District believes school assemblies are excellent educational opportunities for students. While attending assemblies, students are to respect those performing, presenting, and entertaining the audience.

During a school assembly student shall:

- Respectfully remain quiet and attentive during the entire program.
- Be courteous of other individual's rights and space during the program. Remain in their seats until a school authority has dismissed them.
- Refrain from whistling, talking or other acts of discourtesy that interrupt the performance.

Violation of these rules may subject the student to disciplinary action.

## **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

Students who participate in sports teams or athletic activities are expected to be in good standing in their grades and behavior. Students in grades 9-12 must have a grade point average of 2.0 or better as determined by the most current report card. Students in grades 6-8 must have a grade point average of 2.0 or better with no grade of "F" in any core subject (English Language Arts, Math, Social Science, Science and Physical Education) as determined by the most current report card. For students in grades 4-5, athletic eligibility will be determined by school administration. Student athletes will also be asked to follow citizenship rules, athletic by-laws, show proof of insurance, and provide an athletic screening (physical) report signed by a health provider.

Students in grades 4-8, who are ineligible for sports, may petition for permission to play by following strict eligibility requirements before EACH GAME.

## **ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES**

Washington Unified School District expects students to attend school 100% of the days he/she is enrolled. This requires a complete commitment on the part of the child and home. Learning is a continuous process made up of many educational "building blocks." These building blocks are essential in the promotion from one grade to another. Therefore, it is important that each child be in school every day to benefit from this ongoing process.

As per the California Education Code 48205 a student may legally be absent from school for the following reasons:

1. Due to his or her illness.
2. Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
3. For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometry, or chiropractic services rendered.  
*However, we ask that you make every effort to make appointments after school hours.*
4. For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
5. For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
6. For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, or attendance at religious retreats.
7. For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.
8. For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family, who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Section 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position.

9. For the purpose of attending the pupil's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen.

(a) Students who miss school work because of an excused absence shall be given the opportunity to complete all assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided. As determined by the teacher, the assignments and tests shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period. Students who miss school work because of unexcused absences shall be given the opportunity to make up for the missed work. Teachers shall assign such makeup work as necessary to ensure academic progress, not as a punitive measure.

(b) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.

(c) "Immediate family," as used in this section, has the same meaning as that set forth in Education Code Section 45194, except that references therein to "employee" shall be deemed to be references to "student."

(d) Out-of-town visits, vacations during school time, and lack of transportation are not valid excused absences.

All absences are monitored by the school district for truancy and enforced by the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). The Washington Unified School District Attendance Review Board (SARB) will enforce all attendance rules dealing with excessive excused absences, unexcused absences, and/or tardies. WUSD is part of the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), a partnership with the Fresno County Probation Department regarding excessive student absences.

Students with temporary disabilities, who cannot attend regular day classes, may receive individual instruction provided by the district. (E.C. 48206.3)

A student with a temporary disability, who is in a hospital or other health facility, excluding a state hospital, which is outside of the school district in which the parent or guardian resides, shall have complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the school district in which the hospital is located. It is the primary responsibility of the parent/guardian of the student with the temporary disability to notify the school district of the student's presence in a qualifying hospital. (E.C. 48207, 48208)

We encourage good attendance at all our school sites, but only if the health and welfare of your child and the health and welfare of others are not in jeopardy. Children who are ill, especially if they are vomiting, have a temperature, congested cough, or an incessantly runny nose, should remain at home until they are well or no longer contagious to others.

## **ATTENDANCE OPTIONS/PERMITS – EC 48980(h)**

Residency – EC 48200 and 48204

A minor between the ages of 6 and 18 years is subject to compulsory education and, unless exempt, must enroll in the school district in which the residence of either the parent or legal guardian is located. A student may comply with the residency requirements for school attendance in a school district, if he or she is any of the following:

- (a) placed in a foster home or licensed children's institution within the boundaries of the school district pursuant to a commitment of placement under the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (b) an emancipated student who resides within the boundaries of the school district.
- (c) a student who lives in the home of a caregiving adult that is located within the boundaries of the school district.
- (d) a student residing in a state hospital located within the boundaries of the school district.

A school district may also deem a student as having complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the school district if one or both parents and/or legal guardians of the student are employed within the boundaries of the school district.



## **ATTENDANCE-INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE – EC 46600 et seq.**

The parent or legal guardian of a student may seek release from the home district to attend a school in any other school district. School districts may enter into agreements for the interdistrict transfer of one or more students. The agreement must specify the terms and conditions for granting or denying transfers and may contain standards of reapplication and specify the terms and conditions under which a permit may be revoked.

**Students who have been approved to attend Washington Unified School District on an Interdistrict Attendance Permit must remain in good standing with academic effort, behavior, and attendance. Attendance approval may be revoked, and the student may need to return to his/her district of residence if he/she fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the transfer.**

## **ATTENDANCE-OPEN ENROLLMENT ACT – EC 48350 et seq.**

Whenever a child is attending a school on the Open Enrollment List as identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the student may seek to transfer to another school within or outside of the district, as long as the school to which he/she is transferring has a higher Academic Performance Index (API). Transportation to any other school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. School districts are allowed to adopt written standards for acceptance and rejection of applications if students are selected through a random and unbiased process. Unless the school board waives the deadline, requests for transfers are to be submitted by January 1 of the prior school year. To apply, parents/guardians must contact the school district to which they seek to transfer their student.

## **BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Breakfast is served each day beginning at 7:30 A.M. To ensure that students are on time to class, breakfast is not served after 7:50 A.M. (Grades K-8) and after 8:00 A.M. (Grades 9-12).

## **CAMPUS VISITORS/VISITORS POLICY**

All visitors must check into the main office to receive approval and a visitor's pass. Parents are invited to visit the school or classes; however, students may not bring non-enrolled students on campus during the school day.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS/CONTACT INFORMATION**

It is important that we have correct information to reach parents in the event of an emergency. Please notify the school office of any changes in address or contact numbers.

## **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

California law permits students to carry cell phones. However, such devices shall be turned off except when being used for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose as determined by the teacher or other district employee, and at any other time directed by a district employee. Any device with a camera, video, or voice recording function shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person. EC 48901.5

Texting, taking photos or videotaping inside the school building during the school day is not allowed. Students may not wear earpieces during class time as they impede the student's ability to hear instructions and announcements.

Because of the expense, loss, and disruptiveness to learning environments, electronic devices (iPhone, iPod, tablets, MP3 players, radios, Gameboys, etc.) should not be brought to school. Phones and electronic devices that are bought and lost or stolen are not the responsibility of the school or district and will not be replaced. The school Calendar will be provided to parents and guardians each month. It will outline the dates and times of school events.

## **COLLEGE AND CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION – EC 51229 (C9-12) and EC 48980(I)**

Career Technical Education (CTE) courses are offered to count toward graduation. Some of our CTE courses that are offered at our schools may satisfy the A-G for CSU/UC requirements for admission. For more information, please contact our academic advisors/counselors at: (559)495-5681.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES**

Communication between the home and school is an essential part of student success. You are encouraged to contact your child's teacher, principal, or any specialist if you have questions, concerns, or compliments about your child's progress in school.

There are several ways for parents to receive information about their child's progress and school.

**Back to School Night** is a time to meet your child's teacher, locate his/her room, and become familiar with the school and teacher.

**Open House (K-8 only)** is a time set for parents to visit their child's school. The teacher will greet parents and display current student work. However, this is not a time for individual parent/teacher conferences.

**Report Cards or Progress Reports** are issued following each grading period. These reporting forms record academic progress and effort in each area of the curriculum.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** provide opportunities for teachers to share information with parents about their child's progress in school. These conferences are scheduled after the first and third grading period. Additional conferences may be held at the request of the parent or teacher anytime during the year. Some teachers conduct Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences that are led by the student.

**Newsletters** provide timely information about the school, classroom, and District activities.

**Parent Committees and Advisory Groups** are established in each school to provide valuable support and service to students and staff. Parents are encouraged to become active members.

**Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA)** is developed at each school every year. The plan outlines goals and methods for improving student achievement. The SPSA is approved by the School Site Council and is available on each school's website.

**The School District Web Site** at [www.washingtonunified.org](http://www.washingtonunified.org) provides general information about the District and its programs, as well as current news items.

**Assessment Results** also give parents an indication of how their child is progressing in school. Students in Grades 3 through 8, 10, and 11 participate in federal and state assessments. Student results will be provided to parents in a timely manner and assist teachers, principals, and District administration in determining the effectiveness of instructional programs.

## **COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION**

California law requires that comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education should be offered to all students in grades 7-12, including at least once in junior high or middle school and at least once in high school. (Education Code 51934) The district's curriculum shall support the purposes of the California Healthy Youth Act as specified in Education Code 51930-51939, be unbiased and inclusive of all students in the classroom and be aligned with the state's content standards.

The district shall respect the rights of parents/guardians to supervise their children's education on these subjects and to impart values regarding human sexuality to their children.

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT**

At the beginning of each school year or at the time of a student's enrollment, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education, as well as research on student health behaviors and

risks, planned for the coming year. The notice shall advise parents/guardians: (Education Code 48980, 51938)

1. Written and audiovisual educational materials to be used in comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education are available for inspection.
2. Parents/guardians have a right to excuse their child from comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education, or research on student health behaviors and risks, provided they submit their request in writing to the district.
3. That parents/guardians have a right to request a copy of Education Code 51930-51939.
4. Whether comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education will be taught by district personnel or outside consultants.

If the district chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to deliver comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education, the notification shall include: (Education Code 51938)

- A. The date of the instruction.
- B. The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker.
- C. Information stating the right of the parent/guardian to request a copy of Education Code 51933, 51934, and 51938.

If the arrangements for instruction by outside consultants or guest speakers are made after the beginning of the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians by mail or another commonly used method of notification no fewer than 14 days before the instruction is given. (Education Code 51938) (cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

## **CONDUCT REFERRALS**

A student may receive a conduct referral for failure to follow school or classroom rules. Parents will be notified if their child's offense(s) is/are serious, continuous, or interrupt the learning and/or safety of others.

## **COURSE OF STUDY**

All teachers are expected to follow the course of study as approved by the Washington Unified School Board.

## **DIRECTORY INFORMATION – EC 49073**

"Directory Information" includes one or more of the following items: student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in school activities and sports, members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, and/or awards received. The district has determined that the following individuals, officials, or organizations, upon request, may receive directory information concerning presently enrolled or former students:

- (a) Parent-Teacher Association or Club
- (b) Law enforcement personnel
- (c) County probation personnel and county protective services agency staff
- (d) Organizations seeking scholarship applicants.

**Should any parent or guardian object to the release of directory information, he/she must notify the school district in writing of his/her written prohibition. No information shall be released when a parent has notified the district not to release such information. (E.C. 49072)**

## **DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

No student shall be unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or any other legally protected status; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. . Reasonable accommodation is available for handicapped students if necessary. (Section 504)

## **DRESS CODE**

The purpose of this dress code is for students to become aware of:

1. **Appropriateness:** Clothing should meet the expectations of the social environment. For example, the following environments require different dress: informal at home attire vs. casual school attire vs. professional business attire. It is the desire of the community to prepare students for a Great Future by developing a sense of appropriate dress.
2. **Safety and school climate:** Some attire such as shoes, colors, phrases, and logos present physical safety issues or express allegiance to groups that create a hostile school climate. It is the desire of the community to establish a safe and peaceful school climate to enhance the educational experience.
3. **Character:** It is important that students develop the sense that their apparel reflects on their character. Clothing that is suggestive and/or contains words or phrases of a vulgar or suggestive nature negatively impact their character both by association and assimilation. It is the desire of the community to prepare students for a Great Future by developing their sense of appropriate moral judgment.

The following rules are recommendations that address appropriateness for the school social environment, safety and school climate, and student character.

Topic	K-8	9-12
<b>Shoes</b> (Purpose: Safety)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No backless shoes</li> <li>• Sandals must have heel straps.</li> <li>• No high heel shoes, high heel boots or wedges (Flat shoes only)</li> <li>• No bedroom slippers (shoes without hard soles, primarily designed for leisure wear in the home)</li> <li>• <b>6, 7, 8</b> - Crocs are not allowed during physical education and sports practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No bedroom slippers (shoes without hard soles, primarily designed for leisure wear in the home)</li> </ul>
<b>Hats</b> (Purpose: Student Safety and Appropriateness)	Headwear: Hats, beanies, jacket hoods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be worn outdoors</li> <li>• May have the school logo only</li> <li>• May be the school colors, solid black, white, or gray</li> <li>• School colors:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AU – Red, White and Blue</li> <li>○ WF – Green</li> <li>○ WU – Purple</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Must be worn appropriately (bill forward)</li> <li>• Must not have inappropriate writing on the exterior, interior, or under the bill</li> </ul>	Headwear: Hats, beanies, jacket hoods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be worn outdoors</li> <li>• May have the school logo only</li> <li>• May be the school colors, solid black, white, or gray</li> <li>• School colors:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AU – Red, White and Blue</li> <li>○ WF – Green</li> <li>○ WU – Purple</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Must be worn appropriately (bill forward)</li> <li>• Must not have inappropriate writing on the exterior, interior, or under the bill</li> </ul>
<b>Make Up</b> (Purpose: Appropriateness and Character)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preschool-5</b> – No makeup</li> <li>• <b>6, 7, 8</b> – Natural tone makeup only and no visible tattoos.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate adult makeup is acceptable.</li> </ul>
<b>Pants and Shorts</b> (Purpose: Appropriateness and Character)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pants are worn with no undergarments showing and no excessive sagging</li> <li>• <b>Preschool-5</b> No holes other than natural wear at knees</li> <li>• <b>6, 7, 8</b> No holes or see through frays, unless worn with leggings underneath or patched from behind.</li> <li>• No Pajama Bottoms</li> <li>• Shorts: Minimum 4" inseam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pants are worn with no undergarments showing and no excessive sagging</li> <li>• No Pajama Bottoms</li> <li>• Shorts: Minimum 4" inseam</li> </ul>
<b>Skirts Dresses</b> (Purpose: Appropriateness and Character)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skirts, and dress lengths are no shorter than mid-thigh</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skirts, and dress lengths are no shorter than mid-thigh</li> </ul>

Appropriateness and Character)		
<b>Tops Blouses T-Shirts</b> (Purpose: Appropriateness and Character)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midriff and lower back must be covered</li> <li>• No spaghetti straps, halter tops or tube tops, unless worn with an undershirt.</li> <li>• Tops must have straps and sleeves on both shoulders</li> <li>• Strap width: Undergarment straps must be completely covered</li> <li>• No exposed undergarments</li> <li>• Arm openings should not be excessive</li> <li>• No cleavage exposed</li> <li>• No see through or net tops</li> <li>• Undergarments may not be worn as outer garments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midriff and lower back must be covered</li> <li>• No spaghetti straps, halter tops or tube tops</li> <li>• Tops must have straps and sleeves on both shoulders</li> <li>• Strap width: Undergarment straps must be completely covered</li> <li>• No exposed undergarments</li> <li>• Arm openings should not be excessive</li> <li>• No cleavage exposed</li> <li>• No see through or net tops</li> <li>• Undergarments may not be worn as outer garments</li> </ul>
<b>Language Logos Pictures Gang Affiliation</b> (Purpose: Appropriateness, Safety and Character)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attire may not be worn that has a style, color, logo, or phrase that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexually suggestive</li> <li>• Degrading to the integrity of an individual or groups</li> <li>• Advocates ethnic, religious, or gender prejudice</li> <li>• Promotes or depicts alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sex, etc.</li> <li>• Identifies neighborhood groups or known gangs (The district will communicate with law enforcement agencies to update gang related apparel as necessary)</li> <li>• No solid red, brown, or blue shirts</li> <li>• No red or brown pants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attire may not be worn that has a style, color, logo, or phrase that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexually suggestive</li> <li>• Degrading to the integrity of an individual or groups</li> <li>• Advocates ethnic, religious, or gender prejudice</li> <li>• Promotes or depicts alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sex, etc.</li> <li>• Identifies neighborhood groups or known gangs (The district will communicate with law enforcement agencies to update gang related apparel as necessary)</li> <li>• No solid red, brown, or blue shirts</li> <li>• No red or brown pants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Colors</b> (Purpose: Positive Culture and Safety)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No solid red, blue or other colored clothing that promotes affiliation with known gang colors (At AU blue and red may be worn for the benefit or promotion of the school or school event)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No solid red, or blue or other colored clothing that promotes affiliation with known gang colors</li> </ul>
<b>Jewelry</b> (Purpose: Appropriateness and Safety)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jewelry and piercings should not create a safety hazard for activities at school, as determined by a school official</li> <li>• No facial piercings except for ears and nose piercing must be limited to small stud that sits flush with the side of the nose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jewelry and piercings should not create a safety hazard for activities at school, as determined by a school official</li> </ul>
<b>Hair</b> (Purpose: Appropriateness and Character)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haircuts or hairstyles which distract from the educational mission of the school are prohibited (i.e. designs, symbols, or messages that promote prejudice, degradation, gang affiliation or drug use)</li> <li>• No unnatural colors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haircuts or hair styles which distract from the educational mission of the school are prohibited (i.e. designs, symbols, or messages that promote prejudice, degradation, gang affiliation or drug use)</li> </ul>

Enforcement: Parents and all school employees are responsible for monitoring student dress. School Principals, Learning Directors, Academy Administrators, Counselors and/or teachers will take appropriate corrective/disciplinary action for any violations of the above dress code or appropriateness of dress.

## EDUCATOR CODE OF ETHICS- EC 4119.21

The educator strives to help each student realize his/her potential as a worthy and effective member of society. The educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals. In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator:

1. Shall not reasonably restrain the student from independent action in the pursuit of learning.
2. Shall not unreasonably deny the student access to varying points of view.
3. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to the student's progress.
4. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety.
5. Shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement.
6. Shall not on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social, or cultural background, or sexual orientation, unfairly:
  - a. Exclude any student from participation in any program.
  - b. Deny benefits to any student.
  - c. Grant any advantage to any student.
7. Shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage.
8. Shall not disclose information in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.

### **FREE AND REDUCED-PRICED MEALS – EC 49510**

WUSD schools qualify for Provision 2 under the National School Lunch Program. If WUSD qualifies for Provision 2, no student is charged for breakfast or lunch. However, WUSD will continue to collect income verification information as required to determine Local Control Funding Formula data.

### **FRESNO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Washington Unified School District maintains a library services agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. The agreement authorizes Washington Unified School District students' access to the Fresno County Public Library.

### **GANG INFLUENCES**

The Washington Unified School District does not permit the promotion of gang affiliation and/or gang influences. Students are not permitted to claim or show gang affiliation through clothing or behavior, display of gang hand signals, colors, drawings or displays of gang symbols, or writing styles on skin, schoolbooks, binders, papers or assignments.

### **GRADE LEVEL STANDARDS**

Grade level standards were adopted by the state of California in 2010 for Language Arts and Math. Next Generation Science Standards were adopted in 2013. Social Studies and Physical Education standards are also identified at all grade levels. The grade level standards provide the core curriculum for all students. The superintendent, principal and classroom teachers work together to select materials and methods to support instruction of these standards.

### **GRADING POLICY**

The grading policy is determined by individual teachers, grade level teams, and departments. Teachers will notify parents of their grading policies at the beginning of the school year.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Washington Unified students must complete 280 credits to receive a high school diploma. The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth, homeless students, and children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.1 and 49701. The minimum requirements in each subject are as follows:

SUBJECT	CREDITS
English	40
Math	30

Science	30
Physical Education	30
World History	10
American History	10
American Government/Economics	10
Panther Pathways	10
Computer Literacy	10
Fine Arts/Foreign Language	10
Career electives (includes Senior Projects)	90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280</b>

## HEAD LICE

Head lice are a common problem among all school children. Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice.

Head lice can be a nuisance, but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.

## HOMELESS STUDENTS

Washington Unified School District will adhere to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. Children identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act have educational rights. Washington Unified is committed to ensuring that children and youth in homeless situations may enroll in, attend, and succeed in school and preschool programs.

## HOMEWORK GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

1. Provide A Study Area  
Good lighting, proper seating at a table or desk, adequate materials, and sufficient space are essential. Distractions such as radio, TV and phone calls should be eliminated.
2. Provide A Specific Time Period  
Schedule a time daily. Establish rules against using the phone, watching TV and listening to music until homework is completed neatly and accurately.
3. Think Positively  
Encourage your child to understand the value of homework. Any accomplishment requires work, practice and consistency. Give as much assistance as possible but remember that homework is your child's responsibility.
4. Supervise Homework  
Parents are encouraged to check their child's daily planner. Make sure your child has enough time, understands the directions, and works carefully.
5. Help The Homework Habit  
If your child does not bring work home or is not writing daily assignments in his/her daily planner, please contact the teacher. This will help you to determine whether he/she is completing assignments in school, forgetting it, or failing to bring it home. Always contact the teacher when in doubt, or if you have questions.

## HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an integral part of the educational process. It is an extension of the classroom and reinforces what has been taught. It allows students to develop self-discipline and self-confidence.

Homework encourages students to work independently, use time wisely and develop a sense of responsibility. It fosters good study habits that will be useful throughout the student's school career and provides communication between home and school. Homework also gives parents an opportunity to see what their child is doing in school.

Students will be assigned a reasonable amount of homework to allow for independent practice of learned concepts. Parents having a concern about homework are encouraged to contact the teacher who assigned the work.

## HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Washington Unified School District contracts with Southwest Transportation (SWTA) to provide transportation for students.

Riding a school bus is a privilege and not a right and the driver of the bus has absolute authority while a student is on the bus. He/she may remove from the bus any student who persists in disobeying regulations.

Bus drivers will issue citations to those students who do not follow transportation rules. A school administrator will be notified of all bus referrals and students may lose bus privileges temporarily or permanently if their behavior violates bus rules or interferes with bus safety.

Students who fail to follow bus rules, procedures, and/or the directions of the bus driver may be removed from the bus and will need alternative transportation to and from school. During the period of suspension, a student will not be permitted to ride the bus for any school event or trip.

The school office must receive a note signed by a student's parent or legal guardian or by a phone call from a student's parent or legal guardian if a student needs to ride another bus or needs to get off the bus at a stop other than his/her designated place. For the safety of your child, and in order to process requests, this note, or call must be received by the office before 1:00 PM and a bus pass issued to the driver before the end of the school day.

All students who ride the bus, for any reason, are subject to the following school transportation rules and regulations.

1. Cooperate with the driver. Follow directions the first time given.
2. Arrive at the bus stop on time.
3. Board and leave the bus in an orderly manner.
4. Be seated promptly.
5. Always sit facing the front.
6. Keep your hands to yourself.
7. Keep hands, arms, and head inside the bus always.
8. Animals are not permitted on the bus.
9. Large items that cannot be stored properly are not permitted on the bus.
10. Keep aisles and emergency exits clear.
11. Keep the bus clean.
12. Students must always wear shoes and shirts. No glass containers or aerosol cans are permitted on the bus.
13. Do not use inappropriate or obscene language.
14. Students will be responsible for their own behavior.
15. Do not deface or destroy bus equipment.
16. Avoid loud talking.
17. Students crossing the street to reach home will be escorted by the driver.
18. No fighting on the bus.

\*Adult chaperones and bus riders are subject to all safety and bus rules.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

The California Health and Safety Code section 120325 requires that every child entering a California school be immunized against specific diseases. Please see the section "Admissions to School."

Parents/Guardian must present an Immunization Record. **A student will not be permitted to attend school on the 1st day if they have not met all immunization requirements for school entry.**



**Students who fail to complete the series of required immunizations within the specified time will be denied enrollment until the series has been completed.** Migrant, Foster, Group Home, and Homeless youth must be admitted with or without a fully documented immunization record.

In the event that the school district should participate in an immunization program for the purpose of prevention and control of communicable diseases, your child will not participate unless you have provided specific written consent. (E.C.49403)

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

If you know that your child will be out of school for more than five (5) days for a reason other than those officially excused by the state, please contact the school at least one week in advance. (Independent study is not appropriate for absences of fewer than 5 days). You may request that your child be placed on Independent Study for the length of time he/she will be gone. You will be asked to come to the school office to sign an Independent Study form and obtain the work your child is to complete while away from school. All assignments must be completed and submitted upon return to school to be credited for Independent Study.

Students who will be gone from school for more than 10 days will be dropped from enrollment and re-enrolled when they return.

## **INTERNET ACCESS**

The school provides students access to the internet and online services. Proper use of this access is taught and required of all students and staff members. The district's internet use requirements are outlined to parents on the registration form at the beginning of the school year or upon a student's enrollment in the district.

**A student who fails to use computers and/or the internet properly may lose his/her access to school computers and may be subject to disciplinary action.**

In addition, pursuant to State of California law, any unauthorized Internet access, attempted access, or use of any state computing and/or network system is a violation of Section 502 of the California Penal Code and/or other applicable federal laws and is subject to criminal prosecution.

## **INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Students who have been approved to attend Washington Unified School District on an Interdistrict Attendance Permit must remain in good standing with academic effort, behavior, and attendance. Approval may be revoked, and the student may need to return to his/her district of residence. Also see Attendance. If a student's parent works for Washington Unified School District, they meet the attendance residency requirements and do not need an interdistrict transfer. Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the parent or guardian for a student who attends Washington Unified School through and Inter-District transfer.

## **INVOLUNTARY TRANSFER**

A decision to transfer a student involuntarily into Continuation Education classes shall be based on a finding that the student meets either of the following conditions: (Education Code 48432.5)

1. The student committed an act enumerated in Education Code 48900.
2. The student has been habitually truant or irregular in attendance from instruction he/she is lawfully required to attend.

Involuntary transfer to a continuation school shall be made only when other means fail to bring about student improvement. However, a student may be involuntarily transferred the first time he/she commits an act enumerated in Education Code 48900 if the principal determines that the student's presence causes a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48432.5)

Prior to an involuntary transfer, the student and parent/guardian shall be given written notice that they may request a meeting with the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48432.5) (cf.- Parental Notifications)

At the meeting, the student or parent/guardian shall be informed of the specific facts and reasons for the proposed transfer. The student or parent/guardian shall have the opportunity to inspect all documents

relied upon, question any evidence and witnesses presented, and present evidence on the student's behalf. The student may designate one or more representatives and witnesses to be present with him/her at the meeting. (Education Code 48432.5)

A written decision to transfer, stating the facts and reasons for the decision, shall be sent to the student and parent/guardian. It shall indicate whether the decision is subject to periodic review and the procedure for such review. (Education Code 48432.5)

The persons making the final decision for involuntary transfer shall not be members of the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled at the time. (Education Code 48432.5)

No involuntary transfer to a continuation school shall extend beyond the end of the semester following the semester when the acts leading to the involuntary transfer occurred. (Education Code 48432.5)

## **LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS**

When a language other than English is noted on a child's Home Language Survey upon initial enrollment in U.S. schools, state and federal laws require the school district assess the student to determine English language proficiency. For students enrolling in WUSD, this means students whose language proficiency is to be determined will take the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). The Initial ELPAC identifies students as an English Learner (EL) student or as initial fluent English proficient (IFEP), after which the district informs the parent/guardian(s) of the language acquisition program options available, as well as the criteria for a student to exit the EL status (20 United States Code [U.S.C.] Section 6312[e][3][A][i],[vi]).

Washington Unified School District strives to provide program options for English learners that are responsive to the strengths, needs, and identities of our students. This includes supporting the socio-emotional health, well-being, and cross-cultural understanding of our multilingual families. We are proud to offer safe and affirming school climates that value and build upon the cultural and linguistic assets that our students bring to our classrooms as outlined in the CA EL Roadmap.

### **PARENT CHOICE**

Parent/guardian(s) may choose one that best suits the child (California Education Code [EC] Section 310). Language acquisition programs are educational programs designed to ensure English acquisition occurs as rapidly and effectively as possible, and provides instruction to English learners based on the state-adopted academic content standards, including English language development (ELD) standards (20 U.S.C. Section 6312[e][3][A][iii],[v]); EC Section 306[c]). Districts are required to offer, at a minimum, a Structured English Immersion (SEI) program option (EC Section 305[a][2]).

The language acquisition program provided in the Washington Unified School District is **Structured English Immersion (SEI) Program**.

### **STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION (SEI)**

We are required to offer, at a minimum, a Structured English Immersion (SEI) program option (EC Section 305[a][2]).

#### Structured English Immersion (SEI):

A language acquisition program for English learners in which nearly all classroom instruction is provided in English, but with curriculum and a presentation designed for pupils who are learning English. Students are offered both Designated and Integrated ELD which gives them access to grade level academic content standards by authorized teachers using district-adopted and supplementary materials. Students will receive Designated ELD instruction until they have met reclassification criteria.

Designated ELD must be on the master schedule, given priority & protected from interruptions. At WUSD, in grades TK-12, students are provided with a minimum of 150 minutes per week of Designated ELD instruction. Sites should provide targeted literacy support & scaffolding whenever students are grouped by proficiency levels based on assessment data. Primary language support may be provided, especially for ELs at the emerging level.

All English learners shall be placed in a Structured English Immersion (SEI) program and receive

services and support until they met all reclassification criteria.

### **REQUESTING A LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM**

Schools in which the parents or legal guardians of 30 pupils or more per school or the parents or legal guardians of 20 pupils or more in any grade request a language acquisition program that is designed to provide language instruction shall be required to offer such a program to the extent possible (20 U.S.C. Section 6312[e][3][A][viii][III]); *EC* Section 310[a]).

The process to request the establishment of a language acquisition program are as follows:

- Contact your child's school principal to discuss
- Principal will notify the Director of Curriculum and Instruction
- Work with the district (Mr. Sherron) to research the need for a language acquisition program
- Attend and provide input regarding language acquisition programs at scheduled meetings
- Provide feedback as the program is developed and implemented

Although schools have an obligation to serve all EL students, parents or guardians of EL students have a right to decline or opt their children out of a school's EL program or out of particular EL services within an EL program. If parents or guardians opt their children out of a school's EL program or specific EL services, the children retain their status as EL students and will be assessed annually with the Summative ELPAC. The school remains obligated to take the affirmative steps required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the appropriate actions required by the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974 to provide EL students access to its educational programs (20 U.S.C. sections 1703[f], 6312[e][3][A][viii]).

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Articles of clothing are placed in a Lost and Found container at each site. Smaller articles such as wallets, jewelry, eyeglasses, keys, etc., are kept in the office. The finder may claim money after two weeks. Unclaimed articles are donated to the Fresno Rescue Mission, Goodwill, or Craycroft Children's Center at the end of school in June. Parents are encouraged to write children's names on lunch boxes, sweaters, jackets, backpacks, etc.

### **LUNCH & BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Washington Unified School District participates in the National School Lunch Program. See Free and Reduced-Priced Meals for more information.

If your child has any food allergies, please obtain a medical doctor's statement for your child to receive an alternative meal. This medical note must be updated each year.

Parents and Staff members may purchase a school breakfast and lunch at the following costs:

- Adult breakfast \$3.00
- Adult lunch \$4.00
- Adult milk \$.35

### **MANDATED REPORTERS**

All school personnel are required by law to report any suspected incidences of child abuse that may include physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or emotional maltreatment. Reports shall be made to Child Protective Services at 559-255-8320 or to Local Law Enforcement (Fresno PD 559-621- 7000; Fresno County Sheriff 559-600-3111).

### **MATHEMATICS NINTH GRADE PLACEMENT PROTOCOL (SENATE BILL 359):**

Mathematics placement of 9th graders in WUSD shall be based on objective measures. These measures may include:

- Assessments such as Illuminate Benchmark Exams (IBE) and SBAC Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB);
- Standardized tests, including from prior years.
- Student grades that reflect comprehension and mastery of the subject matter, from both semesters of the 7th and 8th grade year.
- Other objective indicators of student performance and proficiency in mathematics; and
- A placement checkpoint examination within the first month of the student's ninth grade year.

Placement decisions shall be communicated to parents/students prior to the start of the school year via a student's schedule.

## **RECOURSE PLAN**

Any parents/students who may be dissatisfied with a student's mathematics placement shall contact the student's 9th grade counselor to request a review of the placement protocol. The counselor will provide the objective measures used for course placement. If the parent/student is still dissatisfied with the placement of the student, the principal or designee shall make a final determination.

## **MEDICATION REGIMEN – EC 49480**

Parents are required by law to inform the school of any medication taken by their child during school hours. With written instructions from a physician, a child may be given medication at school by a designated school employee. (E.C 49423) Parents or legal guardians of students needing daily medication must inform the school of the medication, the current dosage, and the supervising physician. (E.C.49480) The medication must be delivered to school by the parents in the original pharmacy container. Only students who have a written doctor recommendation to carry an inhaler or other medication with them at school may do so. All other inhalers and medications are kept in the office and given to the student as recommended or needed.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIBED MEDICATION FOR STUDENTS – EC 49423 AND 49423.1**

Any student who is required to take, during the regular school day, medication prescribed by a physician or surgeon, may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel or may carry and self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine or inhaled asthma medication if the school district receives a written statement of instructions from the physician detailing the method, amount and time schedules by which such medication is to be taken.

1. Talk to your child's doctor about making a medicine schedule so that your child does not have to take medicine while at school if possible.
2. If your child is regularly taking medicine for an ongoing health problem, even if he or she only takes the medicine at home, give a written note to the school nurse or other designated school employee at the beginning of each school year. You must list the medicine being taken, the current amount taken, and the name of the doctor who prescribed it (EC 49480).
3. If your child must take medicine while at school, give the school a written note from you and a written note from your child's doctor or other health care provider, who is licensed to practice in California. Provide new, updated notes at the beginning of each school year and whenever there is any change in the medicine, instructions, or doctor (EC 49423).
4. As parent or guardian, you must supply the school with all the medicine your child must take during the school day. You or another adult must deliver the medicine to school, except medicine your child is authorized to carry and take by him or herself.
5. All controlled medicine, like Ritalin, must be counted and recorded on a medicine log when delivered to the school. You or another adult who delivered the medicine should verify the count by signing the log.
6. Each medicine your child must be given at school must be in a separate container labeled by a pharmacist licensed in the United States. The container must list your child's name, doctor's name, name of the medicine, and instructions for when to take the medicine and how much to take.
7. Pick up all discontinued, outdated, and/or unused medicine before the end of the school year.
8. Know and follow the medicine policy of your child's school.

## **MIGRANT PROGRAM**

Washington Unified School District participates in the national Migrant Program through Fresno County Office of Education. A child is identified as "migrant" if his/her parent or guardian is a migratory worker in the agricultural, dairy, lumber, or fishing industries and whose family has moved during the past three years. A "qualifying" move can range from moving across school district boundaries or from one state to

another for the purpose of finding temporary or seasonal employment. The eligibility period is three years from the date of the last move. Eligibility is established through an interview conducted by a Migrant Education recruiter who visits the home and employment locations where migrant workers are employed.

## **MUSIC PROGRAM**

Students may have an opportunity to participate in a choral or instrumental music program. The district has a limited number of instruments available, therefore, students must continually demonstrate a commitment and willingness to take their instrument home, practice, and attend music programs. Returning music students are given priority for instruments. However, if possible, parents are encouraged to rent or purchase instruments for their children. Students are responsible for lost or damaged musical instruments.

## **PARENTS' CLUB /PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

A Parent association or club provides leadership and support to our schools. They also work in unison in sponsoring fund raisers, contributing to and fulfilling state and federal requirements, as well as addressing students' needs. We encourage all parents to participate in and attend parent organization meetings and to watch the calendar for meeting times and dates.

## **PARENTS—HINTS THAT CAN HELP**

1. Help your child to understand that he/she is responsible for his/her own actions and behavior.
2. Expect your child to grow towards independence and offer challenging opportunities. He/she needs limits within which to function and direction as to how to respond.
3. Get both (or all) sides of the story before drawing a conclusion. In case of a misunderstanding, contact the school.
4. Remember that teachers have many children to care for and need all the data you have about your child if they are to be effective in providing the right kind of program. Such things as health problems (or other circumstances which may affect your child's education) should be shared with the school.
5. Remind yourself that teachers usually teach because they care about children, that their objectives and yours are usually the same and agreement on how to achieve the objectives requires good two-way communication.
6. Spend time with your child every night to check on his/her homework.
7. Have a designated place for completed homework such as a backpack, binder, or folder. Teach your child to place items where he/she will remember them daily. Remembering homework is one-way for children learn responsibility.

## **PARENT CHAPERONES**

For legal purposes, only those persons listed on a student's emergency information form may serve as a chaperone. Older or younger brothers, sisters, or other children are not permitted to accompany the school or go with chaperones on school field trips.

Chaperones are asked to act in an adult and professional manner while around children and are asked to dress appropriately for the nature of the field trip.

Washington Unified School District grounds, buildings, and buses are ALCOHOL, DRUG, AND TOBACCO FREE ZONES. This includes any school-sponsored activity at school or away.

Chaperones are not permitted to smoke or consume alcoholic beverages while on school grounds, on or near school buses, or in the presence of students or students assigned to them.

Entrance fees or admission costs for chaperones may be paid for or partially paid for by the school. However, chaperones will need to purchase their own lunch, snacks, or refreshments. A school lunch is available for \$4.00. Please notify the school before the trip to order lunch.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Board Policy

BP 6020

Instruction

The Governing Board recognizes that parents/guardians are their children's first and most influential teachers and that sustained parent/guardian involvement in the education of their children contributes greatly to student achievement and a positive school environment. The Superintendent or designee shall consult with parents/guardians and family members in the development of meaningful opportunities for them to be involved in district and school activities at all grade levels; advisory, decision-making, and advocacy roles; and activities to support learning at home.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

Parents/guardians shall be notified of their rights to be informed about and to participate in their children's education and of the opportunities available to them to do so.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

The district's local control and accountability plan shall include goals and strategies for parent/guardian involvement, including district efforts to seek parent/guardian input in district and school site decision making and to promote parent/guardian participation in programs for English learners, foster youth, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and students with disabilities. (Education Code 42238.02, 52060)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly evaluate and report to the Board on the effectiveness of the district's parent/guardian and family engagement efforts, including, but not limited to, input from parents/guardians, family members, and school staff on the adequacy of involvement opportunities and on barriers that may inhibit participation.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

Title I Schools

The Superintendent or designee shall involve parents/guardians and family members in establishing district expectations and objectives for meaningful parent/guardian and family engagement in schools supported by Title I funding, developing strategies that describe how the district will carry out each activity listed in 20 USC 6318, as contained in the accompanying administrative regulation, and implementing and evaluating such programs, activities, and procedures. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct outreach to all parents/guardians and family members. (Education Code 11503; 20 USC 6318) (cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

When the district's Title I, Part A allocation exceeds the amount specified in 20 USC 6318, the Board shall reserve at least one percent of the funding to implement parent/guardian and family engagement activities. The Superintendent or designee shall involve parents/guardians and family members of

participating students in decisions regarding how the district's Title I funds will be allotted for parent/guardian and family engagement activities and shall ensure that priority is given to schools in high poverty areas in accordance with law. (20 USC 6318, 6631)  
(cf. 3100 - Budget)

Expenditures of such funds shall be consistent with the activities specified in this policy and shall include at least one of the following: (20 USC 6318)

1. Support for schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for district and school staff regarding parent/guardian and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents/guardians and family members
2. Support for programs that reach parents/guardians and family members at home, in the community, and at school
3. Dissemination of information on best practices focused on parent/guardian and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents/guardians and family members
4. Collaboration with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement
5. Any other activities and strategies that the district determines are appropriate and consistent with this policy

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school receiving Title I funds develops a school-level parent/guardian and family engagement policy in accordance with 20 USC 6318.

Parent involvement is an important part of implementing categorical programs. Washington Unified School District conducts the following parent involvement activities for its categorical programs:

1. **School Site Council (SSC)** - All schools implementing a Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) are required to form a School Site Council. The SSC is composed of parents and school personnel. The SSC is responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating the SPSA programs and goals. Members serve for two years and are elected by their peers. Elections for new members are held annually at the beginning of the school year.
2. **English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)** - All schools enrolling 21 or more English Learners are required to form an ELAC. The ELAC is composed of parents and school personnel. The ELAC provides input and makes recommendations to the principal, staff, and SSC regarding services for English Learners. Members serve for two years. Officers are elected by their peers.
3. **District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)** - Each district with more than 50 pupils of limited English proficiency shall establish a district-wide advisory committee. The committee advises on educational programs and services for English Learner students. Parents or guardians, or both, of pupils of limited English proficiency who are not employed by the district constitute at least 51% of the committee and are elected by their site level ELAC to serve as district representatives. Officers of DELAC are elected by their peers and serve for two years.
4. **Migrant Parent Advisory Committee** - The Migrant Advisory Committee is composed of parents that qualify for the migrant program; however, migrant meetings may be attended by any parent. The Migrant Advisory Committee meets a minimum of 6 times per year in order to elect officers, provide input for the District Service Agreement, and the educational program for migrant students.
5. **District Advisory Committee** – (DAC) School districts receiving Economic Impact Aid (EIA)/State Compensatory Education (SCE) are required to establish a district advisory committee (DAC) and a school advisory committee (SAC) for the purpose of advising districts and schools regarding compensatory education programs. The DAC also serves as the LCAP

Committee. A school may designate a school site council established pursuant to California Education Code (EC) Section 52852 to function as the school advisory council.

## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Although a conference between a parent and teacher may be held at any time, formal parent-teacher conferences for TK-8th grade students are scheduled at the end of the first and third grading periods. Students will bring a conference note home approximately two weeks prior to the conference date. Please sign and return it as soon as possible to facilitate scheduling.

## **PARENT VISITATIONS**

Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit our school. Visits should be scheduled with the teacher in advance to ensure that your visit is as productive as possible. Please check in at the office before going to the classroom. Please note that the teacher will NOT be able to talk with you during the time of your visit, but will schedule a time to meet if you desire.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

Parents are welcome and encouraged to take an active role in the education of their children. In order to best assist the teacher and support student learning it is important that parent volunteers be able to come to school on a regular basis, not sporadically or without notice. If you are available to help in your child's classroom, please contact his/her teacher to set up a schedule.

## **PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports)**

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is a systemic approach to proactive, schoolwide behavior that applies evidence-based programs, practices, and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture. PBIS is in place at all WUSD sites and builds on existing strengths, complementing, and organizing current programming and strategies to support students.

## **PERSONAL SEARCHES**

A student's person and/or personal items (e.g., purse, book bags, etc.) may be searched when a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe the student is in possession of illegal, unauthorized, or stolen items in violation of school rules or local, state, or federal law.

## **PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION**

Washington Unified School District schools are treated monthly with pesticides to control dangerous and unhealthy pests and insects. This treatment is done after school, on weekends, or during vacation periods by a pest control agency. The name and active ingredient of the pesticides used are provided to parents and guardians at the beginning of the school year or upon entry to the school district.

Parents may register with the office if they wish to receive notification of individual pesticide applications (Ed. Code 17612)

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

All students must participate in physical education. Students are to always conduct themselves appropriately during PE class and behave in safe, supportive, and appropriate ways. Students are expected to wear appropriate PE clothing and footwear. Children unable to take part in physical education class should have a note from his/her parents. If your child must remain out of physical education for one week or more, a written statement from a doctor is required.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**



All students must have completed a health screening examination before entering first grade. This examination may be obtained from your family physician or through the services provided by the county health department or Migrant Health Services.

California law, *Education Code* Section 49452.8 now requires that your child have an oral health assessment (dental check-up) by May 31 in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is his or her first year in public school. The law specifies that the assessment must be done by a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional. Assessments that have occurred within 12 months before your child enters school also meet this requirement.

**Failure to obtain required examinations may result in your child being denied access or being removed from school for up to 5 days.**

Upon receipt of a written request, the parent may exempt a child from all physical examinations. However, the child may be sent home if there is good reason to believe that the child is suffering from a recognized infectious or contagious disease. (E.C. 49451)

## **PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

In order to ensure the highest rigor and relevance of the education received at Washington Unified School District, students who are involved in plagiarism and cheating or committing academic dishonesty will receive consequences appropriate for the infraction, which may be, but are not limited to, a failing grade (or zero points) on the assignment, classroom suspension, and/or possible removal from the course. Obvious or clear defiance in this area may also warrant school suspension.

## **PLANNER/HANDBOOK**

Students in grades 4-12 will receive and use a school planner:

- To provide a tool for student, teacher, parent communication through consistent planner use.
- To teach students necessary organizational skills.

Teachers require students to write in their planner daily and will check planners frequently enough to ensure that students use them correctly each day. The cost for replacement is \$3.00.

Failure to bring planners, materials, and textbooks to class could result in disciplinary action.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports are a means of home-school communication designed to inform parents of student progress. They are issued between each grading period and list student's current progress in each subject.

## **RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO MILITARY**

School districts are required to provide military recruiters with access to the names, addresses and phone numbers of high school students. Parents have a right to OPT-OUT from sending this information. Please indicate on your child's Annual Registration Form if you DO NOT want your child's information released to the military without prior written parental consent. Although we will accept a written statement about opting out at any time during the year, completing the Annual Registration Form and returning it the first 10 days of the school year will ensure that no information is sent this school year.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are legal documents that record student progress and assessment results. These grades are recorded in a student cumulative folder and become part of his/her permanent record.

## **RETENTION**

Research states that retaining students rarely results in positive academic outcomes and in certain instances, is associated with lower academic long-term growth (David, 2008; Hung and Yu, 2001; Roderick and Nagaoka, 2005). Therefore, it is the intent of the Washington Unified School District that all students are prepared to be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year. However, there may be specific circumstances where this is not the case. Students not meeting minimum standards for promotion as evidenced by assessment results, grades, and other indicators of academic achievement may be candidates for retention. If this is the case, parents will be notified as early as possible during the school year. Extended learning opportunities, such as the After School Program, reading intervention, summer school, etc. are available to assist students in mastering grade level standards and may be recommended for students who are at risk of retention. For a student to be retained at the end of the school year, there must be overwhelming evidence that retention is in the student's best interest based upon academic assessment results and teacher and parent feedback.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD (SARB) EC 48263**

The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) is a committee of Washington Unified School District personnel. The purpose of SARB is to work with schools and students who have problems with regular attendance or behavior. When serious problems with attendance or discipline have not been corrected on the school level, the child and parents or legal guardian are required to go before the SARB board. Usually, problems are resolved at this point. However, the SARB board can and does, on occasion, refer severe cases to Fresno County Probation and the District Attorney's Office.

Attendance problems may go before SARB for either excessive excused or unexcused absences as indicated below:

1. 10 excused absences are allowed in the school year.
2. After the 10th absence, the parents will meet with SARB and will be required to supply the school with a doctor's note or allow a home visit from a school official to verify all future illnesses. If a doctor's notes or (home visits) are not supplied, the child will be declared truant and SARB will turn the matter over to the Truancy Intervention Program.
3. After 3 unexcused absences the parents will receive a letter from the school stating the dates the child was absent without a valid excuse and warning the parents about this problem.
4. After 6 unexcused absences a second letter will go home to the parents warning the parents the child may be declared a habitual truant.
5. After 9 unexcused absences the parents will be notified that their child has been declared a habitual truant and legal proceedings may follow. Parents/guardians will be notified to appear before the SARB panel and give cause for the unexcused absences. At this time, SARB will make recommendations to support the students to improve their attendance rate. The SARB panel will continue to monitor the student's attendance.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

The following are suggested supplies for students:

- Binder – A notebook binder with dividers and rings to hold materials for all classes.
- Index Tabs for Your Notebook - Notebooks with tabs can be helpful for dividing subject areas.
- Notebook Paper - A supply of three-hole, standard rule paper.
- Writing Materials - Have at least two #2 lead pencils and a blue or black pen.
- Highlighter (no permanent markers)
- Ruler
- Colored pencils

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

A wide range of social emotional support is offered at each site. Psychologists, counselors, and therapists are available to provide services, including Individual Counseling, Group counseling, testing, and other services beyond the scope of the classroom teacher.

## SCHOOL RULES – EC 35291

The school will provide all parents and guardians with a copy of the school's basic rules for student behavior. Please read and discuss these rules with your child to ensure that they are familiar with expectations for positive school behavior.

## SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

The purpose of the School Site Council is to recommend and assist in the development of the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). The council has the ongoing responsibility to review, with the principal, teachers, school personnel, and students (where applicable), the implementation of the goals and programs and to periodically assess their effectiveness. The council reviews the SPSA annually and, if necessary, makes modifications in the plan to reflect changing improvement needs and priorities. Parents interested in serving on this council should contact the school.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT-EC 48980(g)

Washington Unified School District is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment. If any student believes that he/she is the victim of sexual harassment he/she should immediately report the incident to the principal. (E.C.212.6 [G]) The district will investigate all claims of sexual harassment and take appropriate disciplinary or other action when the evidence shows that harassment has occurred. Upon request, parents will be provided with a copy of the district sexual harassment policy.

## SOCIAL MEDIA ETHICS

It's important to be aware of what your kids are doing online, but prying too much can alienate them and damage the trust you've built together. The key is to stay involved in a way that makes your kids understand that you respect their privacy but want to make sure they're safe.

Here are some helpful hints to share with connected kids:

- **Be nice.** Mean behavior is just as unacceptable in the virtual world as it is in the real world. Make it clear that you expect your kids to treat others with respect and courtesy, and to never post hurtful or embarrassing messages about others. Ask them to always tell you about any harassing or bullying messages that others may post.
- **Think twice before hitting "enter".** Remind teens that what they post can be used against them. For example, letting the world know that you're off on vacation or posting your home address gives would-be robbers a chance to strike. Teens also should avoid posting specific locations of parties or events, as well as phone numbers.
- **Follow the "WWGS?" (What Would Grandma Say?) Rule.** Teach kids that "once it's out there, you can't get it back". They shouldn't share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admission officers, future bosses – and yes, grandma - to see.
- **Use privacy settings.** Privacy settings are important, and to highlight their importance, go through the settings together to make sure your kids understand each one. Also, explain that passwords are there to protect them against things like identity theft and should never be shared with anyone (even boyfriend, girlfriend, or best friend).
- **Don't "friend" strangers.** "If you don't know them, don't friend them". This is a plain, simple – and safe – rule of thumb.

## SPECIAL DELIVERIES, PRESENTS AND BALLOONS

Delivery of balloons, presents, flowers and other special items may be distracting to classroom activities, pose a safety hazard, and are not permitted on the school bus. Deliveries will be kept in the office and students will be notified to pick them up at the end of the school day.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Children who display signs of academic and/or behavior difficulties may be referred to the special education resource teacher. Federal law requires a free and appropriate education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment be offered to qualified students. No student will be discriminated against on the basis of handicap. Reasonable accommodation is available for handicapped students if necessary.

If the student meets specific criteria and qualifies for a special education program, every effort is made to assist him/ her in the appropriate placement. A special education resource teacher may work with the student in his/her classroom, on a pull-out basis, or in a special day class.

## **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SPECIALIST**

A speech and language specialist is available to work with eligible students on a regular basis. He/she works with children in need of specialized, remedial, and developmental instruction in various areas of speech and language. He/she also serves in an advisory capacity in language development.

## **SPELLING BEE**

A Spelling Bee will be held each year at the school and district level. A written spelling test will be given in grades 4 through 8 and the top spellers in each class will compete in an oral/written spelling bee at the site level. School Spelling Bee winners will advance to the district level and district winners will advance to the county spelling competition sponsored by the Fresno County Office of Education.

## **SPORTS**

All students who participate in sports are subject to athletic eligibility requirements. See Athletic Eligibility for information.

## **SPORTS EQUIPMENT LOAN**

Coaches frequently allow team members to use sports equipment (i.e., helmets, track cleats, uniforms). Students are responsible for the care of each item assigned to them. Students are also responsible to pay for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment.

## **STANDARDS FOR PROMOTION FROM GRADE 8**

In order for a student to be promoted from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, he/she is expected to successfully complete required coursework and maintain regular attendance.

(See \* criteria)

A student must also have demonstrated responsible behavior, citizenship, attendance, and have no outstanding debts to the school in order to participate in the promotion exercise and other 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion activities.

(See \*\* criteria)

### **ACADEMICS\***

Evaluation in this area is determined by a student's report card grades. A student must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average in the core academic subjects of Reading, Math, Social Science, Science, and Physical Education.

### **U.S. CONSTITUTION\***

Evaluation in this area is determined by a student's achievement on the district's U.S. Constitution test. A student must earn a passing grade of 70% to meet this requirement.

## ATTENDANCE\*

Evaluation in this area is determined by current attendance information. A student must be in good standing with the School Attendance Review Board as it relates to attendance.

## RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP\*\*

Evaluation in this area is determined by a student's discipline file. A student must be in good standing with the School Attendance Review Board as it relates to behavior.

## OUTSTANDING DEBTS\*\*

Evaluation in this area is determined by the school office information regarding a student's outstanding debts to the school for books, materials, equipment, instruments, fines or charges. Students may request permission to work off financial obligations.

**NOTE:** Students who fail to meet promotion requirements may petition the school administration if they can demonstrate a continual effort and progress toward promotion requirements. The decision of the administration is final.

## STATEWIDE TESTING NOTIFICATION

Every year, California students take several statewide tests. When combined with other measures such as grades, class work, and teacher observations, these tests give families and teachers a more complete picture of their child's learning. You can use the results to identify where your child is doing well and where they might need more support.

Your child may be taking one or more of the following California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), and Physical Fitness Test assessments. Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments. This exemption does not exist for the ELPAC or Physical Fitness Test.

### **CAASPP: Smarter Balanced Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Math**

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**Who takes these tests?** Students in grades 3–8 and grade 11.

**What is the test format?** The Smarter Balanced assessments are computer-based.

**Which standards are tested?** The California Common Core State Standards.

### **CAASPP: California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for ELA and Math**

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**Who takes these tests?** Students in grades 3–8 and grade 11 whose individualized education program (IEP) identifies the use of alternate assessments.

**What is the test format?** The CAAs for ELA and math are computer-based tests that are administered one-on-one by a test examiner who is familiar with the student.

**Which standards are tested?** The California Common Core State Standards through the Core Content Connectors.

### **CAASPP: California Science Test (CAST)**

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**Who takes the test?** Students take the CAST in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school, either in grade 10, 11, or 12.

**What is the test format?** The CAST is computer-based.

**Which standards are tested?** The California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).

### **CAASPP: California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science**

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**Who takes the test?** Students whose IEP identifies the use of an alternate assessment take the CAA for Science in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school, either in grade 10, 11, or 12.

**What is the test format?** The CAA for Science is a series of four performance tasks that can be administered throughout the year as the content is taught.

**Which standards are tested?** Alternate achievement standards derived from the CA NGSS.

### **CAASPP: California Spanish Assessment (CSA)**

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**Who takes the test?** The CSA is an optional test for students in grades 3–12 that tests their Spanish reading, listening, and writing mechanics.

**What is the test format?** The CSA is computer-based.

**Which standards are tested?** The California Common Core State Standards en Español.

### **ELPAC**

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**Who takes the test?** Students who have a home language survey that lists a language other than English will take the Initial test, which identifies students as an English learner student or as initially fluent in English. Students who are classified as English learner students will take the Summative ELPAC every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English.

**What is the test format?** Both the Initial and Summative ELPAC are computer-based.

**Which standards are tested?** The 2012 California English Language Development Standards.

### **Alternate ELPAC**

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**Who takes the test?** Students whose IEP identifies the use of an alternate assessment and who have a home language survey that lists a language other than English will take the Alternate Initial ELPAC, which identifies students as an English learner student or as initially fluent in English. Students who are classified as English learner students will take the Alternate Summative ELPAC every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English.

**What is the test format?** Both the Alternate Initial and Alternate Summative ELPAC are computer-based.

**Which standards are tested?** Alternate achievement standards derived from the 2012 California English Language Development Standards.

### **Physical Fitness Test**

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**Who takes the test?** Students in grades 5, 7, and 9 will take the FITNESSGRAM®, which is the test used in California.

**What is the test format?** The test consists of five performance components: aerobic capacity, abdominal strength, trunk strength, upper body strength, and flexibility.

**Which standards are tested?** The Healthy Fitness Zones, which are established through the FITNESSGRAM®.

## **STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD**

Local educational agencies are required to publicize the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) annually and to notify parents that a copy is available upon request. Parents may obtain a copy of each school's SARC in the school office. Each SARC is also available on the district website at [www.washingtonunified.org](http://www.washingtonunified.org).

## **STUDENT ATHLETES**

Students who participate in athletic programs are expected to follow district policies and procedures, as well as eligibility, attendance, and citizenship requirements. Each student is also required to submit a pre-participation screening clearance completed by his/her health provider.

## **STUDENT ILLNESS DURING SCHOOL**

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he/she will be sent to the office and every attempt will be made to contact parents or guardians. Students with a temperature over 99.9 ° will be sent home.

## **STUDENT INFORMATION**

At the beginning of the school year, parents will be asked to complete/update information about their child(ren). This information is vital to the safety of your child(ren) and to teachers and staff. Please be sure that all information is completed and updated in a timely manner.

**Students will be released ONLY to the parent(s), legal guardian,  
or persons listed on the student emergency contact information.  
All schools will comply with court orders as they pertain to custody and visitations.**

## **STUDENT INSURANCE**

A family's own insurance must act as the primary provider for all injuries. If your child is injured at school and that injury requires medical attention, please contact the school for insurance information. At the beginning of the school year parents will be given an opportunity to purchase an additional accident insurance policy. However, no student shall be compelled to accept such service without his/her consent, or without the consent of his/her parent or guardian. (E.C.49472)

## **STUDENT PERSONAL ITEMS**

Student's personal electronic devices, phones, iPads, headphones, sports equipment, etc. that are brought to school may easily be damaged, lost, or stolen. Neither the school nor the district is responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

## **STUDENT RECORDS (E.C.49063, 49069, 49070)**

The Washington Unified School District maintains cumulative records for each student as required by law, as well as any additional records that would be helpful in providing maximum educational opportunities for students.

The district will protect the privacy of such records. Parents/guardians have the right to:

1. inspect and review the student's educational record maintained by the school
2. request that a correct school record which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading

School officials with legitimate educational interests may access student records to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request from officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, the district shall disclose educational information.

## **STUDENT RIGHT TO REFRAIN FROM HARMFUL OR DESTRUCTIVE USE OF ANIMALS**

A student's moral objection to the dissection of animals or the viewing of the dissection on video during instruction or class assignment must be substantiated by a note from the student's parent or guardian. Each teacher whose instruction uses live or dead animals must notify students of their right to refrain from such activity. (E.C. 32255)

## **STUDENT STUDY TEAM (SST)**

The Student Study Team process is available to all parents, staff, and students. The SST process provides a system of intervention, support, and follow-up in addressing students who are struggling in their academic progress. The SST convenes periodically on campus at scheduled meeting times. Parents, teachers, a school administrator, and other school staff participate in the Student Study Team in order to determine a student's strengths, areas of need, and in establishing a plan of action of support for the student.

## **STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

- Walkers:** Students who walk to school should follow rules for pedestrians. Please encourage your child to walk with a friend, use the crosswalk, and walk on sidewalks around the building.
- Bicycles:** Students who ride bicycles should follow all rules of the road for bike riders including wearing a helmet. Once arriving at school, students should get off and walk bicycles on school sidewalks, and park and lock their bikes in the appropriate place.
- By car:** Students who are dropped off at school by parents should be let off at designated drop off areas and proceed to a supervised area. Students should NEVER be dropped off across the street and asked to cross.
- By bus:** Students who come to school by bus should exit the bus and go directly to breakfast or a supervised area. Parent permission is required for a student to get off the bus at another child's house or location other than his/her usual bus stop.

**Prior written or telephoned permission AND the permission of the other child's parent are required in order for your child to be dropped off at a friend's house.**

**Please notify the office of any change in your child's "to and from" school routine.**

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Student suicide rates are of concern to all members of the school community. One child, ages 12 and older, dies by suicide every five days in California. Local Districts were required by California law to provide suicide prevention education, according to age-appropriate and sensitive local policies, for grades 7 to 12. Legislators have determined that training in mental health and coordination around improved services is extended to our elementary students. A shared goal by all staff educators is to keep a safe place to learn, free from harm to any of our students.

## **TARDIES AND EARLY DEPARTURES**

Like absences, coming late to school is disruptive to your child's education. Additionally, other children in the classroom lose time because, when a child comes in late, the lesson in progress is interrupted while the late student settles in and gets caught up. Please have your child arrive at school on time. Persistent tardiness will be referred to the district SARB. In grades 9-12, students who are tardy to class are subject to disciplinary action or loss of privilege.

Excessive early departures from school can hinder your child's education. Doctor and dentist appointments should be scheduled after 3:00 PM or during vacations. Anytime a child checks out of school early, a parent or authorized adult must sign the child out of school. Authorized adults MUST be listed on the child's emergency information form.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Washington Unified School District (WUSD) provides each student access to computers, various programs, and the Internet for use in furthering their education. To ensure the safety of the student and continued quality of the systems, the following regulations have been created.

1. WUSD computers will be used solely for educational purposes.
2. WUSD computers will be used with respect, without theft and/or destruction of school property.
3. WUSD computers will not be used to copy any inappropriate and/or patented software.



4. No software program or video/audio files shall be downloaded without prior consent from a Technology Supervisor.
5. WUSD computers will not be used for the search, view and/or download of any inappropriate material such as, but not limited to, sexually graphic images, violence, racial/sexual prejudice, illicit drugs, plagiarism materials or any other illegal materials.
6. The use of electronic mail must be for educational purposes and be approved by an instructor or media center supervisor.
7. WUSD computers are not to be used to gain access to any other computer or network file not assigned to the specific user.
8. The programs installed in the WUSD computers are not to be deleted, altered, or bypassed in any way.
9. WUSD computers may not be used for chat rooms, instant messages, other recreational communication, or social networks.
10. WUSD computers will not be used to transmit any communication where the meaning of the transmission or distribution would violate any applicable law or regulation or be offensive to the recipient.
11. WUSD computers are equipped with an Internet filter. However, if inappropriate material is accessed, it is the user's responsibility to notify the teacher or supervisor immediately.
12. Information obtained from the Internet may be unreliable and users should verify all information with secondary sources when possible. WUSD is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained on the Internet.
13. WUSD administration has the authority to monitor the content of student network accounts and emails. WUSD uses software to monitor and log all network and e-mail usage.
14. No internet games are allowed on the WUSD computer system, unless approved by a technology supervisor.
15. Use of a WUSD internet account is a privilege, not a right.
16. Any attempt to violate the regulations may result in revocation of the user's internet privileges or account.

## **TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS**

Washington Unified School District provides students with textbooks, uniforms, computers, musical instruments, and school supplies. Students are expected to give these items proper use and care. Reasonable wear and tear is expected; however, unreasonable waste, damaged or lost items will result in the parent/student being financially responsible for replacement.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Home-to-school, field trip, and extracurricular transportation is provided by the Southwest Public School Transportation Agency. Please address any questions or concerns about bus transportation to (559) 644-1000.

All students who ride the bus, for any reason, are subject to school transportation rules and regulations. (See Home to School Transportation)

**Students who fail to follow bus rules, procedures, and/or the directions of the bus driver. may be removed from the bus and will need alternative transportation to and from school. During the period of suspension, a student will not be permitted.**

## **TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

Washington Unified works in collaboration with Fresno County Office of Education and Juvenile Probation in a county program called Truancy Intervention Program (TIP). The School Attendance Review Teams will be aggressive in making sure that students are in school on time, every day.

## **UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURE– 5 CCR 4622, EC 32289**

The Governing Board recognizes that the district has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The district shall investigate and seek to resolve any complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and/or alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in accordance with the uniform complaint procedures. The district shall use the uniform complaint procedures to resolve any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in district programs and activities based on actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or any other characteristic identified in Education Code 200 or 220, Penal Code 422.55, or Government Code 11135, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Uniform complaint procedures shall also be used to address any complaint alleging the district's failure to comply with the prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, alleging failure to comply with legal requirements under the Local Control Accountability Plan, deposits, or other charges for participation in educational activities, the requirements for the development and adoption of a school safety plan, and state and/or federal laws in adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical and technical education and training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs.

## **VANDALISM**

Parents are responsible for the full extent of all damage at school caused by their child. This includes the cost of labor, as well as materials. In the event such vandalism occurs, the Washington Unified School District will appraise the damage and the cost of repairs, and the bill will be sent to the parent(s) or legal guardians of the responsible child or children.

## **VISION SCREENING**

Initial vision screening will be conducted for students in grades 1, 3, 5, 8 and other students who have been referred. A nurse will provide screening to determine any vision difficulties. Students needing further evaluation will be referred to an eye care specialist.

## **WATER SYSTEM SAFETY**

Washington Unified School District public water systems receive monthly testing for water safety as required by the department of Public Health. Testing results are noted in the Consumer Confidence Report Certification that is available for viewing on the district website at [www.washingtonunified.org](http://www.washingtonunified.org).

## **WELLNESS POLICY**

The Washington Unified School District, in partnership with parents and the community, is committed to providing a healthy school environment. Good health fosters student performance, attendance, and education. By supporting healthy eating and physical activity, we will promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn. It has been researched and documented that obesity and other illnesses are directly linked to unhealthy eating habits and physical inactivity patterns that are often established in childhood. The Washington Unified School District can be a positive influence on students by offering the healthiest foods, beverages, and physical activity opportunities possible and by providing other health-supporting programs and opportunities.

1. All food items served or sold to students during the school day must meet the Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards.
2. Food/beverage items sold outside the school meal program during the school day must comply with the Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards.
3. Vending machine goods/beverages must meet all Food and Beverage Requirements and the Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards
4. All parties and celebrations are to take place during the last 45 minutes of the school day (grades K-8). Any food provided may not be prepared at any WUSD site.

The following events are exempt from the District Wellness Policy guidelines:

- Holiday parties
- Food Fairs at Washington Union High School twice a year
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade Christmas parties at the High School
- Grandparent's Day
- Doughnuts with Dad
- Muffins with Mom

The District Wellness Policy is posted on the district's website at [www.washingtonunified.org](http://www.washingtonunified.org).

**The people serving the food and beverages (as well as ice) must wash and sanitize their hands and then wear gloves.**

- The National School Lunch Program dictates that all students must be offered a regulation, reimbursable, and nutritionally balanced meal. Elementary school parties must be held after lunch and not instead of lunch. High school parties may not be held instead of lunch, unless the food being served meets the National School Lunch Program guidelines. A pizza party may not be held during lunch. Pizzas may only be cheese or pepperoni and it must be delivered by the cafeteria to ensure proper temperature.

## **WILLIAMS SITE VISITATION**

As the result of the Williams vs. California lawsuit, some program improvement schools may be required to receive a site inspection from the Fresno County Office of Education. A Williams review team will certify that the school provides students with equal access to instructional materials, is safe and decent, has acceptable and safe facilities, as well as qualified teachers. The review team's findings of any Washington Unified School District school receiving a visit are presented to the Washington Unified Board each year.





Download **the official Washington Unified School District app** today  
for access to your school's news, calendars, push notifications,  
and much more!





If you or someone you know  
may be struggling with suicidal thoughts,  
you can call  
**U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
**(800) 273- 8255**

Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-888-506-5991	Community Behavioral Health Center: 559-449-8000	Fresno Rescue Mission 559-268-0839
National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255	Central Star Youth Psychiatric Health Facility: 559-600-2382	Poverello House (559)498-6988
DBH Mental Health Access Line: (24/7) 1-800-654-3937	Fresno Police (559) 621-7000	Central California Legal Services 559-570-1200 or 1-800-464-3111
Urgent Care Wellness Center (Psychiatric Services) (559) 600-9171	Clovis Police (559) 324-2800	EOC Sanctuary Youth Services (Teen Shelter) 559-498-8543 or 1-800-820-4968
Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health (559) 600-4099	Fresno County Sheriff's Office 559-600-8400	Comprehensive Youth Services of Fresno 559-229-2000
Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health – Family Advocate: (559) 600-6734	Child Protective Services (24hrs) 559-600-8320	Holistic Cultural and Educational Wellness Center 559-255-8395
Exodus Crisis Stabilization Center (Adults): (559) 512-8335	Adult Protective Services (24hrs) 559- 600-3383	Blue Sky Wellness Center (daily drop-in center/ support groups) 559-230-2501
Exodus Crisis Stabilization Center (Child/Youth): (559) 512-8700	First Onset Team (First Psychosis – DBH) 559-600-4099	Fresno County Resources & Information: 2 1 1
Exodus Psychiatric Health Facility: (559) 453-5199	Marjoree Mason Center (24hrs) 559-233-4357	Centro La Familia 559-237-2961