

**WESTSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**STUDENT HANDBOOK**  
**2012-2013**

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Dear Parent:

This 2011-2012 student handbook has been prepared so that students and parents will have a source of information concerning the facilities, policies, and general regulations of Westside Public Schools.

The Westside Public School personnel recognize the need to be proactive in promoting universally acceptable values and attitudes within the student body in order to create a positive learning and teaching atmosphere for the academic and technological curriculum of our school. We believe that these values and attitudes will be of indispensable worth to our students in their life activities. We believe in the ABC philosophy as we work with our students. Our staff members will “ACCEPT” each student and work with his / her own educational and personal level. We will “BELIEVE” that each student will learn at his / her own pace, and that as educators, our job is to facilitate and encourage that learning. We will “CARE” for the child as well as the student. We will help each child find his / her own strengths and will encourage each child to strive to achieve his / her own potential.

Please take a few minutes to review this handbook with your child, then sign and return the “Receipt of Student Handbook” page at the end of the handbook as an acknowledgement of receiving the booklet. Please accept our best wishes for a successful school year.

Mr. Lucas Skaggs  
Superintendent

Mr. John Elms  
Principal

The Westside School District Board of Directors accepted this 2012-2013 handbook July 7, 2012.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Westside Elementary – “The Pathway to Our Future”

**WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CREED**

I am a sagacious Westside Elementary student.

I am capable and dependable.

I am full of possibilities and potential.

I have great expectations for myself.

I accept the challenge to become the best that I can be.

Yesterday’s failures are behind me.

Today’s successes are now before me.

I will make today the very best day of all.

For this day begins the rest of my life.

I accept the responsibility for my behavior and its results.

I do not have the right to interfere with the learning and well-being of others.

With my family and my teachers, I will determine what I will become,

for the education I received today will begin my pathway to my future.

**WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK COMMITTEE**

- John M. Elms, Principal
- Mary Ellen Robbins, Counselor
- Brandy Reese, Teacher
- Meredith Young, Teacher
- Denise East, School Secretary
- Jennifer Zollicoffer, Parent
- Michael Palmer, Student

**EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

No student in the Westside School District shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District.

**Vickie Pannell, Equity Coordinator**  
**Westside School District**  
**P.O. Box 189 Coal Hill, AR 72832**  
**(479) 497-1171**

#### 4.42 STUDENT HANDBOOK

It shall be the policy of the Westside school district that the most recently accepted version of the Student Handbook be incorporated by reference into the policies of this district. In the event that there is a conflict between the student handbook and a general board policy or policies, and the student handbook is more recently adopted than the general board policy, the student handbook will be considered binding and controlling on the matter. If the Student Handbook is accepted but not adopted then the general Board policies will prevail.

Principals shall review all changes to student policies and ensure that such changes are provided to students and parents, either in the Handbook or, if changes are made after the handbook is printed, as an addendum to the handbook.

Principals and counselors shall also review Policies 4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASSES OF 2010-11, 2011-12, AND 2012-13 and 4.45.1—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2013-14 AND ALL CLASSES THEREAFTER and the current ADE Standards for Accreditation Rules to ensure that there is no conflict. If a conflict exists, the Principal and/or Counselor shall notify the Superintendent and Curriculum Coordinator immediately, so that corrections may be made and notice of the requirements given to students **and parents**.

#### 4.1 RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Definitions:

“Reside” means to be physically present and to maintain a permanent place of abode for an average of no fewer than four (4) calendar days and nights per week for a primary purpose other than school attendance.

“Resident” means a student whose parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside in the school district.

“Residential address” means the physical location where the student’s parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside. A student may use the residential address of a legal guardian, person having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or person standing in loco parentis only if the student resides at the same residential address and if the guardianship or other legal authority is not granted solely for educational needs or school attendance purposes.

The schools of the District shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty one (21) years whose parents, legal guardians, or other persons having lawful control of the person under an order of a court reside within the District<sup>1</sup> and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the District for educational purposes.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may establish a residence separate and apart from his or her parents or guardians for school attendance purposes.

In order for a person under the age of eighteen (18) years to establish a residence for the purpose of attending the District’s schools separate and apart from his or her parents, guardians, or other persons having lawful control of him or her under an order of a court, the person must actually reside in the District for a primary purpose other than that of school attendance.<sup>2</sup> However, a student previously enrolled in the district who is placed under the legal

guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty may continue to attend district schools. A foster child who was previously enrolled in a District school and who has had a change in placement to a residence outside the District, may continue to remain enrolled in his/her current school unless the presiding court rules otherwise.<sup>3</sup>

Under instances prescribed in A.C.A. § 6-18-203, a child or ward of an employee of the district or of the education coop to which the district belongs may enroll in the district even though the employee and his/her child or ward reside outside the district.<sup>4</sup>

## 4.2 ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To enroll in a school in the District, the child must be a resident of the District, be homeless, a foster child be accepted as a transfer student or participate under a school choice option and submit the required paperwork as required by the choice option.

Students may enter kindergarten if they will attain the age of five (5) on or before August 1 of the year in which they are seeking initial enrollment. Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, who will become five (5) years old during the year in which he/she is enrolled in kindergarten, and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request to the District.

Any child who will be six (6) years of age on or before October 1 of the school year of enrollment and who has not completed a state-accredited kindergarten program shall be evaluated by the district and may be placed in the first grade if the results of the evaluation justify placement in the first grade and the child's parent or legal guardian agrees with placement in the first grade; otherwise the child shall be placed in kindergarten.

Any child may enter first grade in a District school if the child will attain the age of six (6) years during the school year in which the child is seeking enrollment and the child has successfully completed a kindergarten program in a public school in Arkansas.

Any child who has been enrolled in the first grade in a state-accredited or state-approved elementary school in another state for a period of at least sixty (60) days, who will become age six (6) years during the school year in which he/she is enrolled in grade one (1), and who meets the basic residency requirements for school attendance may be enrolled in the first grade.

Students who move into the District from an accredited school shall be assigned to the same grade as they were attending in their previous school (mid-year transfers) or as they would have been assigned in their previous school. Home-schooled students shall be evaluated by the District to determine their appropriate grade placement.

The district shall make no attempt to ascertain the immigration status, legal or illegal, of any student or his/her parent or legal guardian presenting for enrollment.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to the child's admission to a District school:<sup>2</sup>

0. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall furnish the child's social security number, or if they request, the district will assign the child a nine (9) digit number designated by the department of education.
1. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall provide the district with one (1) of the following documents indicating the child's age:
  0. A birth certificate;
  1. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth;

2. An attested baptismal certificate;
  3. A passport;
  4. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent or guardian;
  5. United States military identification; or
  6. Previous school records.
0. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall indicate on school registration forms whether the child has been expelled from school in any other school district or is a party to an expulsion proceeding.<sup>3</sup>
  1. The child shall be age appropriately immunized from poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, red (rubeola) measles, rubella, and other diseases as designated by the State Board of Health, or have an exemption issued by the Arkansas Department of Health. Proof of immunization shall be by a certificate of a licensed physician or a public health department acknowledging the immunization. Exemptions are also possible on an annual basis for religious reasons from the Arkansas Department of Health.<sup>4</sup> To continue such exemptions, they must be renewed at the beginning of each school year. A child enrolling in a district school and living in the household of a person on active military duty has 30 days to receive his/her initial required immunizations and 12 months to be up to date on the required immunizations for the student's age.

A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health. The student may not return to the school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

#### **4.3 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Every parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides within the District shall enroll and send the child to a District school with the following exceptions.

1. The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
2. The child is being home-schooled and the conditions of policy (HOME SCHOOLING) have been met.
3. The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office.
4. The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
5. The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
6. The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. 6-18-201(b).

#### **4.4 STUDENT TRANSFERS**

The Westside School District shall review and accept or reject requests for transfers, both into and out of the district, on a case by case basis at regularly scheduled board meetings.

The District may reject a nonresident's application for admission if its acceptance would necessitate the addition of staff or classrooms, exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building, or cause the District to provide educational services not currently provided in the affected school.<sup>2</sup> The District shall reject applications that would cause it to be out of compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding desegregation.



Any student transferring from a school accredited by the Department of Education to a school in this district shall be placed into the same grade the student would have been in had the student remained at the former school.

Any student transferring from home school or a school that is not accredited by the Department of Education to a District school shall be evaluated by District staff to determine the student's appropriate grade placement.

The Board of Education reserves the right, after a hearing before the Board, not to allow any person who has been expelled from another district to enroll as a student until the time of the person's expulsion has expired.

Except as otherwise required or permitted by law, the responsibility for transportation of any nonresident student admitted to a school in this District shall be borne by the student or the student's parents. The District and the resident district may enter into a written agreement with the student or student's parents to provide transportation to or from the District, or both.

## **4.5 SCHOOL CHOICE**

### **Standard School Choice**

The superintendent will consider all applications for School Choice postmarked not later than the July 1 preceding the fall semester the applicant would begin school in the District. The superintendent shall notify the parent or guardian and the student's resident district, in writing, of the decision to accept or reject the application within 30 days of its receipt of the application.

The District shall advertise in appropriate print and broadcast media to inform students and parents in adjoining districts of the range of possible openings available under the School Choice program. The public pronouncements shall state the application deadline and the requirements and procedure for participation in the program. Such pronouncements shall be made in the spring, but in no case later than June first.<sup>2</sup>

When considering applications, priority will be given to applications from siblings or stepsiblings residing in the same residence or household of students already attending the District through school choice.

The District may reject a nonresident's application for admission if its acceptance would necessitate the addition of staff or classrooms, exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building, or cause the District to provide educational services not currently provided in the affected school.<sup>3</sup> The District shall reject applications that would cause it to be out of compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding desegregation. Letters of rejection shall state the reason(s) for the rejection.<sup>4</sup>

The Board of Directors reserves the right, after a hearing before the board, not to allow any person who is currently under expulsion from another district to enroll in a District school.<sup>5</sup>

Students admitted under this policy shall be entitled to continued enrollment until they graduate or are no longer eligible for enrollment in the District's schools.<sup>6</sup> Any student admitted to this district under the provisions of this policy who chooses to return to his/her resident district during the school year voids the transfer and must reapply for a school choice admission if desiring to return to this district in the future.

### **Opportunity School Choice**

Unless there is a lack of capacity at the District's school or the transfer conflicts with the provisions of a federal desegregation order applicable to the District, a student who is eligible for transfer from a school identified as a category level 1 school under A.C.A. § 6-15-2103(c)(1) may enroll in the District's school closest to the student's legal residence that has a performance category level 3 or higher as defined by A.C.A. § 6-15-2103(a) provided the

student's parent or guardian, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), has successfully completed the necessary application process by July 30 preceding the year of desired enrollment.

If the District rejects the application, the District shall state in the notification letter the specific reasons for the rejection.<sup>7</sup>

For the purposes of this section of the policy, a "lack of capacity" is defined as when the receiving school has reached the maximum student-to-teacher ratio allowed under federal, or state law, the Rules for the Standards of Accreditation, or other applicable rules. There is a lack of capacity if, as of the date of the application for opportunity school choice, ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the seats at the grade level at the nonresident school are filled.

A student's enrollment under the opportunity school choice provision is irrevocable for the duration of the school year and is renewable until the student completes high school or is beyond the legal age of enrollment. The District may provide transportation to and from the transferring district.<sup>8</sup>

If a District school has been identified as a category 1 school under A.C.A. § 6-15-2103(c)(1), the District shall request public service announcements to be made over the broadcast media and in the print media at such times and in such a manner as to inform parents or guardians of students in adjoining districts of the availability of the program, the application deadline, and the requirements and procedure for nonresident students to participate in the program.

#### **4.6 HOME SCHOOLING**

Parents or legal guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children must give written notice to the Superintendent of their intent to do so and sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their children during the time the parents choose to home school. Notice shall be given:

1. At the beginning of each school year, but no later than August 15;
2. By December 15 for parents who decide to start home schooling at the beginning of the spring semester; or
3. Fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing the child (provided the student is not currently under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy, including, but not limited to, excessive absences) and at the beginning of each school year thereafter.

The parents or legal guardians shall deliver written notice in person to the Superintendent the first time such notice is given and the notice must include:

1. The name, date of birth, grade level, and the name and address of the school last attended, if any;
2. The location of the home school;
3. The basic core curriculum to be offered;
4. The proposed schedule of instruction; and
5. The qualifications of the parent-teacher.

To aid the District in providing a free and appropriate public education to students in need of special education services, the parents or legal guardians home-schooling their children shall provide information which might indicate the need for special education services.

### **-STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN**

The District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to foster children that are afforded other children and youth. The District shall work with the Department of Human Services (“DHS”), the ADE, and individuals involved with each foster child to ensure that he/she is able to maintain his/her continuity of educational services to the fullest extent that is practical and reasonable.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational liaison for foster children and youth whose responsibilities shall include ensuring the timely school enrollment of each foster child and assisting foster children who transfer between schools by expediting the transfer of relevant educational records.<sup>1</sup>

The District, working with other individuals and agencies shall, unless the presiding court rules otherwise, ensure that the foster child remains in his/her current school, even if a change in the foster child’s placement results in a residency that is outside the district. In such a situation, the District will work to arrange for transportation to and from school for the foster child to the extent it is reasonable and practical.<sup>2</sup>

Upon notification to the District’s foster care liaison by a foster child’s caseworker that a foster child’s school enrollment is being changed to one of the District’s schools, the school receiving the child must immediately enroll him/her. Immediate enrollment is required even if a child lacks the required clothing, academic or medical records, or proof of residency.<sup>3</sup>

A foster child’s grades shall not be lowered due to absence from school that is caused by a change in the child’s school enrollment, the child’s attendance at dependency-neglect court proceedings, or other court-ordered counseling or treatment.

Any course work completed by the foster child prior to a school enrollment change shall be accepted as academic credit so long as the child has satisfactorily completed the appropriate academic placement assessment.<sup>4</sup>

If a foster child was enrolled in a District school immediately prior to completing his/her graduation requirements while detained in a juvenile detention facility or while committed to the Division of Youth Services of DHS, the District shall issue the child a diploma.

### **4.40 HOMELESS STUDENTS**

The Westside School District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to homeless children as are afforded to non-homeless children. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational liaison for homeless children and youth whose responsibilities shall include coordinating with the state educational liaison for homeless children and youth to ensure that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and such other duties as are prescribed by law and this policy.

Notwithstanding Policy 4.1, homeless students living in the district are entitled to enroll in the district’s school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend. If there is a question concerning the enrollment of a homeless child due to a conflict with Policy 4.1 or 4.2, the child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute. It is the responsibility of the District’s local educational liaison for homeless children and youth to carry out the dispute resolution process.

To the extent feasible, the District shall do one of the following according to what is in the best interests of a homeless child. (For the purposes of this policy “school of origin” means the school the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled.)

1. **continue educating the child who become homeless between academic years or during an academic year in their school of origin for the duration of their homelessness;**
2. **continue educating the child in his/her school of origin who become permanently housed during an academic year for the remainder of the academic year; or**

### **3. enroll the homeless child in the school appropriate for the attendance zone where the child lives.**

If the District elects to enroll a homeless child in a school other than their school of origin and such action is against the wishes of the child's parent or guardian, the District shall provide the parent or guardian with a written explanation of their reason for so doing which shall include a statement of the parent/guardian's right to appeal.

In any instance where the child is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, the District's local educational liaison for homeless children and youth shall assist the child in determining his/her place of enrollment. The Liaison shall provide the child with a notice of his/her right to appeal the enrollment decision.

The District shall be responsible for providing transportation for a homeless child, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Liaison), to and from the child's school of origin.

For the purposes of this policy, students shall be considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence and

(a) are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

(b) have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

(c) are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and includes

(d) are migratory children who are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c).

#### **4.7 ABSENCES**

If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students' regular attendance at school is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement. In recognition of the need for students to regularly attend school, the district's policy governing student absences is as follows.

Students shall not be absent, as defined in this policy more than 10 days in a semester. When a student has 5 absences, his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be notified that the student has missed half the allowable days for the semester. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day.

Whenever a student exceeds 10 absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

Students with 11 absences in a course in a semester shall not receive credit for that course. If the student fails to receive credit for a sufficient number of courses and at the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons

having knowledge of the circumstances of the absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences, however, shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly's intention that students having excessive absences due to illness, accident, or other unavoidable reason be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Therefore, at any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of allowable absences (unless unable to do so due to unforeseen circumstances), the student, or his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may petition the school or district's administration for special arrangements to address the student's absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement which will include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement's requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee. Unless a student's excessive absence is due to an unforeseen circumstance, the District will not accept a doctor's note for a student's excessive absence.

Days missed due to in-school or out-of-school suspension shall not count toward the allowable number of days absent.

### **Additional Absences**

Additional absences that are not charged against the allowable number of absences are those where the student was on official school business or when the absence was due to one of the following reasons and the student brings a written statement upon his/her return to school from the parent, guardian, person in loco parentis, or appropriate government agency stating such reason:

1. To participate in an FFA, FHA, or 4-H sanctioned activity;
2. To participate in the election poll workers program for high school students;
3. To serve as a page for a member of the General Assembly;
4. To visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member of the military and been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting; and
5. For purposes pre-approved by the school administration such as visiting prospective colleges, to obey a subpoena, or to attend at an appointment with a government agency ;
6. Due to the student having been sent home from school due to illness.

The District shall notify the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. The Department of Finance and Administration is required to suspend the former student's operator's license unless he/she meets certain requirements specified in the code.

Applicants for an instruction permit or for a driver's license by persons less than eighteen (18) years old on October 1 of any year are required to provide proof of a high school diploma or enrollment and regular attendance in an adult education program or a public, private, or parochial school prior to receiving an instruction permit. To be issued a driver's license, a student enrolled in school shall present proof of a "C" average for the previous semester or similar equivalent grading period for which grades are reported as part of the student's permanent record.

#### **4.8 MAKE-UP WORK**

Students who miss school due to an absence shall be allowed to make up the work they missed during their absence under the following rules.<sup>1</sup>

1. Students are responsible for asking the teachers of the classes they missed what assignments they need to make up.<sup>2</sup>
2. Teachers are responsible for providing the missed assignments when asked by a returning student.<sup>2</sup>
3. Students are required to ask for their assignments on their first day back at school or their first class day after their return.<sup>2</sup>
4. Make-up tests and projects are to be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher, but must be aligned with the schedule of the missed work to be made up.
5. Students shall have one class day to make up their work for each class day they are absent.<sup>3</sup>
6. Make-up work which is not turned in within the make-up schedule for that assignment shall receive a zero.<sup>4</sup>
7. Students are responsible for turning in their make-up work without the teacher having to ask for it.<sup>2</sup>
8. Students who are absent on the day their make-up work is due must turn in their work the day they return to school whether or not the class for which the work is due meets the day of their return.
9. As required/permitted by the student's Individual Education Program or 504 Plan.

Work may not be made up for credit for absences in excess of the number of allowable absences in a semester unless the absences are part of a signed agreement as permitted by section 4.7.-ABSENCES<sup>5</sup>

#### **4.9 TARDIES**

Promptness is an important character trait that District staff is encouraged to model and help develop in our schools' students. At the same time, promptness is the responsibility of each student and his or her parent / guardian. Students who are late to class show a disregard for both the teacher and their classmates which compromises potential student achievement.

A student arriving after 9:00 a.m. will be counted absent for the morning session. A student checking out earlier than 2:30 p.m. will be counted absent for the afternoon session. A student arriving after the first bell but before 9:00 a.m. will be considered tardy. Early dismissal and / or tardies will exclude students from perfect attendance eligibility.

#### **GRADING SYSTEM**

Grades assigned to students for performance in a course shall reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed academic objectives of the course. Grades that reflect other educational objectives such as those contained in the learner outcomes and curriculum frameworks may also be given. By this system, individual scores are kept throughout each grading period. These scores are then totaled and averaged at the end of each grading period. Semester grades will reflect the average of the previous two nine week periods.

The end of the year will reflect the average of the two semesters. Since one of the factors that carry a percentage of a student's grade is based on daily assignment, Westside Elementary School recognizes that homework is a beneficial addition to the classroom teaching.

Class work, special assignments, homework, and tests will be used to determine academic grades. Homework portrays to the student that learning is more than just a classroom activity that expectations go beyond minimum effort and that independent learning is valued. **Under no circumstances will behavior factor into academic grades. Violation of discipline policies will not be used to influence grades assigned to students.**

#### **Grades First through Sixth**

**Grading Scale = 4.00**

**90-100 A = 4.00**

**80-89 B = 3.00**

**70-79 C = 2.00**

**60-69 D = 1.00**

**0 – 59 F = 0.00**

**I = Incomplete**

“I” means incomplete and may be given when the student is given an extension of time to complete course requirements. The “I” will be replaced at the time of the completion of the work by the appropriate grade. An “I” will become an “F” two weeks after the end of the grading period unless the student has received an extension of time from the administration. An (\*) after a grade means a student is graded for work done below grade level.

Students with all “A’s” or all “A’s” and “B’s” for a grading period are placed on the Honor Roll. Students with perfect attendance will receive recognition for their efforts.

#### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Report cards are provided to students / parents every nine weeks. At the approximate mid-point of each nine weeks, students and parents are given a progress report. One time each semester the school provides for parent / teacher conferences, a telephone conference, communication by signed note, or a home visit. If a student is to be retained at any grade level, notice of retention and reasons for the retention shall be communicated promptly either in person or by mail. The professional staff will implement this policy and maintain documentation of each parent or guardian’s participation in these required conferences.

Report cards will be issued every nine weeks. Parents are to sign and return the report card to the child’s teacher. Parent conferences will be held according to the school calendar at no less than one per semester. Parents should contact the school if additional conferences are needed.

#### **PROMOTION/RETENTION POLICY**

**A student must average a passing grade (60% or better) in each course of math, reading and literacy (language / reading) for the school year and both social studies and science (60% or better). The student cannot fail math, reading, or literacy for the school year and pass to the next grade. The student cannot fail BOTH social studies and science and pass to the next grade level.** Grades transferred from another accredited school will be averaged with Westside Elementary School grades. Students who attend summer school are not guaranteed to pass into the next grade level if they failed the previous school year. If deemed necessary by school personnel, the summer school attendee will be tested to ensure mastery of material before being placed in the next grade level.

**EXCESSIVE ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL MAY RESULT IN A STUDENT BEING RETAINED IN THE SAME GRADE FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.**

Westside Elementary School has adopted a uniform policy of promotion. No student should be given a social promotion until he or she has been in a grade at least two years (ACA 6-15-2005). If a promotion is given, this will be so stated on the report card, the teacher’s register, and the permanent record. A student shall not be given any grade on any of these records unless he or she

earned them, regardless of how long the student has been in a grade. Failure or promotion must be substantiated by the grades on the records and report card.

**In accordance with the Arkansas Department of Education guidelines, students who do not score at a proficient level on the ACTAAP (Benchmark Exams) will be placed in remediation classes. Parents will be notified via mail if their child is selected for remediation classes. Students who fail to participate in an Academic Improvement Plan (AIP) for remediation shall be retained until they pass the Benchmark Assessment for the current grade level and/or participate in an Academic Improvement Plan (AIP) for the grade level in which they were retained.**

### **CURRICULUM COURSES**

Westside Elementary School will adopt and implement School Board approved courses and textbooks. Elementary students are required to participate in the offered courses (exception being an IDEA student with an IEP stating otherwise). Math, literacy (language arts / reading), science, social studies, Physical Education, music, and art compose the courses offered by the School.

### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Teachers are to coordinate homework assignments with the other teachers the student shares. No more than one hour (that the **average** student can complete) of homework will be assigned. Note that some students work at a slower pace and others at a faster pace. It is recommended that parents monitor their child's progress. Homework is due the next scheduled class date or by the date assigned by the teacher. Homework not turned in on the due date will receive a zero grade (there are exceptions due to excused absences-see make up policy and/or for IDEA students if in the IEP).

### **GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

The G/T Program is designed to serve high potential – high performing students who demonstrate above average intellectual ability, high task commitment and above average creativity. A student may be referred for G/T by a parent, a teacher, or by him/herself. The selection process will consist of a committee of teachers, parents, and the G/T coordinator. A student may be withdrawn from the program by a parent or by the G/T coordinator.

### **ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL**

Westside Elementary School provides an alternative school for students in grades 1 through 6 who are considered at risk (ACA 6-18-508/509). Parents, teachers, administrators, or the students themselves may make referral to this program. Once the referral process is completed, the student must undergo an academic and social screening. The student, if placed in the alternative school, must stay a minimum of one semester and can earn their grades during that time. A student may be placed in the Alternative Learning School (ALE) program during the semester if necessitated by circumstances that can be regarded as beneficial to the student. Upon evaluation of academic progress, behavior, attendance, and other pertinent information, the student may be returned to the general school class. In extenuating circumstances the student may be exited before the end of the semester.

## **49. SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The district shall provide a free appropriate public education and necessary related services to all children with disabilities residing within the district, required under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and Arkansas Statutes.

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to the IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in state and federal statutes which govern special education. Implementation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with the IDEA satisfies the district's obligation to provide a free and appropriate education under Section 504.



The Board directs the superintendent to ensure procedures are in place for the implementation of special education services and that programs are developed to conform to the requirements of state and federal legislation. The superintendent is responsible for appointing a district coordinator for overseeing district fulfillment of its responsibilities regarding handicapped students.<sup>1</sup> Among the coordinator's responsibilities shall be ensuring district enforcement of the due process rights of handicapped students and their parents.

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education that special education students shall be required to accomplish the goals and objectives stated in their Individual Education Plans (IEP) for the current school year. Failure of the student to master the goals and objectives in his/her objectives will result in retention. The professional staff is directed to establish procedures for implementing this policy and to maintain records documenting its implementation.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Class parties will be limited and controlled to meet the guidelines set by the principal. State Department of Education rules and regulations must be followed regarding nutrition and snacks. The District Wellness and Nutrition Policy will be followed. . In accordance to these policies, food and/or beverages may not be brought into the school by parents/guardians outside of school identified non-nutritional days. Individual student birthday parties will be prohibited and are not considered school-identified non-nutritional days.

Field trips will be of an educational experience and should meet the guidelines set by the school administration. For attending a field trip, the student must have written permission from the parent/guardian and pay any debts owed to District. There will be a deadline with no exceptions for the return of the permission form. If a student does not have the permission form signed by the parent/guardian allowing the student to attend or have any necessary money turned in by the deadline, the student will not attend the field trip and will remain at school. Students are required to ride the bus to a fieldtrip unless special arrangements have been made with the administration. After the fieldtrip, parents may sign out students with the teacher, and the student may leave with the parent prior to returning to school.

Students may be excluded from fieldtrips if they have five or more office referrals, ISS three (3) times or more in a semester, out of school suspension during the semester, currently suspended from riding school buses/vehicles, for misbehavior that could endanger the student or others on the field trip, or place an unnecessary burden upon the teachers/staff in order to maintain discipline. Any student who initiates or engages in misbehavior or violates rules/policies at school sponsored events may be prohibited from attending future events for a length of time determined by the administration.

#### **4.10 CLOSED CAMPUS**

All schools in the District shall operate closed campuses. Students are required to stay on campus from their arrival until dismissal at the end of the regular school day unless given permission to leave the campus by a school official. Students must sign out in the office upon their departure. Student visitors to classes are not allowed.

Any person not currently enrolled in the Westside Elementary School nor employed by the school district must obtain permission from the administration before visiting any student or school employee on the campus during school hours. **All students must stay on campus after arrival until dismissed.**

Students may be given permission to leave the campus by a school official and must be signed out by a responsible adult in the office.

### **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/EQUALACCESS**

Noncurriculum-related secondary school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during noninstructional time shall not be denied equal access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must meet the following criteria.

1. The meeting is to be voluntary and student initiated;

2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
3. The meeting must occur during noninstructional time;
4. Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity;
5. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
6. Nonschool persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

All meetings held on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the principal. The school, its agents, and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

Fraternities, sororities, and secret societies are forbidden in the District's schools. Membership to student organizations shall not be by a vote of the organization's members, nor be restricted by the student's race, religion, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria. Hazing, as defined by law, is forbidden in connection with initiation into, or affiliation with, any student organization, extracurricular activity or sport program.

Non-curriculum-related secondary school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time shall not be denied equal access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must meet the following criteria. (A.C.A. Sections 6-21-204 & 6-18-201) 20 U.S.C. 4071

7. The meeting is to be voluntary and student initiated;
8. There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
9. The meeting must occur during non-instructional time;
10. Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
11. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
12. Nonschool persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

All meetings held on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the principal. The school, its agents, and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

Fraternities, sororities, and secret societies are forbidden in the District's schools. Membership to student organizations shall not be by a vote of the organization's members, nor be restricted by the student's race, religion, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria. Hazing, as defined by law, is forbidden in connection with initiation into, or affiliation with, any student organization.

#### **4.13 PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

Except when a court order regarding a student has been presented to the district to the contrary, all students' education records are available for inspection and copying by the parents of his/her student who is under the age of eighteen (18). At the age of eighteen (18), the right to inspect and copy a student's records transfers to the student. A student's parent or the student, if over the age of 18, requesting to review the student's education records will be allowed to do so within no more than forty five (45) days<sup>1</sup> of the request. The district forwards education records, including disciplinary records, to schools that have requested them and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

The district shall receive written permission before releasing education records to any agency or individual not authorized by law to receive and/or view the education records without prior parental permission. The District shall maintain a record of requests by such agencies or individuals for access to, and each disclosure of, personally identifiable information (hereinafter "PII") from the education records of each student. Disclosure of education records is authorized by law to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A personal record kept by a school staff member is **not** considered an education record if it meets the following tests.

- it is in the sole possession of the individual who made it;

- it is used only as a personal memory aid; and
- information contained in it has never been revealed or made available to any other person, except the maker's temporary substitute.

For the purposes of this policy a school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

For the purposes of this policy a school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility, contracted duty, or duty of elected office.

The District discloses PII from an education record to appropriate parties, including parents, in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. The superintendent or designee shall determine who will have access to and the responsibility for disclosing information in emergency situations.

When deciding whether to release PII in a health or safety emergency, the District may take into account the totality of the circumstances pertaining to a threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals. If the District determines that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, it may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

For purposes of this policy, the Westside School District does not distinguish between a custodial and noncustodial parent, or a non-parent such as a person acting in loco parentis or a foster parent with respect to gaining access to a student's records. Unless a court order restricting such access has been presented to the district to the contrary, the fact of a person's status as parent or guardian, alone, enables that parent or guardian to review and copy his child's records.

If there exists a court order which directs that a parent not have access to a student or his records, the parent, ~~or~~ guardian, person acting in loco parentis, or an agent of the Department of Human Services must present a file-marked copy of such order to the building principal and the superintendent. The school will make good-faith efforts to act in accordance with such court order, but the failure to do so does not impose legal liability upon the school. The actual responsibility for enforcement of such court orders rests with the parents or guardians, their attorneys and the court which issued the order.

A parent or guardian does not have the right to remove any material from a student's records, but such parent or guardian may challenge the accuracy of a record. The right to challenge the accuracy of a record does not include the right to dispute a grade, which must be done only through the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, the decision of whom is final. A challenge to the accuracy of material contained in a student's file must be initiated with the building principal, with an appeal available to the Superintendent or his designee. The challenge shall clearly identify the part of the student's record the parent wants changed and specify why he/she believes it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school determines not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the requesting parent or student of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amending the record. The parent or eligible student will be provided information regarding the hearing procedure when notified of the right to a hearing.<sup>3</sup>

Unless the parent or guardian of a student (or student, if above the age of eighteen [18]) objects, "directory information" about a student may be made available to the public, military recruiters, post-secondary educational

institutions, prospective employers of those students, as well as school publications such as annual yearbooks and graduation announcements.<sup>4</sup> "Directory information" includes, but is not limited to, a student's name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, dates of attendance,<sup>5</sup> his/her placement on the honor role (or the receipt of other types of honors), as well as his/her participation in school clubs and extracurricular activities, among others. If the student participates in inherently public activities (for example, basketball, football, or other interscholastic activities), the publication of such information will be beyond the control of the District. "Directory information" also includes a student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems and a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student's ID badge, provided the ID cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user,

A student's name and photograph will only be displayed on the district or school's web page(s) after receiving the written permission from the student's parent or student if over the age of 18.

The form for objecting to making directory information available is located in the back of the student handbook and must be completed and signed by the parent or age-eligible student and filed with the building principal's office no later than ten (10) school days after the beginning of each school year or the date the student is enrolled for school. Failure to file an objection by that time is considered a specific grant of permission. The district is required to continue to honor any signed-opt out form for any student no longer in attendance at the district.

The right to opt out of the disclosure of directory information under FERPA does not prevent the District from disclosing or requiring a student to disclose the student's name, identifier, or institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled.<sup>6</sup>

Parents and students over the age of 18 who believe the district has failed to comply with the requirements for the lawful release of student records may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education at  
Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

#### **4.14 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE**

##### **Student Publications**

All publications that are supported financially by the school or by use of school facilities, or are produced in conjunction with a class shall be considered school-sponsored publications. School publications do not provide a forum for public expression. Such publications, as well as the content of student expression in school-sponsored activities, shall be subject to the editorial control of the District's administration whose actions shall be reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns and adhere to the following limitations.

- Advertising may be accepted for publications that does not condone or promote products that are inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience or that endorses such things as tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.

- Publications may be regulated to prohibit writings which are, in the opinion of the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences.
- Publications may be regulated to refuse to publish material which might reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use, irresponsible sex, or conduct otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order, or to associate the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy.
- Prohibited publications include:
  - a. Those that are obscene as to minors;
  - b. Those that are libelous or slanderous, including material containing defamatory falsehoods about public figures or governmental officials, which are made with knowledge of their falsity or reckless disregard of the truth;
  - c. Those that constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy as defined by state law,
  - d. Publications that suggest or urge the commission of unlawful acts on the school premises;
  - e. Publications which suggest or urge the violation of lawful school regulations;
  - f. Hate literature that scurrilously attacks ethnic, religious, or racial groups.

**STUDENT PUBLICATIONS ON SCHOOL WEB PAGES**

Student publications that are displayed on school web pages shall follow the same guidelines as listed above plus they shall

Not contain any non-educational advertisements. Additionally, student web publications shall;

Adhere to the restrictions regarding use of Directory Information as prescribed in Policy 4.13 including not using a student’s photograph when associated with the student’s name unless written permission has been received from the student’s parent or student if over the age of 18.

State that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the School Board or the employees of the district.

**STUDENT DISTRIBUTION OF NON-SCHOOL LITERATURE, PUBLICATIONS, AND MATERIALS**

A student or group of students who distribute ten (10) or fewer copies of the same nonschool literature, publications, or materials (hereinafter “nonschool materials”), shall do so in a time, place, and manner that does not cause a substantial disruption of the orderly education environment. A student or group of students wishing to distribute more than ten (10) copies of nonschool materials shall have school authorities review their nonschool materials at least three (3) school days in advance of their desired time of dissemination. School authorities shall review the nonschool materials, prior to their distribution and will bar from distribution those nonschool materials that are obscene, libelous, pervasively indecent, or advertise unlawful products or services. Material may also be barred from distribution if there is evidence that reasonably supports a forecast that a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment will likely result from the distribution. Concerns related to any denial of distribution by the principal shall be heard by the superintendent, whose decision shall be final.

The school principal or designee shall establish reasonable regulations governing the time, place, and manner of student distribution of nonschool materials.

The regulations shall:

1. Be narrowly drawn to promote orderly administration of school activities by preventing disruption and may not be designed to stifle expression;
2. Be uniformly applied to all forms of nonschool materials;

3. Allow no interference with classes or school activities;
4. Specify times, places, and manner where distribution may and may not occur; and
5. Not inhibit a person's right to accept or reject any literature distributed in accordance with the regulations.
6. Students shall be responsible for the removal of excess literature that is left at the distribution point for more than 3 days.

The Superintendent, along with the student publications advisors, shall develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations shall include definitions of terms and timelines for the review of materials.

#### **4.15 CONTACT WITH STUDENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL**

##### **CONTACT BY PARENTS**

Parents wishing to speak to their children during the school day shall register first with the office.

##### **CONTACT BY NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS**

If there is any question concerning the legal custody of the student, the custodial parent shall present documentation to the principal or his/her designee establishing the parent's custody of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the custodial parent to make any court ordered "no contact" or other restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent known to the principal by presenting a copy of a file-marked court order. Without such a court order on file, the school will release the child to either of his/her parents. Non-custodial parents who file with the principal a date-stamped copy of current court orders granting visitation may eat lunch, volunteer in their child's classroom, or otherwise have contact with their child during school hours and the prior approval of the school's principal. Such contact is subject to the limitations outlined in Policy 4.16, Policy 6.5, and any other policies that may apply.

Unless prior arrangements have been made with the school's principal, Arkansas law provides that the transfer of a child between his/her custodial parent and non-custodial parent, when both parents are present, shall not take place on the school's property on normal school days during normal hours of school operation.

##### **CONTACT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES, OR BY COURT ORDER**

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a "72-hour hold" without first obtaining a court order. Other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen [18] years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order,

or person acting in loco parentis identified on student enrollment forms. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state's social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

### **STUDENT VISITORS**

Student visitors in the classroom can be disruptive to the educational process. Student visitation is strongly discouraged. Any visitation to the classroom shall be allowed only with the permission of the school principal. (SEE CLOSED CAMPUS)

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Ranges of consequences for rule infraction may include a minimum of student being given a verbal warning to a maximum consequence of expulsion. In addition, students will be advised of the appropriate / expected behavior and may also be recommended for counseling.

The Westside Board of Education has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the District's students and employees. To help maintain a safe environment conducive to high student achievement, the Board establishes policies necessary to regulate student behavior to promote an orderly school environment that is respectful of the rights of others and ensures the uniform enforcement of student discipline. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs: at any time on the school grounds; off school grounds at a school sponsored function, activity, or event; going to and from school or a school activity.

The District's administrators may also take disciplinary action against a student for off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus and whose presence on campus could cause a substantial disruption to school or endanger the welfare of other students or staff is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Such acts could include, but are not limited to a felony or an act that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult, an assault or battery, drug law violations, or sexual misconduct of a serious nature. Any disciplinary action pursued by the District shall be in accordance with the student's appropriate due process rights.

The District's personnel policy committee shall review the student discipline policies annually and may recommend changes in the policies to the Westside School Board. The Board shall approve any changes to student discipline policies.

The District's student discipline policies shall be distributed to each student during the first week of school each year and to new students upon their enrollment. Each student's parent or legal guardian shall sign and return to the school an acknowledgement form documenting that they have received the policies. Failure to return the acknowledgement form allows the school to implement / enforce the school guidelines and procedures stated in the student handbook. **The student will not be exempt from the rules.** The school reserves the right to punish behavior that is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools, even though such behavior is not specified in the written rules. In severe offenses, administrative discretion will prevail allowing the bypassing normal office procedures.

It is impossible to list a rule for every situation that may arise in school. Both students and parents may expect the principal and teachers to develop rules to meet the individual school and classroom rules needs. In addition, violations of discipline policy will be dealt with in

accordance to severity of action and / or the frequency of violations. If the severity of the infraction is of a more serious or repeating nature, the principal may impose a higher level of consequence.

It is required by law that the principal or the person in charge report to the police any incidents the person has personal knowledge of or has received information leading to a reasonable belief that where a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision. If the person making the report is not the Superintendent, that person shall also inform the Superintendent of the incident. Additionally, the principal shall inform any school employee or other person who initially reported the incident that a report has been made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board of Directors of any such report made to law enforcement.

Reasonable discipline may include the administration of corporal punishment. There will be no more than three (3) swats per infraction. No more than one paddling per day and a maximum of three per semester will occur (Either in school suspension or out of school suspension will be the next step.) Refusal to accept corporal punishment will result in either in-school suspension or at-home suspension according to the infraction for a minimum of two days.

**IF A PARENT/GUARDIAN OBJECTS TO THEIR CHILD RECEIVING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, THE PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST INFORM THE SCHOOL OF THEIR OBJECTION IN WRITING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR OR AT ENROLLMENT.**

Students are entitled to due process. Due process consists of (1) notice of charge; (2) opportunity for denial; (3) evidence against him/her (if denies); (4) opportunity to tell his/her side; (5) decision, and timely notice and an opportunity for a fair hearing.

Students will be provided with means of prevention of future offenses, appropriate behavior, and the process of intervention and conflict provisions. Parents/guardians will be notified in person, via phone, e-mail, postal mail, forms sent home, or by any other means available to the school using provided information when their child has received discipline consequences.

It is required by law that the principal or the person in charge report to the police any incidents where a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision.

Every teacher shall seek to exercise wholesome discipline in his or her school and endeavor by precept and otherwise to instill and cultivate in the pupils good morals and gentle manners. Classified school employees and volunteers shall have as a minimum the responsibility to appropriately assist and support teachers in these efforts. Every teacher is authorized to hold every pupil strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or on the playground of the school, or on any school bus going to or returning from school, or at any school-sponsored activities.

**4.18 PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are hereby prohibited by the Board. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following.

1. Disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating insubordination;
2. Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations, making noises or acting in any other manner so as to interfere with the class or activity;
3. Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student or school employee, battery or threatening to do so;
4. Possession of any weapon that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual;
5. Possession, use, or offering of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, or any illicit drugs or any such named as representing in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school;



6. Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property, theft or attempting to steal property belong to the school or other public property, stealing or attempting to steal from others (**student must pay for destroyed, lost or damaged items**);
7. Possession of any paging device, beeper, or similar electronic communication device on the school campus during normal school hours unless specifically exempted by the administration for health or other compelling reasons, or possession and/or use of a laser; (Ark. Code Ann. 6-18-502(b)(2)(D), ACA 5-60-122;
8. Possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug;
9. Sharing, diverting, transferring, applying to others (such as needles or lancets), or in any way misusing medication or any medical supplies in their possession;
10. Inappropriate public displays of affection (kissing, hugging, holding hands);
11. Cheating, copying, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own, not returning tests or papers requiring parent signature, falsifying documents;
12. Gambling, trading or swapping property without permission;
13. Inappropriate student dress or grooming (causes disruption/distraction);
14. Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language (oral or written) or gestures;
15. Inappropriate use of computers or software;
16. Excessive tardiness (see section under TARDIES), truancy;
17. Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or disability, bullying;
18. Hazing, or aiding in the hazing of another student;
19. Gangs or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing / sagging pants, "throwing signs" or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited;
20. Sexual harassment, lewd behavior;
21. Fighting, pretend fighting, unnecessary roughness, horseplay, scuffling, or martial arts;
22. Inappropriate playground behavior (throwing rocks, sticks, or other objects with intent to harm or intimidate), tackling, not using play equipment as designed, not following directions of duty personnel;
23. Loitering and /or playing in the gym lobby, sidelines, horseplay or scuffling at athletic events, leaving the gym or field before the end of the event without permission, not remaining seated during events, un-sportsmanship behavior. **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES / POLICES WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF PRIVILEGES OF ATTENDING EVENTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION;**
24. Bus misconduct, violation of bus safety rules (may result in suspension of bus privileges or other consequences as deemed by administration);
25. Possess, view, distribute or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in a hard copy form.

26. Food and/or drinks brought from home and/or provided by the school are not allowed outside of the cafeteria.

The Board directs each school in the District to develop implementation regulations for prohibited student conduct consistent with applicable Board policy, State and Federal laws, and judicial decisions.

#### **4.19 CONDUCT TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

Students are subject to the same rules of conduct while traveling to and from school as they are while on school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate student code of conduct rules. Discipline can include loss of bus privileges, suspension from school, in-school suspension, or corporal punishment.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on school buses or at bus stops. The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated. Disciplinary measures for problems related to bus behavior shall include corporal punishment, suspension or expulsion from school, or suspending or terminating the student's transportation privileges. Transporting students to and from school who have lost their transportation privileges shall become the responsibility of the student's parent or legal guardian.

#### **4.20 DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL**

No student shall by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function. Nor shall any student encourage any other student to engage in such activities.

Disorderly activities by any student or group of students that adversely affect the school's orderly educational environment shall not be tolerated at any time on school grounds. Teachers may remove from class and send to the principal or principal's designee office a student whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the students, the class, or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. Students who refuse to leave the classroom voluntarily will be escorted from the classroom by the school administration.

#### **4.21 STUDENT ASSAULT OR BATTERY**

A student shall not threaten, physically abuse, or attempt to physically abuse, or behave in such a way as to be perceived to threaten bodily harm to any other person (student, school employee, or school visitor). Any gestures, vulgar, abusive or insulting language, taunting, threatening, harassing, or intimidating remarks by a student toward another person that threatens their well-being is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual slurs.

Furthermore, it is unlawful, during regular school hours, and in a place where a public school employee is required to be in the course of his or her duties, for any person to address a public school employee using language which, in its common understanding, is calculated to: a) cause a breach of the peace; b) materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; c) arouse the person to whom it is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation. Students guilty of such an offense may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

#### **4.22 WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS**

No student shall possess a weapon, display what appears to be a weapon, or threaten to use a weapon while in school, on or about school property, before or after school, in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity, en route to or from school or any school sponsored activity, off the school grounds at any school bus stop, or at any school sponsored activity or event. Military personnel, such as ROTC cadets, acting in the course of their official duties are an exception.

A weapon is defined as any knife, gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, BB gun, rifle, pellet gun, ammunition, razor, ice pick, dirk, box cutter, numchucks, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive, or any other instrument or substance capable of causing bodily harm.

Possession means having a weapon, as defined in this policy, on the student's body or in an area under his/her control. If, prior to any questioning or search by any school personnel, a student discovers that he/she has accidentally brought a weapon to school including a weapon that is in a vehicle on school grounds, and the student informs the principal or a staff person immediately, the student will not be considered to be in possession of a weapon. The weapon shall be confiscated and held in the office until such time as the student's parent/legal guardian shall pick up the weapon from the school's office. Repeated offenses are unacceptable and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the student as otherwise provided for in this policy.

Except as permitted in this policy, students found to be in possession on the school campus of a firearm shall be recommended for expulsion for a period of not less than one year. The superintendent shall have the discretion to modify such expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents or legal guardians of students expelled under this policy shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property. Parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to readmitting the student. Parents or legal guardians of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a weapons policy violation shall also be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property. The parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The mandatory expulsion requirement for possession of a firearm does not apply to a firearm visibly stored inside a locked vehicle on school property nor to activities approved and authorized by the district that include the use of firearms. Such activities may include ROTC programs, hunting safety or military education, or before- or after-school hunting or rifle clubs. A firearm brought inadvertently to school by a student shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the student, but the School Board of Directors may consider the "inadvertent circumstances" of the incident in determining the student's discipline. An occasional firearm inadvertently brought to school by a student will be permitted, but school property is not the place for firearms. Therefore, repeated "inadvertent firearms" will not be tolerated and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the student as otherwise provided for in this policy.

For the purposes of the Gun Free Schools Act as it relates to the required expulsion for possession of a firearm, "firearm" is defined in Section 921(a) of Title 18 of the United States Code. According to Section 921(a), the following are included within the definition:

- any weapon (including a starter gun) that will be, or is designed to or may readily be, converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive
- the frame or receiver of any weapon described above
- any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
- any destructive device, which includes:
  - (a) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including a (1) bomb, (2) grenade, (3) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (4) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (5) mine, or (6) similar device
  - (b) any weapon that will, or that may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of any explosive or other propellant, and that has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter
  - (c) any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. **This definition does not include antique firearms or Class-C common fireworks.**

The district shall report any student who brings a firearm to school to the criminal justice system or juvenile delinquency system by notifying local law enforcement.

#### **4.23 TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Smoking, use, offering, possession of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any property owned or leased by a District school, including school buses, is prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

#### **4.24 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

An orderly and safe school environment that is conducive to promoting student achievement requires a student population free from the deleterious effects of alcohol and drugs. Their use is illegal, disruptive to the educational environment, and diminishes the capacity of students to learn and function properly in our schools.

Therefore, no student in the Westside School District shall possess, attempt to possess, consume, use, distribute, sell, buy, attempt to sell, attempt to buy, give to any person, or be under the influence of any substance as defined in this policy, or what the student represents or believes to be any substance as defined in this policy. This policy applies to any student who; is on or about school property; is in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity; has left the school campus for any reason and returns to the campus; is en route to or from school or any school sponsored activity.

Prohibited substances shall include, but are not limited to, alcohol, or any alcoholic beverage, inhalants or any ingestible matter that alter a student's ability to act, think, or respond, LSD, or any other hallucinogen, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or any other narcotic drug, PCP, amphetamines, steroids, "designer drugs," look-alike drugs, or any controlled substance and /or illicit drugs.

Selling, distributing, or attempting to sell or distribute, or using over-the-counter or prescription drugs not in accordance with the recommended dosage is prohibited and will be reported to legal authorities.

#### **STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING**

The Westside Board of Education recognizes that dress can be a matter of personal taste and preference. At the same time, the District has a responsibility to promote an environment conducive to student learning. This requires limitations to student dress and grooming that could be disruptive to the educational process because they are immodest, disruptive, unsanitary, unsafe, could cause property damage, or are offensive to common standards of decency.

Clothing that displays obscene, vulgar, racist, inflammatory words or pictures cannot be worn to school or school-sponsored activities. Clothing shall not have holes that expose skin above the knee or underclothing. Undergarments must be worn in the fashion they were designed and not on the outside of clothes. Hats, caps, and other head gear are not allowed during the regular school day unless permitted by administration. Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. Sagging pants are not allowed. This prohibition does not apply, however to a costume or uniform worn by a student while participating in a school-sponsored activity or event.

Tattoos cannot be obscene, vulgar, racist, or inflammatory in nature. Jewelry cannot be worn that is considered unsanitary, unsafe, disruptive, or could cause injury to others. Belts and / or collars with spikes cannot be worn.

The Superintendent shall establish student dress codes for the District's schools, to be included in the student handbook, and are consistent with the above criteria.

#### **4.26 GANGS AND GANG ACTIVITY**

The Board is committed to ensuring a safe school environment conducive to promoting a learning environment where students and staff can excel. An orderly environment cannot exist where unlawful acts occur causing fear, intimidation, or physical harm to students or school staff. Gangs and their activities create such an atmosphere and shall not be allowed on school grounds or at school functions.

The following actions are prohibited by students on school property or at school functions:

Wearing or possessing any clothing, bandanas, jewelry, symbol, or other sign associated with membership in, or representative of, any gang;

Engaging in any verbal or nonverbal act such as throwing signs, gestures, or handshakes representative of membership in any gang;

Recruiting, soliciting, or encouraging any person through duress or intimidation to become or remain a member of any gang; and/or

Extorting payment from any individual in return for protection from harm from any gang or individual.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Students arrested for gang related activities occurring off school grounds shall be subject to the same disciplinary actions as if they had occurred on school grounds.

#### **4.27 STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The Westside School District is committed to having an academic environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational environment and will not be tolerated.

Believing that prevention is the best policy, the District will periodically inform students and employees about the nature of sexual harassment, the procedures for registering a complaint, and the possible redress that is available. The information will stress that the district does not tolerate sexual harassment and that students can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of adverse consequences. The information will take into account and be appropriate to the age of the students.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to be subjected to, or to subject another person to, sexual harassment as defined in this policy. Any student found, after an investigation, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion.

Sexual harassment refers to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other personally offensive verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone under any of the following conditions:

0. Submission to the conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's education;
1. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that individual; and/or
2. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment.

The terms "intimidating," "hostile," and "offensive" include conduct of a sexual nature which has the effect of humiliation or embarrassment and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it limits the student's ability to participate in, or benefit from, an educational program or activity.

Actionable sexual harassment is generally established when an individual is exposed to a pattern of objectionable behaviors or when a single, serious act is committed. What is, or is not, sexual harassment will depend upon all of the surrounding circumstances. Depending upon such circumstances, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to: unwelcome touching; crude jokes or pictures; discussions of sexual experiences; pressure for sexual activity; intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling; teasing related to sexual characteristics; and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Students who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment, or parents of a student who believes their child has been subjected to sexual harassment, are encouraged to file a complaint by contacting a counselor, teacher, Title IX coordinator, or administrator who will assist them in the complaint process. Under no circumstances shall a student be required to first report allegations of sexual harassment to a school contact person if that person is the individual who is accused of the harassment.

To the extent possible, complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Limited disclosure may be necessary in order to complete a thorough investigation. Students who file a complaint of sexual harassment will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

Students who knowingly fabricate allegations of sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Individuals who withhold information, purposely provide inaccurate facts, or otherwise hinder an investigation of sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

#### **4.28 LASER POINTERS**

Students shall not possess any hand held laser pointer while in school; on or about school property, before or after school; in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity; en route to or from school or any school-sponsored activity; off the school grounds at any school bus stop or at any school-sponsored activity or event. School personnel shall seize any laser pointer from the student possessing it and the parent may claim the item or the student may reclaim it at the close of the school year, or when the student is no longer enrolled in the District.

#### **BULLYING**

RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF OTHERS IS A CORNERSTONE OF CIVIL SOCIETY. BULLYING CREATES AN ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR AND INTIMIDATION, ROBS A PERSON OF HIS/HER DIGNITY, DETRACTS FROM THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT NECESSARY TO PROMOTE STUDENT LEARNING, AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. STUDENTS WHO BULLY ANOTHER PERSON SHALL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS WHETHER THEY OCCUR ON SCHOOL EQUIPMENT OR PROPERTY; OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY AT A SCHOOL SPONSORED OR APPROVED FUNCTION, ACTIVITY, OR EVENT; GOING TO OR FROM SCHOOL OR A SCHOOL ACTIVITY IN A SCHOOL VEHICLE OR SCHOOL BUS; OR AT DESIGNATED SCHOOL BUS STOPS.

A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE WHO RECEIVES A CREDIBLE REPORT OR COMPLAINT OF BULLYING SHALL PROMPTLY INVESTIGATE THE COMPLAINT OR REPORT AND MAKE A RECORD OF THE INVESTIGATION AND ANY ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATION.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

**ATTRIBUTE** MEANS AN ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED PERSONAL CHARACTERISTIC INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, ANCESTRY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, ACADEMIC STATUS, DISABILITY, GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, PHYSICAL APPEARANCE, HEALTH CONDITION, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION;

**BULLYING** MEANS THE INTENTIONAL HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, HUMILIATION, RIDICULE, DEFAMATION, OR THREAT OR INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE BY A STUDENT AGAINST ANOTHER STUDENT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE BY A WRITTEN, VERBAL, ELECTRONIC, OR PHYSICAL ACT THAT MAY ADDRESS AN ATTRIBUTE OF THE OTHER STUDENT, PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE, OR PERSON WITH WHOM THE OTHER STUDENT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE IS ASSOCIATED AND THAT CAUSES OR CREATES ACTUAL OR REASONABLY FORESEEABLE:

- PHYSICAL HARM TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT OR DAMAGE TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE'S OR STUDENT'S PROPERTY;
- SUBSTANTIAL INTERFERENCE WITH A STUDENT'S EDUCATION OR WITH A PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE'S ROLE IN EDUCATION;
- A HOSTILE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR ONE (1) OR MORE STUDENTS OR PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES DUE TO THE SEVERITY, PERSISTENCE, OR PERVASIVENESS OF THE ACT; OR
- SUBSTANTIAL DISRUPTION OF THE ORDERLY OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL OR EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT;

**ELECTRONIC ACT** MEANS WITHOUT LIMITATION A COMMUNICATION OR IMAGE TRANSMITTED BY MEANS OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION A TELEPHONE, WIRELESS PHONE OR OTHER WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE, COMPUTER, OR PAGER THAT RESULTS IN THE SUBSTANTIAL DISRUPTION OF THE ORDERLY OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL OR EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

ELECTRONIC ACTS OF BULLYING ARE PROHIBITED WHETHER OR NOT THE ELECTRONIC ACT ORIGINATED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY OR WITH SCHOOL EQUIPMENT, IF THE ELECTRONIC ACT IS DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT

STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND MALICIOUSLY INTENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISRUPTING SCHOOL, AND HAS A HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCEEDING IN THAT PURPOSE;

**HARASSMENT** MEANS A PATTERN OF UNWELCOME VERBAL OR PHYSICAL CONDUCT RELATING TO ANOTHER PERSON'S CONSTITUTIONALLY OR STATUTORILY PROTECTED STATUS THAT CAUSES, OR REASONABLY SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO CAUSE, SUBSTANTIAL INTERFERENCE WITH THE OTHER'S PERFORMANCE IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT; AND

**SUBSTANTIAL DISRUPTION** MEANS WITHOUT LIMITATION THAT ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUR AS A RESULT OF THE BULLYING:

- NECESSARY CESSATION OF INSTRUCTION OR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES;
- INABILITY OF STUDENTS OR EDUCATIONAL STAFF TO FOCUS ON LEARNING OR FUNCTION AS AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT BECAUSE OF A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT;
- SEVERE OR REPETITIVE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES ARE NEEDED IN THE CLASSROOM OR DURING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES; OR
- EXHIBITION OF OTHER BEHAVIORS BY STUDENTS OR EDUCATIONAL STAFF THAT SUBSTANTIALLY INTERFERE WITH THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

EXAMPLES OF "BULLYING" MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO A PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR INVOLVING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. SARCASTIC COMMENTS "COMPLIMENTS" ABOUT ANOTHER STUDENT'S PERSONAL APPEARANCE OR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED ATTRIBUTES,
2. POINTED QUESTIONS INTENDED TO EMBARRASS OR HUMILIATE,
3. MOCKING, TAUNTING OR BELITTLING,
4. NON-VERBAL THREATS AND/OR INTIMIDATION SUCH AS "FRONTING" OR "CHESTING" A PERSON,
5. DEMEANING HUMOR RELATING TO A STUDENT'S RACE, GENDER, ETHNICITY OR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED ATTRIBUTES,
6. BLACKMAIL, EXTORTION, DEMANDS FOR PROTECTION MONEY OR OTHER INVOLUNTARY DONATIONS OR LOANS,
7. BLOCKING ACCESS TO SCHOOL PROPERTY OR FACILITIES,
8. DELIBERATE PHYSICAL CONTACT OR INJURY TO PERSON OR PROPERTY,
9. STEALING OR HIDING BOOKS OR BELONGINGS, AND/OR
10. THREATS OF HARM TO STUDENT(S), POSSESSIONS, OR OTHERS,
11. SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AS GOVERNED BY POLICY 4.27, IS ALSO A FORM OF BULLYING,

12. TEASING OR NAME-CALLING BASED ON THE BELIEF OR PERCEPTION THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT CONFORMING TO EXPECTED GENDER ROLES (EXAMPLE: "SLUT") OR CONDUCT OR IS HOMOSEXUAL, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE STUDENT SELF-IDENTIFIES AS HOMOSEXUAL (EXAMPLES: "YOU ARE SO GAY." "FAG" "QUEER").

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT BEHAVIOR THEY CONSIDER TO BE BULLYING, INCLUDING A SINGLE ACTION WHICH IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WOULD CONSTITUTE BULLYING, TO THEIR TEACHER OR THE BUILDING PRINCIPAL. THE REPORT MAY BE MADE ANONYMOUSLY. TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE WITNESSED, OR ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT, A STUDENT HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF BEHAVIOR THEY CONSIDER TO BE BULLYING, INCLUDING A SINGLE ACTION WHICH IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WOULD CONSTITUTE BULLYING, SHALL REPORT THE INCIDENT(S) TO THE PRINCIPAL. PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORTS OF INCIDENTS THEY FEEL CONSTITUTE BULLYING, OR IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WOULD CONSTITUTE BULLYING, TO THE PRINCIPAL. THE PRINCIPAL SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT(S) TO DETERMINE IF DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS WARRANTED.

THE PERSON OR PERSONS REPORTING BEHAVIOR THEY CONSIDER TO BE BULLYING SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO RETALIATION OR REPRISAL IN ANY FORM.

STUDENTS FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION UP TO AND INCLUDING EXPULSION. IN DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION, CONSIDERATION MAY BE GIVEN TO OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE STUDENT HANDBOOK WHICH MAY HAVE SIMULTANEOUSLY OCCURRED.<sup>1</sup>

NOTICE OF WHAT CONSTITUTES BULLYING, THE DISTRICT'S PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING, AND THE CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS WHO BULLY SHALL BE CONSPICUOUSLY POSTED IN EVERY CLASSROOM, CAFETERIA, RESTROOM, GYMNASIUM, AUDITORIUM, AND SCHOOL BUS. PARENTS, STUDENTS, SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES SHALL BE GIVEN COPIES OF THE NOTICE.

COPIES OF THIS POLICY SHALL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.<sup>2</sup>

#### **TITLE IX COORDINATOR ELEMENTARY CAMPUS**

John Elms, Principal  
Westside Elementary School  
(479) 497-1088

#### **OFFICE PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINE**

Student discipline may range from a minimum penalty of a verbal reprimand to a maximum penalty of expulsion.

**Minor Infractions:** Less than four tardies, talking without permission, chewing gum, tardies, or other minor offenses as deemed by the teacher and/or administrator.

**Consequences:** Counseling, missing recess(es), and / or detention.

**Level 1 Offenses:** Excessive minor infractions, excessive talking, disrespect, public display of affection (PDA), failure to follow instructions, refusing to cooperate, profanity, obscene gestures, dress code violations, disruption, out of assigned area, minor misbehavior problems as deemed by teacher or principal, cell phone policy violation, or any other offenses deemed by administration.



**Consequences:** Assigned detention(s) or corporal punishment (depending on severity or repetition of offense), loss of field trip(s) as deemed by the administration. Student placed at next level if repeat offender.

**Detention Rules:** Student must be on time and serve the full assigned time. Students must have classroom work or an approved book to last the entire detention time. Students will not be allowed to talk, go to lockers/classrooms, or leave the detention room once time has begun. Students will not be permitted to sleep during detention. Violation of rules will result in the student being placed at the next offense level.

**Level 2 Offenses:** Excessive Level 1 offenses, physical or verbal abuse, dishonesty/cheating, excessive misbehavior as deemed by teacher or administrator, repeated classroom disruption, refusal to work, misbehavior in cafeteria, unnecessary roughness, violation of playground rules, bus misbehavior, horseplay, pretend fighting, possession of electronic devices, falsifying documents, destruction of school property (defacing property, minor vandalism), giving away or selling items without permission, items listed under Prohibited Conduct, or any other offenses deemed by the administration.

**Consequences:** Assigned In-School Suspension (ISS) and / or loss of field trip(s). Excessive Level 2 offenses will result in being placed at the next offense level (Level 3). Parents will be notified by mail, phone, electronically, voice message, note sent home, or in person. Electronic devices and lasers will be confiscated and returned to parents/guardians only.

**In-School Suspension Rules:** Student will be responsible for any missed work. Student will not sleep or eat in ISS nor talk without permission, and the students will obey the school rules / policies. The student will perform classroom work that is assigned to him/her (failure to do so can result in At-Home Suspension). If the student is absent or checked out early from ISS, the student will be assigned additional make-up time for ISS. Violations of these rules will result in the student being placed at Level 3 Offense.

**Level 3 Offenses:** Excessive Level 2 offenses, possession and / or use of a weapon, alcohol, drugs, unlawful entry of a school building / vehicle, destruction of school property, fighting, assault, batter, theft, bullying, harassment, gross insubordination, profanity toward any school employee or Board member, or any person(s) acting in an official capacity for the school, referees / umpires, or school guest, sexual harassment, excessive disruption of school, possession and / or use of tobacco and/or drugs, unauthorized possession of prescription medications or distribution of same, being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, cyber bullying, hazing or aiding in hazing, possession of fireworks, gambling, items listed under Prohibited Conduct, or any other offense(s) as deemed by administration.

**Consequences:** At-Home Suspension for a minimum of two days or a maximum of ten (10) days. For At-Home Suspension, students are not allowed to make up missed work for grades. Student will be counted as unexcused absence. Parents will be notified by phone, mail, electronically, voice message, note sent home, or in person.

**Students who receive At-Home Suspension may not be allowed to attend field trips for that semester of serving suspension. Students who are assigned three (3) In-School Suspensions in one semester may not be allowed to attend field trips scheduled for that semester. A student may not be allowed to attend field trips based upon misbehavior incidents. Students who are serving Suspension At-Home cannot be on school property nor attend School-sponsored events either on campus or off campus.** Westside School must consider the overall safety of all students when attending field trips; an unruly student can interfere with the safety and well-being of the other students. Students who have been suspended may be placed in ALE for continued misbehavior after serving suspension.

Consistent with state and federal law, a teacher may remove a student from class and send him or her to the principal's or principal's designee's office in order to maintain effective discipline in the classroom. A teacher may remove from class a student:

Who has been documented by the teacher as repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability of the student's classmates to learn; or

Whose behavior the teacher determines is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn.

If a teacher removes a student from class in accordance with this policy, the principal or his designee may:

Place the student into another appropriate classroom, into in-school suspension, or into the ALE;

Return the student to class; or

Take appropriate action consistent with the discipline policy, state law, and federal law.

If a teacher removes a student from class twice during any nine-week grading period or its equivalent as determined by the Department of Education, the principal or his designee may not return the student to the teacher's class unless a conference is held for the purpose of determining the causes of the problem and possible solutions, with the following individuals present: The principal or his designee; the teacher; the school counselor; the parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis; and the student, if appropriate.

The failure of the parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis to attend the conference provided for in this subsection shall not prevent the conference from being held nor prevent any action from being taken as a result of that conference.

The Board of Directors may authorize a teacher or administrator to suspend any student for a maximum of ten (10) school days for violation of the school district's written discipline policies, subject to appeal to the superintendent or designee. A superintendent may recommend the expulsion of a student for more than ten (10) days for violation of the school district's written discipline policies, subject to appeal to the Board of Directors and to requirements of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The superintendent of the school shall recommend the expulsion of any student from school for a period of not less than one (1) year for possession of any firearm or other weapon prohibited upon the school campus by law; provided, that the superintendent shall have discretion to modify such expulsion for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents, guardians, or other persons in loco parentis of a student expelled under this section will sign a statement acknowledging that the parents have read and understand current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property. (This statement must be signed prior to readmitting a student or enrolling a student in any public school immediately after the expiration of an expulsion period.)

#### **4.39 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

The Westside School Board authorizes the use of corporal punishment to be administered in accordance with this policy by the Superintendent or his/her designated staff members who are required to have a state-issued license as a condition of their employment.

Prior to the administration of corporal punishment, the student receiving the corporal punishment shall be given an explanation of the reasons for the punishment and be given an opportunity to refute the charges.

All corporal punishment shall be administered privately, i.e. out of the sight and hearing of other students, and shall not be excessive, or administered with malice, and shall be administered in the presence of another school administrator or designee who shall be a licensed staff member employed by the district. **A parent/legal guardian shall notify the school annually in writing if they do not want their child to receive corporal punishment.**

**Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-503 (b)  
A.C.A. § 6-18-505 (c) (1)**

#### **4.30 SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL**

Students not present at school cannot benefit from the educational opportunities the school environment affords. Administrators, therefore, shall strive to find ways to keep students in school as participants in the educational process. There are instances, however, when the needs of the other students or the interests of the orderly learning environment require the removal of a student from school. The Board authorizes school principals or their designees to suspend students for disciplinary reasons for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days, including the day upon which the suspension is imposed. The suspension may be in school or out of school. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs: at any time on the school grounds; off school grounds at a school-sponsored function, activity, or event; going to and from school or a school activity. A student may be suspended for behavior including, but not limited to that which:

Is in violation of school policies, rules, or regulations;

Substantially interferes with the safe and orderly educational environment;

School administrators believe will result in the substantial interference with the safe and orderly educational environment; and/or

Is insubordinate, incorrigible, violent, or involves moral turpitude.

The school principal or designee shall proceed as follows in deciding whether or not to suspend a student.

1. **the student shall be given written notice or advised orally of the charges against him/her;**
2. **if the student denies the charges, he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence against him/her and be allowed to present his/her version of the facts;**
3. **if the principal finds the student guilty of the misconduct, he/she can be suspended.**

When possible, notice of the suspension, its duration, and any stipulations for the student's re-admittance to class will be given to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) prior to the suspension. Such notice shall be handed to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or mailed to the last address reflected in the records of the school district.

Generally, notice and hearing should precede the student's removal from school, but if prior notice and hearing are not feasible, as where the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice and hearing should follow as soon as practicable.<sup>7</sup>

It is the parents' or legal guardians' responsibility to provide current contact information to the district which the school shall use to immediately notify the parent or legal guardian upon the suspension of a student. The notification shall be by one of the following means, listed in order of priority.

A primary call number:

The contact may be by voice, voice mail, or text message

An e-mail address

A regular first class letter to the last known mailing address

The district shall keep a log of contacts attempted and made to the parent or legal guardian.

During the period of their suspension, students serving out-of-school suspensions shall not be permitted at school events on or off campus except to attend a student/parent/administrator conference.<sup>3</sup>

During the period of their suspension, students serving in-school suspension shall not attend any school-sponsored activities during the imposed suspension nor shall the student participate in any school-sponsored activities.<sup>3</sup>

Suspensions initiated by the principal or his/her designee may be appealed to the Superintendent, but not to the Board.

Suspensions initiated by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

#### **4.31 EXPULSION**

The Board of Education may expel a student for a period longer than ten (10) school days for violation of the District's written discipline policies. The Superintendent may make a recommendation of expulsion to the Board of Education for student conduct deemed to be of such gravity that suspension would be inappropriate, or where the student's continued attendance at school would disrupt the orderly learning environment or would pose an unreasonable danger to the welfare of other students or staff.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall give written notice to the parents or legal guardians (mailed to the address reflected on the District's records) that he/she will recommend to the Board of Education that the student be expelled for the specified length of time and state the reasons for the recommendation to expel. The notice shall give the date, hour, and place where the Board of Education will consider and dispose of the recommendation.

The hearing shall be conducted not later than ten (10) school days following the date of the notice, except that representatives of the Board and student may agree in writing to a date not conforming to this limitation.

The President of the Board, Board attorney, or other designated Board member shall preside at the hearing. The student may choose to be represented by legal counsel. Both the district administration and School Board also may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing shall be conducted in open session of the Board unless the parent, or student if age 18 or older, requests that the hearing be conducted in executive session. Any action taken by the Board shall be in open session.

During the hearing, the Superintendent, or designee, or representative will present evidence, including the calling of witnesses, that gave rise to the recommendation of expulsion. The student, or his/her representative, may then present evidence including statements from persons with personal knowledge of the events or circumstances relevant to the charges against the student. Formal cross-examination will not be permitted. However, any member of the Board, the Superintendent, or designee, the student, or his/her representative may question anyone making a statement and/or the student. The presiding officer shall decide questions concerning the appropriateness or relevance of any questions asked during the hearing.

The Superintendent shall recommend the expulsion of any student for a period of not less than one (1) year for possession of any firearm prohibited on school campus by law. The Superintendent shall, however, have the discretion to modify the expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents or legal guardians of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a weapons policy violation shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property. The parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education shall complete the expulsion process of any student that was initiated because the student possessed a firearm or other prohibited weapon on school property regardless of the enrollment status of the student.

### **SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS**

The District respects the rights of its students against arbitrary intrusion of their person and property. At the same time, it is the responsibility of school officials to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled in the District in order to promote an environment conducive to student learning. The Superintendent, principals, and their designees have the right to inspect and search school property and equipment. They may also search students and their personal property in which the student has a reasonable expectation of privacy, when there is reasonable suspicion to believe such student or property contains illegal items or other items in violation of Board policy or dangerous to the school community. School authorities may seize evidence found in the search and disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence found which appears to be in violation of the law shall be reported to the appropriate authority.

School property shall include, but not be limited to, lockers, desks, and parking lots, as well as personal effects left there by students. When possible, prior notice will be given and the student will be allowed to be present along with an adult witness, however, searches may be done at any time with or without notice or the student's consent. A personal search must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

The Superintendent, principals, and their designees may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to help conduct searches. Such searches may include the use of specially trained dogs.

A school official of the same sex shall conduct personal searches with an adult witness of the same sex present.

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected

child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a “72-hour hold” without first obtaining a court order. Other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen [18] years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal’s designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student’s parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis on student enrollment forms. The principal or the principal’s designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student’s parent, legal guardian, or other person having

lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state’s social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

#### **4.47 POSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

As used in this policy, “electronic devices” means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data.

Misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using electronic devices during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
2. Permitting any audible sound to come from the device when not being used for reason #1 above;
3. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;
4. Using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms;
5. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person.

Use of an electronic device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student’s individualized education program (IEP) or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Before and after normal school hours, possession of cell phones, any paging device, beeper, or similar electronic communication devices, cameras, MP 3 players, Ipods, and other portable music devices is permitted on the school campus. The use of such devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

Students using or possessing, other than those devices properly stored in a locker or vehicle, cell phones or other portable music devices after the first bell and before the last bell shall have them confiscated. Confiscated cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be picked up at the school’s administration office by the student’s parents or guardians.<sup>1</sup> Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any cell phones and other electronic communication devices that have been confiscated.<sup>2</sup>

Students who use a school issued cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the district's Internet/computer use policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students are forbidden from using school issued cell phones while driving any vehicle at any time. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.<sup>3</sup>

#### **4.48 VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**

The board has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras. The placement of video/audio surveillance cameras shall be based on the presumption and belief that students, staff and visitors have no reasonable expectation of privacy anywhere on or near school property, facilities, vehicles, or equipment, with the exception of places such as rest rooms or dressing areas where an expectation of privacy is reasonable and customary.

Signs shall be posted on campus buildings and in district vehicles to notify students, staff, and visitors that video cameras may be in use. Parents and students shall also be notified through the student handbook that cameras may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles. Students will be held responsible for any violations of school discipline rules caught by the cameras.

The district shall retain copies of video recordings until they are erased which may be accomplished by either deletion or copying over with a new recording.

Videos containing evidence of a violation of student conduct rules and/or state or federal law shall be retained until the issue of the misconduct is no longer subject to review or appeal as determined by board policy or student handbook; any release or viewing of such records shall be in accordance with current law.

Students who vandalize, damage, disable, or render inoperable (temporarily or permanently) surveillance cameras and equipment shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

#### **4.33 STUDENTS' VEHICLES**

A student who has presented a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to the appropriate office personnel, may drive his/her vehicle to school. Vehicles driven to school shall be parked in the area designated for student parking. Parking on school property is a privilege which may be denied to a student for any disciplinary violation, at the discretion of the student's building principal.

Students are not permitted to loiter in parking areas and are not to return to their vehicles for any reason during the school day unless given permission to do so by school personnel.

It is understood that there is no expectation of privacy in vehicles in parking areas. Drivers of vehicles parked on a school campus will be held accountable for illegal substances or any other item prohibited by District policy found in their vehicle. The act of a student parking a vehicle on campus is a grant of permission for school or law enforcement authorities to search that vehicle.

#### **4.29 COMPUTER USE POLICY**

The Westside School District makes computers and/or computer Internet access available to students, to permit students to perform research and to allow students to learn how to use computer technology. Use of district computers is for educational and/or instructional purposes only. It is the policy of this school district to equip each computer with Internet filtering software designed to prevent users from accessing material that is harmful to minors. For the purposes of this policy "harmful to minors" is defined as any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that--

(A) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or

excretion;

(B) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

(C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

No student will be granted Internet access until and unless a computer-use agreement, signed by both the student and the parent or legal guardian (if the student is under the age of eighteen [18]) is on file. The current version of the computer use agreement is incorporated by reference into board policy and is considered part of the student handbook.

Student use of computers shall only be as directed or assigned by staff or teachers; students are advised that they enjoy no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their computer use, including email, and that monitoring of student computer use is continuous. Students must not disable or bypass security procedures, compromise, attempt to compromise, or defeat the district's technology network security or Internet filtering software, alter data without authorization, or disclose passwords to other students. Students who misuse district-owned computers or Internet access in any way, including using computers to violate any other policy or contrary to the computer use agreement, or using the computers to access or create sexually explicit or pornographic text or graphics, will face disciplinary action, as specified in the student handbook and/or computer use agreement.

#### 4.29F—STUDENT INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ School District agrees to allow the student identified above ("Student") to use the district's technology to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions which apply whether the access is through a District or student owned technology device:

1. Conditional Privilege: The Student's use of the district's access to the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the Student's abiding to this agreement. No student may use the district's access to the Internet whether through a District or student owned technology device unless the Student and his/her parent or guardian have read and signed this agreement.

2. Acceptable Use: The Student agrees that he/she will use the District's Internet access for educational purposes only. In using the Internet, the Student agrees to obey all federal and state laws and regulations. The Student also agrees to abide by any Internet use rules instituted at the Student's school or class, whether those rules are written or oral.

3. Penalties for Improper Use: If the Student violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Student shall be subject to disciplinary action. **[Note: A.C.A. § 6-21-107 requires the district to have "...provisions for administration of punishment of students for violations of the policy with stiffer penalties for repeat offenders, and the same shall be incorporated into the district's written student discipline policy." You may choose to tailor your punishments to be appropriate to the school's grade levels.]**

4. "Misuse of the District's access to the Internet" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. using the Internet for other than educational purposes;
- b. gaining intentional access or maintaining access to materials which are "harmful to minors" as defined by Arkansas law;
- c. using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
- d. making unauthorized copies of computer software;
- e. accessing "chat lines" unless authorized by the instructor for a class activity directly supervised by a staff member;
- f. using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
- g. posting anonymous messages on the system;

- h. using encryption software;
- i. wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper;
- j. causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files;
- k. vandalizing data of another user;
- l. obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
- m. gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
  
- n. identifying oneself with another person’s name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
- o. invading the privacy of individuals;
- p. divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or anyone else either on the Internet or in an email. Personally identifying information includes full names, address, and phone number.
- q. using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
- r. theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
- s. attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files;
- t. introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with the system;
- u. degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
- v. creating a web page or associating a web page with the school or school district without proper authorization;
- w. providing access to the District’s Internet Access to unauthorized individuals;
- x. failing to obey school or classroom Internet use rules; or
- y. taking part in any activity related to Internet use which creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools.
- z. Installing or downloading software on district computers without prior approval of technology director or his/her designee.

5. Liability for debts: Students and their cosigners shall be liable for any and all costs (debts) incurred through the student’s use of the computers or access to the Internet including penalties for copyright violations.

6. No Expectation of Privacy: The Student and parent/guardian signing below agree that if the Student uses the Internet through the District’s access, that the Student waives any right to privacy the Student may have for such use. The Student and the parent/guardian agree that the district may monitor the Student’s use of the District’s Internet Access and may also examine all system activities the Student participates in, including but not limited to e-mail, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system. The District may share such transmissions with the Student’s parents/guardians.

7. No Guarantees: The District will make good faith efforts to protect children from improper or harmful matter which may be on the Internet. At the same time, in signing this agreement, the parent and Student recognize that the District makes no guarantees about preventing improper access to such materials on the part of the Student.

8. Signatures: We, the persons who have signed below, have read this agreement and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act (PL 106-554, 47 USC 254 (h) (1)) requires districts to hold at least one public hearing on its proposed Internet safety policy. The regulations do not require this to be a special meeting and it is allowable for it to be part of a regular school board meeting.

**STUDENT ILLNESS/ACCIDENT**



If a student becomes too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to other students, the principal or designee will attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. The student will remain in the school's health room or a place where he/she can be supervised until the end of the school day or until the parent/legal guardian can check the student out of school.

Parents will be expected to pick up children when one or more of the following conditions are noted: Temperature 99.6 degrees or higher orally, Vomiting and or diarrhea, Suspected communicable illness, Injury or illness requiring a doctor's evaluation, Head Lice, Scabies.

Please be sure we have a message number in the event an emergency occurs when you cannot be reached-we must have a relative or other responsible person we can call and the number of your preferred doctor. Please notify the school in writing if you object to our using the nearest medical treatment available in the event of an emergency that occurs when you cannot be reached. It is necessary for the school to know if a child has any physical limitations so that precautions can be taken.

If a student becomes seriously ill or is injured while at school and the parent/legal guardian cannot be contacted, the failure to make such contact shall not unreasonably delay the school's expeditious transport of the student to an appropriate medical care facility. The school assumes no responsibility for treatment of the student. When available, current, and applicable, the student's emergency contact numbers and medical information will be utilized. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep this information up to date.

Unless authorized to self-administer, students are not allowed to carry any medications while at school except an inhaler. Westside Elementary School students are not allowed to transport medications. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student's medications to the nurse, or in the absence of the nurse, to the principal's office. Medications, including those for self-medication, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional info accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Non-prescription medications may be given to students upon the decision of the principal or the nurse. Such medications must be in the original container, clearly labeled and accompanied by a written authorization form signed by the parent or legal guardian that includes the student's name, the name of the medication, and the dosage, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times).

The school shall not keep outdated medications or any medications past the end of the school year. Parents shall be notified ten (10) days in advance of the school's intention to dispose of any medication. Medications not picked up by the parents or legal guardians within the ten (10) day period shall be destroyed by the nurse with a witness present.

#### **4.41 PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OR SCREENINGS**

**The Westside School District may provide from time to time for the administration of physical exams or screenings of its students. The intent of the exams or screenings shall be to detect contagious or infectious diseases or defects in hearing, vision, or other elements of health that would adversely affect the student's ability to achieve to their full potential.**

**The district shall notify parents, at least annually, of the specific or approximate dates of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is:**

- 1. required as a condition of attendance;**
- 2. administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and**
- 3. not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.**

**For the purposes of this policy, "Invasive Physical Examination" is defined as any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.**

**Except in instances where a student is suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease, parents shall have the right to opt their student out of the exams or screenings in writing or by providing certification from a physician that he/she has recently examined the student.**

**A student may be required to pass a physical exam before being allowed to participate in certain extracurricular activities to help ensure they are physically capable of withstanding the rigors of the activity. It is understood that students who refuse to take such an exam will not be allowed to participate in the desired activity.**

**The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old**

#### **4.34 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES**

Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian. Specific examples include, but are not limited to: chicken pox, measles, scabies, conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), impetigo/MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis B or C, mumps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (100.4 F when taken orally). A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted, at the discretion of the school nurse, when the student is no longer a transmission risk. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to the school.

To help control the possible spread of communicable diseases, school personnel shall follow the District's exposure control plan when dealing with any bloodborne, foodborne, and airborne pathogens exposures. Standard precautions shall be followed relating to the handling, disposal, and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials such as all body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat).

The District shall maintain a copy of each student's immunization record and a list of individuals with exemptions from immunization which shall be education records as defined in policy 4.13. That policy provides that an education record may be disclosed to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to the school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

The parents or legal guardians of students found to have human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment will be asked to pick their child up at the end of the school day school day. The parents or legal guardians will be given information concerning the

eradication and control of human host parasites.. A student may be readmitted after, the school nurse or designee has determined the student no longer has live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment.

Each school may conduct screenings of students for human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of each student.

#### **4.35 STUDENT MEDICATIONS**

Prior to the administration of any medication to any student under the age of eighteen (18), written parental consent is required. The consent form shall include authorization to administer the medication and relieve the Board and its employees of civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication to students in accordance with this policy.

Unless authorized to self-administer, students are not allowed to carry any medications including over-the-counter medications or any perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, while at school. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student's medication to the school. The student may bring the medication if accompanied by a written authorization from the parent or legal guardian. When medications are brought to the school nurse, the nurse shall document, in the presence of the parent, the quantity and type of the medication(s). If the medications are brought by a student, the school nurse shall ask another school employee to verify, in the presence of the student the quantity of the medication(s). Each person present shall sign a form verifying the quantity and type of the medication(s).

Medications, including those for self-medication, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering health care provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Students with an individualized health plan (IHP) may be given over-the-counter medications to the extent giving such medications are included in the student's IHP.

The only Schedule II medications that shall be allowed to be brought to the school are methylphenidate (Ritalin) and amphetamine sulfate (Adderall).<sup>1</sup> To help ensure their safe keeping, any such medications brought to the school nurse shall be stored in a double locked cabinet.

For the student's safety, no student will be allowed to attend school if the student is currently taking any other Schedule II medication than permitted by this policy. Students who are taking Schedule II medications which are not allowed to be brought to school shall be eligible for homebound instruction if provided for in their IEP and 504 plans.<sup>2</sup>

The district's supervising registered nurse shall be responsible for creating both on campus and off campus procedures for administering medications.

Students who have written permission from their parent or guardian and a licensed health care provider to self-administer either an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both and who have a current consent form on file shall be allowed to carry and self-administer such medication while in school, at an on-site school sponsored activity, while traveling to or from school, or at an off-site school sponsored activity. Students are prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way diverting his/her medications to any other person. The fact that a student with a completed consent form on file is allowed to carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both does not require him/her to have such on his/her person. The parent or

guardian of a student who chooses to not carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both on his/her person shall provide the school with the appropriate medication which shall be immediately available to the student in an emergency.

Students may be administered Glucagon in emergency situations by the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, a trained volunteer school employee designated as a care provider, provided the student has:

1. an IHP developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which provides for the administration of Glucagon in emergency situations; and

2. a current, valid consent form on file from their parent or guardian.

Act 1204 allows Glucagon to be administered by “trained district volunteer personnel.”

The school shall not keep outdated medications or any medications past the end of the school year. By this policy, parents are notified that ten (10) days after the last day of school, all medications will be disposed of that are left at the school.

Medications not picked up by the parents or legal guardians within the ten (10) day period shall be disposed of by the school nurse in accordance with current law and regulations.

**Note:** Act 1204 of 2011 created the provisions for Glucagon administration to students suffering from Type I diabetes. It deals solely with the administration of Glucagon by school nurses, the training requirements for “volunteer school personnel,” and the exemption from liability of the nurses or trained volunteer school personnel resulting from his or her actions or inactions. Districts are not under any obligation to “recruit” volunteers and 4.06 of the Rules explicitly states that no employee shall be pressured into volunteering.<sup>1</sup>

Here is a helpful, but not all-inclusive, list of prohibited Schedule II medications. Opium, morphine, codeine, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), methadone, meperidine (Demerol), cocaine, oxycodone (Percodan), amobarbital, pentobarbital, sufentanil, etorphine hydrochloride, phenylactone, dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine), dronabinol, secobarbital, and fentanyl.<sup>2</sup>

If a student has surgery or is in an accident resulting in the student needing to take Schedule II medication, a 504 plan can be developed to last for the duration of the student's recovery. The plan could include homebound instruction.

**Legal References:** Ark. State Board of Nursing: School Nurse Roles and Responsibilities

Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas State Board of Nursing Rules Governing the Administration of Glucagon to Arkansas Public School Students Suffering from Type I Diabetes

A.C.A. § 6-18-707

A.C.A. § 6-18-1005(a)(6)

A.C.A. § 17-87-103 (11)

**4.35F—MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Medications, including those for self-medication, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

I hereby authorize the school nurse or his/her designee to administer the following medications to my child.

Name(s) of medication(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of physician or dentist (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions for administering the medication \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other instructions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for damages resulting from the administration of medications in accordance with this consent form.

Parent or legal guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**4.35F3—Glucagon ADMINISTRATION AND CARRY CONSENT FORM**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

The school has developed a Section 504 plan acknowledging that my child has been diagnosed as suffering from Type I diabetes. The 504 plan authorizes the school nurse or, in the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel, to administer Glucagon in an emergency situation to my child.

I hereby authorize the school nurse or, in the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel designated as care providers, to administer Glucagon to my child in an emergency situation. Glucagon shall be supplied to the school nurse by the student's parent or guardian and be in the original container.

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, its employees, or an agent of the District, including a healthcare professional who trained volunteer school personnel designated as care providers shall not be liable for any damages resulting from his/her actions or inactions in the administration of Glucagon in accordance with this consent form and the 504 plan.

Parent or legal guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date Adopted:

Last Revised:

#### **4.45 SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASSES OF 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013**

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are 18 years of age or older, sign a Smart Core Waiver Form to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, both a Smart Core Informed Consent Form and a Smart Core Waiver Form will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh grade, or when a 7-12 grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed form in the student's permanent record. Parents must sign one of the forms and return it to the school so it can be placed in the students' permanent records. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the requirements of their IEP (when applicable) to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the time they are required to sign the consent forms.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum **providing** they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year. Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents at least every other year<sup>4</sup> to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each. This may be accomplished through any or all of the following means.

0. Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
1. Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter;
2. Discussions held by the school's counselors with students and their parents; and/or
3. Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

The first year of this policy's implementation all employees required to be certified as a condition of their employment shall receive training regarding this policy so that they will be able to help successfully implement it. In subsequent years, administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be certified as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the following categories. A minimum of 22 units is required for graduation for students participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements.

Unless exempted by a student's IEP, all students must successfully pass all end-of-course (EOC) assessments they are required to take or meet the remediation required for the EOC assessment to receive academic credit for the applicable course and be eligible to graduate from high school.

**SMART CORE:** Sixteen (16 units

English: four units – 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>

Oral Communications: one-half unit (1/2 year)

Mathematics: four units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)

Algebra I or Algebra A & B which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9

Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A & B which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10

A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the **graduation** requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the **Smart Core** requirement.

Algebra II

Choice of: Transitions to College Math, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry, Statistics, Computer Math, Algebra III, or an Advanced Placement Math (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)

Natural Science: three (3) units with lab experience chosen from

Physical Science

Biology or Applied Biology / Chemistry

Chemistry

Physics or Principles of Technology I & II or PIC Physics

Social Studies: three units

Civics or Civics / American Government

World History

American History

Physical Education: one-half (1/2) unit

**Note:** While one-half unit is required for graduation, no more than one unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (1/2) unit

Fine Arts: one-half (1/2) unit

**CAREER FOCUS: Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

The Smart Core and Career Focus units must total at least twenty-two units to graduate.

**CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units – 9, 10, 11, and 12

Oral Communications: one-half (1/2) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units

Algebra or its equivalent – 1 unit

Geometry or its equivalent – one (1) unit

All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills

Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable

A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) units requirement.

Science: three (3) units

At least one (1) unit of biology or its equivalent

One (1) unit of a physical science

Social Studies: three (3) units

Civics or government, one-half (1/2) unit

World history, one (1) unit

U.S. history, one (1) unit

Physical Education: one-half (1/2) unit

Health and Safety: one-half (1/2) unit

Fine Arts: one-half (1/2) unit

**CAREER FOCUS: Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

**The Core and Career focus units must total at least twenty-two units to graduate.**



#### **4.57 SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2013-14 AND ALL CLASSES THEREAFTER**

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are 18 years of age or older, sign a *Smart Core Waiver Form* to not participate<sup>4</sup>. While Smart Core is the default option, both a *Smart Core Informed Consent Form* and a *Smart Core Waiver Form* will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh grade, or when a 7-12 grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed form in the student's permanent record. Parents must sign one of the forms and return it to the school so it can be placed in the students' permanent records.<sup>1</sup> This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades 6-12 and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the requirements of their IEP (when applicable) to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the time they are required to sign the consent forms.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum **providing** they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year.<sup>3</sup> Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents at least every other year<sup>4</sup> to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each. This may be accomplished through any or all of the following means.<sup>5</sup>

4. Inclusion in the student handbook<sup>6</sup> of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
5. Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter;
6. Discussions held by the school's counselors with students and their parents; and/or
7. Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

The first year of this policy's implementation all employees required to be certified as a condition of their employment shall receive training regarding this policy so that they will be able to help successfully implement it. In subsequent years, administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be certified as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of 23 units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements.

Unless exempted by a student's IEP, all students must successfully pass all end-of-course (EOC) assessments they are required to take or meet the remediation required for the EOC assessment to receive academic credit for the applicable course and be eligible to graduate from high school.<sup>9</sup>

#### **SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units– 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half (1/2) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)

0. Algebra I or Algebra A & B\* which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9

1. Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A & B\* which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10

\*A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the **graduation** requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the **Smart Core** requirement.

0. Algebra II

1. Choice of: Transitions to College Math, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry, Statistics, Computer Math, Algebra III, or an Advanced Placement math

(Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)

Natural Science: three (3) units with lab experience chosen from

0. Physical Science

1. Biology or Applied Biology/Chemistry

2. Chemistry

3. Physics or Principles of Technology I & II or PIC Physics

Social Studies: three (3) units

0. Civics one-half (1/2) unit

1. World History - one unit

2. U. S. History - one unit

Physical Education: one-half (1/2) unit

**Note:** While one-half (1/2) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (1/2) unit

Economics – one half (1/2) unit – dependent upon the certification of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.<sup>10</sup>

Fine Arts: one-half (1/2) unit

### **CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

The Smart Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-three (23) units to graduate.

### **CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units– 9, 10, 11, and 12

Oral Communications: one-half (1/2) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units

0. Algebra or its equivalent\* - 1 unit

1. Geometry or its equivalent\* - 1 unit
  2. All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
  3. (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)
- \*A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units

0. at least one (1) unit of biology or its equivalent
1. one (1) unit of a physical science

Social Studies: three (3) units

0. Civics, one-half (1/2) unit
1. World history, one (1) unit
2. U.S. history, one (1) unit

Physical Education: one-half (1/2) unit

**Note:** While one-half (1/2) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (1/2) unit

Economics – one half (1/2) unit – dependent upon the certification of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.

Fine Arts: one-half (1/2) unit

#### **CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

The Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-three (23) units<sup>8</sup> to graduate.

#### **4.37 EMERGENCY DRILLS**

All schools in the District shall conduct fire drills at least monthly. Tornado drills shall also be conducted not fewer than four (4) times per year with at least one each in the months of September, October, January, and February. Students who ride school buses, shall also participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice each school year.

Other types of emergency drills may also be conducted. These may include, but are not limited to:

1. Earthquake;
2. Act of terrorism;
3. Chemical spill;
4. Airplane crash

#### **4.50 PERMANENT RECORDS**

Permanent school records, as required by the Arkansas Department of Education, shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the District until the student receives a high school diploma or its equivalent or is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance. A copy of the student's permanent record shall be provided to the receiving school district within ten (10) school days after the date a request from the receiving school district is received.

#### **4.59 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited during the first class period of each school day. Those students choosing to participate shall do so by facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts, or in an appropriate salute if in uniform, while reciting the Pledge. Students choosing not to participate shall be quiet while either standing or sitting at their desks.

Students shall not be compelled to recite the Pledge, but students who choose not to recite the Pledge shall not disrupt those students choosing to recite the Pledge.

Students choosing not to recite the Pledge shall not be subject to any comments, retaliations, or disciplinary action.

#### **SCHOOL LUNCH SUBSTITUTIONS**

The Westside School District only provides substitute meal components on menus to accommodate students with handicapping conditions meeting the definition of a disability as defined in USDA regulations. A parent or legal guardian wishing to request such a dietary accommodation must submit a Certificate of Disability for Special Dietary Needs Form completed by a licensed physician to the district's Director of Child Nutrition.

The district will not prepare meals outside the normal menu to accommodate a family's religious or personal health beliefs.

#### **Director of Child Nutrition**

Marilyn Chrisman  
Westside School District

#### **PLACEMENT OF MULTIPLE BIRTH SIBLINGS**

The parent, guardian or other person having charge or custody of multiple birth siblings in grades pre-K through 6 may request that the multiple birth siblings are placed in either the same or separate classrooms. The request shall be in writing not later than the 14<sup>th</sup> calendar day prior to the first day of classes at the beginning of the academic year. The school shall honor the request unless it would require the school to add an additional class to the sibling's grade level. If one parent of multiple birth siblings requests a placement that differs from that of the other parent of the same multiple birth siblings, the school shall determine the appropriate placement of the siblings.

The school may change the classroom placement of one or more of the multiple birth siblings if:

- There have been a minimum of 30 instructional days since the start of the school year; and
  - After consulting with each classroom teacher in which the siblings were placed, the school determines the parent's classroom placement request is:

Detrimental to the educational achievement of one or more of the siblings;  
Disruptive to the siblings' assigned classroom learning environment; or  
Disruptive to the school's educational or disciplinary environment.

If a parent believes the school has not followed the requirements of this policy, the parent may appeal the multiple birth siblings' classroom placement to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision regarding the appeal shall be final.

**JOHNSON COUNTY WESTSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK 2012-2013**

Dear Parent / Legal Guardian:

According to the School Laws of Arkansas Title VI, Chapter 18, Subchapter 5, Sections 6-18-501 through 6-18-514, the student discipline policies were formed by Westside Elementary School. It has been developed by administrators, teachers, parents, and students of the Westside School District and is in compliance with the policies and procedures accepted by the Johnson County Westside School District Board of Education. If you have any questions, please call the Elementary School Office at either (479) 497-1088 or 2213.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OFFICE.**

The principal reserves the right to follow the disciplinary procedures described in the Handbook in the event that this page is not signed and returned to the administration office.

A signature by the parent / legal guardian acknowledges having received the Elementary Student Handbook.

Student Name (print)\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

