

Section E
SUPPORT SERVICES

File: EB
SAFETY PROGRAM

Accidents are undesirable, unplanned occurrences that can result in tragic consequences--bodily harm, loss of school time, property damage, legal action, and even fatality. The School Committee will guard against such occurrences by taking every possible precaution to protect the safety of all students, employees, visitors and others present on school property or at school-sponsored events.

The Committee will comply with safety requirements established by governmental authorities and will insist that its staff adhere to recommended safety practices as these pertain, for example, to the school plant, special areas of instruction, student transportation, school sports and occupational safety.

The practice of safety will also be considered a facet of the instructional program of the schools. Instruction will include accident prevention as well as fire prevention; emergency procedures; traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian safety.

The Superintendent will have overall responsibility for the safety program of the school system. It will be the responsibility of the Superintendent to see that appropriate staff members are kept informed of current state and local requirements relating to fire prevention, civil defense, sanitation, public health, and occupational safety.

Efforts directed toward the prevention of accidents will succeed only to the degree that all staff members recognize that preventing accidents is a daily operational responsibility.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:55C and Acts of 1985c 614 Sec 1
 Board of Education 603 CMR 36:00

CROSS REFS: EEAE, School Bus Safety Program
 GBGB, Staff Personal Security and Safety
 IHAM, Health Education
 JLI, Student Safety

Reviewed: January 22, 2020

File: EBA
FACILITIES INSPECTION

The school district, in cooperation with the Superintendent of Public Buildings, requires that all buildings under their control (owned or leased) be inspected for safety and health conditions by the appropriate agencies, on an annual basis or as needed or required.

1. Building inspection department (gas, plumbing, electrical, etc.)
2. Fire department
3. Department of health
4. Water department to include (chemical analysis, lead, etc.)
5. Police department

Copies of inspection will be posted and any corrective action will be promptly complied with. The Superintendent will provide the School Committee with an annual safety report.

Reviewed: January 22, 2020

PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Wilmington Public Schools are committed to providing a safe and properly maintained environment for all staff, students and visitors. To achieve this end, the School District will implement integrated pest management procedures for its buildings and grounds.

The integrated pest management procedures shall include implementation of appropriate prevention and control strategies, notification of certain pesticide and herbicide uses, record keeping, education and evaluation.

Integrated pest management procedures will determine when to control pests and what method of control to choose. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species, location and whether and at what population level its presence poses a threat to people, property or the environment. The full range of action alternatives, including no action, will always be considered.

I. OVERVIEW AND GOALS

- A. The Wilmington Public Schools shall develop and implement an integrated pest management program.
- B. An integrated pest management program is a pest control approach that emphasizes using a balanced combination of tactics (cultural, mechanical, biological, chemical) to reduce pests to a tolerable level while using pesticides and herbicides as a last resort to minimize health, environmental and economic risks.
- C. Pesticides and herbicides will be used only as a last resort, based on a review of all other available options.
- D. The integrated pest management program shall strive to:
 - 1. Reduce any potential human health hazard.
 - 2. Reduce loss or damage to school structures or property.
 - 3. Minimize the risk of pests from spreading in the community.
 - 4. Enhance the quality of facility use for school and community.
 - 5. Minimize health, environmental and economic risks.

II. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

- A. When pesticides or herbicides are used, they must be classified as an EPA. Category III or IV. Application of any pesticide or herbicide may be performed only by certified applicators.
- B. Application of pesticides and herbicides may only be accomplished during a school break or when the building will be clear of students for at least 48 hours.

III. NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE AND HERBICIDE USE

- A. When pesticides or herbicides are used outdoors, notice of their use will be provided to parent/guardians, staff and students and will also be posted in a common area.

- B. When pesticides and herbicides are used in a building, the site will provide a 48-hour prenotification in the form of posting the product name, purpose, application date, time and method and the Material Safety Data Sheet on all entrance doors. A contact person will also be listed.
- C. In the event of an EPA registered pesticide or herbicide application in or around a building site during the school year or summer session, a notice (including the product name, purpose, contact person, and application date, time and method), will be sent home in writing with students in the affected building at least 5 days prior to application.

IV. RECORD-KEEPING

- A. The District will keep a record of pesticides and herbicides used, amounts and locations of treatments and will keep any Material Safety Data Sheets, product labels and manufacturer information on ingredients related to the application of the pesticides or herbicides.
- B. All records of pesticides and herbicides used and correspondence will be available for public review upon notice and during normal school hours.

V. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES AND EDUCATION

- A. Designated staff (School Nutrition, Buildings and Grounds, etc.) will participate in sanitation and pest exclusion procedure appropriate to their roles. For example: keeping doors closed, repairing cracks, removing food waste within 12 hours, keeping lids on garbage receptacles and keeping vegetation properly out.
- B. Ongoing education of all appropriate District staff will be a priority to ensure a safe and clean environment.

LEGAL REF: Chapter 85 of the Acts of 2000, "An Act to Protect Children and Families from Harmful Pesticides."

Reviewed: January 22, 2020

The school attempts to provide a safe environment. If an accident or sudden illness occurs, school personnel will administer first aid and, if warranted, call the school physician.

First aid is defined as the immediate and temporary care given in case of an accident or sudden illness, which enables the child to be taken safely home or to a physician. First aid includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the Heimlich maneuver, and other life-saving techniques. It does not include diagnosis or treatment. Within the school setting, school personnel have a duty to provide reasonable assistance to an injured or ill student. Any care beyond first aid will not be given.

At each school, procedures will be developed for the proper handling of an injury to, or sudden illness of, a child or staff member. These will be made known to the staff and will incorporate the following requirements:

1. The school nurse or another trained person will be responsible for administering first aid.
2. When the nature of an illness or an injury appears in any way serious, every effort will be made to contact the parent and/or family physician immediately.
3. Every effort will be made to send an ill or injured student home to a parent or designated adult. No young child who is ill or injured will be sent home alone, nor will any older child unless the illness or injury is minor. A young child who is ill or injured will not be taken home unless it is known that someone is there to receive him.
4. In extreme emergencies, the school nurse, Principal, or designee may make arrangements for immediate transportation of an injured or ill student to the nearest medical facility, contacting a parent or guardian in advance if at all possible.
5. The teacher or other staff member to whom a child is responsible at the time an accident occurs will make out a report on an official form providing details about the accident. This will be required for every accident for which first aid is given.
6. All accidents to students and staff members will be reported as soon as possible to the Superintendent and, if the Superintendent deems appropriate, to the School Committee.
7. School personnel who provide first aid in good faith (first aid that is reasonable in the circumstances) to a student in emergency are protected from civil liability.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:55A; 71:56

CROSS REF: JLC, Student Health Services and Requirements

MEDICAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY PLANS

Advance planning for emergencies and disasters is essential to provide for the safety of students and staff; it also strengthens the morale of all concerned to know that plans exist and that students and staff have been trained in carrying out the plans.

The Superintendent will develop and maintain plans that meet the requirements of state law for preparedness in case of fire, civil emergencies, and natural disasters.

The Superintendent shall develop, in consultation with school nurses, school physicians, athletic coaches, trainers and local emergency Medical Services agencies, a Medical and Behavioral Health Emergency Response Plan for each school in the district. Each Plan shall include:

1. A method establishing a rapid communications system linking all parts of the school campus, including outdoor facilities, to local Emergency Medical services along with protocols to clarify when EMS and other emergency contacts will be called.
2. A determination of EMS response times to any location on the campus.
3. A list of relevant contacts with telephone numbers and a protocol indicating when each person shall be called, including names of experts to help with post-event support.
4. A method to efficiently direct EMS personnel to any location on campus, including the location of available rescue equipment.
5. Safety precautions to prevent injuries in classrooms and on the school campus.
6. A method of providing access to training in CPR and first-aid for teachers, athletic coaches, trainers and other school staff, which may include CPR training for High School students; provided that School Committees may opt out of instruction in CPR pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 71.
7. A list of the location of all available AEDs, whether the location is fixed or portable, and a list of personnel trained in its use.
8. A method of providing access to training in de-escalation and crisis prevention techniques, (ie: Safety Care) and behavioral health incident management for clinical and relevant staff (ie: support staff, specialized program staff, etc.)

Plans shall be submitted at least every 3 years by September 1. Plans must be updated in the case of new construction or other physical changes to the school campus.

Building Principals will meet all requirements for conducting fire drills and Emergency Response drills to give students practice in moving with orderly dispatch to designated areas under emergency conditions, and the staff practice in carrying out their assigned responsibilities for building evacuation.

SOURCE: MASC

CROSS REF.: EBCD, Emergency Closings
JL, Student Welfare

JLC, Student Health Services and Requirements

LEGAL ref: M.G.L. 69:8A Section 362 of Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2000

Reviewed: 8/22/2023, 9/21/2023, 10/19/2023

Revision Adopted: 11/15/2023

USE OF AED (AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR)

The Wilmington Public School Committee recognizes that from time to time medical emergencies may arise that justify the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The Committee will allow the use of these machines by qualified personnel in the schools and for use at athletic events hosted by the district. The Committee recognizes that a public access defibrillation program provides an opportunity for trained responders at participating Wilmington Public Schools to deliver early defibrillation to victims of cardiac arrest. Use of an Automatic External Defibrillator is intended to maximize the chance of survival based upon the steps taken during the critical minutes before Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers arrive and assume responsibility for care of the patient.

Employees of the district will be authorized to utilize an AES only after competing initial and recurrent training courses, successfully, as approved by the American Heart Association or AED's and CPR. Requirements for the frequency of recurrent training will be as specified by the issuing organization of the individual employee's certification. Acceptable certification will consist of completion of an American Heart Association "Heartsaver AED" course and CPR course.

Reviewed: January 22, 2020

File: EBCD
EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

The Superintendent may close the schools, delay opening, or dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that threaten the health or safety of students and personnel. While it may be prudent, under certain circumstances, to excuse all students from attending school, to delay the opening hour or to dismiss students early, the Superintendent has the responsibility to see that as much of the educational, administrative, supervisory, and operational activity is continued as may be possible. Therefore, if conditions affect only a single school or function, only that school or function will be closed.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent will consider many factors, including the following principal ones relating to the fundamental concern for the safety and health of children:

1. Weather conditions, both existing and predicted
2. Driving, traffic, and parking conditions affecting public and private transportation facilities
3. Actual occurrence or imminent possibility of any emergency condition that would make the operation of schools difficult or dangerous
4. Inability of teaching personnel to report for duty, which might result in inadequate supervision of students.

The Superintendent will weigh these factors and take action to close the schools only after consultation with public works and public safety authorities and with school officials from neighboring towns. Students, parents/guardians, and staff will be informed early in each school year of the procedures that will be used to notify them in case of emergency closing. When schools are closed for emergency reasons, staff members will comply with School Committee policy in reporting for work.

SOURCE: MASC- Updated 2022

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:4; 71:4A

Subcommittee reviewed: 10/19/2023

Approved: 12/6/2023

File: EBCFA
FACE COVERINGS

In alignment with guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the Wilmington School Committee adopts the following policy with regard to masks and other face coverings in Wilmington Public Schools (WPS).

In all WPS buildings and for all WPS programs, wearing a mask or other face covering is optional, with the following exceptions:

- Students and staff returning from a 5-day quarantine after a positive COVID test must wear a mask other than when eating, drinking, or outside, through day 10 of exposure.
- Students who are symptomatic and/or test positive for COVID in school must wear a medical-grade mask (provided by the nurse) while waiting in the health office.
- All students and staff are required to wear a mask on school buses as long as the federal transportation mask mandate remains in effect.

Guidance Statements: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements - mask-requirements-in-certain-locations-https://search.mass.gov/?q=school+health+offices>

[Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance Updated February 9, 2022](#)

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0209mask-requirement-update.pdf>

SOURCE: MASC – August 2020
Reviewed: August 26, 2020
Adopted: September 15, 2020
Amended & Adopted: February 16, 2022

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MANAGEMENT

The School Committee's most important function is to provide for the education of children, and it recognizes that the education of children is dependent upon many factors, including a proper physical environment that is safe, clean, sanitary, and as comfortable and convenient as the facilities will permit or the use requires.

The supervision over the care and safekeeping of property used by the school department will be the general responsibility of the Superintendent, with the cooperation of the responsible town departments. They will work with other municipal departments, as necessary, to develop a comprehensive and well- defined plan for the proper maintenance, cleanliness, and safekeeping of all school buildings and grounds to ensure that each school is equally well maintained, equipped, and staffed.

The Superintendent, with the cooperation of the responsible town departments, will establish procedures and employ such means as may be necessary to provide accurate information in regard to the nature, condition, location, and value of all property used by the school department; to safeguard the property against loss, damage, or undue depreciation; to recover and restore to usefulness any property that may be lost, stolen or damaged; and to do all things necessary to ensure the proper maintenance, cleanliness, and safekeeping of school property.

Within the separate schools, the building administrator, with the cooperation of the responsible town departments, will be responsible for proper care, maintenance, and cleanliness of buildings, equipment and grounds.

SOURCE: MASC - Updated 2022

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:68

Subcommittee reviewed: 10/19/2023

Approved: 12/6/2023

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SECURITY

Public school buildings and grounds are one of the greatest investments of the town. It is deemed in the best interest of the school department and town to protect the investment adequately.

Security should mean not only maintenance of a secure (locked) building, but protection from fire hazards and faulty equipment, and safe practices in the use of electrical, plumbing, and heating equipment. The Committee expects close cooperation with fire and law enforcement departments and with insurance company inspectors.

Access to school buildings and grounds outside of regular school hours will be limited to personnel whose work requires it. An adequate key control system will be established, which will limit access to buildings to authorized personnel and will safeguard against the chance of entrance to buildings by unauthorized persons.

Funds and valuable records will be kept in a safe place and under lock and key.

Protective devices designed to be used as safeguards against illegal entry and vandalism will be installed when appropriate to the individual situation. Employment of watch people may be approved in situations where special risks are involved.

School Security

It shall be the policy of the Wilmington School Committee that:

- a. For every day that school is in session, the main school entrances shall be locked within five (5) minutes after the official start time of the school day for that building. Only one entrance door will be unlocked in the morning for staff and students to enter the building. Administrative assistants or other authorized staff shall buzz all staff and visitors into the schools through this main entrance. In cases where a school has separate bus and drop off entrances, an administrator or authorized staff member must man each entrance.
- b. School Security cameras may be placed at various locations at each school including the main entrance, other entrance and exit locations, parking areas, and field areas. All cameras will be connected to at least one monitor located inside the school building as well as monitors in the Public Safety Building.
- c. Any necessary review of security recording will be limited to the building principal/assistant principal, the superintendent or other authorized school personnel or the Wilmington Police and will be used only when investigating reported illegal activity, violations of student conduct code, to investigate persons who attempt to gain unauthorized access to the school, and to maintain building and grounds security.
- d. A door bell, chime, or access pad will be in use at the main entrance of each school building. These devices will be utilized by all visitors who wish to gain access to the school building.

- e. A speaker system will also be utilized at the main entrance to allow school personnel to communicate with the visitor, if necessary, prior to granting access to the school building.
- f. The School principal or other authorized person shall grant access to visitors through an unlocking mechanism located in the main office after visual identification is made and the visitor's purpose for requesting access to the school is accepted. Any visitor who is unknown to school personnel will be asked to provide identification to a school administrator prior to entering the building.
- g. All visitors are required to sign a visitor log and obtain a visitor pass from the school office before proceeding to any other part of the school. Visitors will be reminded to check out at the main office prior to leaving the building. Any visitor who is unknown to school personnel will be asked to provide identification.
- h. The school principal or authorizing person, shall investigate all unknown persons who attempt to gain access to the school building. The Wilmington Police will be notified whenever an unknown person attempts to gain access to the school without good cause.
- i. Signage will be prominently displayed at all schools informing visitors that security devices are in use at the school and outlining the procedures for gaining access to the school.
- j. During school vacation periods, including the summer recess period, the main entrance at each school may be unlocked unless ordered locked by the Wilmington Police, school principal, superintendent or other authorized school personnel.
- k. At times when there are special events (concerts etc.) planned during the school day, the principal will make arrangements for guests and attendees to access the main entrance for the purpose of attending the special event. In so doing, the principal will arrange for an authorized staff member to monitor the entrance during those times when the door is unlocked.
- l. The Wilmington School Committee will review the security guidelines annually with the school administration to consider recommended adjustments to the policy.

Revision adopted: February 27, 2013

VANDALISM

The School Committee recognizes that acts of vandalism committed against public and private property are costly and require positive action through educational programs. Consequently, the Committee will support various programs aimed at reducing the amount of vandalism.

Every citizen of the town, staff members, students, and members of the police department are urged by the School Committee to cooperate in reporting any incidents of vandalism to property under control of the school department, and the name(s) of the person or persons believed to be responsible. Each employee will report to the Principal of the school every incident of vandalism known to them and, if known, the names of those responsible.

The Superintendent is authorized to sign a criminal complaint and to press charges against perpetrators of vandalism against school property, and is further authorized to delegate, as he/she sees fit, authority to sign such complaints and to press charges.

Parents/guardians and students will be made aware of the legal implications involved. Reimbursement will be sought for all or part of any damages.

SOURCE: MASC - Reviewed 2022

Subcommittee reviewed: 10/19/2023.

Approved: 12/6/2023

AUTHORIZED USE OF SCHOOL-OWNED MATERIALS

The School Committee wishes to be of assistance, whenever possible, to other town departments and community organizations. Therefore, permission to use school equipment may be granted by the Superintendent upon request by responsible parties or organizations.

School equipment may be used by staff members when the use is related to their school employment and by students when the equipment is to be used in connection with their studies or extracurricular activities.

Proper controls will be established by the Superintendent to assure the user's responsibility for, and return of, all school equipment.

SOURCE: MASC - Reviewed 2022

Subcommittee reviewed: 10/19/2023

Approved: 12/6/2023

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The major purpose of the school system's transportation services is to aid students in getting to and from school in an efficient, safe, and economical manner.

The school system will contract for transportation services. The School Committee will award contracts on a competitive bid basis. Bus contractors and taxi contractors, who will be held responsible for the safe operation of school buses, will comply with all applicable state laws and regulations, including but not limited to:

1. Specifications for school bus design and equipment
2. Inspection of buses
3. Qualifications and examinations of bus drivers, including C.O.R.I.
4. Driving regulations
5. Small vehicle requirements, if applicable
6. Insurance coverage
7. Adherence to local regulations and directives as specified in bid contracts

The Superintendent, working with the bus contractor and other appropriate administrators, will be responsible for establishing bus schedules, routes, stops, and all other matters relative to the transportation program.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 40:5; 71:7A, B and C; 71:37D; 71:48A; 71:68; 71:71A; 71B:4; 71B:5; 71B:8; 74:8A; 76:1; 76:l2Bi; 76:14

CROSS REF: EEAA, Walkers and Riders

WALKERS AND RIDERS

Students will be entitled to transportation to and from school at the expense of the public schools when such transportation conforms to applicable provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Reimbursement to the school system for transportation costs may be given by the Commonwealth only for (a) students living at least one and one half miles from school, (b) students who live more than one mile from the nearest bus stop, and (c) students with special needs for whom transportation must be provided.

Additionally, the Committee will provide transportation for students as follows:

Kindergarten: All students, except those living in immediate proximity to the school, as determined by the Superintendent.

Grades 1 - 3: Students living more than one mile from school.

Grades 4 - 6: Students living more than one and one-half miles from school.

Grades 7 -12: Students living more than two miles from school.

Exceptions to these guidelines may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent. This will apply particularly to any student who must travel in a hazardous area to and from school. These students will be transported regardless of the mileage limits listed.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 40:5; 71:7A; 71:68; 71B:5

CROSS REF: EEA, Student Transportation Services

BUS DRIVER EXAMINATION AND TRAINING

The School Committee will reserve the right to approve or disapprove persons employed by the bus contractor to drive school transportation vehicles.

1. Courteous and careful drivers will be required.
2. Each driver will file with school officials a medical certificate and proof of freedom from tuberculosis.
3. No person under 18 years and only persons of high character will be allowed to operate school buses.
4. Only persons who are properly licensed by the state and have completed the driver-training program will be permitted to drive school buses.
5. The contractor will furnish the School Committee with a list of names of drivers and their safety records for the last three years.
6. The contractor will notify school officials as soon as possible of any change of bus drivers.

LEGAL REFS: Highway Safety Program Standard No. 17

M.G.L. 90:7B; 90:8A; 90:8A ½

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR SCHOOL BUS AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DRIVERS

The District shall adhere to federal law and Department of Transportation regulations requiring a drug and alcohol-testing program for school bus drivers and commercial vehicle drivers. Such testing will be conducted for five different situations: pre-employment, randomly, following an accident, following an authorization to return to duty, and upon reasonable suspicion that a driver is under the influence of alcohol or using drugs.

The District will comply with Department of Transportation protocols regarding the collection and testing necessary to establish whether alcohol or drugs are present in the driver's system, and regulations will be established for the steps to be taken in the event that test results are positive.

This program shall comply with the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Section 382 et seq. The Superintendent or designees shall adopt and enact procedures consistent with the federal regulations, defining the circumstances and procedures for testing.

LEGAL REF:

49 U.S.C. sec. 2717 et seq. (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991) 49C.F.R. Part 40
Procedures for Transportation Workplace and Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs

49C.F.R. Part 382 Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing 49 C.F.R. Part 391
Qualifications of Drivers

49 C.F.R. Part 40 Procedures for Transportation Workplace and Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

49 C.F.R. Part 391 Qualifications of Drivers

SOURCE: MASC-NEPN Code Updated 2022

SOURCE: MASC - NEPN Code updated 2022

Reviewed: 10/19/2023, 12/21/2023

Approved: 1/24/2024

File: EEAEC (also JICC)

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

The School Committee and its staff share with students and parents the responsibility for student safety during transportation to and from school. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents/guardians of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with regulations approved by the School Committee.

Revision adopted: December 1, 2007

SOURCE: MASC Updated 2022

Reviewed: 10/19/2023, 12/21/2023

Approved: 1/24/2024

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Procedures for Drivers and Parents

1. In case of any misconduct on a bus, the incident will be reported on the proper form to the school Principal. He/she will report the incident in writing to the parent concerned, with a copy to the Superintendent.
2. In case of a repetition by the same student, the Principal will suspend the student's transportation privileges with written notice to the parent to report at once with the child to the Superintendent's office.
3. After a second offense and a conference with the Superintendent, if a third such incident occurs, bus privileges will be denied the student and the responsibility for transportation will then rest with the parent.

Loading and Unloading at Bus Stop

1. Riders must be on time. Bus drivers will not wait.
2. Riders will enter or leave the bus at regular stops only.
3. Orderly behavior and respect for private property will be required.
4. Instructions and directions of the driver must be followed by the riders when entering or leaving the bus.

Required Conduct aboard the Bus

1. Riders must remain in seats or in place when the bus is in motion.
2. Whistling and shouting are not permitted.
3. Profanity and obscene language are forbidden.
4. Smoking is prohibited.
5. The following disturbances are prohibited:
 - Pushing or wrestling
 - Annoying other passengers or disturbing their possessions
 - Talking to the driver
 - Throwing objects within the bus or out of windows
 - Climbing over seats
 - Opening or closing windows
 - Leaning out of windows
 - Littering the bus
6. Parents will be held responsible for any defacing or damaging of the bus.

Parents and students will be informed of these regulations at the beginning of each school year, and parents will be asked to return signed forms indicating that the regulations have been received and read.

USE OF VIDEOS ON SCHOOL BUSES

Cameras may be used to monitor student's behavior **on buses** in order to promote the safe transportation of students. Videotapes of students riding on buses may be used to foster security, promote students' safety and monitor student misconduct.

Prior notice must be given to the Superintendent before any video is reviewed. The Superintendent or her designee shall review any videotape if any misconduct is alleged.

Parental requests to review the videotapes shall be directed to the Superintendent. Those reviewing the videotapes must have prior authorization from the Superintendent. Students shall not view these tapes without explicit authorization from the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the implementation of this policy.

Please refer to Policy JICC and EEAEC STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION IN PRIVATE VEHICLES

School buses will be used for the transportation of students participating in co-curricular or extracurricular activities. However, when buses are not available, private vehicles may be permitted to transport students to or from school activities that fall within the academic day or extend the school day provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. The activity has the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.
2. The owner of the vehicle being used in transporting students must file evidence with the Superintendent of personal liability insurance coverage on the vehicle in the amounts of \$100,000 - \$300,000 or more.
3. The parents/guardians of students to be transported in this manner will be fully informed as to this means of transportation and will sign a statement to this effect.
4. The driver and any non-student adult passenger will be subject to a satisfactory CORI and/or background check in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and School Committee Policy.

SOURCE: MASC - Updated 2022

Reviewed: 10/19/2023, 12/19/2023

Approved: 1/24/2024

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES

The school system will take part in the National School Lunch Program and other food programs that may become available to assure that all children in the schools receive proper nourishment.

In accordance with guidelines for participation in these programs, and in accordance with the wishes of the Committee, no child who a teacher believes is improperly nourished will be denied a lunch or other food simply because proper application has not been received from his parents or guardians.

Students will be eligible to receive meals at no charge or meals at a reduced price if their household income is at or below the standards and guidelines established by the federal government for this purpose.

LEGAL REFS: National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 USC 1751-1760) Child
 Nutrition Act of 1966, P.L. 89-642, 80 Stat. 885, as amended M.G.L.
 15:1G; 15:1L; 69:1C; 71:72

REVISION ADOPTED: May 9, 2018

MEAL CHARGE POLICY

The School Committee is committed to providing students with healthy, nutritious meals each day so they can focus on school work, while also maintaining the financial integrity of meal programs and minimizing any impact on students with meal charges. However, unpaid meal charges place a large financial burden on the school district, as food services is a self-supporting entity within the district. The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with federal reporting requirements of the USDA Child Nutrition Program, as well as provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances.

The provisions of this policy pertain to regular priced school meals only. The School Committee will provide a regular meal to students who forget or lose their lunch money.

Meal Charges and Balances

Students will pay for meals at the regular rate approved by the School Committee and for their meal status (regular, reduced-price, or free) each day. Payment options will be delineated in student handbooks and provided to parents of incoming students. When a student's account balance enters the negative, students will not be allowed to purchase a la carte items including but not limited to a second entrée, snack, ice cream, or an additional beverage. However, if a student's account balance enters the negative, the student may be offered an alternative lunch (sandwich, milk, fruit, and vegetable) until the student's account is paid in full. The parent/guardian is responsible for any meal charges incurred. If there is a financial hardship, a parent/guardian should contact food services directly to discuss payment options such as an individualized repayment plan.

Payments

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all meal payments to the food service program. Notices of low or deficit balances will be sent directly to parent/guardians via email or regular postal mail at regular intervals during the school year. At no time shall any staff member give payment notices to students unless that student is known to be an emancipated minor who is fully responsible for themselves or over the age of 18. If parent/guardians have issues with student purchases they should contact food services for assistance.

Parents/Guardians may pay for meals in advance. Further details are available on the school district webpage and in student handbooks. Funds should be maintained in accounts to minimize the possibility that a child may be without meal money on any given day. Any remaining funds for a particular student, whether positive or negative, will be carried over to the next school year, unless the parent/guardian has requested that a positive balance of funds be transferred to the account of a sibling or another student.

All school cafeterias possess computerized point of sale/cash register systems that maintain records of all monies deposited and spent for each student and those records are available to parents /guardians by setting up an online account (see student handbooks for more details) or by speaking with the school's

food service manager. The point of sale system is designed to prevent direct identification of a student's meal status. Parents/guardians will receive automated low-balance emails or mailed notices weekly, if applicable. If notices do not result in payment, parents/guardians will receive a phone call from food services. If the phone call does not result in payment the food service manager shall turn the account over to the business office.

Refunds

Refunds for withdrawn and/or graduating students require a written request (email, postal, or in person) for a refund of any money remaining in their account to be submitted. Graduating students also have the option to transfer funds to a sibling's account or to donate to a student in need with a written request.

Delinquent Accounts/Collections

Failure to maintain up-to-date accounts may result in a delay of a student's fee based extra-curricular school services. All seniors must take care of any outstanding bills through the "Senior sign-out" process before graduating.

The Superintendent shall ensure that there are appropriate and effective collection procedures and internal controls within the school district's business office that meet the requirements of law.

If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the administration may investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, parents/guardians and families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price lunches for their child. Each school handbook shall contain detailed instructions for parental/guardians assistance.

Policy Communications

This policy shall be communicated to all staff and families at the beginning of each school year and to families transferring to the district during the year.

LEGAL REFS: MGL 71:72; USDA School Meal Program Guidelines May 2017,
Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023

CROSS REFS: JQ, Student Fees, Fines & Charges
EFE, Civil Rights Complaint Policy for Child Nutrition Programs

SOURCE: MASC - Updated 2023

Reviewed: 12/21/23

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