



# Student Handbook

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## Welcome to the Nest!

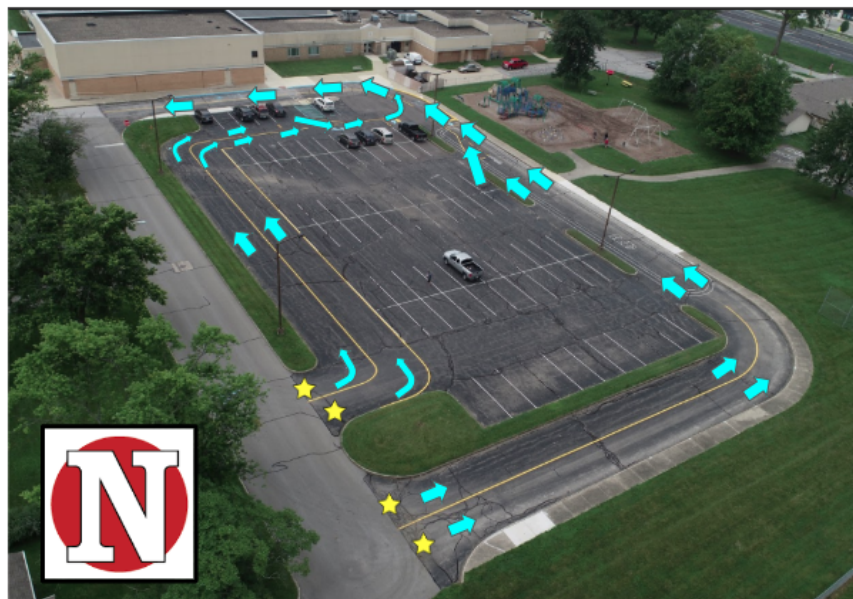


### **OWL OATH**

We choose to  
Be respectful,  
Be responsible,  
And be safe.  
In the nest,  
we are a family and  
together we fly.  
Work hard, be kind!

Northwood Elementary School  
965 Grizzly Cub Drive  
Franklin, IN 46131  
(317) 346 - 8900





## Northwood Elementary Car Rider Procedures

- As you enter the parking lot, choose one of the four lanes marked with a star and arrows.
- Proceed through the line until you reach the area to merge, marked on the parking lot.
- The two lanes will then alternate into one line along the blue curb.
- Always pull forward as much as you can so the line continues to move efficiently.
- Students will exit and enter vehicles on the curbside, along the blue curb..
- For afternoon dismissal, please have your number visible and ID ready (especially at the beginning of the year as we are learning new vehicles).
- **Due to safety concerns, parking and walking students across the lanes is not allowed during the morning arrival times. Also, students may not be dropped off before staff members are present to begin the process at 7:20am. (FYI: tardy bell rings at 7:40am)**

### HELPFUL TIPS:

- Please work with your child so their book bag is ready to go and they can unhook the seat belt and open the door by themselves, if possible.
- Seat your child, if possible, on the passenger side so they can get in and out quickly. Parents getting out of the vehicle to help often delays students getting to their destination. Please feel free to communicate with staff who are available to assist as needed.
- There is no need to arrive too early, which can lead to traffic jams along our surrounding streets. Drop-off in the morning begins at 7:20am and pick-up in the afternoon begins at 2:20pm.

***Thank you for your continued help ensuring all students move efficiently and safely to their destination each day.***

## General Information

### PARENT VOLUNTEERS

In Franklin Community Schools we love having parents and guardians volunteer at school, chaperone on field trips, or visit for lunch. Any person who wishes to chaperone a field trip must follow the classroom teacher's process for signing up to chaperone and paying for the entrance fee (if there is one) to the field trip, and complete a criminal history background check. Background checks must be completed online no later than two weeks prior to the event in which you plan to participate. If you are selected as a volunteer candidate, the school will provide instructions for completing the background check. Chaperones for field trips may NOT bring younger siblings/children on field trips. Not every field trip will require parent chaperones, and often we need to limit the number of chaperones based on the type of field trip.

### VISITORS AT SCHOOL

Each time a person visits a school for a reason that has the person proceed past the main office and into the school, it is necessary to provide a driver's license or valid state identification to follow our check-in procedures and background check procedures in our main offices. Some school business can be accomplished by leaving items in our secure vestibules for us to pick-up later as well. The school offices will determine how and when to admit guests into our schools' offices and into our schools.

### BOOK RENTAL

Book Rental fees for the 2023-2024 school year are available on our website and also parents will receive a bill for these after the school year has begun. These fees are due to the school office as soon as possible after receiving your bill. Please let your child's school office know if there are any questions concerning book rental fees, or you may also set-up a payment plan through your child's school office. If your child is eligible for free or reduced lunches/school fees, please fill-out a new form for the 2023-2024 school year. All students on free or reduced lunches will receive free textbook rental if the box on application is checked and signed. You may also complete this form at <https://franklincommunity.familyportal.cloud/>. Please communicate with our school office if you will have difficulty paying book rental.

### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCING

We encourage parent involvement and communication with our school. If you need to conference with your child's teacher, please call ahead to schedule a time that is best for both of you.

### FRANKLIN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CUB ACADEMY PRESCHOOL

Franklin Community Schools offers a paid preschool program at Union, Needham, and Webb Elementary Schools (locations subject to change). Our preschool program is called Cub Academy and offers both full day and half day options. Please visit [www.franklinschools.org](http://www.franklinschools.org) or call Mrs. Katie Smith at 317-346-8200 for more information. You can also email Mrs. Smith at [smithk@franklinschools.org](mailto:smithk@franklinschools.org).

### BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Franklin Community Schools, in partnership with The Boys and Girls Clubs of Johnson County, also offers an affordable before and after school care option for parents called Cub Care.

This program is offered at all five elementary schools and for CBIS students. Cub Care is available from 6 AM until school starts, and also from school dismissal until 6:00 PM each school day. For more information on this program, you can contact Cub Care at 317-739-7546 or via email at [ssahm@bgcf.net](mailto:ssahm@bgcf.net).

### NO SMOKING POLICY

Franklin Community Schools are committed to the health of its students and employees. In order to provide a healthy learning and working environment and to fulfill the responsibility as an educational facility, the Board of School Trustees has adopted the following policy, revised 7/06

### SMOKING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON ANY PROPERTY OF THE FRANKLIN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

This policy also applies to e-cigarettes and vaping products of any kind.

### CONFEDERATE FLAG

In keeping with the Franklin Community Schools Guiding Principles, the Confederate flag is prohibited in and around all school buildings and grounds.

Approved by the FCS School Board of Trustees on August 10, 2020

### EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION

All of the schools in the Franklin Community Schools will be open on all regularly scheduled days unless closed by the Superintendent of Schools because of an emergency. When the schools are confronted with an emergency, such as extreme road conditions, mechanical failures, energy shortages, or other unforeseen difficulties which may necessitate the closing of

school for an entire day, an announcement will be given to radio and television stations prior to 6:15 AM and repeated at regular intervals thereafter. Also, the school corporation will utilize its automated parent contact system, Facebook, website, and Twitter to rapidly contact families. Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date with your child's school so that you receive this information. Please also "like" your school's and the district's Facebook pages.

#### HOMEWORK POLICY

Our definition of "homework": School assignments to be completed outside of regular school hours. Our staff is committed to assigning homework practices that conform to the following:

1. Appropriate to student's age, capabilities, and home conditions with consideration to a student's time commitments for families, community, and extra-curricular activities.
2. Reasonable in terms of total amount of homework assigned to students during any one time period.
3. Specific in terms of school expectations of student's work and directly related to content or subject being studied.
4. Understood by the appropriate staff members, students, and parents.
5. Committed to the improvement of student scholarship.
6. Consistent with curriculum goals and objectives.
7. Flexible in application to the diversity of individual situations.

As a general rule, teachers will allow one day to make up work for every day a student is absent. Of course, there are always exceptions to the rule, especially if you make special arrangements with the teacher. If your child's absence is unexcused, we take the position that no additional time will be allowed for make-up purposes.

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All assignments, quizzes, tests, papers, and other graded work are to be the product of the individual student being evaluated unless the teacher has specifically stated otherwise. If in the judgment of the instructor, a student uses artificial intelligence (AI) and/or another person's work and presents it as the student's own, the student will be given a failing grade for the specific assignment. Similarly, students who allow another student to copy their work for purposes of deception will be given a failing grade for the work.

#### DISTRICT GRADING SCALE

The Franklin Community Schools have adopted a corporation-wide grading scale:

90-100%	= A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
60-69%	= D
0-59%	= F

#### REPORT CARDS

Parents have access to the online parent portal throughout the school year to access grades, attendance information, and current progress on assignments. At the end of each grading period report cards are also available in the parent portal. The link for this online access is found on each school's website, and instructions are sent home to create a log-in. Parents can also have a daily or weekly email digest emailed for added convenience. Any difficulties or questions can be directed to the school office.

#### HONOR ROLL

Students in grades 3 and 4 are eligible for the Honor Roll each nine week grading period. There are two honor rolls: an "A" honor roll where students have received all A's on their report card, and an "A/B" honor roll where students have received all A's and B's on their report card.

#### PARTY INVITATIONS AT SCHOOL

Please work with your child's teacher to coordinate passing out any party invitations at school to try to avoid any hurt feelings or distractions at school.

#### CLASSROOM PARTY OR BIRTHDAY TREATS

Parents should check with the classroom teacher ahead of time to organize any snacks or classroom parties. The classroom teacher will decide if and how to have a snack daily, as well as how and when to have classroom parties such as birthday parties. For classroom parties or snacks, all food should be store-purchased and still be sealed when provided to the classroom teacher; and all ingredients need to be listed on the package.

## VISITORS AT RECESS

For supervision reasons, no parents, guests, or visitors are allowed to attend recess with students without prior approval from the building principal.

## ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL AND PARENTS WALKING STUDENTS TO CLASS

For school safety and to maintain a safe and orderly arrival at school, parents should refrain from parking and walking their child into school or to their classroom after the first week of school. Children start their day quicker and easier when they walk to their classrooms independently. Parents should either have their children ride the school bus to school, or utilize the car rider lines at their child's school for arrival each day. Parents should follow each school's procedures for arrival at school.

## OUTDOOR RECESS POLICY

It is always best for our students to enjoy as much physical activity during the school day as possible, and with this information in mind, outdoor recess is an important part of each child's school day. Our elementary schools use the following guidelines to make a determination about going outside to recess during the winter months:

If the weather "feels like" 20 degrees and above (considers wind chill factor), then we will have outdoor recess. Students should wear appropriate winter coats, gloves/mittens, hats, and/or scarves will be expected. Medical conditions must have appropriate documentation from the doctor to deviate from the normal recess plan. Also, rain, lightning, slick conditions, or other outdoor hazards could cancel outdoor recess as well.

## ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL

Electronics such as mobile phones, portable video games, iPods, smart watches, etc. are at risk of being stolen or broken and it is recommended that these devices be left at home. In the case that a device must be brought to school, it must be turned-off and stored in the student's backpack and not accessed during the school day or at after school activities such as clubs or Cub Care.

## PETS AT SCHOOL

Due to allergies, health issues, and liability, no pets are allowed at school. Individual classrooms may have classroom pets as approved by the principal. The only outside animals allowed in the classrooms are service animals such as a seeing-eye dog, therapy dog, or police K9. The school board policy on this issue will be followed.

## EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drills: Once a month, in accordance with Indiana Code, our elementary schools will hold a fire drill. We do this to practice and remind ourselves of the proper procedures that must be followed in the event of a real fire. These procedures are in place to assure for the maximum amount of safety. The teachers will go over specifics of the procedures, but two rules are for everyone: walk at all times and no talking.

Disaster drills: at least 4 times during the school year we will be practicing tornado and earthquake drills. Both can be a fact of life here in the Midwest. We have not had an earthquake in many years, but we will be prepared in the event of one. Severe weather is always a threat, especially in the spring. Again, the teachers will go over the specifics, but the same two rules apply.

Lockdown drills: we will have lockdown drills at least twice during the school year

## PROMOTION AND RETENTION

The awarding of marks and decisions relative to promotion or retention of students is the sole and serious responsibility of their respective teachers and principal. It is very important that parents be consulted and well informed at an early date when retention is advisable. Every effort should be made to encourage parents to visit the school and confer regarding their children. Elementary school principals are authorized, with the approval of the superintendent of schools, to place any student in grades K through 4 at a grade level which is commensurate with the child's abilities, training, and social development so as to be conducive to the child's success in school. The parents or guardians of any child whose grade level needs to be altered should be advised of this in a personal conference. If an agreement cannot be obtained for an immediate change, the principal may do so after the child has attended school for at least four weeks and the evaluations of the grading period(s) indicate that the need for the change in grade level placement still exists.

## REPORTING TO THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES (DCS)

Indiana Code, and also our school board policy, dictates that all school employees are mandatory reporters of any suspected child abuse or neglect. All FCS employees must report any suspicions of abuse or neglect to the DCS hotline immediately, or be in violation of Indiana Code and school board policy. Indiana DCS will then follow their processes and procedures on each report. Should DCS choose to investigate the report, they may decide to talk with the child at school. We will follow our school board policy if that occurs, which includes offering to call parents and offering to stay in the room with the child. DCS can decide, using their process, if parents are notified first and if they would like a school representative in the room during the interview. All aspects of DCS's work are confidential and often the school does not learn of the outcome or findings of any DCS report.

## Attendance Policy

(aligns with FCS School Board policy and guideline 5200)

The School Board requires all students enrolled in the schools and programs it offers to attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the State. The Board's educational program is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. The regular contact of students with one another in the classroom and their participation in a well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose.

Research shows that regular attendance correlates with high achievement; for this reason, FCS has determined that students may incur no more than 10 absences. All absences, excused or unexcused, count toward this limit. Exempted absences are not included in this limit.

### EXCUSABLE REASONS (Must be reported within 24 hours)

The Corporation accepts only the following as excusable reasons for absence from school.

An excuse for absence from school may be approved for one (1) or more of the following reasons or conditions:

- A. Professional Appointments (i.e. doctor, dentist, therapist)  
Proper documentation as outlined in this policy will be required (see below)
- B. Personal Illness  
The principal may require a doctor's confirmation (after 2 consecutive days per absence) if s/he deems it advisable.
- C. Out of School Suspension
- D. Death in the Immediate Family
- E. Required Court Attendance
- F. Observance of a Bona Fide Religious Holiday
- G. Such other good cause as determined by law (I.C. 20-8.1-3-18 and Policy #5200)

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT REQUIREMENTS

Notice of appointment will be required upon return to school. The documentation must contain the following to be considered an acceptable absence:

- Name of Student
- Date and Time of Appointment
- Return date to School
- Any limitations and their duration

Failure to produce documentation within 3 days may result in a violation of this policy. Absences that do not accumulate against this guideline include field trips and/or college visits.

### UNACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Any absence from school not authorized or in violation of this policy is considered unacceptable.

#### Elementary

- A. All absences must be reported to the school office. A parent/guardian must call the school to report the absence by 9:00 a.m.
- B. Upon the fifth absence, a parent/guardian will receive a warning notice informing him/her of the number of absences from school.
- C. Upon the tenth absence and thereafter, failure to provide documentation from a physician will be considered to be in violation of this policy. On the tenth absence, a letter is issued from the school as verification of the student's attendance at school. All absences, excused or unexcused, count toward this 10-day limit.
- D. Upon the fifteenth absence, the school will send a notice to Johnson County Community Corrections and DCS for further action.

### TARDINESS

The prompt arrival of students prepares them for success the entire day. Students who report late to school must check in at the main office to obtain admittance to the building.

- A. When a student has reached his/her 5<sup>th</sup> tardy, a letter is sent from the school notifying the parent.

## PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCES

Pre-arranged absences will be considered an unacceptable absence and subject to the 10 day rule in all three school levels. Prior to the absence, parents are expected to notify the school of the absence.

## CERTIFICATE OF INCAPACITY

If a parent does not send his/her child to school because of the child's illness or mental or physical incapacity, it is unlawful for the parent to fail or refuse to produce a certificate of the incapacity for an attendance officer within six (6) days after it is demanded. The certificate required under this requirement shall be signed by an Indiana physician or by an individual holding a license to practice osteopathy or chiropractic in this state or by a Christian Science practitioner who resides in Indiana and is listed in the Christian Science Journal.

## APPOINTMENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If it is necessary for your child to leave school during the school day, parents are asked to notify the teacher and the office by note or phone. This is to ensure that they are ready to leave and will minimize disruption to the classroom. If for any reason the parent will not be picking up the child in person, they should notify us as to whom to expect. All persons picking up students must report to the office to sign the child out of school. We will call for the student on the intercom while you are signing him/her out. This is primarily for safety reasons in order to protect your child, and to keep disruptions at a minimum. The academics of our students are very important. Please make every effort to schedule appointments during non-school hours.

## PARENT NEEDING TO SPEAK WITH STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If you need to see your child between the hours of 7:40 a.m. and 2:25 p.m., the following will occur:

- Sign in at the front office.
- Your child will be called down from his/her classroom to meet you in the office.
- Sign out at the office when finished.

Following this procedure will cut down on the number of classroom interruptions during instructional and learning time during the school day.

## ATTENDANCE AWARDS

The Franklin Community Schools wishes to recognize students with outstanding attendance habits. Each school will establish a program recognizing those students that are exceptional in their school attendance.

## REPORTING SAFETY CONCERNS

We encourage students, parents, and families to communicate with us when concerns arise regarding school safety or the safety of any child. This includes harassment, intimidation, bullying, or threatening behavior. We would prefer that this communication be done by directly contacting the school staff member who would best be able to handle the concern. Students could also use the STOPit anonymous reporting app available on the Franklin Community Schools website.

## Student Health and Clinic Information

### HEALTH CLINIC GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL EXCLUSION

#### 1. **Oral temperature of 100.4° F or more**

Students with a temperature of 100.4° F or more will be sent home. The student should be fever free and fever reducing medicine free for 24 hours before returning to school. If the fever persists for 2 days, even without other symptoms, a physician should be consulted.

#### 2. **Conjunctivitis (pink eye)**

If pink eye is suspected, students should be examined by a health care provider and approved for readmission to school, or remain home until the affected eye is clear and free of purulent drainage.

#### 3. **Impetigo**

Impetigo is a bacterial skin infection characterized by pus filled red bumps that form on the face (particularly around the nose and mouth) or on the extremities. Diagnosis and treatment is required by a physician. Students should be kept home until 24 hours after initiating antibiotic therapy. Draining lesions should be adequately covered at all times with a dry dressing.

#### 4. **Scabies**

Diagnosis and treatment is required by a physician. Students may return the day after treatment.

**5. Head Lice (Pediculosis)**

Students found with head lice will need to be picked up immediately from school. After treatment and upon returning to school, the student will be examined by the school nurse. If no live lice are found, students may return to school.

**6. Active Vomiting or Diarrhea**

Students should be symptom free for 24 hrs. before returning to school.

**7. Undiagnosed rash, if fever is present**

Diagnosis and treatment from a physician is recommended. Student should be symptom free for 24 hrs before returning to school.

**8. Chicken Pox (Varicella)**

Students must be excluded from school until all vesicles become dry or lesions have faded.

**9. Shingles**

Students may remain at school only if the site of outbreak can be kept covered and dry.

**10. Strep Throat**

If a strep culture is positive, the student may return to school 24 hours after antibiotic therapy is initiated and is fever free.

**11. Pertussis (Whooping Cough)**

Diagnosis and treatment is required by a physician. Students may return to school after the first 5 days of antibiotic therapy have been completed.

**12. MRSA**

MRSA skin infections require diagnosis and treatment by a physician. Students with an abscess, boil, sore or skin lesion that is draining may remain at school only if the area can be kept covered and dry with a bandage. Any student with a draining skin eruption that cannot be contained and kept dry with a bandage will be excluded from school until cleared by a physician.

**USE OF MEDICATIONS**

The administration of prescribed medication and/or medically-prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, or the child requires medication to benefit from his/her educational program.

Before any medication or treatment may be administered by school personnel to any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written prescription from the child's physician for all prescription drugs accompanied by the written authorization of the parent. In the case of nonprescription drugs, preparations, or remedies, a written authorization from the parent must be on file in the office of the principal.

All medications must be brought to the school nurse's office by a parent or guardian. Only prescription medication in its original container; labeled with the student's name, date, and exact dosage will be administered. Parents may administer medication to their child in the presence of Health Services personnel or designee once the above criteria are met. Parents must give written authorization for medication to be administered to their child by Health Services personnel or designee during school hours.

According to Senate Bill 376, any student in grades K-8 may not take any medications home from school. Parents must pick up medications from school. Parents can authorize, in writing, that someone 18 years or older may pick up the medication. Students will not be allowed to transport medications to or from school for any reason, as per Indiana Law and FCS guidelines.

**INFORMATION ON MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE**

Indiana law requires each year that parents/guardians be informed about "meningococcal disease and its vaccines" (IC 20-30-5-18).

Meningococcal disease is a dangerous disease that can strike children and youth. The disease can progress rapidly and within hours of the first symptoms, may result in death or permanent disability including loss of hearing, brain damage and limb amputations. Symptoms of meningococcal disease often resemble the flu and can include a fever, headache, nausea and stiff neck, making the disease difficult to diagnose. The bacteria that cause meningococcal diseases are transmitted through air droplets and by direct contact with an infected person. Fortunately there is an immunization available and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine meningococcal immunizations at 11 to 12 years of age. This immunization is commonly called Menactra. Johnson County Health Department has this immunization available for free to those individuals who are eleven to eighteen years old and do not have health insurance that provides coverage for



immunizations. To obtain this immunization please call the Johnson County Health Department for an appointment at 317-346-4368, or speak with your healthcare provider.

#### IMMUNIZATIONS

Indiana State law requires that parents or guardians of school age children enrolling in a school system for the first time submit one of the following types of information:

1. Documentation that the child is fully immunized.
2. Documentation that immunizations have been started with a schedule for completion.
3. An authorization for the new school to receive medical records from a prior school.
4. A written objection to immunizations due to religious or medical reasons.

For a complete listing of the immunizations required for your child, please visit <http://www.in.gov/isdh/17094.htm> or contact your child's school.

In accordance with Indiana law, please be advised that your child cannot be permanently enrolled and may be denied the opportunity to attend school unless written information of the type listed above has been provided to the school on or before the first day of school. The purpose of this law is to keep our school children healthy in order to take full advantage of the provided educational opportunities.

#### MEDICAL SCREENINGS

The following tests are given throughout the school year. If you do not want your child tested, you must return a signed, written statement to the school office as soon as possible.

**Hearing Screening:** In order to identify students with hearing losses, hearing tests will be given to all students in first and fourth grades, students transferred from other school districts, students suspected of having hearing losses, and students enrolled in speech therapy. If your child does fall in to one of the above categories, and you would like to have him/her tested, please notify the school office.

**Vision Screening:** Students in Kindergarten & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, plus new students and referrals, will be given a vision screening (not an eye exam) during the school year by a nurse.

## Discipline Policies

School officials may find it necessary to discipline students when their behavior interferes with school purposes or educational functions of the school corporation. In accordance with the provisions of I.C. 20-33-8, administrators and staff members may take the following actions:

1. **REMOVAL FROM CLASS OR ACTIVITY - TEACHER:**
  - a. An elementary teacher may remove a student from the teacher's classroom or activity for a period of up to one (1) school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.
  - b. If a teacher removes a student from class under a above, the principal may place the student in one of the following settings: another appropriate class, another appropriate setting, or in-school suspension. The student may not be placed back into the original class until the principal has a meeting with the teacher, the student, and the student's parents to determine an appropriate behavior plan for the student. If the parents do not attend this meeting within a reasonable time, the principal may place the student in another class or educational setting.
2. **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL:** A school principal (or designee) may deny a student the right to attend school and/or take part in any school function for a period of up to 10 school days.
3. **EXPULSION:** A student may be expelled from school for a period no longer than the remainder of the current semester plus the following semester. In cases where the student is being expelled for possession of a firearm, a destructive device, or a deadly weapon, the maximum length of the expulsion period is listed under the Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion, Section C and Section D.

## GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION:

The grounds for suspension or expulsion listed in Section A below apply when a student is:

- a) On school grounds immediately before, during, and immediately after school hours and at any other time when the school is being used by a school group (including summer school);
- b) Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event; or
- c) Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event.

A violation by a student of a rule listed in Sections A and B is subject to a range of disciplinary consequences imposed by teachers or administrators intended to be progressive in nature and move to a more serious consequence with each violation of the same or similar rule. In recognizing that violations of certain rules and the resulting consequences will be dependent upon the age of the student, the number of prior violations and the severity of the violation, the principal of each building level shall develop the minimum and maximum consequences for each rule for their building that is to be approved by the board annually and published in the student handbook for each building. The appropriate consequence should be the least severe that will adequately address any danger to the student and other persons, prevent further disruption of activities, and promote student achievement.

### A. Student Misconduct and/or Substantial Disobedience

Grounds for suspension or expulsion are student misconduct and/or substantial disobedience. The following rules define student misconduct and/or substantial disobedience for which a student may be suspended or expelled:

1. Using violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or other conduct constituting an interference with school purposes, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. The following enumeration is only illustrative and not limited to the type of conduct prohibited by this rule:
  - a. Occupying any school building, school grounds, or part thereof with intent to deprive others of its use.
  - b. Blocking the entrance or exits of any school building or corridor or room therein with intent to deprive others of lawful access to or from, or use of the building, corridor, or room.
  - c. Setting fire to or damaging any school building or school property.
  - d. Prevention of or attempting to prevent by physical act the convening or continued functioning of any school or education function, or of any meeting or assembly on school property.
  - e. Intentionally making noise or acting in any manner so as to interfere with the ability of any teacher or any other person to conduct or participate in an education function.
2. Engaging in any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to another person or urging of other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct includes coercion, harassment, hazing, or other comparable conduct.
3. Engaging in violence and/or threat of violence against any student, staff member, and/or other persons. Prohibited violent or threatening conduct includes threatening, planning, or conspiring with others to engage in a violent activity.
4. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property, stealing or attempting to steal school property.
5. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property, stealing or attempting to steal private property.
6. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury or behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause physical injury to any person. Self-defense or reasonable action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect oneself and/or another person is not a violation of this rule.
7. Threatening or intimidating any person for any purpose, including obtaining money or anything of value.
8. Threatening (whether specific or general in nature) injury to persons or damage to property, regardless of whether there is a present ability to commit the act.
9. Failing to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where those actions or plans, if carried out, could result in harm to another person or persons or damage property when the student has information about such actions or plans.
10. Possessing, handling, or transmitting a knife or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, is represented to be a weapon, or looks like a weapon.
11. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being affected by any controlled substance, prescription drug, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, intoxicant or depressant of any kind, or any paraphernalia used in connection with the listed substances. Also prohibited is the consumption of any of the stated substances immediately before attending school or a school function or event. ***Low THC Extract as defined by state law is excluded from this rule.***

- a. Exception to Rule 11: a student with a chronic disease or medical condition may possess and self-administer prescribed medication for the disease or condition if the student's parent has filed a written authorization with the building principal. The written authorization must be filed annually. The written authorization must be done by a physician and must include the following information:
  - i. That the student has an acute or chronic disease or medical condition for which the physician has prescribed medication.
  - ii. The nature of the disease or medical condition requires emergency administration of the prescribed medication.
  - iii. The student has been instructed in how to self-administer the prescribed medication.
  - iv. The student is authorized to possess and self-administer the prescribed medication.
12. Possessing, using, or transmitting any substance which is represented to be or looks like a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, depressant, or intoxicant of any kind.
13. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being affected by caffeine-based substances other than beverages, substances containing phenylpropanolamine (PPA), stimulants of any kind, or any other similar over-the-counter products.
14. Possessing, using, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or nicotine-containing products of any kind or in any form. These products include e-cigarettes, vaping devices, any type of look-alike products or other related products or devices associated with tobacco or nicotine use or electronic nicotine delivery systems.
15. Offering to sell or agreeing to purchase a controlled substance or alcoholic beverages.
16. Failing to comply with directions of teachers or other school personnel during any period of time when the student is properly under their supervision, where the failure constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function.
17. Failing to completely and truthfully respond to questions from a staff member regarding school-related matters including potential violations of the student conduct rules or state or federal law.
18. Falsely accusing any person of sexual harassment, or of violating a school rule, and/or a state or federal law.
19. Engaging in any activity forbidden by the laws of Indiana that constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function.
20. Aiding, assisting, agreeing or conspiring with another person to violate these student conduct rules or state or federal law.
21. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
22. Taking, recording, displaying and/or distributing pictures (digital or otherwise), video or audio recordings without the consent of the student or staff member in a situation not related to a school purpose or educational function.
23. Possessing sexually-related materials which include images displaying uncovered breasts, genitals, or buttocks.
24. "Sexting" or using a cell phone or other personal communication device to possess or send text or email messages containing images reasonably interpreted as indecent or sexual in nature. In addition to taking any disciplinary action, phones will be confiscated and any images suspected to violate criminal laws will be referred to law enforcement authorities.
25. Engaging in pranks or other similar activity that could result in harm to another person.
26. Using or possessing gunpowder, ammunition, or an inflammable substance.
27. Violating any board policy or administrative rules that are reasonably necessary in carrying out school purposes or an educational function, including, but not limited to:
  - a. engaging in sexual behavior on school property;
  - b. engaging in sexual harassment of a student or staff member;
  - c. disobedience of administrative authority;
  - d. willful absence or tardiness of students;
  - e. engaging in speech or conduct, including clothing, jewelry or hair style, that is profane, indecent, lewd, vulgar, or refers to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, sex, or illegal activity;
  - f. violation of the school corporation's acceptable use of technology policy or rules;
  - g. violation of the school corporation's administration of medication policy or rules;
  - h. possessing or using a laser pointer or similar device.
28. Possessing or using an electronic device (e.g. cellular phone, tablet computer, pager, digital camera, electronic equipment) in a manner which constitutes an interference with a school purpose or educational function, an invasion

of privacy, or an act of academic dishonesty, or is profane, indecent, or obscene. In addition to being disciplined, students who use an electronic device in a manner which is inconsistent with this rule may have the device confiscated by school administration. Such device will be returned to the parent.

29. Possessing or using on school grounds during school hours an electronic device, a cellular telephone, or any other telecommunication device, including a look-a-like device, in a situation not related to a school purpose or educational function or using such device to engage in an activity that violates school rules. This rule is not violated when the student has been given clear permission from a school administrator or a designated staff member to possess or use one of the devices listed in this rule. In addition to being disciplined, students who use an electronic device in a manner which is inconsistent with this rule may have the device confiscated by school administration. Such device will be returned to the parent.
30. Any student conduct rule the school building principal establishes and gives notice of to students and parents.

## B. Bullying

1. Bullying committed by students toward other students is strictly prohibited. Engaging in bullying conduct described in this rule by use of data or computer software that is accessed through **any computer, computer system, computer network, or cellular telephone or other wireless or cellular communication device**, is also prohibited.
2. For purposes of this rule, bullying is defined as overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner including electronically or digitally, physical acts committed, aggression, or any other similar behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:
  - places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
  - has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
  - has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
  - has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.
3. This rule may be applied regardless of the physical location of the bullying behavior when a student committing bullying behavior and the targeted student attend a school within the school corporation and disciplinary action is reasonably necessary to avoid substantial interference with school discipline or prevent an unreasonable threat to the rights of other students to a safe and peaceful learning environment.
4. Any student or parent who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this rule or any student who feels he/she has been bullied in violation of this rule should immediately report the conduct to the *[school administrator]* who has responsibility for all investigations of student misconduct including bullying. A student or parent may also report the conduct to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the *[school administrator]*. This report may be made anonymously.
5. The principal or designee shall investigate immediately all reports of bullying made pursuant to the provisions of this rule. Such investigation must include any action or appropriate responses that may be taken immediately to address the bullying conduct wherever it takes place. The parents of the bully and the targeted student(s) shall be notified on a regular, periodic basis of the progress and the findings of the investigation and of any remedial action that has been taken.
6. The principal or designee will be responsible for working with the school counselors and other community resources to provide information and/or follow-up services to support the targeted student and to educate the student engaging in bullying behavior on the effects of bullying and the prevention of bullying. In addition, the school administrator and school counselors will be responsible for determining if the bullying behavior is a violation of law required to be reported to law enforcement under Indiana law based upon their reasonable belief. Such determination should be made as soon as possible and once this determination is made, the report should be made immediately to law enforcement.
7. False reporting of bullying conduct as defined in this rule by a student shall be considered a violation of this rule and will result in any appropriate disciplinary action or sanctions if the investigation of the report finds it to be false.
8. A violation of this rule prohibiting bullying may result in any appropriate disciplinary action or sanction, including suspension and/or expulsion.

9. Failure by a school employee who has a responsibility to report bullying or investigate bullying or any other duty under this rule to carry out such responsibility or duty will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from employment with the school corporation.
10. Counseling, corrective discipline, and/or referral to law enforcement will be used to change the behavior of the perpetrator. This includes appropriate intervention(s), restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims and others impacted by the bullying.
11. Educational outreach and training will be provided to school personnel, parents, and students concerning the identification, prevention, and intervention in bullying.
12. All schools in the corporation are encouraged to engage students, staff and parents in meaningful discussions about the negative aspects of bullying. The parent involvement may be through parent organizations already in place in each school.
13. The superintendent or designee will be responsible for developing detailed administrative procedures consistent with the Indiana Department of Education guidelines for the implementation of the provisions of this rule.

#### C. Possessing A Firearm or A Destructive Device

1. No student shall possess, handle or transmit any firearm or a destructive device on school property.
2. The following devices are considered to be a firearm under this rule: any weapon that is capable of expelling, designed to expel, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by means of an explosion.
3. For purposes of this rule, a destructive device is: an explosive, incendiary, or overpressure device that is configured as a bomb, a grenade, a rocket with a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, a Molotov cocktail or a device that is substantially similar to an item described above,  
a type of weapon that may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant through a barrel that has a bore diameter of more than one-half inch, or  
a combination of parts designed or intended for use in the conversion of a device into a destructive device.

A destructive device is NOT a device that although originally designed for use as a weapon, is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety, or similar device.

4. The penalty for possession of a firearm or a destructive device: suspension up to 10 days and expulsion from school for at least one calendar year with the return of the student to be at the beginning of the first semester after the one year period. The superintendent may reduce the length of the expulsion if the circumstances warrant such reduction.
5. The superintendent shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when a student engages in behavior described in this rule.

#### D. Possessing A Deadly Weapon

1. No student shall possess, handle or transmit any deadly weapon on school property.
2. The following devices are considered to be deadly weapons for purposes of this rule:  
-a weapon, taser or electronic stun weapon, equipment, chemical substance, or other material that in the manner it is used, or could ordinarily be used, or is intended to be used, is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury;  
-an animal readily capable of causing serious bodily injury and used in the commission or attempted commission of a crime; or  
-a biological disease, virus, or organism that is capable of causing serious bodily injury.
3. The penalty for possession of a deadly weapon: up to 10 days suspension and expulsion from school for a period of up to one calendar year.
4. The superintendent shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when a student engages in behavior described in this rule.

#### E. Unlawful Activity

A student may be suspended or expelled for engaging in unlawful activity on or off school grounds if 1) the unlawful activity may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or 2) the student's removal is necessary to restore order or protect persons on school property. This includes any unlawful activity meeting the above criteria that takes place during weekends, holidays, other school breaks, and the summer period when a student may not be attending classes or other school functions.

## F. Legal Settlement

A student may be expelled if it is determined that the student's legal settlement is not in the attendance area of the school where the student is enrolled.

LEGAL REFERENCES: I.C. 20-33-8 I.C. 35-31.5-2-86  
I.C. 35-47.5-2-4 I.C. 35-47-1-5

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Good common sense should prevail when it comes to considering what types and styles of clothing should be worn to school. Your child's attire and appearance at school must not cause a distraction in the learning environment. All of our elementary schools are climate controlled, so this plays a part in proper student dress. We ask that swim suits, halter tops, spaghetti straps, short shorts, and outfits that expose bare midriffs not be worn to school. Any articles of clothing that have profane, obscene, lewd, vulgar, and/or gang related designs or meanings are not permitted. Tobacco and/or alcohol slogans, designs, or meanings are not permitted. Hats, caps, and bandanas may not be worn in the building. It is recommended that all children wear safe shoes for recess activities, such as running, climbing, etc. Flip flops and other unsafe shoes are not permitted because students have recess daily and PE weekly. If sandals are worn, they need to be robust with secure strapping for athletic activities.

## STUDENT SEARCHES

The principal, or another member of the administrative staff designated in writing by the principal and acting at the direction of the principal, may search the person of a student during any school activity if the principal has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student has on or about his or her person items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or items which are forbidden by State Law or School Rules. Searches of the person of a student shall be limited to:

- searches of the pockets of the student
- any object in the possession of the student such as a purse, back pack, briefcase, or gym bag, and/or;
- a "pat down" of the exterior of the student's clothing

Searches of the person of a student which require removal of clothing other than a coat, jacket, or shoes shall be referred to a law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy. Searches of the person of a student shall be conducted in a private room by a person of the same sex as the student being searched. At least one but not more than three additional persons of the same sex as the student being searched shall witness but not participate in the search. At the request of the student to be searched, an additional school employee of the same sex as the student, designated by the student, and then reasonably available on school premises, shall witness the search. The parent or guardian of any student searched shall be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible, but prior notification to and consent by the parent or guardian is not required prior to conducting a search based upon reasonable suspicion.

## Transportation Discipline

The Franklin Community Transportation Department prides itself on the safe and efficient delivery of all students to their intended destination. In order to make this possible we have outlined below the expectations for all students who have chosen to ride our buses. While bus transportation is for most students a privilege, we are pleased to host students who assist us in providing a safe and enjoyable riding experience.

## BUS RULES AND PROCEDURES

All school rules apply while the student is on any FCS sponsored bus. Violation of any school rules may result in disciplinary action.

## EXPECTATIONS

To enhance student safety it is expected that all students:

1. Will sit in a forward facing position with legs, arms, feet, and head inside the bus and out of the aisle while the bus is in motion.
2. The students will sit in the seat assigned to them by the driver. The driver reserves the right to change or adjust the student's assigned seat as he/she deems appropriate.
3. Profane language, obscene gestures or loud and boisterous language are prohibited.
4. If a school bus is equipped with seat belts, students must wear them for the duration of bus ride or face disciplinary action.
5. Will not stand, swing, climb, or jump on the bus seat. Also, students are not to switch seats while the bus is in motion.
6. Will not open bus windows more than half way at any time.

7. Will not sit in the driver's seat or operate any of the school bus controls.
8. Will not eat, drink, or chew gum while on the bus.
9. Will enter and exit only by the front door (unless otherwise instructed by the driver).
10. Will not brush their hair or use hygiene products such as hair spray, perfume, nail polish, lip stick, make-up, etc. while on the bus.
11. Will not bring glass containers on the bus such as glass jars, pop bottles, etc.
12. Will not bring skate boards, animals, insects, or plants on the bus.
13. Will keep personal items such as books, pencils, toys, etc. in their book bags.
14. Will make sure that cell phones are on vibrate while riding on the school bus.
15. Students are not allowed to leave the bus without the driver's permission at any time.
16. The students will obey the driver's instructions when crossing the road, boarding, during transport, or leaving the bus.
17. Students must board and leave the bus at the student's regular bus stop location unless given prior permission by the Transportation Department. The Transportation Department will direct the school to issue a bus pass when permission is granted. This is for all grades K-12.
18. Possession or use of the following are prohibited: tobacco, guns, knives or other dangerous weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, explosives, fireworks, matches, cigarettes, or lighters.
19. Intimidation or harassment of the Driver and/or students is prohibited.
20. Transportation of Large Articles-The size of items should be such that it can be carried on the student's lap or on the floor of the bus under the seat in front of the student's seat. In either case, it will not extend beyond or above the height of the seat in front of the student (approximately 39").
21. will not record video or take pictures while on the school bus without driver permission. The student may use devices such as mobile phones or tablets as long as it is not a distraction to the driver or is being used in a way that is deemed inappropriate according to the FCS Acceptable Use Policy.
22. Students should arrive at their bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.

When a student is suspended from one Franklin Community Schools school bus, he/she is suspended from ALL Franklin Community Schools school buses.

#### SEATBELT USAGE

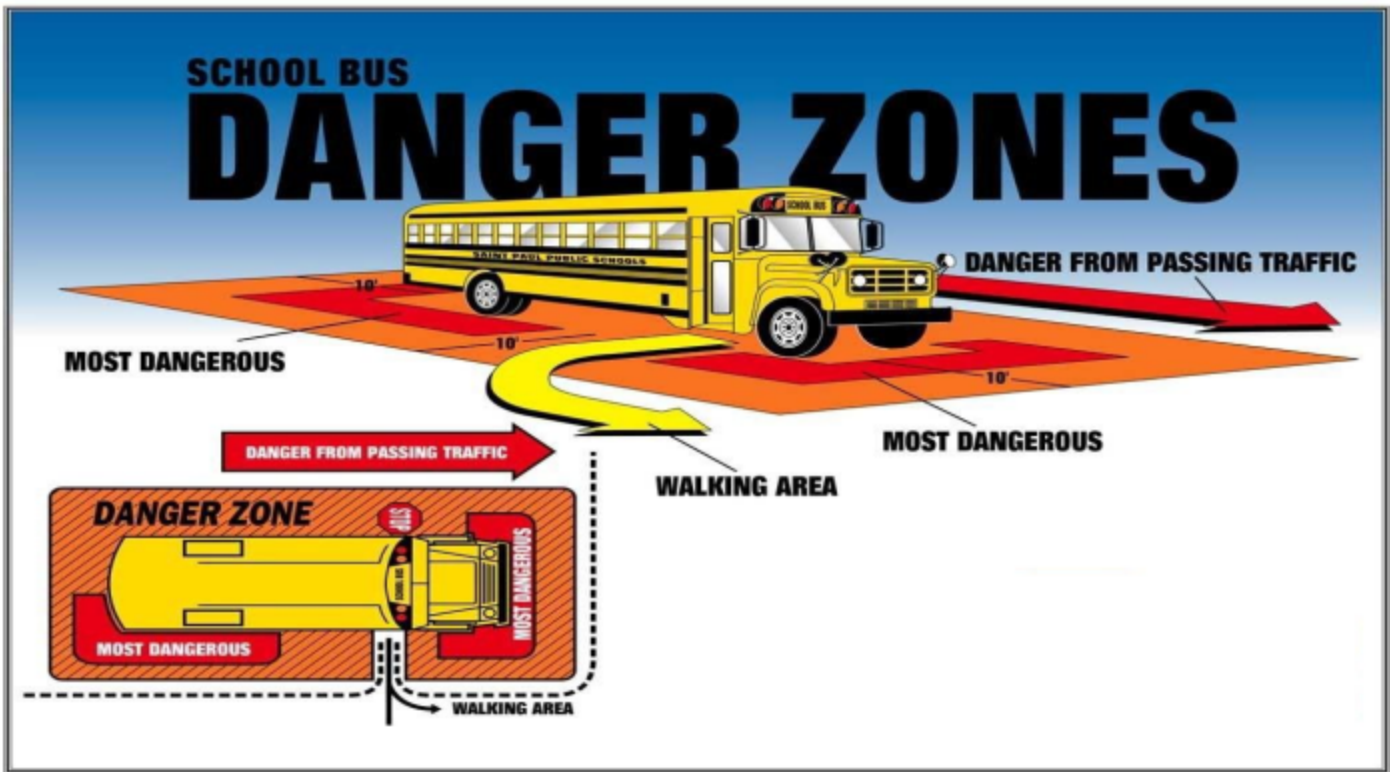
If the school bus that a child is riding on has seatbelts, it is an expectation that the student properly wear the seatbelt at all times without exception. Not wearing the seatbelt can result in an immediate bus suspension.

#### SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION IS A PRIVILEGE AND CAN BE SUSPENDED IF THESE RULES ARE NOT FOLLOWED.

If you have questions or concerns related to the expectations and guidelines listed above, please contact the Director of Transportation or building administration.

#### KNOW THE DANGER ZONES

- Every child must know the DANGER ZONES around the school bus.
- Children should never enter the DANGER ZONE.
- If a child must cross the street, make sure he/she makes eye contact with the driver and wait for the driver to signal before they cross in front of the bus.
- The 10 Giant Step Rule is a good measurement for children to identify the DANGER ZONE around the school bus, particularly when crossing in front of the bus.



## School Breakfast and Lunch Information

School meal prices are available on our website. You may deposit lunch money online, anytime via the Family Portal, or you can pay into your child's lunch account using a check, written to your child's school, or by sending in cash in an envelope marked with your child's name. All cafeteria purchases are to be prepaid before meal service begins. Parents/guardians may make deposits to student accounts by sending cash or a check to the building the student attends or by using the on-line site Family Portal, located at <https://franklincommunity.familyportal.cloud>

### PROCEDURE FOR STUDENT MEAL ACCOUNTS

It is the responsibility of the parents and/or guardians of each child to provide for their lunch on a daily basis, and there are options as to how this may be done.

- (1) Meals may be purchased at the school on a daily basis;
- (2) Meals may be provided at a "free" or "reduced" rate as a result of applying and qualifying for free/reduced lunches through the National School Lunch Program. If your child is approved for free meals and you elect to send a "sack" lunch and milk is desired, there will be a charge for milk. Please be sure that there is money in the child's account for milk purchases.

(3) a "sack" lunch may be brought from home

Families are required to pay for meal services provided for their child prior to approval for the free/reduced lunch/breakfast program. Families also must pay for food items not covered by the school lunch program, including extra milk and/or milk to go with sack lunches brought from home.

If your child was on free or reduced price meals for the 2022-2023 school year, he/she will continue as such for the first 30 school days, and then meals will become full pay if a new application has not been completed and returned. You must complete a new application each school year. You may complete an on-line application at the <https://franklincommunity.familyportal.cloud/> site or your child can bring home a new form the first week of school. These forms MUST be completed and returned to the office as soon as possible in order for your child to remain on free or reduced price meals for the 2023-2024 school year. Families who qualify for free/reduced lunches are subject to income verification to confirm that they are eligible for the program.

Student meal accounts are tracked by a computerized cash register system that records all student deposits and sales. Students, Parents, or Guardians may request meal histories from the food service manager or director, and may review the student's account balance, monitor the account transactions, and deposit money by creating an account in the Family Portal. If there is a question on the account balance, please contact the Food Service Office.

You are asked to make all checks payable to the school your child attends. If you have children attending several different schools, you may write just one check so long as you outline how you want the check funds to be divided among the students.



Deposits are added before and after meal service so as to not interfere with student meal service. Deposits may be made at any time on the Family Portal, at <https://franklincommunity.familyportal.cloud//> On-line deposits will post to the student's account in real time. A fee of \$2.85 per \$100 transaction is added for on-line deposits.

No extras or a la carte items may be charged at any time. Low balance notices will be sent home up to 2 times a week informing parents when their child's account has a balance of \$9.00 or less. Most low balance and negative balance notices are sent through an e-mail notification. If there is no email address on file for the parent(s)/guardian(s), a letter will be mailed home. Please notify your school if your e-mail address changes during the school year. If a student has a negative balance, once funds are deposited, the negative balance will be deducted first from the deposit.

Student lunch money account balances are carried over from school year to school year and between Franklin schools when a student transfers. Parents must request refunds at the end of the year, or when a student transfers out of the district. A Request for Refund form can be found on the Franklin Schools website, [www.franklinschools.org](http://www.franklinschools.org) under Departments/Food Services. A completed form should be forwarded to the Food Service Director. Negative account balances and NSF for lunches must be paid in full when a child withdraws from Franklin Community Schools.

#### FRANKLIN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOOD SERVICE REFUND PROCEDURE

##### Refund of Student Meal Account Balance Procedure

- Any balance for current students returning to the district for the next school year will be retained in the account and will remain available for the new school year.
- Students leaving the district or graduating have the following options for any balance left in the account:

(1) The money in student accounts will be refunded upon written request. A "Refund Request Form" can be found on and printed from the website. The completed form should be submitted to the Food Service Office, 998 Grizzly Cub Drive,

Franklin, IN 46131, or emailed to [edwardsel@franklinschools.org](mailto:edwardsel@franklinschools.org). A check will be processed and sent to the individual making the request. The check may take up to 6 weeks for processing.

(2) Account balances may be transferred to a younger sibling's account. Transfers may be requested by calling the Food Service Office at 317-346-8720 or by emailing [edwardsel@franklinschools.org](mailto:edwardsel@franklinschools.org).

(3) Account balances may also be donated to Franklin Community Schools' Lunch Angel Fund to be used for students in need. This may be requested by calling the Food Service Office at 317-346-8720 or by emailing [edwardsel@franklinschools.org](mailto:edwardsel@franklinschools.org).

Any funds left unclaimed by June 15<sup>th</sup> of the current school year will become the property of the Franklin Community School Corporation/Food Service.

#### EATING LUNCH WITH YOUR STUDENT

We love to have parents and guests eating lunch with their children! All visitors who wish to have lunch with a student must follow our office procedure for checking in and as a part of that process will need to provide a current driver's license or state identification. Any visitor other than a custodial parent who wishes to have lunch with a child should make sure to have parent permission. Please call ahead, or let your child's teacher know, by 9 AM for a reservation so that we have enough meals prepared for our students and visitors. Then, please sign in at the main office and the office staff will direct you where to meet your child for lunch. Please be sure to follow your child's school procedures to have lunch at school.

#### Elementary Food Service Managers:

Diana Porterfield	Creekside Elementary School	317-346-8846
Kristine Gott	Needham Elementary School	317-346-8377
Melinda Patton	Northwood Elementary School	317-346-8949
Peggy Riggles	Union Elementary School	317-346-8279
Belinda Williams	Webb Elementary School	317-346-8316

## Connect Your Child to Our Community

### Franklin Parks and Recreation Department

Franklin Cultural Arts and Recreation Center at 474 E. South St., Franklin 317-736-3689 Mon-Fri 8am-4pm (office)  
Recreational activities from the arts to athletics offered year-round for all ages. City pool opens in the summer. Fees vary with the activity offered.

### Franklin Boys and Girls Club

101 N. Hurricane St. Franklin 317-736-3695

Mon-Thurs 2-8pm, Fri 2-6pm, Summer hours Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

Offers a variety of social, recreational and educational activities for children and youth 6-18. (Bus transportation may be available from your school; check with the Boys and Girls Club.)

### Girls Inc.

200 E. Madison St., Franklin 317-736-5344

After school program for girls 6-18. 2:30-6:00 school year,

Summer hours 9am-5pm (extended hours available)

Plenty of fun activities and summer field trips/pool time. (Bus transportation may be available from your school; check in office.)

### 4-H Clubs, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

80 S. Jackson Franklin 317-736-3724 8-4:30 office hours

Offers a variety of activities for youth enrolled in grades 1-12 including workshops, leadership development activities, arts and crafts, livestock and gardening projects and others. Call for further information on how to join the fun.

### Johnson County Public Library-Franklin

401 S. State St. Franklin 317-738-2833 9-8pm M-Thur. Fri 9-6pm

Sat. 9-5 and Sun. (Sept.-May only) 1-5pm Library cards are free.

Books, videos, C.D.'s, cassettes, audio books to borrow, computer access, and various activities offered to enhance interest in reading and learning.

### Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department

Just 8 miles south of Franklin, North of Camp Atterbury off Hwy 252.

812-526-6809 8-4 Mon-Fri and 8-noon Sat. office hours

Offers Class A and primitive tent camping, picnic areas, and many family activities throughout the year. Fitness trails, live bait fishing, hiking, radio control flying field, and golf driving range. Hoosier Horse Park facility located within the park. Beach area at Cottonwood Lake opens 11-6pm Memorial Day-Labor Day

# Franklin Community School Corporation Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and Guidelines

Rules and Codes of Ethics Relating to School Computer Users  
Available Franklin Community School Corporation website: <http://www.franklinschools.org>  
Acceptable Use Policy

The Franklin Community Board of School Trustees and the Franklin Community School Corporation (FCS) are committed to the effective use of technology to enhance the quality of student learning and the efficiency of FCS operations. It also recognizes that safeguards have to be established to ensure that FCS's investment in both hardware and software is achieving the benefits of technology and inhibiting negative side effects. The goal in providing these services is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. The educational value of the Internet is the joint responsibility of students, parents and FCS employees.

This policy is established not only for proper acquisition of technology but also to ensure that staff and students are making appropriate and ethical use of the computers and other equipment as well as any networks that may be established. This policy is issued to students annually in the student handbook. Students of appropriate age are required to sign that they have read the student handbook. In addition, the AUP is available in every building in the district, on the network and on the FCS web site. A copy of the AUP will be provided to all new employees.

The provisions of this policy are subordinate to local, state and federal law. Students who do not abide by the AUP may suffer disciplinary action. Employees who do not abide by the AUP may also suffer disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, termination of their employment.

## Acceptable Use Policy Guidelines

### **Telecommunications**

Today's accessibility to computers and people all over the world bring with it the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value. On a global network it is impossible to control all materials and information. Eventually users may discover some information to be controversial, vulgar or otherwise inappropriate. Although FCS has incorporated Internet filtering software, there are no guarantees the user cannot access inappropriate sites. The educational benefits of the Internet far outweigh the negative possibilities.

### **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**

FCS complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act by using filtering, tracking, and firewall technologies to monitor Internet activity.

### **Terms and Conditions**

The Information Services Department (ISD) will provide technology components including hardware, software, access to the network and the Internet.

ISD has the responsibility to monitor and maintain security on all technology. All computers, telephone systems, electronic systems and voicemail systems are the property of FCS. FCS retains the right to access and review all components of these systems. Students and employees should have no expectation that any information contained on or in any of these systems is confidential or private. Information may be reviewed with or without student or employee knowledge or permission. The use of passwords does not guarantee confidentiality and FCS retains the right to access information in spite of the existence of a password.

When accessing the Internet via a FCS networked computer, every site visited and the duration of time spent at each site is logged and tracked based on the user's login and the computer that is being used.

Review of any logs, technologies and systems will only be done in the ordinary course of business for a legitimate reason. Searching for inappropriate use is a legitimate reason to review any logs, technologies, systems, computers or voicemails. Any information discovered would be limited to those who have a specific need to know that information. Administrators and supervisory staff authorized by the Superintendent have the authority to search and access information electronically.

#### 1. Account Use:

Each technology user in FCS will be provided all necessary accounts. Accounts will be maintained and monitored by ISD.

- A. Users are responsible for their accounts and should take appropriate measures to prevent unauthorized access to their account(s) and equipment.
- B. Use of another user's account(s) is prohibited.

- C. Account passwords are to be distributed only to the individual account user.
- D. Copying, changing, reading or using files of another user without their consent is prohibited.
- E. Unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment is prohibited.
- F. A student must have permission to use computer equipment and software.
- G. Students are not to use adult workstations without prior permission.
- H. Upon parent request, students will be provided alternative activities that do not require Internet use.
- I. Mass storage devices (CD, DVD, USB, etc.) may be used for personal and professional purposes. However, they are never to be used for storage, transfer, or use of materials that are inappropriate, illegal or in violation of copyright laws. The users creating or in possession of mass storage devices containing such material will be responsible for it.

## 2. Privileges:

The use of FCS technological systems is a privilege, not a right, and is subject to regulation, inspection, denial and discipline for misuse. The individual user accepts the responsibility for the ramifications and consequences of any inappropriate use of the account, and further accepts that the attitudes and perceptions of others can determine appropriateness.

## 3. Acceptable Use:

Use of network accounts should pertain to educational research or communications consistent with FCS educational objectives and policies. Therefore, Internet access will be limited to educationally appropriate sites during all assigned instructional or supervisory times. Personal use of accounts within the confines of the AUP may occur before 8:00am and after 3:00pm on school days and during any duty free time or on days school is not in session. The user, with the understanding that he or she may need to justify the site(s) to a peer, administrator, parent or the general public, determines educationally appropriate sites. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited at all times. Furthermore, students and employees are strictly prohibited from transmitting material that is copyrighted, threatening or obscene, or may be construed as political lobbying. At no time are FCS accounts to be used to receive or transmit any form of digital, electronic, tape or wireless transmission of material containing obscene, vulgar, threatening or inappropriate material.

## 4. Software Policies:

Software installation is the loading of a computer program(s) on workstations or network.

### A. Software Programs:

1. ISD must be notified and grant permission prior to the loading of programs onto school owned computers. FCS is not responsible for programs not approved by ISD or any problems caused by or related to such programs. ISD reserves the right to delete any programs or files.
2. Unless otherwise stated in the software's license agreement, users cannot legally load software on more than one computer or onto the network.
3. Users may not load software on any FCS computer. The building TR/RA will install any software on any FCS computer. The software documentation must be accessible to the TR/RA at any time.

### B. Purchasing Policies:

1. ISD must be informed of and approve all potential software purchases intended for any FCS workstation or network installation.
2. Corporation wide software is purchased with corporation funds via ISD and in most cases will be networked or Internet accessible.

## 5. Web Page Policies:

After receiving adequate training, FCS employees may create web pages. Each web page must have ISD approval. The creation of web sites by students must be done under supervision of an appropriate staff member. All web sites must reflect the professional image of FCS.

The purpose of such web sites is to create a technology rich environment that provides opportunities within the school community to communicate, gather and process information. The following criteria should be used to guide the development of web sites:

### A. Educate:

Content provided in the web site should be suitable for and usable by students and teachers to support the curriculum and FCS's objectives as listed in the Corporation's Strategic Plan.

### B. Inform:

Content may inform the community about the school, teachers, or departments, including information about curriculum, events, class projects, student activities and departmental policies and other FCS related events and activities.

### C. Communicate:

Content may provide an avenue to communicate with the community. The information contained on the web site should reflect and support FCS's Mission Statement, Education Philosophy and the Academic Improvement Process. All links included on the pages must also meet the above criteria and comply with State and federal law (e.g. copyright laws, FERPA and CIPA). Under no circumstances is a web site to be used for commercial purposes, advertising, political lobbying or to provide financial gains for any individual. Web pages should reflect an understanding that both internal and external audiences will view the information.

### D. Group Pictures:

Group photographs of a general nature may be used on the Internet for legitimate school purposes. A group picture is two or more people without any individual identifying description.

### E. Student and Employee Information:

Web site(s) are not to provide personal information about students without written permission from the student's parent or guardian. Employees may provide personal information about themselves at their own discretion

## 6. Network Etiquette:

Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. It is expected that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of the Internet. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Any speech transmitted by the use of a school computer does not constitute speech in a "Public Forum" and is subject to regulation by the administration.

B. Students and employees must use proper and courteous written language in messages. Vulgarities or any other inappropriate language is not allowed. Messages shall not contain profanity, obscene comments, sexually explicit material, or expressions of bigotry, racism, violence, threats or hate. All communications (i.e. list serves, e-mail, instant messaging, etc.) containing any material listed above are prohibited.

C. Students are prohibited from broadcasting, instant messaging or chatting with other users inside or outside of the FCS network unless given explicit permission by an appropriate staff member.

D. It is prohibited to access, upload, download or distribute violent, threatening, pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit or inappropriate materials. Circumventing the CIPA filter by use of a proxy or other means is strictly prohibited.

E. Students shall not reveal personal information about themselves or others. If it is deemed necessary for employees or students to reveal student personal information, written permission from the student's parent or guardian must be obtained.

F. Employees may provide personal information about themselves at their own discretion. Employees are not to provide protected information about other employees without permission from that employee. Public information about employees that may be provided by other employees includes name, position, grade or subject taught,

e-mail address, phone number of school/building,/office/classroom, extra curricular responsibilities and verification of employment.

- G. E-mail is not private and can be examined by the System Administrator when necessary. E-mail relating to or in support of illegal activities shall be reported to the authorities. The forwarding of chain letters is prohibited without the consent of the recipient(s).

E-mail is accessible to students on a limited basis under teacher supervision, with exception of high school students,. High school students shall not mass e-mail without the approval of high school administration. Mass e-mail is defined as any unsolicited mailing in which the message is sent to a subset of Franklin Community School Corporation addresses.

- H. The network shall not be used in such a way as to disrupt its use by others. Outside of ISD personnel , installing any technology onto the network is forbidden. Communications and information accessible via the network is the property of FCS and is not the private property of any individual.
- I. Copying, downloading, etc., without the implied or direct permission of the provider or in violation of any state or federal law, including copyright laws, is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.
- J. Although users are encouraged to use shared drives established by ISD (i.e. "Q") for cooperative work, the process of enabling file sharing via the network is prohibited. This includes web-based software such as Imesh, Napster or the like.

7. Warranties and Responsibilities:

FCS makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services it provides. FCS will not be responsible for any damages suffered for any reason, including loss of data for any reason. Use of any information obtained via the network is at the users own risk. FCS is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through this service.

8. Vandalism:

Vandalism is defined as any attempt to harm or destroy data or equipment. This includes, but is not limited to: the creating or transferring of computer viruses, changing of system defaults or passwords, destroying network data or damaging computer equipment. Anyone responsible for vandalism is subject to denial of privileges, discipline, and repair or replacement cost.

9. Unsolicited On-Line Contact:

Students of FCS are prohibited from responding to any unsolicited on-line contact. It is the student's responsibility to notify an instructor of any such instance. The instructor will then notify ISD. Although Internet filtering is used by FCS, some materials accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, violent, sexually explicit, or potentially offensive to some people.

10. Commercial Use by Students:

Goods and services purchased by students via the Internet could result in unwanted financial obligations for which students and their parents or guardians may be liable.

11. Indemnification:

In consideration of FCS providing the user with access to computer equipment, software, and the network, employees, students and student's parents and guardians agree to hold FCS harmless. All parties involved agree to indemnify FCS from any and all liability; loss or damages FCS may suffer as a result of claims, demands, attorney's fees, costs or judgments against FCS arising out of the user's violation of this policy.

12. Consequences:

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action by FCS. It is a criminal act under Indiana law to access a computer system and/or damage or alter a computer program, data, or hardware without the consent of the computer owner. Indiana Code § 35-43-1-4 defines computer tampering, a Class D felony, as the knowing or intentional alteration or damage to a computer program without the consent of the owner. Indiana Code § 35-43-2-3 defines computer trespass, a Class A Misdemeanor, as a knowing or intentional access to a computer system network or a part thereof without the consent of the owner. Additionally, there are other criminal offenses dealing with theft and criminal mischief with similar or greater penalties of imprisonment.

# Title 1 School Parent Involvement Policy

Franklin Community Schools

2023-2024

Introduction:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. This is to ensure:

- A. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- B. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- C. That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advising committees to assist in the education of their child.

## Part 1: School Expectation Requirements

The parents of students participating in Title 1 at school agree to implement the following legal requirements:

- The Title 1 staff will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of Title 1 parents. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The Title 1 staff and parents will jointly develop and review annually its school/parent compact. We believe the school staff and students share in the responsibilities for improved students' achievement.
- Annually, Title 1 parents will attend and participate in the district parent meeting for information on FCS Title I School's participation in the Title 1 program and to 1) explain the program requirements; and 2) their rights to be involved and to receive timely information. Also, Title 1 parents will participate in discussions regarding how Title 1 Parent Involvement funds are spent.

## Part 2: Description of How the School Will Implement Required Parent Involvement Policy Components

School will:

1. Take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:
  - a. At a building planning session, Title 1 literacy specialists and parents of Title 1 children will review existing literacy programs, procedures, and resources in use for levels of effectiveness. Recommendations and suggestions for improvement will be elicited.
  - b. At a building capacity workshop, parents of Title 1 children will be offered opportunities for continued input about improving their school's Title 1 program.
2. The School will offer flexible scheduling times for parent meetings and parent workshops.
3. When appropriate and necessary, The School's Title 1 funds may be used to pay reasonable fees for transportation and childcare to enable parents to participate in school-related Title 1 meetings and training sessions.
4. The School will provide assistance to parents of children served as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
  - a. The School will provide assistance to parents of children served by Title 1 in understanding these topics:
    - Indiana's academic content standards
    - Indiana's state assessment (ILEARN)
    - Local academic assessments (NWEA, DIBELS, etc)
    - Title 1 requirements
    - How to monitor their child's progress

Activities:

1. Building level workshops
2. Student Progress Reports
3. District Student Report Cards
4. Title 1 newsletter information
5. Parent Teacher conferences
6. Annual Title I meeting

7. Reading specialist conferences, updates, and progress reports
8. Phone conferences
- b. The School will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and technology use through:
  1. Building level workshops
  2. Title 1 newsletter information
  3. Northwood Family Nights
  4. Parent Teacher conferences
  5. Extended learning opportunities through parent involvement take-home activities and books.

5) It is The School's policy that information related to all school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be sent to the parents of participating children in a format and language the parents can understand. We will also honor requests for alternate formats, to the extent appropriate, in a language the parents can understand.

#### Part 3: Additional School Responsibilities Policy Components

- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their child's education, Title 1 meetings will be offered at different times and places.
- Parents will be asked for suggestions and recommendations for continued school program effectiveness and/or improvement including the planning, review and improvement of the school's Parent Involvement Policy. Also, they will be asked to participate in discussions relating to the education of their child. The School will respond to all suggestions and recommendations as soon as practicably possible.
- The School will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, etc., conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
- The School will educate educators with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and school.
- The School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

#### Part 4: Agreement

This Title 1 Parent Involvement Policy for the school will be approved and adopted in the fall of 2010. A copy of this policy will be distributed to all parents of participating Title 1, Part A children upon its approval.





Dr. David Clendening  
Superintendent  
Dr. Brooke Worland  
Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Tina Gross  
Executive Director of Finance  
Mr. Matt Sprout  
Director of Technology  
Mr. Benji Betts  
Director of Operations

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**Franklin Community School Corporation  
Title I District Parent Involvement Policy**

**PART I: DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS**

The **Franklin Community School Corporation** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Franklin Community School Corporation will provide activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Franklin Community School Corporation will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- Franklin Community School Corporation will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Franklin Community School Corporation and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the corporation plan for Title I is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Franklin Community School Corporation will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school corporation submits the plan to the Department of Education.
- Franklin Community School Corporation will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. (Only applicable for corporations with Title I allocations greater than \$500,000.)
- Franklin Community School Corporation will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:  
*Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—*
  - (A) *that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
  - (B) *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
  - (C) *that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
  - (D) *that the district carries out other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*
- Franklin Community School Corporation will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center.

**PART II: REQUIRED COMPONENTS**

1. Franklin Community School Corporation will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district parental involvement plan:
  - Request input, suggestions and comments regarding the district parental involvement policy during the Annual Community Meeting
  - Request input, suggestions and comments regarding the district parental involvement policy during the each Title I building's Annual Parent Involvement Meeting
  - Survey parents to request input, suggestions and comments regarding the district parental involvement policy
2. Franklin Community School Corporation will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Title I Coordinator will meet monthly with Title I Principals to provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance
- Title I Coordinator will meet quarterly with Title I Employees to provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance
- Title I Coordinator will review surveys and information received from parents regarding the parental involvement policies and school-parent compacts
- Title I Coordinator will attend Title I annual parental involvement meetings to provide appropriate assistance and guidance.

3. Franklin Community School Corporation will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. Franklin Community School Corporation will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph -

- the state's academic content standards,
  - the state's student academic achievement standards,
  - the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
  - the requirements of Title I,
  - how to monitor their child's progress, and
  - how to work with educators
1. Title I buildings will provide learning sessions at a convenient time and location that focus on the state's academic content standards, as well as the Title I curriculum and program.
  2. Title I buildings will provide a variety of opportunities for parents to meet with regular classroom teachers, as well as Title I Literacy Specialists to discuss and explain the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments. These meetings will also provide information to parents regarding their child's progress
  3. Regular letters and documentation will be provided to parents regarding the academic progress of their child.
  4. Title I buildings will provide information in monthly newsletters surrounding the Title I program, as well as the assessments used with children to ensure increased student achievement.
  5. Parents will be invited to volunteer and participate in workshops surrounding the curriculum and assessments used in the Title I program.
  6. Title I Literacy Specialists, administrators and classroom teachers will provide parents with email addresses, phone numbers, and room numbers so that parents are comfortable contacting their teachers.

B. Franklin Community School Corporation will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their childrens' academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

1. Title I buildings will provide learning sessions that focus on the state's academic content standards, as well as the Title I programs.
2. Title I buildings will provide a variety of opportunities for parents to meet with regular classroom teachers, as well as Title I Literacy Specialists to discuss and explain the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments. These meetings will also provide information to parents regarding their child's progress
3. Title I Literacy Specialists, administrators and classroom teachers will provide parents with email addresses, phone numbers, and room numbers so that parents are comfortable contacting their teachers.

C. Franklin Community School Corporation will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by

1. Discussing and sharing appropriate information and professional development at monthly staff meetings regarding parent involvement, more specifically how to communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

D. Franklin Community School Corporation will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First,

Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

1. Providing the Bookmobile services to preschools, daycares, Head Start, and other early childcare providers.
2. Provide Kindergarten Expectations and packets to preschools, daycares, Head Start, and other early childcare providers.
3. Meet annually with local childcare providers to discuss curriculum expectations and possible resources available for assistance.

E. Franklin Community School Corporation will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

1. Regularly review parent comments and suggestions regarding the language of school and parent- programs to determine if a more understandable format is necessary.

4. Franklin Community School Corporation will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

1. The evaluation will be conducted at each Title I building during the second semester.
2. Parents who serve on the School Improvement Plan, Parent-Teacher Organizations, and identified Title I parents will be asked to participate in the evaluation.
3. Results of the evaluation will be used to determine any changes or additional resources needed to increase the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.

5. Franklin Community School Corporation will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:

1. Parents will be invited to participate in the Annual Parent Involvement meeting at their respective meeting where policies, compacts, and general parent involvement activities will be discussed.
2. Parents will be invited to the Annual Community Meeting to offer suggestions, recommendations or comments regarding parent involvement in buildings.
3. Parents will be surveyed anonymously to provide feedback regarding building parent involvement activities.
4. Parents will participate in the writing of the SIP, as well as the Parent Teacher Organizations in their building.

### **PART III: DISCRETIONARY COMPONENTS**

The following list describes other activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, may undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement:

- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
- Establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

### **PART IV. STATUS**

This policy was enacted by the **Franklin Community School Corporation** on **August 2013** and will be in effect for the period of **08/2023 - 08/2024**. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children on or before **December 1, 2023**.



Dr. David Clendening  
Superintendent  
Dr. Brooke Worland  
Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Tina Gross  
Executive Director of Finance  
Mr. Matt Sprout  
Director of Technology  
Mr. Benji Betts  
Director of Operations

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August 1, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 1111(h)(6) *PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW*, this is a notification from Franklin Community School Corporation to every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right to request and receive information in a timely manner regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers. This information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers shall include the following:

- If the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught;
- If the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which Indiana qualifications and licensing criteria are waived;
- The teachers baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification, and field of discipline; and
- Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications

Franklin Community School Corporation strives to provide the most qualified professionals in the classroom. Currently, all Title I employees are qualified professionals. Any paraprofessional working with your child is in compliance with the regulations set forth by the No Child Left Behind Act. While it is highly unlikely, if at any time your student has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher that is not highly qualified, you will be notified by the school of this information.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 317-346-8300.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Cole Zook*

Mr. Cole Zook  
Title I Coordinator  
Franklin Community Schools

## Pesticide Use at Schools Rule – 357 IAC 1-16

The purpose of Rule 357 IAC 1-16 is to minimize the potential for pesticide exposure to students at schools. This rule is put in place to establish requirements for those who apply pesticides at schools, to establish restrictions on the use and storage of pesticides at schools, to establish a record keeping requirement for pesticides applied at schools, and to establish a parent, guardian, and staff registry and notification requirement for pesticides applied at schools.

Typical facility maintenance requires the use of pesticides from time to time. Effective pest management and appropriate landscaping maintenance and turf care involve the use of pesticides. Although we are not able to eliminate the use of pesticides completely, we will make every effort possible to apply these types of products during the summer months and/or during other extended break periods.

FCS is committed to the safety of all students and staff. As part of the rule, FCS must provide 48 hours advance notice before applying pesticides. FCS will notify all registered parents, guardians, and staff members of these applications. To request notification you must register in the office at your school building. The registry will ask for your name, phone number, and email address. You may request to be added to the registry at any time during the year.

For more information please contact Benji Betts, Director of Operations, at 317-346-8741 or at [bettsw@franklinschools.org](mailto:bettsw@franklinschools.org).

## Annual AHERA Notification

Under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Franklin Community School Corporation is required to notify, in writing, all parents, guardians, and staff, on an annual basis, each school year, and file a copy of the notice in the management plan. The notice must advise that the management plan is available for inspection, without cost or restriction during normal business hours.

### **Notification of Asbestos Removal Projects:**

1. No removal projects are planned for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Cost estimates have been acquired for the removal of all remaining asbestos containing materials. FCS will plan future budgets to complete abatement projects.

### **Operations & Maintenance:**

1. 6-month surveillance inspections for all buildings containing asbestos materials.
  - Union Elementary – Boiler Room, Pipe Insulation
  - Webb Elementary – Boiler Room, Floor Tile
2. Inspections were completed by Astesco Laboratory, Inc. insuring the asbestos contained in the above listed buildings remains in safe condition for the occupants of such buildings.

### **A look ahead:**

FCSC will continue diligent efforts to manage and control existing asbestos containing materials.

If further information is needed contact Benji Betts, Director of Operations, at 317-346-8741 or at [bettsw@franklinschools.org](mailto:bettsw@franklinschools.org).

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days after the day the Franklin Community Schools (“School”) receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the [School] to amend a record should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. 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) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. 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.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the [School] to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Franklin Community Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Franklin Community Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Franklin Community Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- School publications or promotions, both in print and online
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Franklin Community Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Franklin Community Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Student's name</li><li>-Address</li><li>-Telephone listing</li><li>-Electronic mail address</li><li>-Photograph</li><li>-Date and place of birth</li><li>-Major field of study</li><li>-Dates of attendance</li><li>-Grade level</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Participation in officially recognized activities and sports</li><li>-Weight and height of members of athletic teams</li><li>-Degrees, honors, and awards received</li><li>-The most recent educational agency or institution attended</li><li>-Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)</li></ul> |
|---|---|

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in § 99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, § 99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the school to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A school may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student –

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in § 99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§ 99.31(a)(1))
- To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of § 99.34. (§ 99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency (SEA) in the parent or eligible student's State. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of § 99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§ 99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§ 99.31(a)(4))
- To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to § 99.38. (§ 99.31(a)(5))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§ 99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§ 99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§ 99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§ 99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to § 99.36. (§ 99.31(a)(10))
- Information the school has designated as "directory information" under § 99.37. (§ 99.31(a)(11))

## Library Media Center Policy

Student library information is considered part of a student's record. Per the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA), parents and/or guardians have access to this information, which is true for all student records. Library information, like other student records, cannot be shared with other parties without a legitimate need to know. Parents have the ability to access their child's library check-out records by logging into Destiny with their child's Chromebook login information.

## Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)–
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer to from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

**Franklin Community School Corporation will/has develop[ed] and adopt[ed]]** policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. **Franklin Community School Corporation** will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. **Franklin Community School Corporation** will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. **Franklin Community School Corporation** will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901



# Title IX - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities

## 2266 – NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES Introduction

The School Board of the Franklin Community School Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “the Board” or “the Corporation”) does not discriminate or tolerate harassment on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities which it operates or the employment therein or admission thereto, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations.. The Board is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment.

The Board prohibits Sexual Harassment. When the Corporation has actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating Sexual Harassment and will take appropriate action when an individual is determined responsible for violating this policy. Members of the Corporation Community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy. Third Parties who engage in Sexual Harassment also are subject to the disciplinary sanctions listed in this policy. The Board will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment supportive measures/ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the Corporation’s education programs and activities.

### **Coverage**

This policy applies to all Corporation operations, programs, and activities.. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school grounds immediately before, during, or immediately after school hours; in any school program or activity taking place in school facilities, on school transportation, or at any other off-campus locations, such as school-sponsored field trips or a training program; or using property or equipment provided by the school, including school-owned computers and the school’s computer network.

Except as provided above, this policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs off school grounds, in a private setting, and outside the scope of the Corporation’s education programs and activities; such Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity may be prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, or by Board policies and administrative guidelines, applicable State and/or Federal laws, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook(s) if committed by a Corporation employee.

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Education’s implementing regulations for Title IX, this policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, even if the Sexual Harassment occurs in the Corporation’s education programs or activities. Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States is governed by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student or by Board policies and administrative guidelines, applicable State and/or Federal laws, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook(s) if committed by a Corporation employee.

## **TITLE IX (STUDENT) SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATION PROCEDURE**

### **General Policy Statement and Scope**

Complaints that fall under this section are sexual harassment complaints in which a student is either the Complainant (alleged victim) or Respondent (alleged harasser).

The term “sexual harassment” as used in this procedure shall mean conduct on the basis of sex, including, but not limited to failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculine or feminine traits such as:

- A. a Corporation employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Corporation on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (often called “quid pro quo” harassment);

- B. unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the Corporation's education program or activity; or
- C. "sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), or "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

1. "Sexual assault" means any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Sexual assault includes rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, fondling, incest, and statutory rape.

- a. *Rape* is penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. Attempted rape is included.
- b. *Sodomy* is oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- c. *Sexual Assault with an Object* is using an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. An "object" or "instrument" is anything used by the offender other than the offender's genitalia.
- d. *Fondling* is the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- e. *Incest* is sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by State law.
- f. *Statutory Rape* is sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent as defined by State law.
- g. *Consent* refers to words, actions, inactions, or any other conduct that a reasonable person would understand as agreement to engage in the sexual conduct at issue. A person may be incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. A person who is incapacitated is not capable of giving consent.
- h. *Incapacitated* refers to the state where a person does not understand and/or appreciate the nature or fact of sexual activity due to the effect of drugs or alcohol consumption, medical condition, disability, or due to a state of unconsciousness or sleep.

2. "Domestic violence" includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by:

- a. a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
- b. a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
- c. a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- d. a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred; or
- e. any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred.

3. "Dating violence" means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

4. "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to – (1) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (2) suffer substantial emotional distress.

The term "consent" as applicable to this procedure shall mean an individual voluntarily agreeing, by words or actions, to the proposal of another individual. An individual may be incapable of consent due to mental or physical incapacitation. The vast majority of Corporation students are incapable of giving consent to sexual contact, because Indiana law generally establishes the age of consent as 16.

The Corporation is committed to promptly responding to reports of sexual harassment. All reference to “days” within these procedures shall mean instructional days. The procedures described below may be subject to temporary delays based on good cause (e.g., law enforcement involvement, absence of a party, witness, or advisor, translation or accommodation needs) with written notice to both parties explaining the reason for the delay.

**Title IX Coordinator(s)** The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to oversee and coordinate the Corporation’s Title IX compliance. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

Title IX Coordinator  
998 Grizzly Cub Drive, Franklin, IN 46131  
317-346-8700  
titleix@franklinschools.org

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with all non-discrimination and anti-harassment law. The Title IX Coordinator shall document all reports of discrimination or harassment and establish a protocol for recordkeeping. Nothing in this procedure shall supersede or substitute an employee’s other mandatory reporting obligations including, but not limited to, reporting suspected child abuse and neglect and bullying.

The Title IX Coordinator shall report directly to the Superintendent except when the Superintendent is a Respondent. In such matters, the Title IX Coordinator shall report directly to the Board of School Trustees. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator.

### **Grievance Process**

The Corporation's response to allegations of Sexual Harassment will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably, including providing supportive measures to the Complainant and Respondent, as appropriate, and following this Grievance Process before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions, other than supportive measures, against the Respondent. All Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution will receive training regarding topics related to this process, including: the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the Corporation’s education program and activity, and how to conduct these grievance procedures.

All Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution will objectively evaluate all relevant evidence – both inculpatory and exculpatory. Further, no credibility determination will be based on a person’s status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.

Consistent with the law, the Corporation will presume the Respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. **The Corporation will utilize the preponderance of the evidence standard when determining responsibility.** The Corporation will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege. Further, questions or evidence about the Complainant’s sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions or evidence are offered to prove that someone other than Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant or to prove consent.

### **Report of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment**

Anyone who believes that a student or staff member has possibly been the target of sexual harassment should immediately report the situation to an appropriate staff member such as a teacher, counselor, administrator, or the Title IX Coordinator. Any person may report sex discrimination, including Sexual Harassment, in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information for the Title IX Coordinator. **Any employee who has reason to believe that a student or staff member has been the target of sexual harassment must report the behavior to their building level leader, such as a principal.** If a Corporation employee fails to report an incident of Sexual Harassment of which the Corporation employee is aware, the Corporation employee may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The Corporation accepts anonymous reports submitted using the STOPit website. However, anonymous reports may hamper the Corporation’s ability to respond to allegations of sexual harassment.

The person making the report should, to the extent known, identify the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s).

If a report involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the person making the report should submit it to the Superintendent, or another Board employee who, in turn, will notify the Superintendent of the report. The Superintendent will then serve in place of the Title IX Coordinator for purposes of addressing that report of Sexual Harassment.

The Board does business with Third Parties who are not students or employees of the Board. Notwithstanding any rights that a given Third-Party Respondent may have under this policy, the Board retains the right to limit any vendor's, contractor's, or Third Party's access to school grounds for any reason. The Board further retains all rights it enjoys by contract or law to terminate its relationship with any Third Party irrespective of any process or outcome under this policy.

A person may file criminal charges simultaneously with filing a Formal Complaint. A person does not need to wait until the Title IX investigation is completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to Title IX may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at any time.

It is a violation of this policy for a Complainant(s), Respondent(s), and/or witness(es) to knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process, including intentionally making a false report of Sexual Harassment or submitting a false Formal Complaint. The Board will not tolerate such conduct, which is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and the Employee/Administrator Handbook.

Any allegations of Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity not involving Sexual Harassment will be addressed through the procedures outlined in Board policies and/or administrative guidelines, the applicable Student Code of Conduct, or Employee/Administrator Handbook(s).

### **Response to a Report and Supportive Measures**

Upon receipt of a report, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly, usually within two (2) days, contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures.

Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, nonpunitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Corporation's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the Corporation's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, leaves of absence in the case of employees, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

In addition to discussing the availability of supportive measures, the Title IX Coordinator will also consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a formal complaint. The Title IX Coordinator will make contact with the Complainant in person, via phone, or via a virtual meeting in order for the Complainant to ask questions. If the Complainant is a student under the age of eighteen, the student's parent will be contacted simultaneously.

A "formal complaint" is a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting the Corporation investigate the allegation(s) of sexual harassment.

Even in instances where a Complainant chooses not to file a formal complaint, supportive measures may continue at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator may decide to sign a formal complaint to investigate the allegation(s) of sexual harassment against the wishes of the Complainant where moving forward without an investigation would be unreasonable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, reports that indicate multiple Respondents, the involvement of a Corporation employee, and/or continued sexual harassment of the Complainant and others.

While there is on deadline by which a Complainant must file a formal complaint, the Corporation encourages Complainants to submit a formal complaint within ten (10) days of meeting with the Title IX Coordinator. In instances where enough time has passed that the Corporation cannot gather evidence, the Corporation may not be able to investigate.

The Corporation will offer supportive measures to a Complainant who is the subject of an anonymous report. However, should a Complainant desire to initiate the grievance process, the Complainant cannot remain anonymous or prevent the Complainant's identity from being disclosed to the Respondent.

### **Emergency Removal**

Subject to limitations and/or procedures imposed by State and/or Federal law, the Corporation may remove a student Respondent from its education program or activity on an emergency basis after conducting an individualized safety and risk analysis. The purpose of the individualized safety and risk analysis is to determine whether the student Respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any individual (including self) before or at any time during the proceedings described herein, that justifies removal. If the Corporation determines the student Respondent poses such a threat, it will so notify the student Respondent and the student Respondent will have an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. See Policy 5605 – Suspension and Expulsion of Students with Disabilities, Policy 5610 – Suspension and Expulsion of Students, Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights, and Policy 5620 – Court Assisted Resolution of Suspension and Expulsion.

An emergency removal does not affect or modify any rights a student receiving special education may have under the IDEA, Section 504, or the ADA.

If the Respondent is a non-student employee, the Corporation may place the Respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.

For all other Respondents, including other members of the Corporation Community and Third Parties, the Board retains broad discretion to prohibit such persons from entering onto its school grounds and other properties at any time and for any reason, whether after receiving a report of Sexual Harassment or otherwise.

### **Notice**

Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice of the following to the parties (to the extent known) containing the following information:

- A. notice of the Board's grievance process, including any informal resolution processes;
- B. notice of the allegations of sexual harassment, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include: the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice must:
  - 1. include a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
  - 2. inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence;
  - 3. inform the parties of any provision in the Student Code of Conduct, this policy, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, during the course of the investigation, additional allegations are uncovered and therefore investigated, the Corporation will provide a supplemental notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

## **Dismissal and Consolidation**

In certain instances, the Corporation may dismiss or consolidate formal complaints. Such instances of dismissal include, but are not limited to, when the alleged conduct, even if true, would not constitute sexual harassment, when the Respondent is a non-student or non-employee of the Corporation, or when a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator they would like to withdraw the formal complaint. A dismissal does not preclude the Corporation from taking action under another provision of the applicable code of conduct, board policy, and/or employee handbook. If a formal complaint is dismissed, the Corporation will promptly inform the parties of the reason for dismissal and the right to appeal.

Further, the Corporation may consolidate formal complaints where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

## **Informal Resolution Process**

Upon receipt of a formal complaint and after providing sufficient notice to the parties, the Corporation may facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication of the allegations. The Corporation may not require the parties to participate in the informal process, but instead must obtain the parties' voluntary, written consent to participate.

The informal process is not available to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student. Further, at any time during the informal process any of the parties may end the informal process and initiate the investigation and determination process.

## **Investigation of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment**

Unless the Corporation dismisses a formal complaint or the parties resolve a formal complaint through the informal process, the Corporation will investigate the allegations of sexual harassment and make a determination regarding responsibility.

The burden of proof and collection of evidence rests with the Corporation. To that end, the Title IX Coordinator, in conjunction with a designated building-level leader, will conduct an investigation.

The means of investigating a formal complaint include, but are not limited to, Complainant, Respondent, and witness interviews and review of documentation. The parties shall have an equal opportunity to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The Corporation will not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence. Evidence or information related to the allegations under investigation may not be discussed by the parties, except with their chosen advisors. The parties may not substantially disrupt the educational environment. Absent extenuating circumstances, the collection of evidence for an investigation should conclude within thirty (30) days.

The parties may be accompanied to any meeting or proceeding related to the investigation by an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be an attorney. Apart from a union representative accompanying an employee who is a party, employees are discouraged from serving as advisors to students.

Advisors may not be present on behalf of the party they accompany and should request or wait for a break in the meeting if they wish to interact with the Title IX Coordinator or building level leader. Advisors may confer quietly with parties as necessary, as long as they do not disrupt the process. For longer or more involved discussions, the party and their advisors should ask for a break or step out of the meeting. An advisor who disrupts the process will receive one warning, after which if continued disruption occurs the advisor will be removed from the meeting/proceeding. In such an event, the parties will be given the opportunity to reschedule and be accompanied by another advisor.

When the Title IX Coordinator and building level leader have completed their collection of evidence, they will provide both parties with an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation.

The parties and any advisors must execute the provided non-disclosure agreement before they may receive the evidence for review. Following execution of the non-disclosure agreement, the Title IX Coordinator and/or building level leader will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have ten (10) calendar days to submit a written response, which the Title IX Coordinator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator and building level leader shall create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence. At least ten (10) days prior to the time of determination, the Title IX Coordinator and building level leader will send the report in an electronic format or a hard copy to each party and the party's advisor, if any, for their review and written response.

### **Determination of Responsibility**

Generally, the [SCHOOL OFFICIAL TITLE] shall serve as the decision-maker(s) to issue a determination of responsibility. The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator(s) or the investigator(s).

After the investigative report has been sent to the parties and the decision-maker(s), and before the decision-maker(s) reaches a determination regarding responsibility, each party will be afforded the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

The process of written questions and follow-up questions should generally take thirty (30) days or less. Within a reasonable time period following the written questions, the decision-maker will issue a written determination regarding responsibility applying the preponderance of evidence standard.

The written determination will include the following content:

- A. identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Harassment pursuant to this policy;
- B. a description of the procedural steps taken;
- C. findings of fact supporting the determination;
- D. conclusions regarding the application of the applicable code of conduct to the facts;
- E. a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, and
- F. the procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) to appeal.

The decision-maker will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

### **Remedies**

Where, following the formal or informal process, the Corporation determines a Respondent responsible for sexual harassment, the Corporation shall provide remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity. Such remedies may include supportive measures and/or discipline up to and including expulsion. The Corporation's resolution of a Formal Complaint ordinarily will not be impacted by the fact that criminal charges involving the same incident have been filed or that charges have been dismissed or reduced.

At any point in the grievance process and procedures, the Superintendent (or the Title IX Officer if the Superintendent is the Respondent) may involve local law enforcement and/or file criminal charges related to allegations of Sexual Harassment that involve a sexual assault.

## **Appeal**

Following the decision-maker's determination regarding responsibility, either party may appeal to the designated governing body representative. An appeal should be submitted in writing within ten (10) days of the party's receipt of the determination. Note, appeals will only be considered if based on one of the following:

- A. procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter (e.g., material deviation from established procedures);
- B. new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- C. the Title IX Officer, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) that affected the outcome of the matter. and

Both parties shall have five (5) days after the submission of an appeal to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging the decision-maker's determination. The governing body representative will issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result within forty-five (45) days. The governing body representative's decision will be provided simultaneously to the parties.

Nothing herein shall prevent the Superintendent (or the Board when the Superintendent is the Respondent) from imposing any remedy, including disciplinary sanction, while the appeal is pending.

## **Retaliation**

The Corporation prohibits retaliation against persons who report, testify, assist, or participate or refuse to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing. Retaliation includes intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX..

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance process set forth above.

## **Confidentiality**

The Corporation will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, any Complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any Respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA's regulations, 34 CFR part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 CFR part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the Corporation's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the Complainant's and Respondent's receipt of the information to which they are entitled related to the investigative record and determination of responsibility).

## **Application of the First Amendment**

The Board will construe and apply this policy consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In no case will a Respondent be found to have committed Sexual Harassment based on expressive conduct that is protected by the First Amendment.

## **Record-keeping**

The Corporation will maintain records from an investigation, determination, appeal, and informal resolution for seven (7) years.

## **Reports otherwise required by Law**

These procedures do not affect or alleviate mandatory reporting required by state or federal law- for example, reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect to law enforcement or Department of Child Services.



Legal

I.C. 31-33-5-1

I.C. 20-33-8

20 U.S.C. 1092(F)(6)(A)(v)

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA), as amended

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX)

34 C.F.R. Part 106

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30)

42 U.S.C. 1983

42 U.S.C. 2000c et seq., Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.

OCR's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (2001)