



Student Code of Conduct

Whitehall City School District (WCS) celebrates and rewards respectful, accountable, motivated and safe behavior within its schools. We believe that when students are aware of what is expected of them, the great majority of our students will make wise choices. Per the Ohio Department of Education, WCS has established a PBIS Plan (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support). However, when a student fails to meet expected standards of behavior, the student will be held accountable for their behavior. The Whitehall City Schools Student Code of Conduct enables students, families, and staff to learn District expectations. The examples of offenses listed in the WCS Code of Conduct are not intended to provide a complete list of offenses that may result in disciplinary action. Any act that disrupts learning and threatens the order, the safety of students, and/or the school environment will be considered for disciplinary action.

Student Rules of Conduct First Warning

Your acknowledgment of these rules constitutes a first warning. You will be given no further warnings. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and the consequences of violating them. The rules herein apply to all students when on all school premises, at all school-sponsored activities, and when aboard a school bus or other Board-owned vehicle. The application of policies in this handbook applies to all Whitehall City Schools activities.

Availability of Board of Education Policies

The Board of Education has established policies and procedures that pertain to students, staff, and school operations. These policies and procedures can be found via links on the District website.

Notice of Language Assistance

Whitehall City Schools will take reasonable steps to ensure that persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in all services, activities, and programs available throughout the district. It is the policy of WCS to ensure meaningful communication with LEP students and families and to communicate information related to the education of all students. All services needed to comply with this policy will be provided for students and their families in need of such assistance free of charge. For assistance, please call 614-417-5000.

Rights of Students and Parents/Guardians

In public schools, parents/guardians and students have certain rights given by federal and state laws and Board of Education policies. Nevertheless, the individual rights of students will be weighed against the safety and welfare of the majority of students in the schools.

Whitehall City Schools believes that:

- Students have the right to learn.
- Students have the right to feel safe.
- Students have the right to be treated fairly.
- Students have the right to respectfully express their thoughts, feelings, and opinions.
- Students have the right to feel valued & affirmed.
- Students have the right to learn and grow from their mistakes.
- Students have the right to be engaged & involved in their own learning.

Due Process of Law

As a WCS student and parent/guardian, you have the right to due process of the law. Before a student is suspended, the student has the right to receive written notice of the reason for the intended suspension and has an opportunity for an informal hearing. Before a student is expelled, the student and the parent/guardian, have the right to receive written notice of the reason for the proposed expulsion and have an opportunity for an informal hearing before the Superintendent or Designee.

School's Right to Search

Lockers are assigned to students for their personal belongings, but are considered school property. Sharing of lockers is prohibited. The locker and its contents maybe searched at the Administrator's discretion. All lockers must be locked.

Lockers, desks, and any storage place provided for student use is, and remains at all times, property of the Whitehall City School Board of Education. These areas and the contents therein are subject to search at any time, pursuant to board policy. Students' vehicles at school or at a school function may also be searched pursuant to board policy. The regulation also applies to the use of any school district equipment including furniture, computers, and related accessories. The Board also authorizes the use of devices and canines trained in detecting the presence of drugs when the Administration has reasonable suspicion that illegal drugs or devices may be present in a school.

There are certain circumstances in which school officials may be authorized to conduct a search of a student or a student's personal property based on individualized reasonable suspicion. School officials may conduct a search of a student's person or property if they have reasonable suspicion that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or school rules and regulations.

Rights and Responsibilities of Students

As a WCS Student, you have the responsibility:

- To know and follow the rules and regulations of Whitehall City Schools;
- To do your part to create a positive environment at your school by working toward academic excellence, striving for perfect attendance, and participating in school activities;
- To respect the dignity and worth of yourself, your fellow students, your teachers, and the school staff;
- To respect the authority of teachers, school administrators, and other authorized personnel in maintaining discipline;
- To behave in a way that does not disrupt the educational process or lead to physical or emotional harm;
- To learn problem-solving skills to effectively handle conflict situations in an effort to avoid disrespectful and harmful behaviors.

STUDENTS ARE PERSONALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE AND SECURITY OF THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND THE SCHOOL ITEMS ISSUED TO THEM. THE WHITEHALL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LOSS, THEFT, DAMAGE, OR VANDALISM OF A STUDENT'S PERSONAL OR SCHOOL-ISSUED PROPERTY.

Consequences and Strategies to Correct Behavior

All students have the right to learn. No student has the right to disrupt the learning activities of others. The safety and security of your child is our highest priority. We are committed to providing a safe learning environment. The WCS staff is responsible for providing corrective instruction to students who fail to meet the behavioral expectations. Multiple options for correcting student behavior may be selected depending on an individual student's needs.

Considerations for action include: the age and grade level of the student, disabilities, student's history of misbehavior, specific offense, and its seriousness in nature.

Each building establishes its own school-wide PBIS Plan that includes activities for teaching and encouraging expected behaviors. The school principal and staff communicate the school-wide PBIS Plan to parents/guardians and students on an annual basis, as well as to new student enrollees.

Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct

The most important goal of the WCS District extra-curricular program is to provide every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically, and emotionally, and to further provide for the safety, health, and welfare of the participant. It must be remembered that participation in extra-curricular activities is not a right but a privilege that may be regulated. Therefore, all students who participate in interscholastic athletics or other extra-curricular activities at any time must meet the WCS Code of Conduct and the conditions that apply which are outlined in this manual.

Behavioral Intervention Strategies in our District

An intervention strategy is an action designed to help a student overcome academic and/or behavioral barriers to learning. School personnel will use intervention strategies to help prevent or reduce negative behaviors. This list is not inclusive of all interventions that a team or administrator may decide to provide for a student.

1. Parent/Guardian Contact/Conference

Notification and a conference with the parent(s)/guardian(s) should take place regarding the student's behavior for disciplinary actions.

2. School-Based Behavioral Interventions

Examples of interventions include strategies such as the creation of a behavioral contract with the student, participation in anger management training, loss of privilege, office time-out, loss of recess, re-teaching the behavioral expectation, referral to a school counselor, referral to the school's health lab, other support services, and development of a community service plan or a behavior improvement program/plan.

3. Detention

A student may be required to stay after school or be assigned to lunch detention as a consequence of their behavior. The detention may include lessons in behavior management created to help a student learn problem-solving skills that will lead them to make positive choices.

4. Emergency Removal

Exclusion of a student who poses a continuing danger to District property or persons in the District or whose behavior presents an ongoing threat of disrupting the educational process provided by the District. The emergency removal may be for part of a day and does not count toward suspension days.

5. In-School Suspension

Reassignment of the student from the classroom to an alternative setting will take place. Students assigned to in-school suspension will be excluded from extracurricular activities until the next school day following the completion of their suspension.

6. Out-of-School Suspension

Removal of a student from school for a period of one to ten days will be decided based upon the level of offense. While students are suspended from school, they may have the opportunity to work on class assignments. During the suspension, students are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities, be on any school property, or ride in any school bus/vehicle. Appeal procedures are available at any school building upon request and are included in the notice of suspension. Classwork will be provided when the outcome decided upon is an out-of-school suspension. Students in kindergarten through third grade will receive out-of-school discipline aligned with the current laws of the State of Ohio.

7. Expulsion

Removal of a student from school for a period of eleven school days to one calendar year will occur based upon the severity of the offense. Students expelled from the district are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities, be on any school property, or ride in any school bus/vehicle. Expulsion may result in the loss of credit for courses being taken at school, at the Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools, or at any college or university, whether under an Education Option, CCP, or at the student's own expense. Expulsion may extend into the following school year. Additionally, any student expelled will not have access to the School of Choice, Community Choice, or Open Enrollment Lottery Process for transfer between schools upon their return the following school year, and are not permitted to be on other school campuses that serve as an extension to our program (college campus, career centers, etc.).

8. Individualized Plan

Grades and related academic credit(s) are awarded to students upon successful completion of their assignment.

9. Use of Outside Agencies

School buildings may also utilize outside agencies to provide services and positive behavior interventions.

10. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED

Student Bus Conduct

Students on a bus or other authorized Board of Education transportation vehicles are under the authority of and directly responsible to the bus/vehicle driver. The driver has the authority to enforce the established regulations for bus/vehicle conduct. Disorderly conduct or refusal to submit to the authority of the driver will be sufficient reason for refusing transportation service to any student. A student may be suspended from school bus/vehicle riding privileges for all or part of a school year for any violation of established regulations for bus conduct and/or conduct occurring on the bus/vehicle in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Before a suspension from bus/vehicle riding privileges is imposed, the Superintendent or other designated District personnel will provide a student with notice of an intended suspension and an opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or other designated personnel. Disciplinary suspension periods will be commensurate with the infraction(s) committed as determined by the Superintendent or designated personnel.

Surveillance Equipment

The WCS District is dedicated to a safe and secure school system. For student safety and welfare, video surveillance equipment and other devices are placed throughout the buildings and school grounds and on buses. Actions recorded on these cameras may be used as evidence in disciplinary action. Any attempt to damage or interfere with the function of these devices will result in disciplinary action by the school and possible referral to local law enforcement agencies.

School Resource Officers

The School Resource Officer program is a cooperative agreement between the Whitehall City School District and the City of Whitehall. This program assigns Police Officers to support the Whitehall City School District. In addition to their law enforcement duties, the School Resource Officers provide mentoring to students, interact with faculty, and participate in the classroom as guest speakers. The addition of the School Resource Officers has not only provided a safe school environment but also enhances a positive relationship between students and the police.

Anonymous Safety Reporting

Please report all safety issues to the office. Students who feel uncomfortable reporting this information to the office may see an administrator, teacher, or counselor. Additionally, concerns can be reported to the Safer Ohio School Tipline by calling 844-723-3764. Calls to the Safer Ohio School Tipline can be made anonymously.

Student Infractions

The goal of all discipline is to correct and modify behavior to ensure a safe and positive learning environment. The district will utilize both supportive and corrective measures to address student misbehaviors. Multiple options for correcting student behavior may be selected depending on individual student needs including the age and grade level of the student, history of misbehavior, and seriousness of any specific offense.

Infractions are generally classified into three categories:

Level I: Minor Offenses

- Violations that have the potential to negatively impact the safe learning environment.

Level II: Moderate Misconduct or Repeated Level I Offenses

- Violations that may cause harm or potential harm to person or property.

Level III: Serious Misconduct or Repeated Level I or Level II Offenses

- Violations of serious misconduct, illegal offenses, health-threatening offenses that may cause harm or potential harm to a person or property

The level of infractions and potential school and district responses are outlined in the WCS Infraction Matrix section below. The matrix is followed by a description of each infraction. Both the matrix and descriptions serve as a general guide. Infraction classifications and disciplinary consequences may vary as determined by the school or district administrator.

WCS Infraction Matrix

Level I: Minor Offenses

- Violations that have the potential to negatively impact the safe learning environment.

Level II: Moderate Misconduct or Repeated Level I Offenses

- Violations that may cause harm or potential harm to person or property.

Level III: Serious Misconduct or Repeated Level I or Level II Offenses

- Violations of serious misconduct, illegal offenses, health-threatening offenses that may cause harm or potential harm to a person or property

Corrective Measures: Multiple options for correcting student behavior may be selected depending on individual student needs including the age and grade level of the student, history of misbehavior, and seriousness of any specific offense.

SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES & CONSEQUENCES												
Student Code of Conduct Infractions	Code of Conduct Infraction Number	Infraction Level			Support Initiatives			Corrective Measures				
		Level 1: Minor Infraction	Level 2: Moderate Infraction	Level 3: Serious Infraction	Parent & Student Conference	School Based Intervention	Referral to Student Support Programs	Detention	Community Service	In School Suspension	Out of School Suspension or PALS	Referral for Expulsion
Alcohol and Drugs	1			X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Counterfeit Substances	2		X		X	X	X			X	X	X
Smoking or Use of Tobacco	3				X	X	X			X	X	
Committing a Felonious Act or Other Violation of Law	4			X	X	X	X				X	X
Possession or Use of Weapons or Dangerous Instruments	5			X	X	X	X				X	X
Inducing Panic	6		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
False Alarms and Reports	7		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Inappropriate Behavior - Disturbance/Horseplay/Loitering	8	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Unauthorized Touching or Hitting or Throwing	9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Disruptive Behavior	10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bullying and Hazing (Harassment and Intimidation)	11			X	X	X	X				X	X
Disrespect	12	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Insubordination	13	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Damage to School Property/Vandalism	14		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Extortion	15		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Fires	16		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Theft or Possessing Stolen Property	17	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Public Display of Affection (P.D.A.)	18	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Sexual Misconduct	19		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Pornography & Sexting	20			X	X	X	X				X	X
Presence in an Unauthorized Area or Trespassing	21	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Truancy/Missing from Class	22	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tardiness	23	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Driving Regulations/Use of Auto/Illegal Parking	24	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Gambling	25	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Use of Property	26	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Bus Behavior	27	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Academic Dishonesty	28	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Creating a Safety Hazard	29	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dress Code Violation	30	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Improper Possession and/or Use of Electronic Equipment/Devices	31	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Inappropriate Material	32				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Inappropriate Use of Social Media	33	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Substance Use Matrix

This matrix serves as an additional guide for substance use infractions. Early intervention and drug screening are embedded to best support and educate students. Interventions and consequences to substance use infractions may include mandatory individual and/or family-based education, counseling, small group discussions, etc.

Tobacco/Vaping (non-drug)	Drugs and/or Alcohol	Disciplinary Strategies and Consequences
1st Offense	N/A	Up to 10-day suspension without an expulsion. Can be reduced to 3 days (1 day OSS, 2 days ISS/PALS) with completion of drug screen and intervention deemed necessary.
2nd Offense	1st Offense	Up to 10-day suspension without an expulsion. Can be reduced to 5 days (2 days OSS, 3 days ISS/PALS) with completion of drug screen and intervention deemed necessary.
3rd Offense	2nd Offense	Up to 10-day suspension (7 days OSS, 3 days ISS/PALS) without an expulsion. Referral to an outside agency.
N/A	3rd Offense	Up to 10-day suspension with recommendation for expulsion.

Code of Conduct Infraction Descriptions

1. Alcohol and Drugs

- a. For purposes of this section of the Code of Conduct, the term "Substance" shall include, but not be limited to the following: alcohol; illegal drugs; medications; narcotics; hallucinogens; amphetamines; barbiturates; marijuana; steroids; caffeine tablets; K2, spice, posh, "legal weed", or any other marijuana substitute; look-alike drugs; or any substance that is represented to be, to contain, to mimic, or be used to produce the same or similar effects as illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, edibles, alcohol, CBD products, stimulants, depressants, or other intoxicants; or any other controlled substance as defined under the laws of Ohio or federal law. E-cigarettes, vaping, juuling, IQOS, or the use of other similar devices used to inhale or ingest foreign substances will be treated as a drug violation.
- b. A student shall not possess, solicit, use, conceal, sell, distribution, offer to sell, purchase, be under the influence of, show evidence of consumption, supply, distribute, or transmit any substance, or otherwise violate Board Policy.
- c. "Possession" includes, but is not limited to, retention of a Substance on the student's person or in a bag, purse, wallet, locker, desk, or vehicle. Included in this prohibition is the possession of drug paraphernalia, which includes, but is not limited to rolling papers, and other items used to inject, inhale, administer, deliver, ingest, or otherwise consume a substance.

2. Counterfeit Substances

- a. No student shall possess any counterfeit "Substance," as the term is defined under "Alcohol and Drugs,". No student shall possess any counterfeit money, nor shall any student make, sell, offer to sell, give, package, conceal, supply, transmit, or deliver a counterfeit Substance. Possession is defined under "Alcohol and Drugs."

- b. No student shall directly or indirectly represent a counterfeit Substance as a Substance that is prohibited by the Code of Conduct by describing, either with words or conduct, its effects as being the same or similar to the physical or mental effects associated with the use of a Substance.
- c. No student shall directly or indirectly represent a counterfeit Substance as a Substance that is prohibited by the Code of Conduct.
 - i. Any Substance that bears, or whose container or label bears, a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark used without authorization of the owner or rights to such trademark, trade name, or identifying mark;
 - ii. Any unmarked or unlabeled contraband that is represented to be a Substance prohibited by the Code of Conduct, which is manufactured, processed, packaged, or distributed;
 - iii. Anything that is represented to be a Substance prohibited by the Code of Conduct but does not fall within the definition of a "Substance."
 - iv. Anything that a reasonable person would believe to be a Substance prohibited by the Code of Conduct because of its similarity in shape, size, color, markings, labeling, packaging, distribution, or the price for which it is sold or offered for sale.

3. Smoking or Use of Tobacco

- a. Ohio law prohibits pupils from smoking and/or using and/or possessing and/or selling tobacco in any area under the control of the school district or at any activity supervised by any school in that district.
- b. E-cigarettes, vaping, juuling, IQOS, or the use of other similar devices used to inhale or ingest foreign substances will be treated as a drug violation.
- c. Therefore, a student shall not smoke, otherwise use, possess, buy, sell, attempt to sell, distribute, or burn tobacco in any form, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes/vaporizers, vaping devices, cigars, clove cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other nicotine products.
- d. Students may be assumed to be smoking if any one of the following conditions exists;
 - i. odor of smoke present,
 - ii. more than one person in a restroom stall,
 - iii. or refusing to come out of the stall if asked.

4. Committing a Felonious Act or Other Violation of Law

- a. A student shall not commit any act not listed herein that constitutes a felony, misdemeanor, or violation of an ordinance.

5. Possession or Use of Weapons or Dangerous Instruments

- a. A student shall not possess, transmit, or conceal a dangerous weapon, dangerous instrument, or "look-alike" counterfeit weapon or instrument. Such items include, but are not limited to, explosives, bullets, fireworks, mace and/or pepper spray, firearms, knives, BB or pellet guns, tasers or any object that can reasonably be considered a dangerous instrument. Look-alike weapons include but are not limited to, any object a reasonable person might consider, under the circumstances, to be a weapon or dangerous instrument, this includes toy look-alike guns.
- b. Additionally, [O.R.C. Sec. 2923.122](#) makes it a felony for any person to knowingly convey, attempt to convey, or possess any deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance onto or on any property owned by or controlled by, or to any activity held under the auspices of, a school. A violation may result in the student being expelled for a period of one calendar year. Violators of the Code of Conduct may be referred to civil authorities. Whenever a student is suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school for a Code of Conduct violation involving a firearm, knife, or other weapons, the student may lose or be denied a driver's license.

6. Inducing Panic ([ORC 2917.31](#))

- a. No student shall induce panic, i.e., cause the evacuation of any school building or otherwise cause serious public inconvenience or alarm, by:
 - i. Initiating or circulating a report or warning of an alleged or impending fire, explosion, crime, or other catastrophes, knowing that such a report or warning is false. Examples include, but are not limited to, pulling a fire alarm when you know there is no fire, making a bomb threat when you know there is no bomb, and making a fake “hit list”.
 - ii. Threatening to commit an offense of violence, as that term is defined in O.R.C. Section 2917.31. Examples include, but are not limited to, threatening to kill, assault, kidnap, rape, or rob someone, to commit extortion, to provoke a riot, to commit arson, or to discharge a firearm at or into the school.
 - iii. Committing any offense with reckless disregard for the likelihood that its commission will cause serious public inconvenience or alarm. For purposes of this policy, reckless disregard means perversely disregarding a known risk that your conduct is likely to cause serious public inconvenience or alarm, and being heedlessly indifferent to the effects of your actions on others.
 - iv. Any student who violates this rule will be subject to school discipline, in accordance with board policy and the Code of Conduct. In addition, any student who violates this rule may be referred to the authorities. Under Ohio law, any person who “induces panic” is guilty of a felony, regardless of whether anyone is hurt or the school suffers economic harm.
 - v. Students may be expelled for one calendar year. (See ORC Section 2917.31)

7. False Alarms and Reports

- a. A student shall not initiate a fire alarm or initiate a report warning of a fire, bombing, bomb threat, or other catastrophe or emergency without cause, or give false information or falsely report school incidents. A violation may result in the student being expelled for a period of up to one calendar year.

8. Inappropriate Behavior - Disturbance/Horseplay/Loitering

- a. A student shall not be involved in any type of inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to excessive noise and blocking/loitering in hallways, which will also include excessive noise for electronic devices and/or speakers.
- b. DISTURBANCES: Students causing disturbances on school premises (i.e. insubordination to teachers or other school employees or possession of firecrackers, smoke bombs, etc.) or having possession of, or threatening with, any type of weapon may be suspended from school.

9. Unauthorized Touching or Hitting or Throwing

- a. This is the act of physically touching or hitting, or making physical threats to a student or employee of the school system, or any other person while on school property or at a school event. This includes spitting or forcing bodily fluid onto a person. Charges may be filed in the event of an assault. A violation may result in the student being expelled for a period of up to one calendar year.

10. Disruptive Behavior

- a. A student shall not disrupt, attempt to disrupt, or urge others to disrupt the educational process, normal school operations, or any school or school-sponsored activity by violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or other disorderly conduct.

11. Bullying and Hazing (Harassment and Intimidation)

- a. Ongoing and/or pervasive harassing, hazing, intimidating, bullying, and/or dating violence behavior by any student in the District is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. Harassment, hazing, intimidation, bullying, and/or dating violence means any intentional written, verbal, electronic, graphic, or physical acts, including electronically transmitted acts, either overt or covert, by a student or group of students toward other students or school personnel with the intent to haze, harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule or humiliate. Such behaviors are prohibited on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity; in any District publication; through the use of any District-owned or operated communication tools, including but not limited to District e-mail accounts and/or computers; on school-provided transportation; or at any official school bus stop.
- b. Bullying is defined according to [ORC 3313.666](#)
- c. Ongoing and/or pervasive hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or dating violence can include many different behaviors. Examples of conduct that could constitute prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to:
 - i. physical violence and/or attacks;
 - ii. threats, taunts, and intimidation through words and/or gestures;
 - iii. extortion, damage, or stealing of money and/or possessions;
 - iv. exclusion from the peer group or spreading rumors;
 - v. repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies and other web-based/online sites (also known as cyberbullying), such as the following:
 1. posting slurs on web sites, social networking sites, blogs or personal online journals;
 2. sending abusive or threatening emails, web site postings or comments and instant messages;
 3. using camera phones to take embarrassing photographs or videos of students and/or distributing or posting the photos or videos online and
 4. using web sites, social networking sites, blogs or personal online journals, e-mails or instant messages to circulate gossip and rumors to other students.

12. Disrespect

- a. A student shall not use abusive, obscene, profane, or offensive language, gestures, or signs toward another student, school employee, or adult.
 - i. excluding others from an online group by falsely reporting them for inappropriate language to Internet service providers.

13. Insubordination

- a. A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable requests or directives of adults or school employees.

14. Damage to School Property/Vandalism

- a. A student shall not knowingly cause or attempt to cause physical damage to any school building or school property or private property of another, including the private property of school employees on school property. Parents, guardians, or custodians shall be held financially responsible for any such property damage, by their child, pursuant to O.R.C. [3109.09](#), [2307.70](#), and any other applicable sections of law. The building administrator will determine the extent of the damage and will assign discipline.

15. Extortion

- a. Extortion is defined, by Ohio Revised Code, as expose or threaten to expose any matter tending to subject a person to hatred, contempt, or ridicule, or to damage any person's personal or business repute, or to impair any person's credit.
- b. A student shall not commit an act of extortion, threatened extortion, or threaten reprisals in order to secure an object, benefit, or service from another person.

16. Fires

- a. A student shall not burn or attempt to burn any part of any building or objects, or any other property belonging to another person or to the Whitehall City Schools, unless authorized by school personnel.

17. Theft or Possessing Stolen Property

- a. A student shall not steal or attempt to steal property. If a student finds an item that does not belong to him/her, they must immediately turn it into a staff member. A person commits a theft when he/she:
 - i. obtains or exerts unauthorized control over the property of the owner (including computer software or copyrighted material); or
 - ii. obtains by deception control over the property of the owner; or
 - iii. obtains by threat control over the property of the owner; or
 - iv. obtains control over stolen property, knowing the property to have been stolen or under circumstances, as would lead him/her to reasonably believe that the property was stolen, and he/she:
 1. intends to deprive the owner of the use or benefit of the property; or
 2. knowingly uses, conceals, or abandons the property in such a manner as to deprive the owner of such use or benefit; or
 3. uses, conceals, or abandons the property, knowing such use, concealment, or abandonment probably will deprive the owner of such use or benefit.

18. Public Display of Affection (P.D.A.)

- a. Student shall not have physical contact including but not limited to: cuddling, kissing and/or any other intimate touching.

19. Sexual Misconduct

- a. Students shall not engage in sexual misconduct on school grounds or at school-sanctioned events as defined in Ohio Revised Code ([ORC 2907.01](#)), including but not limited to fondling, sexual contact, sexual activity, intercourse, masturbation, nudity, prostitution, sexual acts that are harmful to juveniles,

20. Pornography & Sexting

- a. The possessing, taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs.
- b. Whether by local storage or electronic data transfers or otherwise (commonly called texting, emailing, posting on social media, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law.
- c. Any person possessing, taking, disseminating, or sharing nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under this Code of Conduct and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

21. Presence in an Unauthorized Area or Trespassing

- a. A student shall not be on school grounds or in any unauthorized area of school grounds or any Whitehall City Schools building without permission.
- b. A student shall not be outside the building without permission.
- c. A student shall not leave school grounds without permission.

22. Truancy/Missing from Class

- a. Refer to the attendance section of the handbook and the Whitehall City Schools board policy [JEDA](#) and [Ohio House Bill 410](#).
- b. A “habitual truant” is any child of compulsory school age who is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one month or 72 or more hours in a school year.
- c. School administrators will begin this process with the School Absence Intervention Team.
- d. If a student fails to attend an assigned period without an excuse, the absence will be counted as unexcused.

23. Tardiness

- a. Students are expected to arrive at school on time.
- b. Students are expected to abide by the school's class schedule and schedule, arriving to class on time.
- c. Tardiness to School: Refer to the attendance section of the handbook and the Whitehall City Schools board policy [JEDA](#).
- d. Tardiness to Class: If a student arrives late to class without a pass or excuse, the student will be considered tardy to class and may be referred to the office for additional discipline.

24. Driving Regulations/Use of Auto/Illegal Parking

- a. Students are not permitted to park in designated staff, visitor, and/or handicapped spaces, or improperly use an automobile to and from school and on school property, or be in violation of the parking code.

25. Gambling

- a. Students may not gamble anywhere on school grounds or a school event.

26. Use of Property

- a. Students may not use any school-owned property or another student’s property without permission.

27. Bus Behavior

- a. A student shall not violate the bus rules listed in below. All bus discipline will be reported to the transportation supervisor and school administrator. (Refer to the School Bus Conduct section)
- b. Inappropriate behavior on bus/school transportation may result in suspension from riding privileges.
- c. **STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES**
 - i. The following regulations pertain to school bus conduct and are intended to ensure the safety and welfare of the students, the bus driver and other drivers on the road and to ensure the safety and proper maintenance of school buses.
 - ii. Students will:
 1. Railroad Crossing - Be quiet, do not talk when the bus is approaching a railroad crossing or highway intersection
 2. Seats -Remain seated in assigned seats. Fighting also will not be permitted.
 3. Windows- Keep hands, heads, books and miscellaneous objects inside the bus, never outside the windows. Windows are to be opened only by approval of the driver.
 4. Eating –Eating or drinking on the bus is not permitted.
 5. Quiet -Talk quietly -no yelling inside the bus or out the windows.
 6. Throwing Objects -Do not throw objects inside the bus or out the bus windows.
 7. Bus Stops -Wait until bus stops and driver gives the signal for crossing before leaving the residence side toboard the bus. ·
 8. Crossing-Cross in front of the bus ONLY, approximately ten feet in front of bus.
 9. Time -Will be at designated pick-ups on time in the mornings and in the evenings when school is dismissed.
 10. Profanity – the use of profanity or smoking, while on the bus, is not permitted

- iii. In general, students riding school buses shall be expected to conduct themselves in the same manner as in the classroom.
- iv. Students are always under the direction of the driver while on the school bus.
- v. Riding to school is a privilege and convenience. The failure of a student to follow these regulations may result in his forfeiting the privilege of transportation by school bus.
- vi. Prior to the start of school: Bus rules will be sent home to students/parents.
- vii. The following disciplinary procedure will be used on school buses:
 - 1. FIRST INCIDENT: The driver provides a formal warning to the student and issues a student misconduct report to the building principal or designee.
 - 2. SECOND INCIDENT: The driver issues a bus conduct report which includes up to a three-day suspension from bus transportation. *Parents will be notified of a loss of transportation privileges. The principal will set up a meeting with the parent, student and driver to discuss the problem.
 - 3. THIRD INCIDENT: The driver issues a bus conduct report which includes up to a ten-day suspension from bus transportation. *The parents will be notified of the loss of transportation privileges. The parents and student will meet with the principal prior to reinstatement to the bus. An intervention plan will be developed to prevent future misconduct.
 - 4. FOURTH INCIDENT: The driver issues a bus conduct report which includes up to a 30-day suspension from bus transportation. *Parents and student will be required to attend a conference with the principal to determine if/when riding privileges may be reinstated based upon meeting specific criteria.
 - 5. FIFTH INCIDENT: The driver issues a bus conduct report which includes a loss of transportation privileges for the remainder of the school year. Parents will be notified of the loss of transportation privileges.
- viii. The following severe inappropriate behavior may result in the loss of transportation privileges for the remainder of the year at the time of the incident:
 - 1. Fighting on the bus during the route.
 - 2. Throwing an object at the bus driver during the route.
 - 3. Using profanity at the bus driver during the route.
 - 4. Willfully causing damage to the school bus.
- ix. Prior to implementing a suspension from the bus, it is necessary for the building administrator to contact parents/guardians. As some families do not have phones, the administrator may need to rely on mailing a notification of suspension to the home. In order to better communicate with the driver, the administrator will indicate the start and end date for the suspension on the bus misconduct form and fax it to the driver.

28. Academic Dishonesty

- a. A student shall not cheat or use unauthorized materials on tests or other schoolwork.
- b. Academic Dishonesty is failure to appropriately acknowledge another's intellectual property in one's own work, to falsify facts or misuse information, to use unauthorized materials during a test, quiz, or exam, or to assist or contribute to another's academic misconduct. If a student is concerned that his or her work may violate academic integrity, then it is the responsibility of the student to confer with the teacher prior to submitting work for credit.
 - i. Definitions

1. *Cheating*: The act of deception by submitting work as one's own. This includes, but is not limited to copying another student's assignment either all or in part, or supplying a student with another's assignment. Cheating also includes using unauthorized materials such as notes, books, prohibited technology, calculators, or computers during a test, quiz, exam, or project. Students may not share information on tests, quizzes, and projects unless the teacher has explicitly given permission to do so.
2. *Plagiarism*: The act of presenting the published ideas or words of another as one's own. This includes but is not limited to books, poems, speeches, films, TV, newspapers, magazines, and Internet media. Using information from such sources requires proper citations and formatting in order to give credit to the author or speaker.
3. *Forgery*: The act of altering signatures, school-related forms, documents, or records (either paper or electronic form) for academic advantage.
4. *Stealing*: The act of taking academic information for personal gain. Examples include, but are not limited to, taking another student's work without permission, taking an exam key, removing a test from a teacher's room without permission, obtaining electronic material from a teacher's computer, or keeping test booklets instead of returning them to the teacher.
5. *Inappropriate Use of Technology* - I will not pass off work created by artificial intelligence as my own. This includes using artificial intelligence to generate responses to prompts, write essays, produce content, or solve problems. Doing so constitutes academic dishonesty.

29. Creating a Safety Hazard

- a. Student shall not create a safety hazard.

30. Dress Code Violation

- a. A student shall not violate the dress code. ([Refer to the Dress Code section](#))

31. Improper Possession and/or Use of Electronic Equipment/Devices

- a. Please refer to the following board policies - Computer/Online Services - Acceptable Use and Internet Safety ([EDE](#)), Bring Your Own Technology Program ([EDEB](#)), Use of Electronic Communications Equipment by Students ([JFCK](#)).
- b. This infraction includes all personally owned devices, including cell phones.
 - i. Students will use approved devices only for an educational purpose, and only when directed by a classroom teacher or administrator.
 - ii. Students must keep devices turned off and stored away when not directed to use them.
- c. All electronic devices may be searched if there exists a reasonable suspicion that they may have been used in an activity prohibited by the Code of Conduct.
- d. Students are expected to use technology in a responsible way that does not violate academic dishonesty infraction (#28).

32. Inappropriate Material

- a. Students are not to possess, bring, make, transmit, conceal, sell, or offer to sell inappropriate material or items. Example: pornographic or obscene material.

33. Inappropriate Use of Social Media

- a. Care must be taken on social media to maintain an atmosphere of respect consistent with the behavior expected of students in school.

Note: This is a representative listing of rules and violations. It is not a complete listing of all acts of misbehavior that may require disciplinary action. The Whitehall City Schools administration reserves the right to take disciplinary action as the situation warrants.

In addition to these items, a student may be subject to school disciplinary action, for misconduct that occurs off school property to the extent that the misconduct, regardless of when it occurs, is directed at a district official (or employee or the property of such official or employee.) Such action is deemed appropriate by the Board of Education because disrespectful acts could negatively affect student behavior at school and thereby cause deterioration in the learning environment. See ORC 3313.661(A).

Certain violations of the Code of Conduct involving firearms, knives, bomb threats, or serious physical harm to persons or property can result in the student being expelled for a period of up to one calendar year or being permanently excluded from school. See board policy.

Given a specific set of circumstances, charges may be filed against anyone who has violated the law in addition to school punishment.

The Code of Conduct shall apply to conduct not specifically set forth herein which substantially and materially disrupts or interferes with good order, discipline, or operation of the academic or educational process taking place in the school, or which substantially and materially is, or poses a threat to, the safety of persons or property.

Whitehall City Schools comply with all requirements of state and federal law in regard to the discipline of disabled students.

All Student Handbook policy references were current at the time of publication. Policies are subject to change as the Board of Education updates policies throughout the year. All discipline and policy enforcement will be based on current Board of Education policy located on the District website and/or at <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/whitehall/Board.nsf/Public>. Please refer to board policies online for the most recent version.

In determining whether disciplinary action set forth in this policy is to be implemented, District administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. Further, any individual charged with making a disciplinary determination under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media created and/or received as part of an investigation.

In addition, this statement of due process rights is to be placed in all student handbooks (see next page) in a manner that will facilitate understanding by students and their parents.

These procedures shall not apply to in-school disciplinary alternatives including in-school suspensions. An in-school suspension is one served entirely in a supervised learning environment within a school setting. Nor shall these disciplinary alternative procedures apply to students who are prohibited by authorized school personnel from all or part of their participation in cocurricular, interscholastic, and/or non-interscholastic extra-curricular activities.

Board of Education Procedures and Rules

It is not the intention of this manual to be all-inclusive of the District's policies. The procedures listed below are for reference only and can be obtained in their entirety at the WCS district office. Board policies are available on the WCS website.

Due Process Rights – Policy [JFA](#) Student Suspension and Expulsion Procedures The Board of Education recognize that students have limited constitutional rights when it comes to their education. Accordingly, the Board establishes the following procedures which Administrators shall use when dealing with students:

Students Subject to Suspension

When a student is being considered for an out-of-school suspension by the Superintendent, Principal, or other administrators:

1. The student will be informed in writing of the potential suspension and the reasons for the proposed action.
2. The student will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension and to explain his/her actions.
3. An attempt will be made to notify parents or guardians by telephone if a suspension is issued.
4. Within one (1) school day of the suspension the Superintendent, Principal, or other administrators will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student. The notice will include the reasons for the suspension and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within ten (10) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend. If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.
5. If a student leaves school property without permission immediately upon violation (or suspected violation) of a provision of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code or prior to an administrator conducting an informal hearing as specified above, and the student fails to return to school on the following school day, the Principal, assistant Principal, Superintendent, or any other administrator, may send the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) notice of the suspension, and offer to provide the student and/or his/her parents an informal hearing upon request to discuss the reasons for the suspension and to allow the student to challenge the reasons and to explain his/her actions, any time prior to the end of the suspension period.

Appeal of Suspension to the Board or its Designee

The student who is eighteen (18) or older or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing which will be held in a private session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian. The procedure to pursue such an appeal will be provided in regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer or the Superintendent within ten (10) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend.

Appeal to the Court

Under Ohio law, an appeal of the Board's or its designee's decision may be made to the Court of Common Pleas.

Students Subject to Expulsion

When a student is being considered for expulsion by the Superintendent:

1. The Superintendent will give the student and parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of the intended expulsion, including reasons for the intended expulsion.
2. The student and parent or representative have the opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or designee to challenge the proposed action or to otherwise explain the student's actions. The written notice will state the time and place to appear, which must not be earlier than three (3) school days nor later than five (5) school days after the notice is given unless the Superintendent grants an extension upon request of the student or parent.
3. Within one (1) school day of the expulsion, the Superintendent will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student and the Treasurer of the Board. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.

Appeal of Expulsion to the Board

A student who is eighteen (18) or older or a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the expulsion by the Superintendent to the Board or its designee. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date the expulsion begins. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and will be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing which will be held in private session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian.

The procedure to pursue such an appeal will be in accordance with regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date the expulsion begins with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent.

Appeal to the Court

Under State law, the decision of the Board or its designee may be further appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

Students Subject to Emergency Removal

Students whose conduct warrants emergency removal shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy [JGDA](#) - Emergency Removal.

Students Subject to Permanent Exclusion

Students whose conduct is that for which permanent exclusion is warranted shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy [JEGA](#) - Permanent Exclusion.

Students Subject to Suspension from Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges

Students whose conduct warrants suspension from bus riding and/or transportation services shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy [JFCC-R](#) (also see [EEACC-R](#)) Student Conduct on District Managed Transportation

Whitehall City School Policies - <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/whitehall/Board.nsf/Public>

Weapons in School ([Policy JFCJ](#))

The Board is committed to providing the students of the District with an educational environment that is free of the dangers of firearms, knives, and other weapons.

The definition of a firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer or any destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Section 921) that includes any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above. A knife is defined as a cutting instrument having a sharp blade that is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

Unless a student is permanently excluded, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one year for bringing a firearm or knife to a school within the District or onto any other property owned or controlled by the Board, or for possessing a firearm or knife at a school or on any other property owned or controlled by the Board, which firearm or knife was initially brought onto school property by another person, except that the Superintendent may reduce this requirement on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters that might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include the student's mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions, the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment, the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

A student may be expelled for up to one year for firearm-related or knife-related incidents occurring off school property while at a school-sponsored interscholastic competition, extracurricular event or other school-sponsored activity.

A student suspended, expelled, removed or permanently excluded from school for misconduct involving a firearm or knife also loses his/her driving privileges. The District must notify the county juvenile judge and registrar of motor vehicles within two weeks of the suspension, expulsion or permanent exclusion.

The Board prohibits students from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school vehicle if both of the following apply.

1. The object is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired.
2. The person indicates that the person possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or the person knowingly displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm.

As defined by State law and for purposes of this policy, an "object that is indistinguishable from a firearm" means an object made, constructed or altered so that, to a reasonable person without specialized training in firearms, the object appears to be a firearm.

Students found in violation of numbers 1 and 2 above may be reported to the local law enforcement authority and may

be prosecuted under state criminal statutes, as well as disciplined in accordance with the provisions of the District's student code of conduct and State law.

The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat to a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this provision extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Student Conduct (Policy JFC)

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that exhibits respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students of the District must conform with school regulations and accept directions from authorized school personnel. The Board has "zero tolerance" of violent, disruptive, harassing, intimidating, bullying or any other inappropriate behavior by its students.

A student who fails to comply with established school rules or with any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school-related events is subject to approved student discipline regulations. Students are also subject to discipline, as outlined in the student code of conduct for misbehavior that occurs off school property when the misbehavior endangers the health and safety of students within the District or adversely affects the education process. The Superintendent/designee develops regulations that establish strategies ranging from prevention to intervention to address student misbehavior, and provides continuing instruction in dating violence prevention in health education courses in grades 7 through 12.

Students and parents receive, at the beginning of each school year or upon enrolling in the District schools during the year, written information on the rules and regulations to which they are subject while in school or participating in any school-related activity or event. The information includes the types of conduct that are subject to suspension or expulsion from school or other forms of disciplinary action. The Board directs the administration to make all students aware of the student code of conduct and the fact that any violations of the student code of conduct are punishable. The rules also apply to any form of student misconduct directed at a District official or employee or the property of a District official or employee, regardless of where the misconduct occurs.

If a student violates this policy or the student code of conduct, school personnel, students or parents should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the State of Ohio and local ordinances.

A student may be expelled for up to one year if he/she commits an act that inflicts serious physical harm to persons or property if it was committed at school, on other school property or at a school activity, event or program.

The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat to a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this provision extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include the student's mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions, the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment, the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

The student code of conduct is made available to students and parents and is posted in a central location within each building.

Hazing and Bullying (Policy JFCF)

Hazing means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.

Throughout this policy, the term bullying is used in place of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

Bullying, harassment, and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. This behavior is prohibited on school property, on a school bus or at a school-sponsored activity. Students found responsible for harassment, intimidation or bullying by an electronic act may be suspended. Discipline procedures will not infringe on any student's rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. When the behavior is sexual harassment, the Title IX sexual harassment grievance process will be followed, if applicable, prior to imposing any discipline that cannot be imposed without resolution of the Title IX process.

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

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

Prohibited activities of any type, including those activities engaged in via computer and/or electronic communications devices or electronic means, are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. The District educates minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

No administrator, teacher or other employee of the District shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing and/or bullying activities. No students, including leaders of student organizations, are permitted to plan, encourage or engage in any hazing and/or bullying.

Administrators, teachers and all other District employees are particularly alert to possible conditions, circumstances or events that might include hazing, bullying and/or dating violence. If any of the prohibited behaviors are planned or discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering District employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and are required to end all such activities immediately. All hazing, bullying and/or dating violence incidents are reported immediately to the principal/designee and appropriate discipline is administered. When employees have actual knowledge that the behavior is sexual harassment, they must contact the Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent/designee must provide the Board President with a semiannual written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District's website, to the extent permitted by law.

The administration provides training on the District's hazing and bullying policy to District employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students and by November 30 annually reports to the Ohio Department of Education compliance with this requirement through the consolidated school mandate report. If the District reports noncompliance the Superintendent/designee must provide a written explanation to the Board within 30 days explaining this noncompliance and a written plan of action for accurately and efficiently addressing the problem.

Additional training is provided to elementary employees in violence and substance abuse prevention and positive youth development.

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

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

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY ([Policy EDE](#)) ([Policy EDE-R](#))

Whitehall City Schools provide students with access to computer equipment, programs, systems, email, internet, and other technologies. Each student must take responsibility for the appropriate and lawful use of this access. Students shall not use the school district’s equipment, systems, or network for activities that cause harm to others or damage to their property; or that violate the law, Board policy, or the Student Code of Conduct. The board or authorized district officials will make a good-faith judgment as to which materials, files, information, software, communications, and other content and activities are permitted and prohibited under particular circumstances based on the following guidelines. Uses and activities that are considered unacceptable and constitute a violation of this policy include, but are not limited to: illegal activities, accessing inappropriate material, inappropriate or insensitive communication, violating copyright laws, copying software, plagiarism, misuse of equipment, passwords or software, malicious use or vandalism, and unauthorized access to the internet. The district and its staff reserve the right to filter and monitor district devices and district internet usage at all times. (24/hours, 365/days a year)

Whitehall City Schools will use a variety of services that allow the district to monitor students’ WCS Google accounts, all accounts linked to that WCS Google Account, and students’ WCS-owned Chromebooks. These services may have the ability to notify students when minor infractions occur. As well as notify WCS administrators is a major infraction occurs or the possibility of self-harm exists.

Please review policy EDE in its entirety on the district website for additional details.

CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

The district encourages parents to first work with their child’s teacher(s) to address concerns or resolve conflicts. If you have further concerns after meeting with the teacher(s), contact the school’s administration.



Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Student Name: _____
(Please Print)

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Whitehall-Yearling High School, 2023-2024 Student Handbook which includes the Student Code of Conduct approved by the Whitehall City Schools, Board of Education.

- I understand that it is my responsibility to read and comply with the Code of Conduct and other policies contained in said Handbook.
- I acknowledge that I am expected to conform to the rules contained in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.
- I understand the importance of respecting the rights and responsibilities of all students and staff within the building.
- I acknowledge that I understand the expectations of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and agree to abide by the policy.
- The above-mentioned Student Handbook and AUP describe important information and I understand that I should consult an Administrator regarding any questions about said handbook, AUP and their policies.

Therefore, I state, by evidence of my signature below, that I acknowledge receiving a copy of the the 2023-2024 Whitehall City Schools Student Handbook containing the policies and procedures of Whitehall City School District including, but not limited to, the Student Code of Conduct, Dress Code policy, Weapons in School policy, Student Conduct policy, Hazing and Bullying policy and the Technology Acceptable Use policy.

A copy of said handbook was provided to me by Whitehall City School District.

Student Signature: _____ (or written name)

Parent Signature: _____ (or written name)

Today's Date: _____