ANNUAL DISTRICT NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

RIGHyS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Student records are privileged and confidential. Records are not disclosed to persons other than a student’s parents or guardian, or the student, if over 18 except as expressly required by law. At the time of inspection of student records appropriate school personnel must be present.

Parents or Guardians and eligible students over 18 have a right to:

1. Inspect and review a student’s educational record.
2. Know that the intent of the school district is to limit disclosure of personally identifiable information in those records, except
   • by prior written consent of the student’s parents or guardian, or student, if over 18.
   • disclosure as directory information as defined below
   • as otherwise legally allowed for access by school officials
3. Request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of a student’s privacy or other rights.
4. File a complaint with the US Department of Education alleging failure of the school district to comply with FERPA rules & regulations.

Requests for access to student records or procedures to be followed for amending student records should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Williamson Central School will release or publish in school newsletters, school or student newspapers, athletic programs, musical or theatrical programs, news releases and the district web page some and/or all of the following directory information pertaining to students as may be appropriate under the circumstance; name of students, photographs, video, of students, name of parents, grade, age, major fields of study, participation in school activities, extra-curricular activities and sport programs, academic honors, degrees, achievements, awards, scholarships, and height & weight of athletic team members.

Pursuant to federal law, Williamson Central School District must disclose to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning upon request the names, addresses and telephone numbers of high school students.

Under Title 34 C.F.R. Part 99, parent or eligible students who do not want this information released must make a request in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within 30 days of this notification. Failure to make such a request shall be deemed consent to release directory information during the present school year.

TEACHER QUALIFICATION REQUESTS

As a parent of a student in the Williamson Central School District, Federal law allows you to request certain information about the professional qualification of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Please refer to the District’s website or call the District Office for more information.

PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS REGARDING STUDENT DATA PRIVACY & PROTECTION

In accordance with New York Education Law Section 2-d, the Williamson Central School District has established a Parents’ Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security. The full document can be viewed on the District’s website or call the District Office for more information.

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (APPR)

New York State Education Law requires each classroom teacher and school principal to receive an annual professional performance review (APPR) that results in a composite effectiveness score and rating. All parents/guardians have the right to obtain the APPR quality ratings and composite effectiveness scores for their child’s current teacher(s) and principal(s) once they are available. To initiate this request, please contact your child’s principal in their corresponding school.

HEALTH INFORMATION

THE HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) required adoption of security and privacy standards in order to protect personal health information. In order for the District to exchange information with a child’s health care provider, it is necessary for a parent or guardian to sign a comprehensive release of information form that outlines the security provisions.

_IMMUNIZATIONS_

Under Public Health Law, all students are required to be immunized against measles, polio, diphtheria, mumps, rubella, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, Pertussis and Varicella. A signed physician’s certificate or other acceptable evidence must be submitted for all children entering school. Proof of immunization must be submitted within 14 days or the child will not be permitted to attend beyond that point. For more information or questions about the requirement and exceptions contact the school nurse in each building.

INSURANCE

All students of the District are covered under a group student accident insurance plan which acts as co-insurance with the family coverage considered the primary coverage. All accidents must be reported to the school nurse. The accident policy is designed to cover or assist in covering expenses resulting from accidental injury to any student while at school or involved in a school sponsored activity. For further information, contact the school nurse.

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

State law requires a signed written order from a physician and parent/guardian in order for a student to receive any (including over-the-counter) medicine at school. Medication is to be brought to school by the parent/guardian in the original, correctly labeled prescription or product bottle. For specific information regarding these medications on field trips, please contact the school nurse.

SCHOOL HEALTH SCREENINGS

Vision screening guidelines recommend distance visual acuity once within six months of admission to school and in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11. Hearing Screening guidelines state that a hearing screening be administered to all students within six months of admission to the school in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11. Scoliosis examinations will be performed at least once each year to all students in Grades 5-9. An annual check of height and weight will be recorded by the school nurse in the student’s health file.

PHYSICAL EXAMS

NYS Education Department and State Law requires an annual physical exam which includes a body mass index and weight status category for those students entering UPK, Kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. Any student entering the school district for the first time is required to have an examination. Participation in a sport requires a health history form and a current physician physical dated within the past 12 months.

SCREENING OF NEW STUDENTS

New students will be screened to determine each pupil’s educational needs. For more information on screening, please contact the elementary school or guidance office at the middle/high school.

MEDIA OPT OUT

The district recognizes the right of parents to refuse to have their child’s photo featured in district media. Opt out forms are available in our District Office and in each building’s main office.
DISTRICT POLICY SUMMARIES

DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (POLICY 7492)
In accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, the District will strive to create an environment that is free of bullying, discrimination, and/or harassment. The District will foster civility in the schools to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with the District’s educational mission. The following are the 11 protected classes under the Dignity Act: Race, Color, Weight, National Origin, Ethnic Group, Religion, Religious Practice, Disability, Sex, Gender (including gender identity and expression), and Sexual Orientation. The District has designated staff members in each building and can be reached via e-mail: ESASD@williamsoncentral.org, MSDASD@williamsoncentral.org or HSDASD@williamsoncentral.org.

CIVILITY, CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER EDUCATION/INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION (POLICY 8131)
The District wishes to foster an environment where students exhibit behavior that promotes educational practices, allows students to grow socially and academically, and encourages healthy dialogue in respectful ways. The District shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades K-12 includes a component on civility, citizenship and character education in accordance with Education Law.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (POLICY 6170)
The Williamson Central School District prohibits and will not tolerate all forms of harassing conduct in – or related – to the workplace on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex or gender, sexual orientation, age, marital or veteran status, disability or any other characteristics protected by federal or state law, by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees (e.g., contractors and vendors) as well as any third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaging in activities subject to the supervision and control of the District. “Harassing conduct” is offensive behavior that is motivated by the individual’s attitudes and/or impermissible stereotypes about other people based on their protected characteristics listed above. There are two types of such conduct: (1) tangible employment action discrimination, which can only be committed by an employee’s supervisor(s) and (2) hostile environment harassment, which can be committed by supervisors, coworkers and non-employees.

ATTENDANCE (POLICY 7200)
Pupils enrolled in the District must attend school regularly in accordance with State Law. Our attendance policy lists both legal and illegal absences. All absences need to be verified by a written note. Excessive tardiness or truancy may result in disciplinary action.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL (POLICY 3200)
Parents and other adults are encouraged to visit their schools. Visitation for any purpose requires that the visitor check in at the office, sign in, state the reason for the visit and acquire a visitor’s badge.

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (POLICY 3250)
Use of the school building and outdoor facilities for community-wide activities by recognized civic, social, fraternal, religious, and not-for-profit groups is encouraged. Groups wishing to use school facilities must secure written permission from the Superintendent of Schools and abide by the rules and regulations established. A certificate of insurance will be required. A building use form must be submitted ten working days prior to the event. For more information contact the Main Office in any of the buildings.

FIRE DRILLS (POLICY 8204)
The district shall instruct and train students, through fire drills, in procedures for leaving the building in the shortest possible time and without confusion or panic.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS (POLICY 3500)
In the event it is necessary to close school for the day due to inclement weather or other emergency reasons, an announcement shall be made over local radio and television stations. A district wide phone call will be made through the School Messenger system. When school is closed, all related activities, including athletic events and student activities will be suspended for that day and evening, unless otherwise specified.

SMOKING/TOBACCO USE (POLICY 3431)
The Board of Education prohibits the use of tobacco or any products containing nicotine (this includes electronic or e-cigarettes) within 100 feet of the entrances, exits or outdoor areas of any public or private educational institution’s legally defined boundaries, and at any school sponsored event.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES (POLICY 3430)
Williamson Central School District is a drug-free school zone. The consumption, sharing and/or selling, use and/or possession of illegal drugs, counterfeit and designer drugs or alcoholic beverages on school grounds are not tolerated.

GRADUATION CEREMONY (POLICY 4772)
The Board of Education has adopted a policy and procedures to allow any student to participate in the graduation ceremony of the student’s high school graduating class (cohort) and all related activities if such student has been awarded a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential or Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential but has not otherwise qualified for a Regents or local high school diploma.

REQUESTS FOR TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS (POLICY 5720)
A parent/guardian of a parochial or private school child residing in the School District who desires that the child be transported to a parochial or private school outside of the District should submit a written request to the Superintendent of Schools no later than April 1 or within thirty days of moving into the District.

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AND ELECTION (POLICY 1570)
The Annual District Meeting (Budget Vote and Election) for the Williamson Central School District will be held on the third Tuesday in May as designated by New York State. A budget hearing will be held according to New York State School Law. The District Clerk will publish notification of the Annual Meeting four times in the District’s official newspapers. Voter eligibility requirements and information regarding absentee ballots will appear on the District website.

IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTER OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (POLICY 8501)
The Board of Education conducts a census in order to have all children with disabilities within its jurisdiction under the age of 21 identified, located and evaluated. This includes children of preschool age and children in all public and private agencies and institutions within its jurisdiction.

HOMELESS CHILDREN (POLICY 7670)
Enrollment of homeless children shall not be delayed and their ability to continue or participate in the educational program shall not be restricted. Transportation will be provided by the District once a child is registered. The homeless liaison for the 2020-2021 school year is Karen Hood, Assistant Principal, Elementary School.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (POLICY 8151)
All use of computer technology shall be in compliance with rules and regulations set forth in administrative regulations (See Acceptable Use Regulations). Failure to obey rules regulating acceptable use will result in revocation or suspension of the right to use the technology and/or prosecution by law.

INTERNET SAFETY (POLICY 8153)
The Board of Education is committed to undertaking efforts that serve to make safe for children the use of district computers for access to the Internet and World Wide Web.

FULL POLICIES CAN BE VIEWED ON THE DISTRICT WEB PAGE – MENU-BOARD OF ED-POLICIES