

2022-2023
Family Engagement Guide and Student Handbook

District Information

Dr. Jeffrey Bearden, Superintendent
Forsyth County Board of Education
Mr. Wesley McCall (District 1), Chairperson
Ms. Kristin Morrissey (District 2), Vice Chairperson
Mr. Tom Cleveland (District 3)
Ms. Darla Light (District 4)
Ms. Lindsey Adams (District 5)

Main Phone: 770-887-2461
Transportation Phone: 770-888-1234

School Bus Expectations

ATTENDANCE:

Regular attendance is essential to success in school. As permitted under the State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.10, the Georgia Compulsory Education Law O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1, and Forsyth County Board of Education policy, students may be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school that endangers a student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observance of religious holidays, needing absence from school.
5. Conditions making attendance impossible or hazar1.5 -1.15 To os(ous)-1ccdJ0y (, ne)4 (h)n Tw 1MC /

school days to make up work. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.

Late Check-in or Early Check-out:

DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT REPORTING:

FCS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or gender in employment decisions or educational programs and activities, including its athletic programs. Any student, employee, applicant for employment, parent or other individual who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the school district based upon any of the factors listed above should promptly report the same to the principal of the school or the appropriate coordinator as listed below, who will implement the board's discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor. Equity coordinators for the school system are:

Title VI

Title IX

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENT OF RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS PRIVACY ACT (FERPA), THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA), THE CHILDREN'S ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT (COPPA) AND ONLINE LEARNING NOTICE:

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (the "Act"), parents/guardians have a right to:

1. Inspect and review, within 45 days of a request, the education records of a student who is their child, or in the case of a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or those who are emancipated, their own education records. Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to their principal a written request identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will decide for access and provide notice of such arrangements.
2. Request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. To request the school district to amend a record, parent/guardian or eligible students should write the school principal, specify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the district decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parent/guardian or eligible students of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided with the notification of the right to a hearing.
3. Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act authorize disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member; a member of the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as attorney, auditor, therapist, online curriculum vendor, picture company, or yearbook company); or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school district forwards educational records without prior consent to another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. If you feel a violation of FERPA rights has occurred, visit www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/ferpa to submit a parent complaint form.

FERPA Directory Information Notice:

FCS has designated the following information as directory information:

- student's name,
- student's mail address,
- student's phone number,
- student's sex,
- student's homeroom teacher,
- Parent/guardian email addresses specifically to school approved yearbook companies, photography companies, graduation service companies, and the Forsyth County Public Library,
- student's photograph,
- student's grade level,
- student's date of birth,
- student's participation in official clubs and sports,
- weight and height of student if he or she is a member of an athletic team,
- dates of attendance at Forsyth County Schools,
- degrees, honors and awards received during the time enrolled in Forsyth County School System, and
- major field of study, enrollment status, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

In addition, two federal laws require school systems receiving federal financial assistance to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the name, address, and telephone numbers. Parents/guardians have the right to refuse to allow the above information to be designated as directory information and to refuse to allow it to be disclosed to the public upon request without your prior written consent. If parents/guardians wish to opt-out, they must notify the principal of the school, in writing, within 10 days of the first day of school or of their enrollment date.

Parents/guardians are also notified that students may be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed by the news media at school or some school activity or event unless a parent/guardian notifies the principal of the school, in writing, to opt-out within 10 days of the first day of school or of their enrollment date. The principal will take reasonable steps to control the media's access to students. However, parent/guardian submission of a written objection does not constitute a guarantee that their student will not be interviewed in circumstances which are not within the knowledge or control of the principal.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) Notice:

No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- 1.

GRADING AND REPORTING:

Elementary School

Students in grades K-5 are graded on a nine-week grading period. Report cards are posted electronically in Parent Portal. Parents may request a hard copy of the report card from their child's teacher or administrator.

Kindergarten - Third Grade:

Students in Kindergarten through Third Grade will be evaluated using a _____ report card. In standards-based grading, student progress is measured by determining student progress toward achievement of grade level standards. Rather than receiving one grade per content area, your child will receive a breakdown of performance by standard cluster enabling you to more readily identify areas of academic strength and

HARASSMENT:

The school district forbids sexual, racial, and other harassment of all employees and students while at school or impacts school, in the workplace or at any school event or activity. Any student, employee, applicant for employment or other person alleging a violation shall promptly notify the principal or the designated coordinator for the school system.

PARENT NOTICE OF TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS:

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, parents may request the following information:

1. Whether the student's teacher-
 - Has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and,
 - Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS AND ADDRESS CHANGES:

SAFETY AND HEALTH:

P3 Campus Anonymous Reporting: Students are encouraged to report information about weapons, drugs, threats of violence or other dangerous or harmful situations to the 196.68 7426.9 (i)2 (ng)-1 (a)4 (rc(ng)-[ns)- (i)-2,eeh

11. Experiments and equipment must always be teacher monitored. Students should not wander around the room, distract other students, startle other students, or interfere with the procedures of others.

12. Students must know the locations, operating procedures, and identifications of all safety equipment, including first aid kit(s) and fire extinguisher(s). They should know where the fire alarm and the emergency exits are located.

13. Students must know what to do and execute the fire safety plan if there is a fire drill during a class period; containers must be closed, and any electrical equipment in use turned off.

CLOTHING

14. Anytime equipment is used which has the potential to cause damage to the eyes, students will wear safety goggles.

15. Students must dress properly during all lab activities. Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing are a hazard in all lab settings. Long hair must be tied back, and dangling jewelry and baggy clothing must be secured. At times, sleeves, long pants, and solid shoes may be required.

ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES

16. Students must report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) or injury (cut, burn, etc.) to the teacher immediately, no matter how minor it may seem.

Discipline Records:

Forsyth County Schools will facilitate the transfer of discipline records to any public or private school in which a student is enrolled or seeks, intends, or is instructed to enroll on a full- or part-time basis in the school.

Emergency Evacuation of Campus:

In the event of a crisis situation that requires the evacuation of the school campus, students and staff will be transported to a safe, secured site. As soon as the safety and security of students is assured, traffic control is established and checkout preparations are made, parents/guardians will be notified regarding family reunification procedures.

Emergency Notification to Parents:

Parents/guardians are requested to make arrangements in advance for taking care of their children when schools are closed for emergency reasons. The plans should include arrangements for school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals.

FCS closings will be announced on the local and metro media outlets, the school system website, www.forsyth.k12.ga.us, social media (www.facebook.com/FCSchools and www.twitter.com/FCSchoolsGA), and on the automated voice service at (770) 887-2461. Subscribers to Parent Portal and FCS newsletters will also receive an email notifying them on closings or delays. Please note that you should verify the information by checking two sources, especially when relying on social media for information. Fake social media accounts with school and/or the district names and logos violate copyright laws but unfortunately are common. FCS' official social media accounts have been in existence for many years and therefore have a long list of tweets and

False Public Alarms:

Medications:

All medications (prescription and nonprescription) must be brought to school by the parent/guardian. No student will be allowed to bring medications to school. Students may not have medication in their possession, except with a physician's order for emergency situations only. Medications brought in bags or other unmarked containers will not be administered. Prescription medication must be in the original container labelled with the child's name, date, name of medication, name of prescribing physician, time(s) the medication is to be given and name of pharmacy filling the prescription. Please ask the pharmacist to provide two labeled prescription bottles so that parents/guardians have one bottle at home and one at school. Do not send medication to the school that needs to be administered once or twice a day unless the physician specifically states a time during school hours. If medication can be administered at home, please do so.

Parents/guardians must provide specific instructions (including drugs and related equipment) to the nurse. It

Sex/AIDS Education:

Middle School:

Sex/AIDS education lessons are included as part of the health curriculum for grades 6-8. FCS uses the _____ program for sex/AIDS education lessons. _____ is an abstinence centered program that is correlated with the Georgia Performance Standards. The units of study include: the risks of STDs and HIV/AIDS; teen pregnancy; pressures to be sexually active; sex, love, and healthy choices; avoiding unhealthy relationships; and setting boundaries. Health teachers may include human growth and development content within the sex/AIDS education lessons. Parents/guardians may schedule an appointment to review the sex/AIDS education curriculum resources used at their child’s school by contacting the lead health teacher at the school. If a parent/guardian does not wish for his/her child to participate in this portion of the course, notification must be made in writing to the health teacher prior to the beginning of the unit. Alternative assignments will be given and assessed for those students opting out of sex/AIDS education lessons.

High School:

Sex/AIDS education lessons are included as part of the curriculum for the high school health course. Forsyth County uses the _____ program for sex/AIDS education lessons. _____ is an abstinence centered program that is correlated with the Georgia Performance Standards. The units of study include: the risks of STDs and HIV/AIDS; teen pregnancy; pressures to be sexually active; sex, love, and healthy choices; avoiding unhealthy relationships; and setting boundaries. Health teachers may include human growth and development content within the sex/AIDS education lessons. Parents may 567.72 Tm((gn)-10 (a)12 0044>4 00570005

STUDENT MEALS:

Our breakfast meal offers a choice of a breakfast entrée, a milk and up to two choices of fruit. High school students may take as many as 4 fruit or vegetable choices. Students may decline the milk but must include at least one serving of fruit or vegetable on their tray. Students may request a cup of water as an alternate beverage choice. Additional beverage selections, including bottled water, are available for purchase.

The meal prices at each school level are listed below. Students may purchase additional portions of the meal at an extra cost. We also provide Smart Snack compliant snacks and treats that can be purchased at an additional cost. Meal prices are subject to change due to Supply Chain issues and the USDA establishing new requirements.

	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary		
Reduced-priced meal	\$TBD	\$TBD
Full-paid meal	\$1.70	\$3.00
Middle School		
Reduced-priced meal	\$TBD	\$TBD
Full-price meal	\$1.80	\$3.10
High School		
Reduced-priced meal	\$TBD	\$TBD
Full-price meal	\$1.90	\$3.10/Grill \$3.85

Cash payments at register:

Cash is gladly accepted at the cafeteria register for meal and a la carte item purchases, and to add funds on the student's account; however, cashiers do not have adequate funds to make change for customers with bills larger than \$20. Bills larger than \$20.00 will only be accepted for meal payment if the entire amount is deposited into their meal account.

Automated Meal Account:

Each school has an automated system that can track the payment and purchasing activity of each individual student's account. Meals may be pre-paid for the week, month, or even the year by cash, check, or by using the on-line payment system (see below for details). Prepayment is encouraged because it eliminates the daily handling of money for the child. It reduces the time the student must stand in line waiting, providing them with more time to enjoy their meal.

Students may purchase meals and extra foods sold through the School Nutrition Program with funds debited from their meal account. **If parents/guardians wish to limit the use of their child's account to meals only, each school year parents/guardians must send a written note to the school's cafeteria manager stating that their child will not be allowed to purchase extra items from their meal account. If this restriction is applied to the account, all extra items selected will req.** (I)Tj (el)-5.9i (at)3 (i)-2 (n)-4 (g)TjTd(f)-1i)-Tw 0.8 0 Td fromoudsare the slacymgnd.5 Td(e)4 (h)-4 (n(ac)(ym) (g (ha)4 (s)- a)t)-2 (t)7wgi4m[S]-4 (t(ha)4 (s)-(l)C.e(ac)(y3 (fcng(me)6-8 0)(d)-4 ()0 (a w)2 (r)4 (i)-. G(S)- r S S-0 0 0 Trgrou(i)-. G (he)4 (s)ar ch(n)-4 (II)Tji ((8)-n1c-4 (n)-8

Meal Charge Policy:

Students in elementary school will be allowed to charge up to the equivalent of five (5) meals. Middle and high school students are allowed one meal charge. No ala carte purchases may be charged to the student's meal account, except milk or carton juice when a meal is brought from home. A charge notice will be completed and sent home to the parent/guardian through the student. To assist parents, student account balances can be monitored any time via www.mypaymentsplus.com regardless of the payment method you use. If you notice that your child's account is low on funds, please consider sending cash or check for the day as an on-line payment may not post to your child's account in time for meal service. After the fifth unpaid charge, the manager may offer the student a snack or partial meal such as a sandwich or crackers and milk.

Parents/guardians should be aware of their child's school policy for unpaid charges. This policy may be found on the School Nutrition page of the school's website. Students who have unpaid meal charges will not be allowed to purchase any extra sale food items until the charges have been satisfied.

NOTE: To ensure that students in elementary schools do not carry over a negative account balance into the new

TRANSPORTATION

Board Policy EDC

FCS provides school bus transportation for all eligible FCS students based on the student's residence and school of enrollment, and in compliance with federal, state and/or local laws, rules, regulations and/or procedures. The Transportation Department is authorized to develop a framework and procedures that provide transportation services to eligible FCS students.

The Forsyth County Board of Education encourages supervision appropriate to the age and/or maturity level(s) of students at bus stops by parents or guardians.

The Code of Conduct applies on the school bus and at the bus stop as each is considered an extension of the school and classroom. As such, behaviors are expected to be safe, orderly and respectful at the stop and on and around the school bus.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to become familiar with transportation practices and procedures specific to our service. You may find those at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/transportation or you may request clarification and/or assistance from the appropriate staff member found at the "Who Should I Call" link on the department web page.

Exception: Some items prohibited in another section of the Code of Conduct or in items three and four above, may be permitted on a bus during field trips, athletic trips, etc., if approved in advance by the principal and the teacher/coach in charge (Example: baseball bats may be transported to a baseball game, radio with headphones may be used with permission on a field trip, etc.). *Ref. O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1 Detailed information regarding these and other school bus rules is available at <https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/transportation>.

Some Critical School Bus Operational and Safety Procedures: 1. Transportation service is provided to/from an assigned bus stop ONLY. After school, students who board a bus other than their assigned bus or request to get off the bus at a different stop will be returned to the school where a parent or guardian may pick them up. 2. Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early. Wait in an orderly manner. Stay off the road and twelve feet away from traffic. Do not approach a moving bus. 3. Before crossing a road, follow the directions of the school bus driver. You must understand and follow the “two-finger sweep” crossing procedure. Cross the road twelve feet in front of the bus. Do not cross behind the bus. Use the handrail going up or down the steps. 4. If you drop something while crossing, signal the driver with a waving motion of your arms. Wait for the driver to signal back before picking it up. 5. Sit with your back against the back of the seat and bottom against the bottom of the seat. Stay seated while the bus is in motion. Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus. The driver will signal when it is time for you to get up from your seat. 6. Talking in a quiet voice is permitted. Be silent at railroad crossings. Do not distract the driver. Detailed information regarding these and other operational procedures is available at the FCS website.