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**Check-out:** If it is necessary for a student to check out early due to illness, the student must be assessed by the school nurse and meet assessment criteria for the school to excuse the absence. Parents may submit a note to excuse an early check-out due to illness. Students who are frequently absent, tardy, or check out early from school may be required by the school administration to provide medical documentation to validate any absence, tardy or early check-out as excused. If a student

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FCS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or sex in any of its employment practices, educational programs, child feeding program or any other service or activity. It is the policy of the Forsyth County Board of Education to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations. Any student, employee, applicant for employment or other person alleging a violation shall promptly notify the principal or the designateT2 (gna)4ric4rudedeoptng preT2t. T1 1 Tf9 0 0 9 99.36 746

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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](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/ferpa)

FCS has designated the following information as directory information:







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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.

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Students in Kindergarten through Third Grade will be evaluated using a *standards-based* report card. In

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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.

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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.

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Proof of residence is required when a student initially enrolls in a school and whenever indication of a change of residence occurs. Change of Address forms are available at the school or at <http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/Page48193>

In the event of an address change, the Registration Center staff, principal or principal's designee shall accept the following records as proof of residency:

1. A current utility bill (gas, electric, water, telephone, or cable) *and* a current and valid lease or rental agreement signed by the owner of the residence. Records must include the name and service address of the parent/guardian.

OR

2. A current utility bill (gas, electric, water, telephone, or cable) *and* one of the following documents establishing home ownership – deed, closing statement, mortgage statement, or property tax statement. Records must include the name and service address of the parent/guardian.

OR

3. A Forsyth County Schools Affidavit of Residency, if a parent/guardian is unable to provide the records listed above. The notarized affidavit shall be completed and signed by the parent/legal guardian, as well as the legal owner or landlord of the property where the student and parent/legal guardian reside. The affidavit will be in effect until the parent/legal guardian provides proof of residence as required by the Forsyth County Board of Education. The owner of the property must also provide a current utility bill (gas, electric, water, telephone, or cable) *and* one of the following documents establishing home ownership – deed, closing statement, mortgage statement, or property tax statement. Records must include the name and service address of the parent/guardian.



Career, technical, and agricultural education courses (CTAE) offered in Forsyth County middle and high schools are hands-on, project based, career pathways where students will be developing projects that may require the use of equipment.

## ***CLOTHING***

Forsyth County Schools will facilitate the transfer of discipline records to any public or private school in which



Bomb and other terroristic threats, fire alarms and prank 911 calls will not be tolerated. Consequences may include a parent/guardian conference, immediate suspension, referral to law enforcement, and referral to a disciplinary tribunal hearing. If found guilty by a tribunal, the student is also subject to expulsion, long term suspension, and restitution. The tribunal will impose restitution for all expenses incurred for lost instructional time and the restoration of the instructional process. Restitution may include but will not be limited to costs for: salaries, transportation, food and water, care for the handicapped, phone and other communication, laboratory work and any other legitimate expense incurred in the restoration of the normal educational operation of the school and the school system.

As a component of Physical Education, a variety of fitness assessment activities and techniques will be used to measure different areas of health-related fitness. These may include but are not limited to 1. The PACER run or one mile run for cardiovascular fitness; 2. Push-Ups for upper body strength; 3. Curl-Ups for abdominal strength; 4. Back-Saver Sit and Reach for flexibility. Lifelong fitness and wellness may be promoted through exposure to modern technology tools such as fitness trackers and apps.

Gang related activity will not be tolerated in FCS. Students engaging in gang related activities will be subject to disciplinary action as defined in the Forsyth County Board of Education Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures. See the definitions of *Gang Member* and *Gang Related Activity* below.

In addition to those definitions, from time-to-time new types of gang communication methods or activities may be invented. In that event, the principal is authorized to further define and prohibit those newly developed activities. *Gang Member* is defined as: A person who is part of an association of three or more people who form an allegiance for a common purpose and engage, individually or collectively, in illegal behavior. *Gang Related Activity* is defined as: Any act or exhibition, individual or collective, which (1) communicates gang allegiance or affiliation; and/ or (2) would be a criminal act if committed by an adult; and (3) is deemed to be gang related by the principal. Gang related activity includes but is not limited to communication of gang affiliation through hand sign flashing, wearing of clothing articles in a certain way or color scheme; jewelry, tattoos, gang symbols or graffiti on personal items; vandalism of public or private property, and acts of intimidation, threat, fighting and other forms of violence.

If a student should need to be absent from school for more than 10 consecutive school days because of serious illness or an accident, arrangements may be made to provide instruction at home or in an alternative setting. In accordance with state rule 160-4-2.31 Hospital/Homebound Services, students with absences due to psychiatric/emotional disorders, as defined in the latest edition of the Diagnostic, and Statistical Manual (DSM), may be eligible for hospital-homebound instruction. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to request homebound instruction as soon as possible. An application for services supported by a doctor's recommendation will be required. The application and supporting documentation are submitted to the principal of the school. Information and guidelines for Hospital-Homebound Services can be found at the Georgia Department of Education webpage – [gadoe.org](http://gadoe.org).

A child is not to return to school until fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting have stopped \_\_\_\_\_, without the aid of medication. FCS follows guidance from the Department of Public Health regarding COVID-19 illnesses and exposures.

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 will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school of any changes in pertinent data. A "Request for Administration of Medication" form must be completed by the parent/guardian.

The bottom portion of the form is to be completed by the physician for long-term medication (more than two weeks.) The term "Physician" is used as defined in Article 2 of the Medical Practice Act of Georgia. The form may be brought to the school by the parent or faxed by the parent or physician. Due to the risk of Reye's syndrome, aspirin should not be given to children with viral infections. (4 ( )TJT\*[pa)4 (r)3 (e)4 (nt)-210 (by t)-2 (hyn4 (l)-

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#### Middle School:

Sex/AIDS education lessons are included as part of the health curriculum for grades 6-8. FCS uses the *Choosing the Best* program for sex/AIDS education lessons. *Choosing the Best* 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 *Choosing the Best* program for sex/AIDS education lessons. *Choosing the Best* 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

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All breakfast meals offer a choice of a breakfast entrée, a milk and up to two choices of fruit. Lunch choices include an entrée, milk, and up to three fruits or vegetables. High school students may take as many as four 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 choices are subject to change due to supply chain issues and the USDA establishing new requirements.

Reduced-priced meal	.30	.40
Full-paid meal	\$1.70	\$3.00
Reduced-priced meal	.30	.40
Full-price meal	\$1.80	\$3.10
Reduced-priced meal	.30	.40
Full-price meal	\$1.90	\$3.10

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.

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-



The Free and Reduced Priced Meal Program is available to assist families during times of financial hardship.

Students approved for free or reduced priced meals may eat one breakfast and one lunch free or at a reduced cost. Parents can rest assured the information supplied on the form is strictly confidential and student identification is protected with the computer software used at the cashier's station.

1. Eligibility for Free or Reduced-price meals is retroactive; therefore, the parent or guardian is responsible for payment of school meals until the F&R application is approved.
  - a. A current year 2023-2024 application must be submitted. Prior year application forms cannot be accepted. The current school year application is available online, at each school, in the Registration Office at the 1140 Building behind the BOE and on the system's website, [www.forsyth.k12.ga.us](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us).
2. Online applications make it faster and easier for families to apply for free or reduced priced meals. Visit your school or the Food and Nutrition Services website at [www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/nutrition](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/nutrition) for further

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A teacher, principal, counselor, or parent/guardian may recommend students for referral for student support team interventions, 504 plan accommodations, and/or for special education eligibility. If the student support team determines that an evaluation needs to be completed to consider additional services, an initial evaluation for special education services is administered only with written parental consent. After an evaluation is completed, a meeting (including parent/guardians, teachers, administrator, and school psychologist) will determine the student's special education eligibility; and if appropriate, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education services will be developed. The Special Education Parent Rights document is located on the school system's special education website.

A teacher, educator, or parent/guardian may refer a student for consideration of a Section 504 Accommodation Plan based on a medical or physical impairment by contacting the school's Section 504 Plan chairperson. The Procedural Safeguards for Section 504 and Parent Right's documents are located on the school system's Section 504 Resources website.

Parents/guardians of students who receive special education services or accommodations through a Section 504 Plan in FCS have the option to exercise public and private school choice. Under a state law passed by the Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents/guardians of students who receive special education may choose to transfer their child to another public school or private school in Georgia. Parents/guardians must be current residents of Georgia and have been residents for one year.

A parent/guardian can request a transfer to another public school within their school system as long as there is available space at that school and the school has a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. If the parent/guardian chooses this option, then the parent/guardian shall be responsible for transportation to the school. All requests for transfers to another in-system public school must be submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup> for approval for the upcoming school year.

The parent/guardian may request a transfer to a school in another school system if there is available space and the system and school have a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individualized education program. : It is allowable for a school system to have a policy not to accept students that reside outside of the school system. If a school system accepts the child, then the parent/guardian shall be responsible for transportation to the school in that system. If a school system approves an out of system transfer request, it can charge a parent/guardian for the costs of educating a student; also known as out of district tuition. Funds received through the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship program cannot be used to offset the costs of out of district tuition.

The parent/guardian may also request a transfer to one of the State schools for the deaf and /or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a State school will depend on whether that setting is appropriate for the student's needs. If the parent/guardian chooses this option, then the parent/guardian shall be responsible for transportation to the State school. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a state school.

Parents/guardians interested in transferring their child to a private school in Georgia may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the State of Georgia. For more information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and the parent application process, visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx>.

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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](http://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.

The bus riding privilege is granted to your child as a service of FCS.

To help us protect them, students are expected to follow the rules set forth in the Code of Conduct and this special School Bus Code of Conduct while a) walking to or from the school bus stop, b) waiting at the school bus stop and c) riding on the school bus. Students are expected to be safe, orderly, and respectful at all times. Failure to act accordingly may result in suspension or expulsion from the bus. Concerns or issues pertaining to our transportation service should be addressed according to our operational procedures found on our website. Detailed information regarding our operational procedures, including how we manage student behavior on the school bus, is available at the FCS website.

**Driver Authority:** The bus driver is authorized to give directions, assign seats, and to prohibit any item from the bus that may threaten the safety or welfare of any person. The driver's actions are subject to review by the Transportation Director.

#### **Important School Bus Rules:**

Follow the driver's directions; be respectful to the driver and all passengers. Follow the Code of Conduct at school bus stops and on the school bus. The school bus and stops are extensions of your school and classroom. Audible electronic music playing devices may be transported on a school bus if not prohibited by the student's school, but they may not be used without the permission of the driver and may not be used without headphones. Electronic devices, including cell phones...must be kept in the OFF mode and concealed in a pocket, book bag, purse, or other similar carrying device while loading or unloading the school bus. Additionally, no listening device (earphone(s), earbud(s), etc.) should be in the ear(s) while loading or unloading the school bus.



