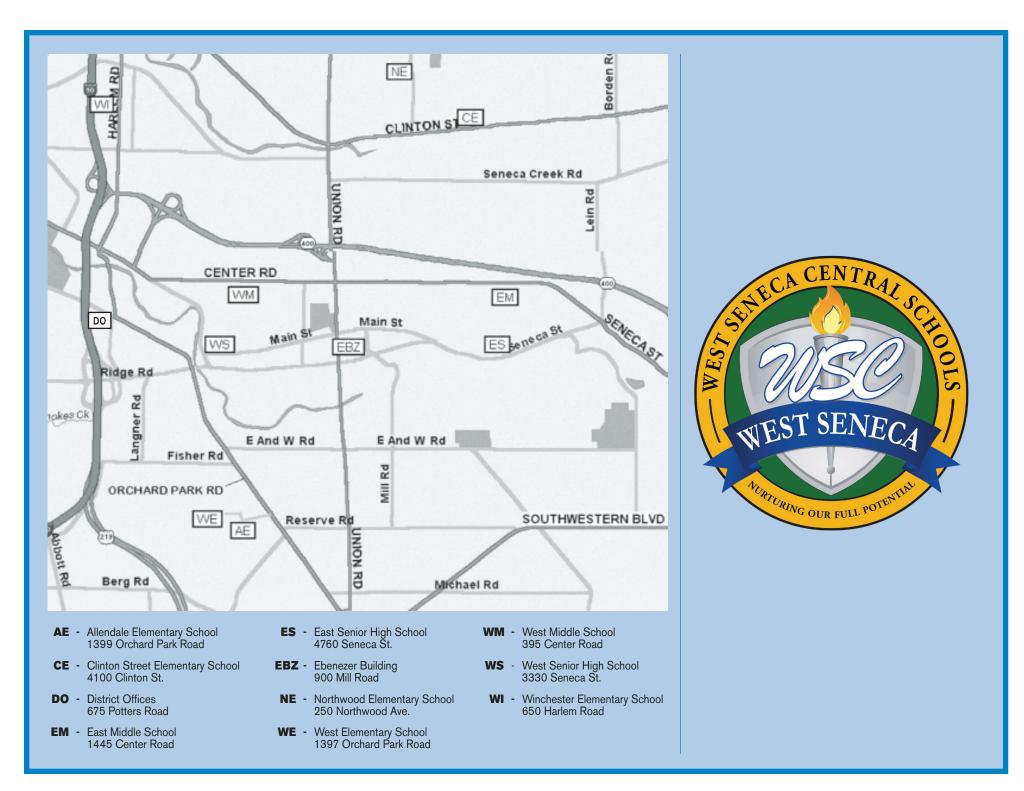




West Seneca Central School District 2023-24 Calendar/Directory





CENTRAL OFFICES

900 Mill Road • West Seneca, NY 14224-3039 Tel:677-3100•Fax:674-0522

Interim Superintendent

Joseph Farr Tel: (716) 677-3680 • Fax: (716) 674-0152

SPECIAL EDUCATION

1397 Orchard Park Road • West Seneca, NY 14224-3292

Assistant Superintendent of Exceptional Education

Jacquelyn Fowler(716) 677-3160

Director - Special Education

Andrew Wnek(716) 677-3160

Director - Special Education

Joelle Burke(716) 677-3160

EDUCATIONAL CENTER

1445 Center Road • West Seneca, NY 14224-3292

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Operations

Carmelina Persico(716) 677-3103

Director - Health, Physical Education & Athletics

Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty(716) 677-3144

Director - Math and Applied Sciences

Franco A. DiPasqua(716) 677-3147

Director – Academies and Career and Technical Education

TBD(716) 677-3318

Director - Instructional Technology, Science and Chief Information Officer

Jonathan Dalbo(716) 677-3199 Community Relations Coordinator

Elena Cala (716) 677-3135

Director - Pupil Personnel Services

Dr. Sharon Loughran (716) 677-3156

Director ELA/ESL/ENL/World Languages

Carol Bush(716) 677-3109

Central Registration (716) 677-3137

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Fax: 675-3104

CE • Clinton Street677-3620

4100 Clinton St. West Seneca, NY 14224-1697

Kim McCartan, Principal

Hours: 9:10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fax: 674-7821

NE • Northwood 677-3640 250 Northwood Ave.

West Seneca, NY 14224-1597

Angela Ferri, Principal Hours: 8:40 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fax: 674-3505

WE • West677-3250 1397 Orchard Park Road

West Seneca, NY 14224-4098

Kristen Frawley, Principal

Hours: 9:10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fax: 677-3123

WIPO • Winchester Potters...... 677-3580 650 Harlem Road

West Seneca, NY 14224-1197

Robyn Brady, Principal

Hours: 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fax: 822-2670

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICE

1445 Center Road • West Seneca, NY 14224-3292

Before & After School Program Continuing/Community Education

Stephanie Wright (716) 677-3180 • Fax (716) 677-3244

Before & After School Progam (716) 677-3185 Community Education (716) 677-3107

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Fax: 674-1046

4760 Seneca St. West Seneca, NY 14224-3293 Jason Winnicki, *Principal* Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 1:42 p.m.

Fax: 677-2933
WS • West Senior677-3350

Fax: 674-3551

PRINT MEDIA SERVICES

900 Mill Road • West Seneca, NY 14224-3039

Supervisor of Print Shop and Graphics

Rosemary Godwin Tel: (716) 677-3693 • Fax: (716) 677-3805

FOOD SERVICE

1445 Center Road • West Seneca, NY 14224-3292

School Lunch Manager

Carolyn (Sue) Whalen Tel: (716) 677-3810 • Fax: (716) 677-3692

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

3300 Seneca St. • West Seneca, NY 14224-2746 Supervisor of Transportation

Bus Garage • Tel: (716) 677-3820 • (716) Fax: 674-2737

Linda O'Grady(716) 677-3825

About the Board of Education

The school district is governed by a seven-member board of education elected by qualified voters of the district. The board has total responsibility for the educational program of the district, its financing and control. It establishes policies for operation of the school district. Members are public officials who serve without pay for three-year terms. As our elected representatives and as officers of New York State, the board must carry out duties imposed by the state's legislature, Board of Regents and commissioner of education. The school board has no legal or formal connection with any other local government body. Its functions are carried out through district officers, administrators and personnel.

School District Clerk Nicole C. Latza 900 Mill Road West Seneca, New York 14224



Board of Education

2023-24 Meetings

The Board of Education regular meeting dates are listed below. Most meetings take place at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at West Elementary School, 1397 Orchard Park Road, West Seneca. Please see the Board of Education page on the website for more details. Changes in location, date and/or time will be communicated to the public. Special meetings, work sessions and retreats are scheduled as needed.

2023

- Tuesday, September 5 (Regular Meeting)
- Tuesday, October 10 (Regular Meeting Audit Review)
- Tuesday, November 14 (Regular Meeting)
- Tuesday, December 5 (Regular Meeting)

2024

- Tuesday, January 2 (Regular Meeting)
- Tuesday, February 6 (Regular Meeting)
- Tuesday, March 5
 (Regular Meeting & Budget Work Session)
- Tuesday, April 9 (Regular Meeting)
- Tuesday, April 16 (Regular Meeting E1B Budget Vote)
- Tuesday, May 7 (Regular Meeting & Budget Hearing)
- Tuesday, May 21 (Budget Vote & Election 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at East Senior)
- Monday, June 4 West Elementary Gym (Retiree Recognition, AHSEPP, and Social Gathering (5pm)

Board Members

Elizabeth Gates, President term expires 2024 (716) 771-2430

Molly Dana, Vice President term expires 2024 (716) 677-2279

Edmund M. Bedient, Trustee term expires 2025 (716) 997-6043

Sarah Piwowarczyk, Trustee termexpires 2026 (716) 324-1817

Laura Sokol-Scott, Trustee term expires 2026 (716) 324-5929

Trek Fulater Trustee term expires 2026 (716) 544-4549

Vincent Vanderlip, Trustee term expires 2025 (716) 954-3961



"Nurturing Our Jull Potential"

ABOUT OUR DISTRICT

Mission Statement

The mission of the West Seneca Central School District is to provide a diversified educational program which will produce literate, caring, ethical, responsible and productive citizens who are capable of adapting to change.

The District

- Centralized in 1946, the West Seneca Central School District is one of the largest central school districts in Western New York
- The District is 25 square miles including portions of the Towns of West Seneca, Cheektowaga, Orchard Park and Hamburg
- The District houses approximately 6,000 students in nine buildings
- 2,700 pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students in five elementary buildings
- 1,400 sixth through eighth grade students in two middle schools
- 1,900 students in two high schools
- Approximately 1,200 employees, including teachers, administrators and support staff
- Total budget of \$147,816,452 in 2023-24

How to Get to Know Your Schools Better

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of keeping the public informed about school matters. To accomplish this, many avenues are used to communicate school information. These include:

- Individual school building publications and open-house programs
- 2. Publication of the district newsletter, "Our Schools"
- 3. Newspaper releases
- 4. Radio and television announcements
- 5. School-community organizations
- 6. Pupil-carried bulletins
- 7. Public hearings and information meetings
- 8. Hearing of visitors at board meetings
- 9. Open telephone communications
- 10. School home page (www.wscschools.org), district Twitter (www.twitter.com/West SenecaCSD), and district Facebook (www.facebook.com/WestSenecaCSD)

All residents, with or without children in school, are welcome to attend any school function. School board meetings provide regular opportunities for district residents to voice their concerns.

Arrangements for school conferences or visits to schools should be made by calling the building principal.

If You Have a Question

The Board of Education advises parents and other district residents who have questions or concerns about their child(ren)'s education or other school-related problem to first try to resolve them at the level most directly involved. This is usually the classroom teacher or school principal. If a satisfactory solution cannot be reached at this level, individuals should contact the appropriate district office (special education, athletics, etc.).

The recommended order of communication is

- 1. Your child's teacher (call the school office to make contact)
- 2. Your child's school counselor (student services office in secondary schools)
- 3. Your child's principal
- 4. If a curriculum question, the director for that subject area (math, English, etc.)
- 5. If a pupil services or special education question, the director of pupil services
- 6. The superintendent of schools
- 7. The board of education

Phone numbers for schools and departments are listed within the pages of this directory.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Elementary Program

Grades pre-k through 6 provide a thorough foundation in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. Pre kindergarten is offered to provide 4-year-old children with the opportunity to access high-quality instruction that prepares them for future school success by developing strong foundational skills in early literacy and mathematics. Pre kindergarten classes are offered at these sites: Northwood Elementary, Winchester Potters Elementary, Bright Path(Seneca Street), Candy Land Daycare, Great Expectations, Just Kids, Page1 Preschool and St John's Community Preschool.

In addition to the core areas, classes are provided in art, vocal and instrumental music, physical education and health and safety. Starting in grade 4, students may choose to study string or band instruments. All elementary music ensembles take part in winter and spring concerts featuring both choral and instrumental music. Computer education begins at the elementary level where it is integrated into the curriculum.

Special education classes and resource programs are offered to those children who need special help in addition to regular classroom instruction.

Opportunities for students to extend their learning and develop their strengths are provided in a variety of formats.

Promotion from one grade level to the next is based on a thorough analysis of each child's progress. Decisions are based on the needs of the student as determined by teachers and the parents working together with the building principal. Report cards are issued at the end of each trimester. Grades and attendance records are also available online through the Parent Portal on the district website.

Middle School Program

The middle school program (grades 6 through 8) serves as a transition from elementary school to high school. Students are introduced to technology education, family and consumer sciences, world language and extra curricular activities such as inter scholastic and intramural sports, student government, school newspaper and the National Junior Honor Society. Students belong to interdisciplinary teams, sharing common instructors, expectations and curricula.

Middle school students receive a full year of instruction in English, social studies, mathematics, science and a world language. Students looking to challenge themselves academically may also participate in accelerated courses in the areas of math, English language arts and science. Students may qualify to take Regents level courses, with the possibility of earning high school credits. Report cards are issued quarterly and are available online through the Parent Portal.

Students are also scheduled for courses in art and music. Physical education classes are offered on a regular basis throughout the year. In addition, students may elect to participate in chorus, band or orchestra. The District boasts an award-winning cadet marching band featuring students from grades 5 through 8. Each school produces winter and spring instrumental and choral concerts.

High School Program

The senior high program (grades 9 through 12) is designed to prepare students for post-secondary education, immediate employment or careers in the military.

A rigorous core curriculum leads students towards either a Regents diploma or a Regents diploma with advanced designation in the core areas. In addition to the core area courses, many electives are offered to add depth and scope to our students' high school education. Electives include courses in art, music, computers, technology and business.

Highly-motivated students are offered advanced courses to enrich and accelerate their learning. Nationally-recognized academy programs also highlight the offerings available to students. These "school-within-a-school" programs afford students an opportunity to explore a career field and develop transferable academic and workplace skills, while earning both high school and college credit. Students will also participate in industry specific internships and have opportunities for scholarships through their academy program. The academies currently include: Academy of Business and Finance, Academy of Information Technology/Digital Media, Academy of Visual Arts, Academy of Life Sciences and Engineering Academy.

High school instrumental students may participate in award-winning concert bands, marching band and jazz ensembles. There are also multiple opportunities for students to participate in the choral music program. Musical productions, winter and spring instrumental and choral concerts are presented by both high schools. A full complement of junior varsity and varsity sports are also available to students.



Septemble National Suicide Prevention & Hispanic Heritage Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
	Labor Day No School					
		Superintendent Conference Day No School	Superintendent Conference Day No School	1 st Day of School		
		Board of Education Meeting				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Hispanic Heritage	
					Month Begins	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



October

National Principals & Bullying Prevention Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Emergency Drill/Early Dismissal	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day No School	Board of Education Meeting	Flex Day EM/WM/ES/WS			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Half Day All Students			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Red Ribbon Week Begins					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Native American Heritage Month

TUESDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY** SATURDAY MONDAY FRIDAY Superintendent Conference Day No School Veterans' Day Observance No School **Board of Education Meeting Thanksgiving Recess Thanksgiving Recess Thanksgiving Recess** No School No School No School



Pecenber 2023 National Human Rights Month

MONDAY SUNDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY** FRIDAY SATURDAY Half Day Elementary Students 1 2 Half Day Elementary Students Flex Day Elementary Students **Board of Education Meeting** 3 4 5 6 7 9 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 23 18 22 17 Winter Winter Winter Winter Winter **Recess Recess Recess** Recess Recess 29 30 24 25 26 28 **27**



January 2024 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THURSDAY

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Winter Recess	Board of Education Meeting				
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday No School					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Regents Exams	Regents Exams	Regents Exams	Regents Exams	
21	22	23	24	25	Half Day EM/WM ONLY 26	27
28	29	30	31			



february 2024

Black History Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
			 	 		
		Board of Education Meeting				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	
	Recess NO SCHOOL	Recess NO SCHOOL	Recess NO SCHOOL	Recess NO SCHOOL	Recess NO SCHOOL	
18	Presidents' Day 19	20	21	22	23	24
			- 	Half Day		
				All Students		
25	26	27	28	29		



March

Women's History Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					_	
					1	2
		Board of Education Meeting		Half Day for Elementary Students	Superintendent Conference Day No School	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		40				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					Spring Recess Begins	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30





National Occupational Therapist & School Library Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Spring Recess	Spring Recess	Spring Recess	Spring Recess	Spring Recess	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Spring Recess	Board of Education Meeting				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Board of Education Meeting				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



May

Military Appreciation Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	Board of Education Meeting 7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	Board of Education Meeting Budget Vote and Election	Half Day All Students	23	24	25
19	Memorial Day NO SCHOOL	21				
26	27	28	29	30	31	



National Safety Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
		NO School ES/WS ONLY Algebra Regents				
		Board of Education Meeting	_	_	-	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					Half Day Elementary Students	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Juneteenth NO SCHOOL	Half Day Elementary Students	Half Day Elementary Students	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Half Day Elementary Students	No School Elementary Students	Rating Day Last Day for Teachers			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Ī							
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Ī							
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			

JULY 2024



AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DISTRICT INFORMATION

Sport Offerings

Boys Fall Cross Country (Mod-Var)

Football (Mod-JV-Var) Golf (Var) Soccer (Mod-JV-Var)

Volleyball (Mod-JV-Var)

Winter Basketball (Mod-JV-Var) Bowling (Var, Unified)

Ice Hockey (Var) Indoor Track (Var) Swimming (Mod-Var) Wrestling

(Mod-Var)

Baseball (Mod-JV-Var) **Spring**

Basketball (Unified) Lacrosse (Mod-JV-Var) Tennis (Var)

Track (Mod-Var) Cheerleading (Mod-JV-Var) GirlsFall

Cross Country (Mod-Var)
Field Hockey (7,8,9 Mod-Var)
Soccer (Mod-JV-Var)

Swimming (Var) Tennis (Var) Volleyball (Mod-JV-Var)

Winter Basketball (Mod-JV-Var) Bowling (Var, Unified) Cheerleading (JV-Var) Ice Hockey (Var)

Indoor Track (Var) Swimming (Mod)

Spring Basketball (Unified Lacrosse (Mod-JV-Var) Softball (Mod-JV-Var) Track (Mod-Var) Flag Football (Var)

Modified (Mod) Seventh and eighth grade programs.

School Food Services

(Food Service Office)

The West Seneca Central School District's Food Service Department has fully-equipped districtoperated kitchens in all buildings. We serve breakfast and lunch in all buildings. The food service operation aims to be totally self-supporting with no cost to taxpayers. The child nutrition program is an essential educational support activity and the nutritional needs of our students take precedence. The food levied meets U.S. government high-quality standards with monthly government commodities (cheese, vegetables, fruit, protein, etc.) incorporated into menus to keep prices as

The application for free or reduced school meals will be mailed home in August. Please complete and mail to: Food Service Department, 1445 Center Road, West Seneca, NY 14224, or you may send it to school with your child. Another option to complete the application is to go to www.myschoolApps.com. Only oneapplication per family is necessary for both breakfast and lunch benefits. Parents, be sure to list all children, their grade levels and schools they attend on the same application.

We have a computerized system in all the buildings in the district. Each student has an account with the cafeteria. For any student account information, please contact Sue Whalen at 677-3810. Parents can pay via cash or check(payable to your child's school cafeteria) or use MySchoolBucks.com to add funds into student's account.

Transportation

Transportation of students from home to school and from school to home is a major function of the school district operation. With approximately 7300 students, being transported to 75 different schools, it is clearly evident that the responsibility for maximum efficiency and safety is to be shared by all members of the community.

Motorists are advised to:

- 1. Maintain sensitivity to the presence of school buses on the highway.
- 2. Exercise caution when approaching a school bus from either direction.
- 3. Watch closely for signals given by the bus driver including hand signals. Remember: No traffic should move from either direction when red flashing lights on the bus are operating. This also includes when buses are loading and unloading at the school.
- Stop vehicles when coming from either direction before reaching a stopped school bus that has flashing red lights. Allow students to cross the road and wait until the flashing red lights are turned
- 5. Be aware that school buses come to a full stop at railroad crossings.
- 6. Prepare to stop when approaching from either direction a school bus whose amber lights are
- Be aware that school buses do not turn right at intersections when the light is red.

Students and/or parents are advised to:

- 1. Be at the designated bus stop ten minutes before
- 2. Provide supervision to children from home to the bus stop and from the bus stop to the home.
- 3. Refrain from pushing, running or "horseplay" while waiting or getting on or off the bus.
- 4. Stand clear and away from the road at all times.
- 5. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner.
- 6. Use the handrail when getting on or off the bus.
- 7. Remain seated after entering and while riding.
- 8. Keep arms and head inside open windows.
- Keep legs, books and belongings out of the aisle.
- 10. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
- 11. Keep conversations in a normal tone of voice; avoid boisterous conduct.
- 12. Cross the road at least 15 ft. in front of the bus, always look both ways and watch for the bus driver's signal before crossing.
- 13. Do not play with safety equipment, including the emergency door and window.
- 14. Avoid bringing large objects or pets on the bus.
- 15. No smoking at any time on the bus.
- 16. Accept the authority and follow the instructions of the bus driver.
- 17. Do not tamper with the belongings of other pupils.
- 18. Never try to retrieve an object from under the bus.

Transportation Requests to Private and Parochial Schools

Request forms for district transportation to private and parochial schools are available at the transportation department at 3300 Seneca St. between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or visit the transportation department page of the district's website. All non-public school students who require transportation must submit a request on the proper district form to the said offices no later than April 1 of each year.

Transportation To and From Child Care Locations

Child care transportation is provided for K-8 students only. Students in grades 9-12 are transported to and from home address only. Students may be picked up and/or dropped off at a NYS licensed daycare anywhere within the West Seneca School District. If the location is not NYS licensed, the daycare location must be within the students home school boundary.

- 1. Request forms are provided at the transportation department office and all district elementary school offices. Forms must be complete and returned to either the transportation department or the school by August 1 of each year prior to the school year for which transportation is requested.
- 2. Parents and/or legal guardians must allow up to at least one week and wait for confirmation from the school district before permitting the student(s) to get picked up or dropped off from any address other than his or her residence.
- 3. Parents and/or legal guardians may designate ONE alternate address other than the student's home address for transportation to and from school on nonconsecutive days. The daily designated alternate address must be consistent on a weekly basis, five days per week. The A.M. and P.M. address may be different, but must remain consistent on a weekly basis, five days per week.
- 4. No new stops will be added. Students will be required to be picked up and dropped off at the nearest established stop
- 5. No new bus route will be established if the addition of that bus route will result in an additional expense to be incurred by the district.

Transportation will be provided to students who are enrolled in New York State-licensed day care centers that are located in the West Seneca Central School District. Parents and/or legal guardians are advised to make sure that the day care centers they choose for the care of their children are fully licensed by the State of New York before transportation is requested.

Dignity for All Students Act

The board of education recognizes that learning environments that are safe and supportive can increase student attendance and improve academic achievement. A student's ability to learn and achieve high academic standards, and a school's ability to educate students, is compromised by incidents of discrimination or harassment, including but not limited to bullying, taunting and intimidation. Therefore, in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, Education Law, Article 2, the district will strive to create an environment free of discrimination and harassment and will foster civility in the schools to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with the district's educational mission.

The district condemns and prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment of students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex by school employees or students on school property and at schoolsponsored activities and events that take place at locations off school property. In addition, any act of discrimination or harassment outside of school-sponsored events, which can reasonably be expected to materially and substantially disrupt the education process, may be subject to discipline.

Dignity Act Coordinator

At least one employee at every school shall be designated the dignity act coordinator(s). The dignity act coordinator(will be thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) and sex. The board of education shall appoint the dignity act coordinator(s) and share the name(s) and contact information with all school personnel, students and parents/persons in parental relation.

West Seneca Central School Dignity Act Coordinators are:

Allendale - Sean Hanley	677-3670
Clinton - Tina Schoepflin	677-3631
Northwood - Brenna Fitzpatrick	677-3649
West Elementary - Lisa Caprio	677-3166
Winchester - Luke Rejewski	677-3594
East Middle - Christopher Scozzaro	677-3536
West Middle - Aimee Smart	677-3513
East Senior - Kristen Syracuse	677-3312
West Senior - Katherine DiPasquale	677-3368

If a dignity act coordinator vacates his/her position, another school employee shall immediately be designated for an interim appointment as coordinator, pending approval from the board of education, within 30 days of the date the position was vacated. In the event a coordinator is unable to perform the duties of the position for an extended period of time, another school employee shall immediately be designated for an interim appointment as coordinator, pending return of the previous coordinator to the position.

Training

Training shall be provided each school year for all district employees in conjunction with existing professional development training to raise staff awareness and sensitivity of harassment and discrimination directed at students that are committed by students or school employees on school property or at a school function. Training will include ways to promote a supportive school environment that is free from discrimination and harassment, emphasize positive relationships and demonstrate prevention and intervention techniques to assist employees in recognizing and responding to harassment and discrimination, as well as ensuring the safety of the victims.

Instruction in grades kindergarten through 12 shall include a component on civility, citizenship and character education. Such component shall instruct students on the principles of honesty, tolerance, personal responsibility, respect for others, observance of laws and rules, courtesy, dignity and other traits which will enhance the quality of their experiences in, and contributions to, the community. For the purposes of this policy, "tolerance," "respect for others" and "dignity" shall include awareness and sensitivity to discrimination or harassment and civility in the relations of people of different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, genders and sexes.

Rules against discrimination and harassment will be sluded in the code of conduct, publicized district-wide and disseminated to all staff and parents. An age-appropriate summary shall be distributed to all students at a school assembly at the beginning of each school year.

Reports and Investigations of Discrimination and Harassment

The district will investigate all complaints of harassment and discrimination, either formal or informal, and take prompt corrective measures as necessary. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with applicable policies and regulations. If, after an appropriate investigation, the district finds that this policy has been violated, corrective action will be taken in accordance with district policies and regulations, the code of conduct and all appropriate federal or state laws.

The district will annually report material incidents of discrimination and harassment to the State Education Department as part of the Uniform Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting System (VADIR).

Prohibition of Retaliatory Behavior ("Whistle-Blower" Protection)

Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been subjected to discrimination or harassment by an employee or student, on school grounds or at a school function, who acts reasonably and in good faith and reports such information school officials or law enforcement authorities, shall have immunity from any civil liability that may arise from making such report. The board prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed at complainants, victims, witnesses and/or any other individuals who participated in the investigation of a complaint of discrimination or harassment.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

School Closing

During the course of the school year, and particularly through the winter months, emergencies may arise that force the closing of schools.

How do we make our decision to close schools? We gather as much relevant information as possible and base our decision on that analysis. This process includes:

- A review of data from forecasting services and statewide emergency systems
- Information on road conditions from transportation staff, police and highway supervisors
- An assessment of the amount of accumulated snow and ice
- Evaluation of anticipated duration of precipitation, weather predictions, temperature and wind chill data
- Verification of building status, including availability of utility services and on site snow removal
- A check of neighboring districts

Who makes the decision and when?

The superintendent of schools is responsible for the final determination. The decision is based on the above factors, as well as recommendations from the director of transportation. We try very hard to make the decision by 5:30 a.m.

How is the public notified

The district's "Mass Notification" phone system will be activated as soon as the decision to close schools is made.

Up-to-date information is also provided to various local radio and television stations, as well as on the district web-site (www.wscschools.org), Twitter (www.twitter.com/WestSenecaCSD) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/WestSenecaCSD).

An email will also be sent to those families who have provided us with an email address.

Will we close schools if conditions worsen?

Once we make the decision to keep schools open, many parents leave for work. If we were to send students back home, many students would return to unsupervised bus stops and empty homes. Please keep in mind that even if weather conditions worsen, a decision to send students back home once at school or on the way to school is extremely rare. All of our buildings have emergency generators and systems as well as extra food and water to ensure student safety and comfort. School is the safest place to keep the children while we contact parents and make arrangements for a safe return home.

If schools are closed, ALL scheduled public and student activities will be canceled for that day and evening.

Counseling Resources

School counselors, school psychologists and school social workers are available in each school for support and referral services. The social work staff is as follows:

Allendale - Sean Hanley	677-3670
Clinton - Tina Schoepflin	677-3631
Northwood - Brenna Fitzpatrick	677-3649
West Elementary - Lisa Caprio	677-3166
Winchester - Luke Rejewski	677-3594
East Middle - Christopher Scozzaro	677-3536
West Middle - Aimee Smart	677-3513
East Senior - Kristen Syracuse	677-3312
West Senior - Kathryn DiPasquale	677-3368

NYS Guidelines Regarding Administration of Medications in Schools

School nurses, principals and other school personnel are often asked to dispense internal medication to school children. Internal medication can only be dispensed under the following policy:

- A written request from the parent/guardian; and
 A written request from the physician which indicates the frequency and the dosage of the prescribed medication; and
- 3. The medication is to be brought in the prescribed labeled bottle by an adult to the office (or original O.T.C. container).

Please do not send any aspirin, cold pills, cough drops, inhalers, etc. to school with your child. The dangers of this practice are possible choking and another child may take the medicine resulting in serious consequences. As stated above, medication will only be dispensed under the described conditions and this will be strictly adhered to within a school situation.

School Physicals

The New York State Education Department requires a physical exam for New Entrants and students in grades Pre-K or K, 1,3,5,7,9 and 11; annually for interscholastic sports; and working papers as needed; or as required by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE). We strongly encourage you to have the physical exam performed by your child's doctor. If exam results are not received by the school nurse, you will receive one written notice and then an exam will be performed by the school physician. Please contact the nurse at your child's school for more information.

Student Attire Guidelines

All students are expected to be well-groomed and neatly dressed at all times. We take pride in the appearance of our students. Student dress shall in no way be so extreme as to be distracting or disruptive to the educational process of the school. The following guidelines for student attire are:

- 1. Messages on clothing, jewelry and personal belongings that relate to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, vulgarity or that reflects adversely upon person because of their (race or ethnic group) any one of their protected rights are not permitted
- 2. Displaying of undergarments (bras, boxers, underwear, etc.) is not permitted
- 3. Headwear (e.g. hats, bandanas, etc.) may not be worn in the building unless for religious reasons
- 4. Footwear is required at all times and must be safe
- 5. Wearing of a scent that has negative impact on others is not permitted

NOTE: Each building principal will inform all students of the dress code at the beginning of the school year.

Students who violate the school dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, and if necessary or practical replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further disciplinary action.

Use of School Facilities

Community groups may use school facilities for social, civic, recreational meetings and entertainments or other community welfare use when such buildings are not scheduled for school purposes. Policies regarding fees, insurance, restrictions, responsibilities for damages incurred, and safety requirements for use of swimming pools and other school facilities are available to applicants via the district website Facility Use Request page at https://www.wscschools.org/Page/23827.

Senior Citizens

Real Property Tax Exemption

The West Seneca Central School District offers a tax exemption program to its senior citizens to relieve the tax burden for those with fixed incomes. Those senior citizens eligible shall be exempt from school taxation in accordance with the following table:

Annual Income	PERCENTAGE OF ASSESS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION B	
\$18,500 or less		50%
More than \$18,501 but	t less than \$19,500	45%
\$19,501 or more but le	ess than \$20,500	40%
\$20,501 or more but le	ess than \$21,500	35%
\$21,501 or more but le	ess than \$22,400	30%
	ess than \$23,300	
\$23,301 or more but le	ess than \$24,200	20%
\$24,201 or more but le	ess than \$25,100	15%
\$25,101 or more but le	ess than \$26,000	10%
\$26,001 or more but le	ess than \$26,900	5%

Qualifications for Eligibility

- Real property must be owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or real property owned by husband and wife, one of whom is 65 years of age or over
- Title of the property must be vested in the owner, or if more than one, in all the owners, for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date that the application for exemption is file
- The property must be used exclusively for residential purposes, be occupied in the whole or in part by the owners and constitute the legal residence of the owners

If you qualify, please contact your town assessor's office to file for an exemption

Tax Relief for the Disabled

People with disabilities are also offered an additional tax exemption in accordance with the same income table set forth above for senior citizens. Please contact your local town assessor's office for more filing information

Veterans' Tax Exemption Level A (2023-24)
Please contact the Town of West Seneca
Assessor's Office for information including eligibility, filing requirements and deadlines.

Vandalism

School district property represents a sizable investment by district taxpayers. All of us, students and adults, share a responsibility to protect school property. Residents are asked to report to the police unusual activity on school sites during evenings and weekends. Prompt reports can help avoid costly damage. The district will use established legal channels when suspected vandals are apprehended.

Substance Policy

The term chemical substances refers to all substances including, but not limited to, alcohol, hallucinogens, depressants, stimulants, steroids, lookalikes and any of those substances referred to as "designer drugs." The inappropriate use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs is prohibited. Additionally, the board of education strictly forbids the use of tobacco (including chewing) anywhere on school property, or at any school sponsored event. Possessing and/or using any tobacco or other drug related paraphernalia or any facsimile thereof including electronic cigarettes (e-Cigs) and related paraphernalia.

Disciplinary measures for students violating this policy will range from suspension to permanent exclusion, and referral for prosecution as outlined in the Community Intervention Model.

Compliance with this policy is mandatory.

Immunization Mandates

- New York State law requires evidence of immunizations required for all children entering school. Physicians will provide certificate of immunizations
- For a current list of required immunizations visit: https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf or contact the school nurse.

Working Papers

Young people between the ages of 11 and 17 who plan to work part or full time are required to have working papers. Applications for working papers may be obtained from the middle or high school buildings or from the pupil services office

Community Resources

There are several community-based public and private agencies and therapists who provide counseling services for children and families experiencing a problem. Please call 677-3156 should you wish more information.

Community Education

Our Community Education program offers a wealth of opportunities for lifelong learning. You can expand a hobby, learn how to swim, try out a new language, cook up a storm, dance, draw, exercise, travel or firm up your finances. A new catalog of courses and clinics comes out four times each year with hundreds of courses to choose from. Academic programs include SAT preparation and Regents review classes. All open courses and clinics can be found at

www.wscschools.org/commed

Classes are held Monday through Saturday in the fall, winter and spring for learners of all ages. Summer offers programming, Monday through Thursday, which adds a focus on children and family participation, including a range of music lessons and ELA and math enrichment programs.

The Before & After School Program is available to students attending Allendale, Clinton, Northwood, Winchester Potters and West Elementary Schools. Information is available at 677-3185 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the school year.

Office Hours • Monday throuh Friday*
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the school year
*Closed Fridays during the summer.

Fall Session • 6 weeks October 2 to November 11, 2023 Winter Session • 6 weeks

January 29 to March 23, 2024 Spring Session • 6 weeks April 15 to May 25, 2024

Summer Session • 6 weeks

July 8 to August 17, 2024

Gold Cards

West Seneca Central School District residents, age 60 or older, are offered "Gold Cards" giving a reduced price for most classes. Cards are issued at the Community Education office with proof of age and school district residency.

Please Note: The Community Education Office is located at 1445 Center Road, Outside Entrance #37 at the end of the bus loop at East Middle School. Look or our signs.

Community Education classes are canceled when the West Seneca Central School District is closed for inclement weather and building emergencies. Please check our West Seneca Schools Facebook page, Twitter account, and WSCS website alerts first. You can also listen to local media, as we share information with them. For classes held at other locations (e.g. karate or dance studios), contact that site directly for closing information. In the event after school activities are canceled, this only applies to Community Education. All After School Programs remain open.

EGAL NOTICES

Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students" see note below) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access.

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

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part

of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent

or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right

to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent,

is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member

(including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the West Seneca Central School District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the West Seneca Central School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

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

Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that West Seneca Central School District with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to some outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent unless parents have advised the Local Educational Agencies that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by Dec. 1, 2023.

The West Seneca Central School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name and date of birth (if required for school-sponsored course, organization, activity or report)
- Student's address and phone number to law enforcement authorities for the purposes of complying with active investigations or the Department of Social Services
- Student's grade designation
- Student's extracurricular school activities and offices
- Student's school achievement, awards and honors
- Relevant statistics and personal data if a member of an athletic team or other school sponsored course, organization or activity
- Present and previous school(s) attended by the student
- · Photograph and/or video image

Information Regarding Written Complaint and Appeal Procedures for Title I, Parts A, C and D

Title I complaints should be first sent to the Superintendent of the LEA. If the local LEA fails to resolve the complaint within 30 business days or fails to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the complainant, the complaint should be sent to the Title I School and Community Services Office, Room 365, EBA, New York State Education Department, 89 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12234. What must a complaint contain? All complaints must:

- Be signed by the person or agency representative filing the
- Specify the requirement of law or regulation being violated and the related issue, problem and/or the concern:
- Contain information/evidence supporting the complaint; and
- State the nature of the corrective action desired

Notification of Rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

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

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have closefamily relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors or ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents;
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program)

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

- Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law; and
- Activities involving collection, disclosure or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use of

- · Protected information surveys of students;
- Instruments used to collect personal information from stu-dents for any of the above marketing, sales or other distribution
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

The West Seneca Central School District will/has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution purposes. The West Seneca Central School District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The West Seneca Central School District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. The West Seneca Central School District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the district has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts,

will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys.

Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specifc activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

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

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

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

Information Regarding Teacher Qualification

In accordance with the federal Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA), parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Specifically, they have the right to request the following information concerning the child's teachers:

- Whether the teacher has met New York State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas he or she
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status under which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of those degrees; If your child receives services from any instructional assis-tants or similar paraprofessionals, the qualifications for those individuals.

Written requests to receive any of the aforementioned information may be directed to:

Dr. Jonathan Cervoni Assistant Superintendent of Adminstrative Operations 900 Mill Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

Civil Rights Policy

The West Seneca Central School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. District officers and employees shall not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status or disability. It is the policy of the board of education to ensure compliance with the regulations listed in Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any member of the West Seneca Central School District staff or any pupil or parent believing discrimination has occurred on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status or disability should address questions and complaints to a district compliance officer:

Address: 900 Mill Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

Dr. Jonathan Cervoni • (716) 677-3106 Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Operations Mrs. Jacqueline Fowler • (716) 677-3171 Assistant Superintendent of Exceptional Education Dr. Sharon Loughran (716) 677-3156 Director of Pupil Personnel Services Mr. Andrew Wnek • (716) 677-3195 Director of Special Education

Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy

Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy

Statement of Overall Objectives:

School attendance is both a right and a responsibility. The West Seneca Central School District is an active partner with students and parents in the task of ensuring that all students meet or exceed the New York State Learning Standards. The West Seneca Central School District recognizes that the consistent school attendance, academic success and school completion have a positive correlation. The Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy will assist to meet the following objectives:

- To increase school completion for all students;
- To raise student achievement and close gaps in student performance;
- To identify attendance patterns in order to design attendance improvement efforts:
- To know the whereabouts of every student for safety and other
- To verify that individual students are complying with education laws relating to compulsory attendance;
- To determine the district's average daily attendance for state aid

Description of Strategies to Meet Objectives:

The West Seneca Central School District will:

- Create and maintain a positive school building culture by fostering a positive physical and psychological environment where the presence of strong adult role models encourages respectful and nurturing interactions between adults and students. This positive school culture is aimed at encouraging a high level of student bonding to the school, which in turn should lead to increased attendance.
- Develop a Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy based upon the recommendations of a multifaceted District Policy Development Team that includes representation from the board of education, administrators, teachers, students, pupil services staff, parents and the community. The district will hold at least one public hearing prior to the adoption of this collaboratively developed Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy.
- Maintain accurate record keeping via a register of attendance to record attendance, absence, tardiness or early departure of each student.
- Utilize data analysis systems for tracking individual student attendance and individual and group trends in student attendance
- Develop early intervention strategies to improve school attendance for all students.

Community Awareness:

The board of education shall promote necessary community awareness of the district's Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy by:

- Providing a plain language summary of the policy to parents or persons in parental relation to students at the beginning of each school year and promoting the understanding of such a policy to students and their parents/persons in parental relation;
- Providing each teacher, at the beginning of the school year or upon employment, with a copy of the policy;
- Providing copies of the policy to any other member of the community upon request.

The policy consists of a comprehensive explanation of the following items:

- Determination of excused and unexcused absences, tardiness and early departures
- Student attendance record keeping/data collection Student attendance/course credit
- Notice of minimum attendance standard/intervention strategies
- Notice of students who are absent, tardy or depart early without proper excuse
- Attendance strategies and programs
- Disciplinary consequences
- Intervention strategy process
- Appeal process
- Building review of attendance records
- Annual review by the board of education

For a copy of the Comprehensive Attendance Policy, please contact:

Jeffrey Rabey Interim Superintendent 900 Mill Road • West Seneca, NY 14224

PLEASE NOTE:

All rights and protections given parents/person in parental relationship under the FERPA and this policy transfer to the student when he or she reaches age 18 or attends a post-secondary school. The student then becomes an "eligible student."

Pesticide Notification

New York State Education Law and the Commissioner of the State Education Department have adopted a pesticide notification requirement in schools effective July 1, 2001. The law requires all public and private schools to provide written notification to all persons who wish to receive 48-hour written notification of certain

If an emergency application is necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the notification list. To receive 48-hour notification, you must register with the school district by contacting the superintendent of buildings and grounds,

who serves as the school district's pesticide representative. West Seneca's Central School District's representative for this notice is Joseph Farr who may be reached at 677-3684 or by fax at 674-0152.

Asbestos Notification

In accordance with the requirements of the federal regulation known as AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act), the West Seneca Central School District has conducted Act), the West Seneca Central School District has conducted inspections and developed management plans for each of the district's schools. These management plans are available for your review during regular business hours at the individual schools. Included in these management plans is information regarding AHERA inspections, operations and maintenance, period surveillance and response action activities.

It is the intention of the West Seneca Central School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take the appropriate steps necessary to ensure students and employees have a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work. For information contact Joseph Farr who may be reached at 677-3684 or by fax at 674-0152.